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THURSDAY  
September 16, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric  
Newspapers

Volume 46  
Number 33

\$1.00

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

hometownlife  .com

## IN BRIEF

### You're invited

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, is extending an invitation to seniors to join him on Friday, Sept. 24, for a Senior Appreciation Dinner at Burton Manor Banquet Center in Livonia.

Seating is limited for the spaghetti dinner which will be served from 5-7 p.m. For more information and to reserve a spot, call Anderson at (866) 262-7306.

Burton Manor is at 27777 Schoolcraft, west of Inkster Road, in Livonia.

### Garage sale

Prime spots are still available at the Westland Community Garage Sale slated for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18.

Held in the spring and fall, the event brings together as many as 100 garage sales in one location, the parking lot between the Westland Police Department and Westland City Hall on Ford, west of Wayne Road.

The garage sale is sponsored by the Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program, Westland Youth Assistance Program and Westland Parks and Recreation Department. For more information or to reserve a spot, call (734) 722-7620.

### Food drive

According to the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, 700,000 people in the region are food insecure — meaning they don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Hoping to fight this statistic and "Feed Families in Knead," Panera Bread® has partnered with UWSEM's Emergency Food and Shelter Program to host a nonperishable breakfast food drive Wednesday-Saturday, Sept. 22-25.

All 43 metro Detroit Panera Bread locations will collect breakfast items, including cereal, oatmeal and granola bars. The donations will benefit more than 30 emergency food providers located throughout the region. The Westland Panera location on Warren Road, west of Wayne Road, will collect food for Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps Community Center.

Each person who drops off an item will receive a coupon for a free Panera Bread bagel on their next visit.

### Alumni Night

John Glenn High School football is putting a call out to former Rockets to come to the football game Friday, Oct. 8, to participate in Alumni Night.

The game will be the annual clash between the Rockets and crosstown rival the Wayne Memorial High School Zebras. All former players will meet at locker room to get field passes and will be given a ticket for hot dog and pop. After the game, there will be a pizza party in the cafeteria.

Alumni must be at locker room by 6 p.m. to sign in. At halftime, all players will be introduced to the crowd, and the alumni will be invited into locker room to hear coach Tim Hardin speak with the team.

## The first debate?

### Snyder shares Town Hall meeting with Bernero

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The question of debate or no debate in the gubernatorial race got answered Monday in Westland as Republican candidate Rick Snyder's town hall meeting became a bipartisan event with the addition of Democrat Virg Bernero.

Snyder's camp — and pretty much everyone attending the event at Hawthorne Valley Country Club — were surprised when Bernero arrived to deliver a letter asking his opponent to meet for coffee to discuss scheduling debates. Snyder surprised Bernero and the partisan audience by inviting the Lansing Democrat to join him speaking to the crowd of about 100.

It was a cordial meeting of the candidates — Snyder quieted some rumblings from the audience as Bernero was speaking.

During his comments, Snyder kept his focus on his goals and plans to reinvent Michigan.

"The reason we are all here tonight is that we love Michigan — we all care. Michigan is suffering. It's not the time to dwell on negatives and can we fix this or that," said Snyder. "Our one chance is to reinvent Michigan. I'm using the framework for success that I've used all of my life."

Part of that framework is a vision that identifies where point B is located, plan of action to go from point A to B and taking positive measurable



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Virg Bernero and his Republican challenger Rick Snyder shared the stage at what had started out to be a town hall meeting for Snyder at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland.

action, Snyder said.

### IN AGREEMENT

Both candidates agree on the need for more and better jobs in the state. While Snyder focuses on his private

sector background, former legislator and current Lansing Mayor Bernero cites his success attracting employers and jobs to Lansing.

Please see **TOWN HALL, A5**



Zack Bozigan and Amanda Hicks are among young people learning about police work as a Westland Police Explorer.

## Along for the ride

### Explorers get introduction to law enforcement

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Matt Bobby knows from personal experience that participating in the Police Explorers can benefit a youngster interested in a law enforcement career.

"I was in the first Explorers in Westland along with (Sgt.) Dave Dinsmore in 1988," said Bobby, who became a Westland police officer in 1983. "I got hired at 20 years old and was in a patrol car on my own. We probably have had 50 Explorers go on to be hired at different police departments." Along with Officers Kevin Yudt and Jeff Kropodra, Bobby serves as an adviser for the Westland Police Explorers Post which currently has about 15 members. Open to young people age

Please see **EXPLORERS, A2**

## Two W-W programs receive Michigan's Best Awards

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two Wayne-Westland Community Schools programs aimed at improving student achievement have been singled out by the Michigan Association of School Boards as examples of quality education.

Marshall Middle School, which has become an upper elementary, has been selected as a recipient of the MASB's 2010 Michigan's Best Award for its Power Lunch program, while the district's Bright Futures program has been tapped for the honor in the Before and After School category.

Wayne-Westland was among seven

school districts to receive the Best Awards this year.

"We're really excited about this," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. "This really illustrates that Wayne-Westland is on the cutting edge when it comes to student achievement. This is the result of the creativity and innovativeness the Wayne-Westland district is known for

in implementing programs that help students."

Power Lunch was honored in the Improving Student Achievement in English Language Arts and Social Studies category for its innovativeness and impact on student achievement.

Please see **AWARDS, A2**

## History comes to life at Modern Americana

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

From candle making to spinning and weaving, the crafts of yesteryear will be center stage at Modern Americana 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Westland Historic Village Park.

Centuries-old crafts will be brought back to life during the event, sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission.

"We're presenting them in ways to keep the different crafts alive," said commission member Beth Stawasz. "We're presenting rug hooking, lap looming and candle making in a Crock Pot. We figure these are something people can do without a hot fire or a large space."

Stawasz credits commission chair Jo Johnson with the first exhibition. She had talked about doing a craft show for several years and but the commission didn't have the contacts. Stawasz did. She worked at Greenfield Village and talked to her friends to get people to demonstrate the crafts.

In addition to candle making, there will be spinning done on spinning wheel dating back to the 1770s, weaving using the lap loom and rug hooking. Participants can discover the skill of porcupine-quilling, a Native American art form which involves softening and weaving porcupine quills into leather or learn how to

Please see **AMERICANA, A2**



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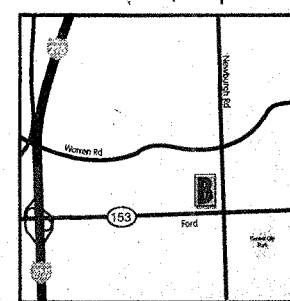
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# EXPLORERS

FROM PAGE A1

14-21, the police Explorers gives a close-up look at police for those considering a law enforcement career.

Explorers do ride alongs with patrol officers, help with community activities such as Turn Off the Violence, traffic control for festivals, child ID programs and serving as underage decoys attempting to make purchases of alcohol or tobacco.

For many Explorers, Bobby said the firsthand experience riding with a patrol officers is a deciding factor in whether they remain interested in law enforcement.

"If someone rides along and there is a bad incident, sometimes they will say it's not for them," said Bobby.

Redford resident Amanda Hicks has been a Westland

Explorer for two years and is the post captain — the highest rank available to Explorers. She's studying criminal justice at Schoolcraft College.

"I don't like doing the same thing each day, it's always different. Each traffic stop is different, each conversation," said Hicks. "It was better than I expected when I went on a ride along (with an officer). People think police work is like CSI or something, but it's nothing like that. There is no script to follow."

Like Hicks, fellow Explorer Zach Bozigian is also studying criminal justice at Schoolcraft. He went to a meeting seeking new Explorers while attending Westland John Glenn High School.

"I wanted to be a police officer and they told me being an Explorer would help me with training and my resume," said Bozigian, an Explorer for about three years. "I was



Zack Bozigian and Amanda Hicks frisk their suspect, played by their Explorer adviser, Officer Matt Bobby.

always sick of seeing criminals on the road. I wanted to clean up the city and take care of criminals, so kids don't have to worry. I want to be someone's hero."

The Explorers meet every other week for two or three hours — that's when the bulk of their training takes place. That includes traffic stops, firearms training, accident

investigation, officer safety, prisoner booking and physical training. Explorers also have an annual training session and competition with other Explorer posts in Alpena.

"It's so much fun and you learn so much — not just from the people up there but other Explorer posts. A Georgia post did so much fund raising, they bought their own police car," said Hicks, who like other Explorers has to pay for her own uniform.

The Explorers can do as many ride alongs as they wish, as long as an officer is willing to have a passenger.

"That's what helped me the most. I transitioned from five years as an Explorer to being an officer," said Bobby.

The Explorer, who carries a plastic replica service weapon, recently began training with paint ball guns.

"That was a real eye-opener, knowing that you could really get shot," said Bozigian.

A recent training scenario was based on the shooting of Garden City police Officer Rodney Donald, who came under gunfire from an unrelated third party while conducting a traffic stop. Donald survived being shot seven times and later medically retired.

"We pulled up and opened fire (on the Explorers conducting the traffic stop). We used Rodney's tragic experience to help save one of these guys," said Bobby.

The Westland Police Explorer program is open to anyone 14-21 years old, without any prior criminal history — minor traffic offenses can be addressed — and residency isn't required. Visit the city website at <http://ci.westland.mi.us> to download an application which can be dropped off at the police department at 36701 Ford Road.

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# AWARDS

FROM PAGE A1

The program was developed in 2007 and stemmed from discussion by Marshall's School Improvement Team about the problem of arranging for students to stay after school to receive tutoring.

Many of the students who needed the academic help used district transportation and couldn't arrange for their own after-school transporta-

tion. The team realized that if the school could offer the same tutoring programs during the school day, it could have a greater impact on student achievement.

Student schedules were rearranged and their advisory period attached to lunch, creating a 55-minute period to tutor students in mathematics and language arts without interfering with any of their regularly scheduled classes.

Power Lunch has provided a way for struggling and disadvantaged students to be

involved in "rich, targeted and sustainable supplemental instruction" in which they would otherwise not be able to participate.

Eastern Michigan University's Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities developed the Bright Futures out-of-school-time programs to promote positive youth development and academic enrichment for the youth it serve according to Lynn Malinoff, program director.

Bright Futures is funded through two grants from the Michigan Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers and serves nearly 700 Wayne-Westland students in six programs at Adams Upper Elementary, a lower elementary program for the children

in Norwayne which also meets at Adams Upper Elementary School, Marshall Upper Elementary, Franklin Middle, Stevenson Middle and Wayne Memorial High Schools.

The programs are developed by "incorporating youth voice and choice." They help decide on clubs and programming. A typical day consists of snack, homework help, clubs, and academic enrichment. The activities can include film clubs, photography, karate, service-learning and math dance to sewing, cooking, song-writing and recording, and poetry.

Malinoff finds artists, professionals, teachers and university students to develop and implement programs. The site coordinators work with the students, their families and the district "to create commu-

nities of learning at each site."

"We have family nights that engage everyone in fun learning activities and include youth performances and everyone has fun while learning," she said. "I am very grateful to be working with so many dedicated and passionate educators. The result is magical for me."

"The kids love the program, the parents love the program," said Baracy. "It helps motivate students to reach their full potential for success. It's great to have this partnership with EMU."

Wayne-Westland will have EMU representatives on hand when it accepts its awards at a Nov. 6 ceremony co-sponsored by MASB and SET SEG School Insurance Specialists, exclusive sponsor of the MASB's Education Excellence

program. This year's contest received more than 150 entries from districts across the state. They were judged by an independent panel of experts in each area, based on uniqueness, the critical need served and evidence of impact on student achievement. The winner in each of the nine categories will receive a trophy for display at the school and \$1,500 to continue their work.

"We're being challenged at the state and local level to develop innovative approaches to education," said Kathy Hayes, MASB executive director. "These districts have a proven record of success and should be thought of as models for other districts across the state."

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**AMERICANA**  
FROM PAGE A1

create their very own home-brew.

They can also get their hands wet while making corn husk dolls. The historic toy will be created by an "assembly line," and guests will be able to take a few corn husks and a yard of string to make a doll at

home. Kids can try their hand a game of graces — throwing a hoop and catching it with two sticks — or Hoops, where they'll roll a big hoop around with the help of a stick.

People can sit back and listen to a lecture on cottage industries, the work movement that preceded the Industrial Revolution, presented by Westland Historical Commissioner Jeff Koslowski,

and see a slide show of noted American artist Mort Kunstler's most admired works.

"This is a fun way to learn about history," said Stawasz. "It's not static. Rather than read about history, you get to see someone doing it. It's interactive learning."

Members of the Westland Historical Society and commission will be in the park's historic buildings to talk

about the history of the City of Westland and its predecessor, Nankin Township.

Admission to the Modern American exhibit and the Westland Historic Village Park is free of charge. The Westland Historic Village Park is at 857 N. Wayne Road, between Marquette and Cherry Hill. For more information, call (734) 326-1110.

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# Handmade bears comfort families of soldiers bound for Afghanistan

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Lauren LaCombe's son, Marco Gutierrez, goes to bed at night he takes with him a camouflaged teddy bear. It's a reminder of his mother's boyfriend, Willie Mathews.

"It's really sweet, my son has hung on to it and sleeps with it every night," said the Garden City resident. "And it sits in a chair in the living room during the day."

Mathews is member of the Army National Guard's 1225th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. He received the bear during a yellow ribbon deployment ceremony at Detroit's Light Guard Armory on Aug. 5. The unit currently is in Fort Hood, Texas, for training as part of a 14-month deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Mathews presented the handmade bear to LaCombe and her son at a ceremony. It was one of 91 made specifically for the soldiers and their families. The bears wear a yellow ribbon on their chest, an American flag on their shoulder and mini dog tags around their neck.

### GIFT FROM HEART

They were created by Westland resident Anne Tobias, whose granddaughter, Anna Wolfe, is a member of the 1225th. According to Tobias, the bears were the idea of her daughter and Wolfe's mother, Tamara Clark, also of Westland.

"She went to a meeting of the family support group and took a bear with her, the committee was trying to come up with something to do for the soldiers," Tobias said. "A sergeant saw it. He latched on to it and wouldn't let it go. He told her they had to have them, but with yellow ribbons for the yellow ribbon ceremony."

Tobias has been making the bears for several years.



Westland resident Anne Tobias shows off the style of teddy bears she made for members of the Army National Guard's 1225th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion which is deploying to Afghanistan.

Initially, she made from her late father's shirts for her nieces and nephews, then it snowballed into making the bears in patriotic colors as a fund-raiser for Wolfe's sister Amelia when she went through the John Glenn High School JROTC program so they could buy berets. The cadets sold the bears at meets and raised \$1,000.

Her first military bear was for a neighbor whose grandson is overseas, and with grandson already serving in Afghanistan, she made bears for his mother and sister.

This project was a little more involved. By Tobias' recollection, she used 22 yards of Army camouflaged fabric, 20 yards of fleece and 22 bags of fiber fill. Granddaughter Amelia Clark used Tobias's button machine to make most of the 91 pairs of eyes and noses.

When the magnitude of the project soon hit home, Tobias recruited her granddaughter, Terry Vacheusse, to cut out the pattern pieces and put them in individual bags and then she would sew and stuff

them. But when it became overwhelming she got friends Carol Manore and Laura Ewing of Garden City to help. Manore assembled the body parts and Ewing did the heads.

Then the bears went across the street to neighbor Ada McMecan who stuffed them before they came back to Tobias. She stitched them closed and put on the ribbons, dog tags and flag. The dog tags came with letters on them, and Tobias sanded the off before painting them silver.

### CONTRIBUTING

The Army offered to pay for the supplies, but Tobias said no because the money would have come out of the Soldiers Fund. Tobias and her daughter did the bulk of the purchasing and the Army provided them with three spools of yellow ribbon.

What Tobias didn't know was that at the yellow ribbon ceremony she would be recognized for her efforts. She received a certificate of achievement and the unit's Coin of Excellence as a thank



Willie Mathews gets to hold the bear that Anne Tobias made before giving it to his girlfriend Lauren LaCombe and her son Marco Gutierrez after a yellow ribbon ceremony for members of the 1225th battalion.

coin in it. He gave Tammy one, too, because she initiated the idea."

Tobias never thought she would get such special treatment nor did she ever think that it might become such a huge project. Now battalions around the state want them. One officer even asked her at the ceremony if she could make more. There are 390 soldiers in the battalion that are being deployed.

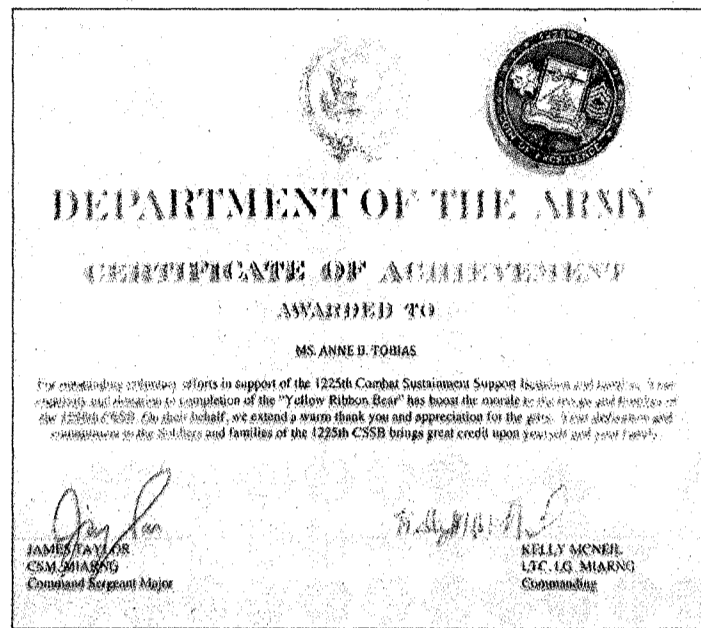
As for the recognition, she said she wouldn't have allowed it had she known about it. It was a labor of love, and her payment came from the soldiers and their families.

"A lot of soldiers came over and hugged me," she said.

"And as I was walking back to my seat, I could hear the echoes of thank you. One of Annie's friends hugged me on the way out and told me, 'My mother loves that bear.'"

For LaCombe, the bear is a pleasant reminder of her boyfriend. He will be home for four days at the end of the September before shipping out to Afghanistan. Mathews has marked on a big map where he will be for her son. The unit will not be on the front lines. It gives the commands are and coordinates what needs to be done.

"They're so cute," LaCombe said about the bears. "It's really awesome, it's a good feeling, especially to have something like the bear to feel they're here with you. I've known Willie for 3 1/2 years and we've been together for over a year. The fact that he's gone will probably kick in when he leaves for Afghanistan."



Tobias received a certificate of achievement and a coin of excellence during the yellow ribbon ceremony.

you. "The officer held up the bear and told the soldiers that 'This is so special, it's

to take your place at home when you're in harm's way," Tobias said. "And when he shook my hand, he left the

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## Six vehicles reported stolen in one night

### Vehicle thefts

Six vehicles were reported stolen overnight Sept. 12 to Sept. 13.

• On Sept. 13, a resident of an apartment, 6808 N. Merriman told police that someone had stolen his light blue 2005 Dodge Caravan, valued at \$2,000. The vehicle, which was fully paid for, had been left unlocked, the owner said. He was able to account for all the keys.

• Also on Sept. 13, a resident of an apartment at 6858 N. Merriman reported his light blue 2002 Dodge Caravan, valued at \$2,000, stolen. He said the car had been locked and he had all the keys.

• A 2000 Dodge Stratus was reported stolen from an apartment at 7806 Manor Circle

### WESTLAND

Sept. 13.

• A Canton woman told police she parked her vehicle after she arrived to work at a group home in the 7300 block of Wilderness Park Drive. During the night, the 1991 Dodge Caravan was stolen. She said it had been locked.

• A 2004 Pontiac Grand Am was reported stolen from the Hines Park Apartments, 31610 Cowan, Sept. 13.

• A resident in the 30000 block of Lacy Drive said that Sept. 13 he looked outside just before 4 a.m. and saw his vehicle parked across the street from his home. A few minutes later, he said, he heard

a vehicle with a loud exhaust and believed it was a neighbor leaving for work. When he went outside about five minutes later, he said his 2002 Honda Civic, valued at \$5,000, was missing.

### Break-in

Police were called to Mai's Nails, 34782 Ford, Sept. 11 after the owner reported finding an entire piece of heavy glass had been removed from the front of the business and placed on the grass. Reported missing were \$100 in cash and a laptop computer, valued at \$800.

### Attempted break-ins

• The owner of NV Only Nails, 737 S. Wayne Road, told police Sept. 11 that she arrived to find someone had attempted

to break the rear door lock. No entry was made but the lock was damaged.

• Also on Sept. 11, the owner of Nikki's Cleaners, 8331 N. Wayne Road, told police that someone had tried to enter the business by cutting a notch out of the metal door jamb. No entry was made.

### Stolen vehicle

Police were called to Scotsdale Apartments, 37735 Scotsdale Circle, about 4 a.m. Sept. 8 when a Clinton Township man reported his 1996 Dodge Caravan had been stolen. The man said he had parked it more than four hours earlier while visiting and fell asleep. When he woke up, he said the vehicle was gone.

### Break-in

A resident in the 28000 block of Van Born told police Sept. 8 that she heard a noise near the back door and yelled, believing her son had come home. When she came into the family room, she said she found her purse dumped out.

Reported missing were a checkbook, Social Security card, birth certificate and two insurance cards. The woman, 81, told police she left the door open since her son was expected.

### Retail fraud

A Dearborn Heights woman was arrested Sept. 7 for shoplifting a pair of earrings valued at \$38 from J.C. Penney,

35000 Warren Road. A witness reported seeing the woman hide the earrings and leave the store. The earrings were returned to the store.

### Break-in

A .22-caliber semiautomatic rifle, loaded with 15-20 rounds, was reported stolen from Woodcrest Apartments, 8365 Woodcrest Drive, Sept. 6. The owner said she returned home to find the front door had been forced open — the same thing that had happened a month ago.

Along with the rifle, valued at \$500, a home stereo system, also valued at \$500, was also reported stolen. Damage to the door was estimated at \$600.

—By LeAnne Rogers

## Garden City woman injured in hit-run accident

### Hit and run accident

A 46-year-old Garden City woman was treated at Garden City Hospital after she was hit by a car while crossing Henry Ruff at Pierce Avenue Sept. 13.

The woman and her husband, who were walking their dog about 12:05 a.m., had begun crossing the street when she was struck by a maroon Ford Taurus that was traveling southbound on Henry Ruff. She was thrown several feet into the air. When she landed on the ground, she noticed she was bleeding from injuries to her forehead and left arm.

Her husband told police that he saw the passenger side car of the vehicle strike his wife and then flee the area. After seeing that his wife was bleeding heavily, he ran home to get their car

### GARDEN CITY

to take her to the hospital.

Police found large drops of blood at the accident scene but were unable to locate any other evidence.

### Fraud

The sister of an elderly woman reported to police that her sister's son cashed a check for \$150 and also used her credit cards to make several purchases, including \$75 worth of gas at a Costco, while the 81-year-old Garden City resident was hospitalized for treatment of a head injury.

The woman, who has power of attorney, told police that the son moved into her sister's home in the 32000 block of Hennepin after his mother was admitted to

the hospital on Aug. 28 because of bleeding on the brain.

She added that at least seven pieces of jewelry also are missing from the home along with some of her sister's personal information.

### Stolen van

A panel van belonging to Sheridan Construction was found missing from the business at 32125 Block on Sept. 11. The owner told police the van was parked behind a locked fenced and was last seen at 5 p.m. Sept. 10. It was noticed missing when his son went to mow the lawn about 11 a.m. the next day. He found the gate open and the lock for the fence missing.

The owner believed there was a small amount of tools in the van.

### Suspended license

A 38-year-old Highland Park man was ticketed for driving with a suspended license after being stopped on Inkster Road at Kathryn for having an improper license plate. He also was ticketed for having no proof of insurance and the license plate, registered to a 1994 Jeep, was confiscated.

### Larceny from an auto

A 28-year-old Livonia resident was arrested by police after being identified as a suspect in the break-in of several vehicles in the 6100 block of Lathers Sept. 11.

An officer was checking the area at 2:45 a.m. when he saw a car with its dome light on and a man moving around inside it. When he shined a spotlight on

the car, the suspect laid down in the vehicle in an apparent attempt to hide.

The suspect fled when the officer approached the vehicle and was chased into the backyard of the home where he was apprehended. According to police, he asked what was going on and said he was being chased by several individuals.

A witness identified the suspect as the man he had seen breaking into cars. Two residents indicated that their cars had been broken into and the interiors searched. Both reported loose change missing from the center consoles.

### Drunken driving

Police ticketed a 56-year-old Westland man for drunken driving Sept. 11. Police located

the man on Middlebelt and Maplewood after receiving a call of a car being driven recklessly on Middlebelt north of Ford.

The police officer said the car was speeding and weaving from left to right in the through lane before it made a quick left turn onto Ann Arbor Trail. The driver told police he had consumed three-four beers.

• A 24-year-old Dearborn man was arrested for driving while intoxicated after he was stopped for speeding on Middlebelt near Block. Police said the man was clocked traveling 47 mph in the construction area where the speed limit is 30 mph. He registered .15 on a breath test, well above the .08 threshold for being drunk.

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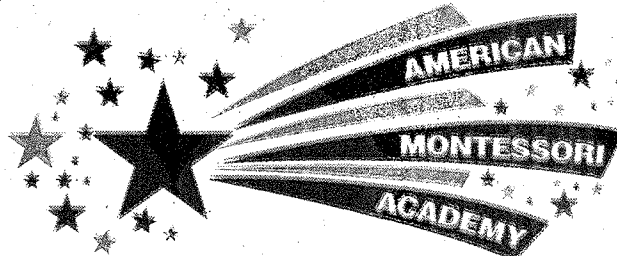
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313-533-0000

**TOWN HALL**  
FROM PAGE A1

"My father came here from Italy in 1948. He risked everything for the dream of something better — the American Dream in Michigan. I want that opportunity again," said Bernero. "That is in jeopardy. We can do better. We laid out the red carpet, not red tape, for business in Lansing."

In five years as Lansing mayor, Bernero said he had been able to balance the city's budget — something running mate and Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence has done for nine years.

The candidates answered questions about how to deal with a state corrections budget that has higher funding than public education, decreasing property values and property taxes.

The last question of the town hall came from Westland resident Beverly Smith, a self-described lifelong Democrat who voted for Snyder during the primary. Noting the governor can't fire legislators, Smith asked how the candidates would build a team to work for the betterment of the state.

"Regardless of the party label, campaigning is a personal sacrifice. All of the legislature is well-intentioned and trying to make a difference," said Snyder. "We need partners with a vision for the state."

Bernero cited his legislative experience working closely with Republican colleagues, adding that he serves as a nonpartisan elected official as mayor.

"We (he and Snyder) are not bitter enemies, nor should we be. I hope we can do more of these and that they will be just as civilized," Bernero said.

**SUPPORTERS SPEAK**

Working in human resources at the University of Michigan, Smith said she is tired of partisan political bick-



Rick Snyder talks about his vision for reinventing Michigan, if he's elected governor.



Virg Bernero talks to the media after joining Rick Snyder at the latter's town hall meeting in Westland Monday evening.

ering and that part of Snyder's message was attractive.

"I thought it was very generous of him (Snyder) to invite him (Bernero) to speak. I had not heard Bernero speak before," said Smith, whose support for Snyder wasn't changed by the meeting. "Snyder is putting his money where his mouth is — we've had career politicians."

Garden City resident Jim Rhoades had a specific area of interest he wanted addressed by Snyder — motorcycle issues.

"I know Bernero supports us," said Rhoades, a

Republican and legislative director for ABATE (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education).

A self-described conservative and Republican, Westland resident Phil Solarz said he came to the town hall meeting already supporting Snyder.

"I didn't get a lot of information about him before at the state convention," said Solarz, who was elected as precinct chairman at the Republican convention. "I want to see what he is all about. I hope he can keep things going and

bring down spending and taxes. We need to get jobs in the state — we've lost too many."

Having already decided to support Snyder, Northville resident Cheryl Nothnagel said she came to town hall meeting to get more information.

"This was a great opportunity. I'm pretty much politically active. I've worked on a bunch of campaigns myself," she said. "I'm a Realtor. A lot of what goes on in the state affects us. We need more jobs."

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More than 61 years later, Buddy's continues to thrive under the stewardship of Robert Jacobs, the son of the late Billy Jacobs and Shirlee Jacobs (now living in Florida).

Buddy's continues to serve Detroit's original square pizza, made from scratch soups; and its celebrated Antipasto salad. Other menu items include pastas, burgers, sandwiches, gluten-free pizzas and more.

Buddy's dine-in locations are: Auburn Hills, Dearborn, Detroit (the original Buddy's), Farmington Hills, Detroit/Grosse Pointe, Livonia and Warren. Carry-out locations are Bloomfield Township and Royal Oak.

Think beyond tax implications with finances

I recently returned from speaking at a retirement seminar and the question that came up the most was taxes and tax policy.

It never ceases to amaze me that as a society we have a fixation on taxes. I don't mean that as a bad thing, but I question whether all the emphasis on taxes does more harm than good.

I have been in the financial world a quarter-century and I've always taken the view that when it comes to taxes "being smart" with them should be an investor's goal.

In our tax system, the more money you make, the more money you pay in taxes. I believe the most important number to focus on is not what you pay in taxes, but rather what ends up in your pocket.

The way tax laws are designed, as one makes more money his/her bracket goes up. However, no matter what bracket if you

make more money you still net more money, no matter if you are thrown into a higher tax bracket or not.

The problem I have is people fixated on taxes are focused on the wrong number. The focus should always be on what ends up in your pocket.

I've always wondered why people get involved in lousy investment vehicles such as variable annuities and limited partnerships. For the great majority of people these types of investments make no sense yet many get involved because these vehicles are touted as tax shelters. The problem with most tax shelters is not that they don't lower your taxes, because many of them do. However, they lower taxes because you make less money.

I believe most investors would find that if they avoided some of these gimmicky tax shelters they may pay a little more in taxes but they would have more money in their pocket — exactly where it belongs.

If you want to fool people about investing, you focus on taxes. It's the number one way to take advantage of an investor.

Whether you deal with a financial advisor or a financial salesperson, if the main focus is reducing your taxes as opposed to making more money, you'll know that you're dealing with the wrong person.

At the recent talk I gave regarding retirement, a woman mentioned that when she filed her 2009 tax returns, she owed a little over \$1,000 of taxes due with her return. She was clearly upset she had to pay this money in taxes. When I asked her if she had made more money in 2009 than 2008, she said yes. In fact, she said she made more than \$10,000 than the previous year. She wanted to know what she could do next year to avoid the taxes. My answer was make less money.

She wasn't happy with the answer. However, reality is that if you want to lower your taxes, make less money. Obviously, that's not a solution most people want.

As 2010 winds down, many people will do some year-end tax planning. I encourage readers to always focus on the financial aspect of the transaction as opposed to the tax consequences. If something does not make sense

financially, no matter what the tax consequences, the transaction still makes no sense.

Where will tax laws be next year? I don't know. In the past Congress has passed tax laws near the end of the year and has made them retroactive to the beginning of the year. In addition, I have no idea what the results of the election in November will be. Thus, next year's tax laws are just like this year, up in the air.

You and I both know that rational thinking and sound logic are terms that don't necessarily apply to politicians. When you make decisions based upon tax laws, don't speculate what they will be next year. Focus on what the law is today.

Remember, it's not more patriotic to pay more money in taxes than you have to, however, the most important number is not what you pay but rather, what ends up in your pocket.

Good luck!

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



Money Matters

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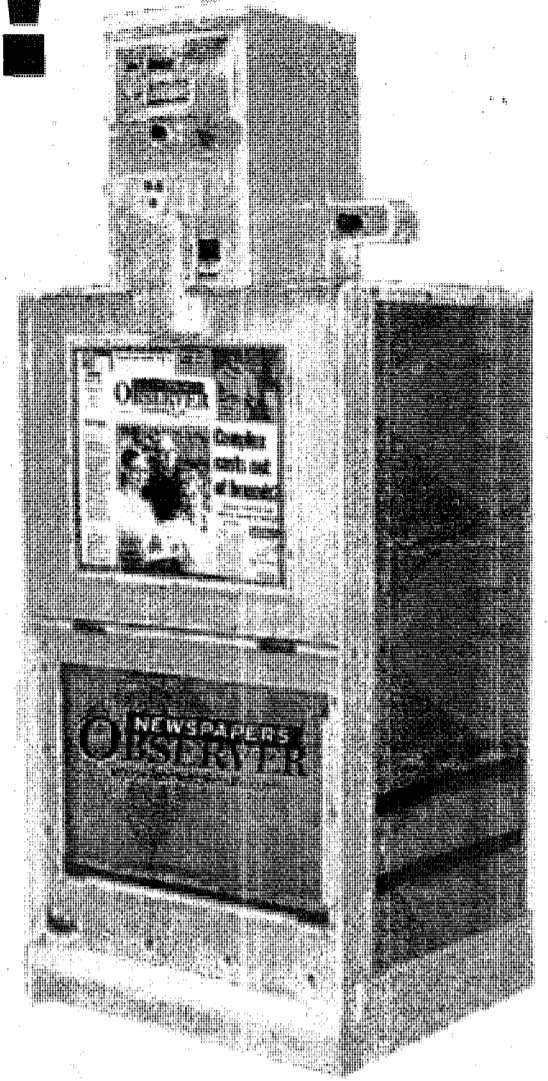
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### OUR VIEWS

## First day

### Planning helps make change happen

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools officially became 21st century schools with the start of school last week. Gone is the 20th century version of school.

Just how many problems occurred on the first day of classes in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools depends on who you ask. The superintendent states that there were a few "glitches" with transportation, while the bloggers say there were more than just a few problems involving crossing guards, safety and the dropping off and picking up of students.

It is a given that you can't please all of the people all of the time, and even if there had been no problems on the first day of school, someone would have found one. We are not saying that the bloggers' comments are incorrect. Yes, safety and the dropping off and picking up of students are concerns, if not problems, but the latter is not a new one. The problem of the congestion created in dropping off and picking up of students has been around for years, especially at the elementaries.

What we are saying is that the district did everything in its power to make the transition as smooth as possible. And we believe that is what happened. It involved parents in the process and tried to leave nothing to chance. But even with the best of planning there will be some problems, some glitches. What matters is how the district responds to them, and we believe school officials have and will do everything possible to resolve them.

Change is never an easy thing. There are those people who will resist change to the bitter end. Nothing can be done to appease them. Every problem, no matter how small, is a major issue. But the fact is that the district made the transition to the reconfigured elementary program without major problems.

Wayne-Westland parents need only look to the Garden City Public Schools and the problems it experienced with its reconfiguration to understand. In Wayne-Westland, students got to their respective schools; classes started on time and got out on time. Walkers made it to school and back home with no major incident. Bus riders got on the correct buses, and parents who drove got their kids to and from school. Such was not the case in Garden City.

The educational program parents grew up with is evolving. What fit in the 20th century no longer works today. What Wayne-Westland and other school districts in the state are going through isn't because of a whim, or a let's try something new. It's a necessity to accommodate declining enrollment and declining funding. The changes are the reflection of what is happening in the state of Michigan. A poor economy, a loss of jobs, means lean times for cities and school districts who get their revenue from taxes paid by residents.

We believe it was the school staffs, the parents and administrators working together that helped make this transition happen as smoothly as it did. It wasn't perfect, but it went well, and that is what matters most when it comes to the children.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shannon Blick describes herself as the 'luckiest girl in the world' on being appointed principal at Wildwood Elementary School.

### LETTERS

#### Train, contain pets

In response to Mr. Jeffers' letter about pitbulls, I am irritated at the fact he like many use this one breed as an excuse to irresponsibility. If you actually look at the statistics of dog attacks people would see that ANY breed can and will attack if provoked.

People want this breed banned, but what happens when the next dog bite happens and it's not a pitbull, are you going to ban that breed also? If people would educate themselves when looking for a pet you would find that not every breed is suitable for each situation. I myself have two pit bulls and will not ever get another breed.

I feel the media is also to blame for this stereotype because they do not report on every attack that happens, only pitbull attacks. If people would train, contain and be responsible for their pets, dog bites would decrease ... period!

Margaret Carter  
Westland

#### Check owners of pitbulls

I am a proud owner of three beautiful pitbulls that are registered to the state, insured, and I pay extra on my rental insurance because of their "high risk" reputation. I disagree that Westland lifted the law on the owners of these mighty angels because some of the dogs are very temperamental and can be unpredictable in nature.

But as far as a solution of what are our "elected officials" to do, euthanize them all? I don't think so. That is cruel. We don't euthanize the murderers and rapists in the human world. We let them rot while we pay the bill. But one thing that should be done as far as pitbulls go is that every owner needs to have a background check with references and such and have a secure yard for safety for both dog and human! And that's my opinion!

Andrea Smith  
Westland

#### Help with election survey

An open letter to Michigan's voters in care of Michigan's newspaper editors,

I'm inviting voters statewide to join me in surveying how good or bad - how equal or unequal - Michigan's

voting conditions are. When you go to the polls Nov. 2, take a moment. Look around. Check your watch. Count things. Then please tell me: Your city/township and precinct number, polling place; do other precincts use it, too; how many voting stations (standing and sit-down) did your precinct have; how many touch-screen voting machines; how many vote-counting machines (tabulators); how many election inspectors; what time did you go, how long were you there, and how long did voting itself take; how long were the lines?, and if you can find out, how many voters were registered in your precinct.

Send your answers - plus comments on the voting process - to John Anthony La Pietra for Fairer, Better Elections, 386 Boyer Court, Marshall, MI 49068, or by e-mail at [jalp4fBE@triton.net](mailto:jalp4fBE@triton.net). (And tell me where to send my thanks for your help.) There's a survey form at [members.triton.net/jalp4fBE\\_voting\\_conditions\\_survey.pdf](http://members.triton.net/jalp4fBE_voting_conditions_survey.pdf).

I'm also inviting my Secretary of State rivals - Libertarian Scotty Boman, Robert Gale of the US Taxpayers Party, Democrat Jocelyn Benson, and Republican Ruth Johnson - to join me in having our election recounted ... or audited; see mem-

#### 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](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com).

Read or comment online: [www.hometownlife.com](http://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](http://www.hometownlife.com).

[members.triton.net/jalp4fBE\\_disc\\_election-rtts.pdf](http://members.triton.net/jalp4fBE_disc_election-rtts.pdf). I pledge to pay my voters a percentage of the \$10 per precinct recount fee for 5,050 precincts statewide - if they'll do the same.

And I invite newspapers, other media, and interest groups to tell their audiences all about all five of us.

John Anthony La Pietra  
for Fairer, Better Elections

#### Make the change to renewable

For most of our adult lives, we have been hearing our world will run out of fossil fuels before the end of the (20th) century. It is now the 21st century, and we are bombarded with commercials financed by "big-energy" warning us that increasing taxes on energy will disintegrate our economy.

I recall the "Yom Kippur War" of October 1973, and the resulting increased prices of fuel for everything we need to heat homes, supply us with electricity, and travel. The long lines at refueling stations (wasting much of it in the panic) and resulting layoffs all over the country are still fresh in my mind.

In 1974, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was created, and energy prices for consumers has (overall) multiplied many times. Now, in the year 2010, we are still listening to those showering us with highly financed commercials in the energy business pleading their case.

The BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, in southern Michigan, and now, another oil rig debacle in the ocean can only lead us to a conclusion. There must be an awful lot of crude oil still down there. But it remains that our "carbon footprint," and "global warming" are still really looming over us, today?

I hope now that we finally have our own experience in Michigan with a massive oil spill (the fumes from 840,000 gallons of crude oil stinking up the area around Battle Creek) that people will wake up to the need to move away from our dependency on fossil based fuels.

Spills like these don't have to keep happening. If we all make the decision now to support a move to a "clean energy economy" powered by wind, geo-thermal, solar and other "renewable" sources of energy, we can change the future. Who among us is willing to risk our Great Lakes? I for one am not, and I hope that others now see the urgency behind making this change.

R. Burnett  
Livonia

#### Better off with GOP

Since we've had recent history of Republicans leading Congress (1995 to 2006) and Democrats in control (2007 to present), it is easy to compare results of the two parties, as follows:

- The average unemployment rate during Republican control was under 5.0 percent, and was about 4.6 percent when they ceded control to the Democrats. Under Democrat control, it has now more than doubled.

- The federal deficit averaged \$200 billion per year under the Republicans. It is now averaging \$1.2 trillion per year under the Democrats.

- Housing values increased about 3 percent per year under the Republicans, and decreased about 9 percent per year under Democrat control.

- The stock market increased by an average of 16 percent per year during the Republican years; it decreased about 5 percent per year under the Democrats.

Maybe some of the Democrats she's concerned about are worried about their jobs, homes and 401(k)s and are waking up to this realization: A Republican-led Congress is a much better steward of the U.S. economy than a Democrat-led Congress.

Rick Engelland  
Northville

#### What's in the wrapper?

Part of the slogan of the Tea Party movement is "less government." Sounds good, but what does it mean? What part of the government do they intend to do away with? The voters deserve to have this fleshed out a bit before Election Day.

I like to drive 95 mph without wearing a seat belt or motorcycle helmet. Will these and other traffic laws be part of the "less government"? I would like to move into an exclusive subdivision and paint the exterior of my house a bright purple with sky blue, lime green and pink trim. The courts have ruled that homeowner and condo groups have the power of a local government unit, so my logic is - it is my property to do what I want with it under the "less government" thing.

A co-worker into the Tea Party movement brought in a paper about how they would like to get the government out of the food inspection business. That everyone in the food production business should be trusted on their own, to insure that we have a safe for humans to eat food supply. That a general principle of the Tea Party movement was to just let business police itself, that unsafe practices when they became public would probably put them out of business because everyone would refuse to conduct business with them. But my question is, at the same time, how many people would have to get sick or die before we, on our own, figure out which were the unsafe food producers?

I could go on and on with other examples of government, but I won't because I made my point of what kind of "less government" the Tea Party movement is referring to. We the voters deserve to know what "less government" they have in mind. Everyone running for office should flesh out their ideas with a straightforward vision of what it will affect. I want them to paint me a word picture of their vision of "pie in the sky." The term "less government" is just an empty slogan or a wrapper - I want to know what the real contents are. What's inside the wrapper?

John C. Kelly  
New Hudson

### 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](http://hometownlife.com).

#### The issue: First day of reconfiguration

What is the superintendent actually thinking. What was he really looking at. I was around the district and found too many problems, or glitches as he called them, in all the school levels. The district was told about some problems that may occur in the start of the year, and they all were valid. They didn't listen to reason, or suggestions. My displeasure with the district is vocal and true. This school year is not safe, secure, or even fun. I do wish the board would actually consider sound suggestions from us.

halfpint\_48186

I too traveled around the district the first week of school, and found more than just a few problems that the district should have foreseen. Too bad this district fails to listen. Safety issues like crossing guards, parking/drop off/pick up. The simple fact is most of this Board fails to listen to the parents who's children go to these schools. The board doesn't even have to answer any of our questions when asked, I find that hard to believe. We our the community who voted them in, and now they don't have to answer us on issues that effect our children!

You2havea voice

Write a few suggestions here since you are so smart. If any of them cost me even \$1 more than I already give the d@n teachers, I vote against it. When this group led by the MEA gives back to the communities they take from, then we will see real change in education. They tell you they get paid too little. Ask them what their salary and benefits total over \$70,000 each. By the way, if you give them more, will the result be any different? No. So in the meantime, schools had to close, people were laid off, and changes followed. The state does not provide funding to keep the status quo. Next year you will see privatized services: bussing, custodial, grounds keeping, and maybe more. It is happening in Westland like it is all around the state. I would not be surprised if there were things that did not go well. It could be expected. But all I hear from people propped up by the MEA (yourself included) is rhetoric about how smart they are.

opine4utoo





The medical transport helicopter lands for the St. Mary Mercy Hospital open house.



Ed Morris and daughter Lexi Morris play what must be the world's largest game of Operation.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Over at the teddy bear clinic, Sebastian Franchina bandages a wounded stuffed animal for 9-year-old Charles Yang.



Charles Yang's stuffed squirrel is healthy again after treatment at the teddy bear clinic.

# Run/walk, open house draw 2,000 to St. Mary Mercy

A record number of runners and walkers participated in the fourth annual "Embrace Life" 5K run/walk for cancer Sunday at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

The number was 585, said St. Mary Mercy communications specialist Tracy Petipren. The amount of money raised for cancer services at St. Mary Mercy, including mammogram screenings, support groups and access to care for those in need, will be known later this week as figures are made final, Petipren said.

Last year's event raised more than \$18,000. Awards were given to the first-, second- and third-place overall male and female winners of each age division of the 5K run. The USATF-certified course began on hospital grounds and runners/walkers were then routed through the residential streets of Livonia.

Overall female winners were Gwendolyn Ostrosky, 29, of Essexville with a time of 20:28.9; Daya Wagh, 15, of Waterford, 20:33.1; and Carrie Gasidlo, 26, of Carleton, 22:54.3.

Overall male winners were Steve Menovcik, 41, of Grand Ledge with a time of 16:52.3; Vincent Jesudowich, 43 of Northville, 16:58.9; and Adan Gomez, 45, of Livonia, 18:51.3.

The 5K run/walk was followed by a community open house, "Celebration of Health," which offered free activities for all ages, including blood pressure and bone density screenings, an "Ask the Doctor" booth, teddy bear clinic, displays of emergency vehicles, kids crafts, music, magic shows and food and refreshments.

Marianne Simancek, director of community outreach for the hospital, said attendance appeared to be up for the open house, too, which was the eighth annual this year. She



Operating Room manager Kathryn Borromeo helps 3-year-old Dustin Montroy operate an endoscope. Behind Dustin is his grandmother, Ruth Ochoa. They are from Redford.

said about 2,000 people attended, including many of the runners and walkers and their families.

A favorite part of the hospital tour this year was the operating room, where the new da Vinci surgical robot was on display, and the heart and vascular center, where attendees got to see the equipment used in a cardiac catheterization up close, Simancek said.

The open house gives people a chance to talk with staff in a non-threatening environ-

ment and learn about procedures they have heard about on the news or from patients who have experienced them, she said, adding that's one of the main reasons the hospital holds the open house.

Children also met with doctors in a relaxed atmosphere as they took their stuffed animals to a teddy bear clinic for "stitches" and other first aid.

- By Karen Smith



Jacynda Green, 6, meets Willow, a therapy dog. Willow sits in Ken Kubin's lap.



Jill Covert and 9-year-old daughter Lily meet Max, a therapy dog who works with Ken Kubin. The Coverts are from Livonia. In the background is Denise Sole, who works with Willow, another therapy dog.



Scoop, the Observer news hound, visits with children at the hospital open house.

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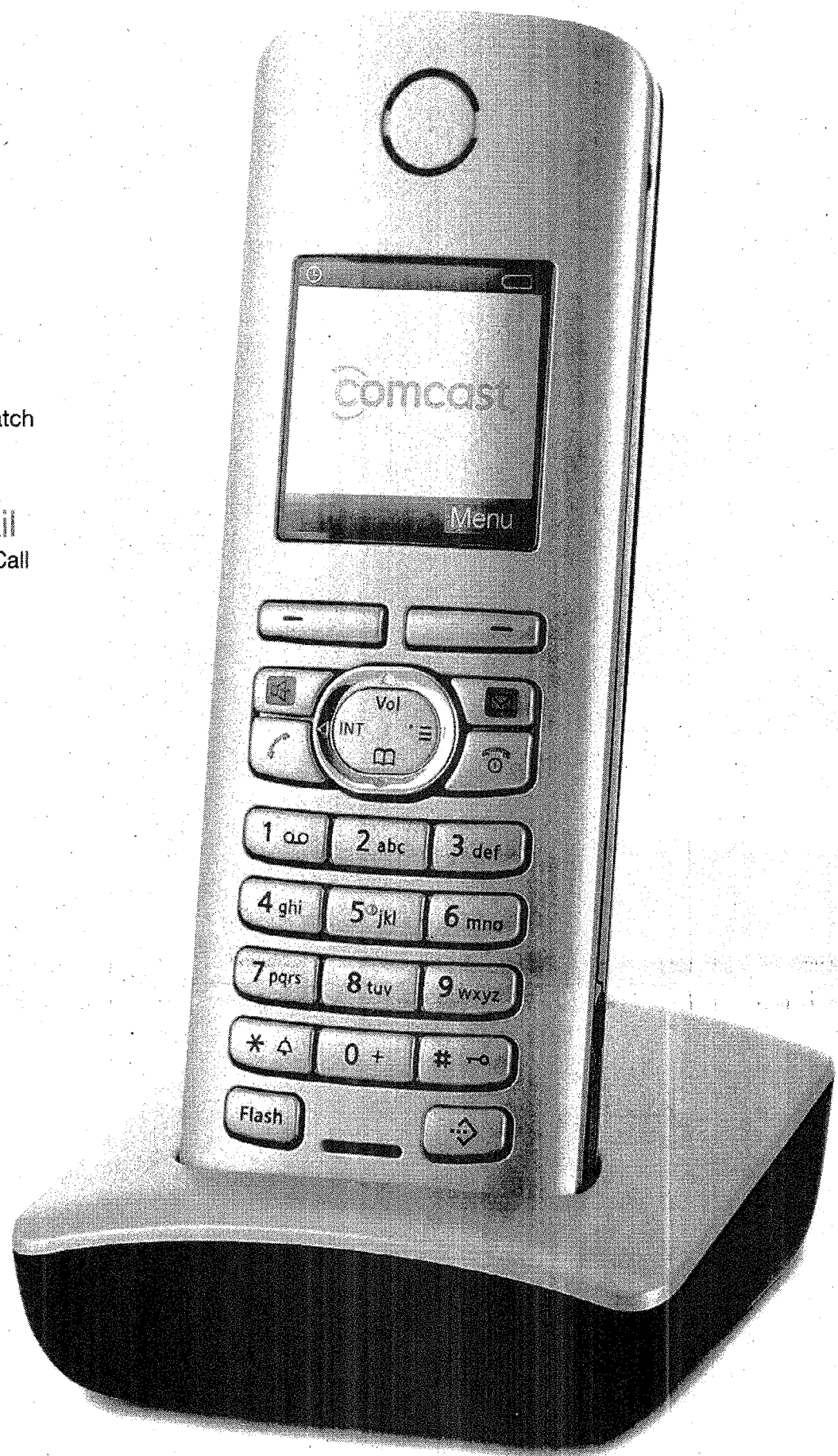
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# Novi blocks Stevenson girls in division opener

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Expect to see a changing of the guard in the KLAA's Central Division girls volleyball race any time soon? Not just yet after defending champion Novi cruised to a 25-19, 25-13, 25-18 win Tuesday night over host Livonia Stevenson in the division opener. The Wildcats, 40-8 overall last season and 10-0 in the Central, were expected to get a severe test from the much improved Spartans, but it never materialized.

"I think we played as a team — all 14 got in and played their game," Novi

## PREP VOLLEYBALL

coach Julie Fisette said. "It didn't matter who was in, we still played the way we play on the court and just made it happen — a lot of offense that carried the ball on our side."

Senior outside hitter Erica Robb had a team-high nine kills and 11 digs as the Wildcats improved to 8-2-1 overall. Victoria Rose and Katie Enright contributed five kills apiece, while setter Laura Subject contributed 32 assist-to-kills and 11 digs.

"We played some great defense tonight," Fisette said.

The Wildcats were coming off a sweep of the Milford Quad, which included victory over defending KLAA champion White Lake Lakeland.

"I think we're developing," Fisette said. "I don't think we're quite there yet. We have a lot of things to work on. It's early in the season, first league game, and we'll be ready by the time the finals come."

Stevenson didn't show life until the final set when they overcame a 5-0 deficit to pull within 13-12. But the Spartans, who dropped to 5-5-1 overall, couldn't sustain any momentum.

"Actually we did passed the ball very well on serve receive," Stevenson coach

Kelly Graham said. "But the defense after that ... they (Novi) were getting way too many chances on offense, so we kind of beat ourselves up a little bit. They (Novi) played very well. Their hitters did very, very well and were effective against us."

Junior setter-outside hitter Kelly Vellucci recorded a team-high 11 kills, while senior outside hitter Reina Tyl added seven for the Spartans.

Senior libero Jordan York contributed 15 digs, while setter Samantha Caves collected seven assists.

"Our blocking was not on, so we have a

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B3**

## SIDELINES

### Bradshaw saluted

Alma College senior libero Stephanie Bradshaw (Livonia Churchill) was named Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Specialty Player of the Week in her career after the Scots' 25-23, 25-23, 25-23 women's volleyball triumph over Kalamazoo College.

Bradshaw set an MIAA record for digs in a three-set match with 36. She also added 16 digs in a 25-18, 25-11, 22-25, 25-19 victory over Adrian College as Alma improved to 6-0 overall.

### Dempsey hailed

Madonna University junior outside hitter Liz Dempsey (Livonia Franklin) was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Volleyball Player of the Week for the first time in her career.

Dempsey led the Crusaders to a 4-0 record and the title last weekend in the 11th annual Julie Martin Memorial Classic where she averaged 13 kills and 11.75 digs per match.

Against Rochester College (Sept. 10), Dempsey hit at an .882 clip with 15 kills with only one error to go along with 13 digs, three block-assists and three ace serves as MU snapped its longest losing streak since 1991.

### Valerio-Pinnacle first

The Mike Valerio/Pinnacle over-50 men's softball team captured the Senior Softball USA Northern Regional, Aug. 27-29, in Lansing to qualify for the SSUSA World Tournament, Oct. 22-25, in Phoenix, Ariz., and SSUSA Tournament of Champions, Feb. 11-3, in Lakeland, Fla.

Valerio/Pinnacle finished undefeated in the winner's bracket before losing to the Detroit Jags, 25-24, in the championship round before rebounding to beat the Jags for the title, 19-16.

All-Tournament selections included Allen Park's Mike McLellan, who batted .864, Livonia's Chuck Uhlinger, .720; Canton's Dave Jacek, .765; Trenton's Eddie Karras, .692 with six homers; and Allen Park's Bruce Antioch, .615.

Other team members include manager Mike Valerio (.737); Mike Rieber (.684); John Henderson (.655); Dave Jakska (.625); Dan Fritz (.571); Brian Koppin (.538); Paul Agosta (.500); and Paul Neilson (.714).

### MU harriers fifth

The Madonna University women's cross country team placed fifth out of six teams in the 24th annual Running Fit-Detroit Titan Cross Country Invitational Saturday at Cass Benton Park in Northville.

Wayne State captured the team title with 30 points followed by Front Line Racing (39). MU was fifth with 131.

Front Line Racing's Angela Matthews (Lutheran High Westland) was the individual winner in 18 minutes, 13 seconds (5,000 meters). Former Livonia Stevenson standouts Lisa and Linda Montgomery, also of Front Line, took third and 13th, respectively, in 18:57 and 19:53.

Sarah Sherwood (Salem) was seventh for MU in 19:12 followed by Emily Bambach (Livonia Ladywood), 33rd (21:47); Inta Grinvalds, 34th (21:48); Cassie Yarnall, 37th (22:22); Devan Walley (Livonia Franklin), 55th (27:17).

Maddy LaFave led Schoolcraft College in 39th (22:37) followed Tera Bean, 41st (23:00) and Sally L'Esperance, 53rd (25:54).

In the men's 4-mile race, Tim Boes (Westland John Glenn) was MU's top finisher in 51st (22:45); Nick Brubaker, 55th (22:57); Dan Pratt, 69th (23:44); and Luke Mion, 82nd (24:55).

Schoolcraft College got a 67th from Mark Freyberg (Livonia Churchill) in 23:34. Andrew Belt and Scott Howse (Churchill) took 85th and 86th in 25:21 and 25:38, respectively.

## Mortada out, Tomlinson in with Rockets

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Just eight games into the boys soccer season, Jimmy Mortada has resigned and JV coach Brian Tomlinson has been named interim varsity coach at Westland John Glenn.

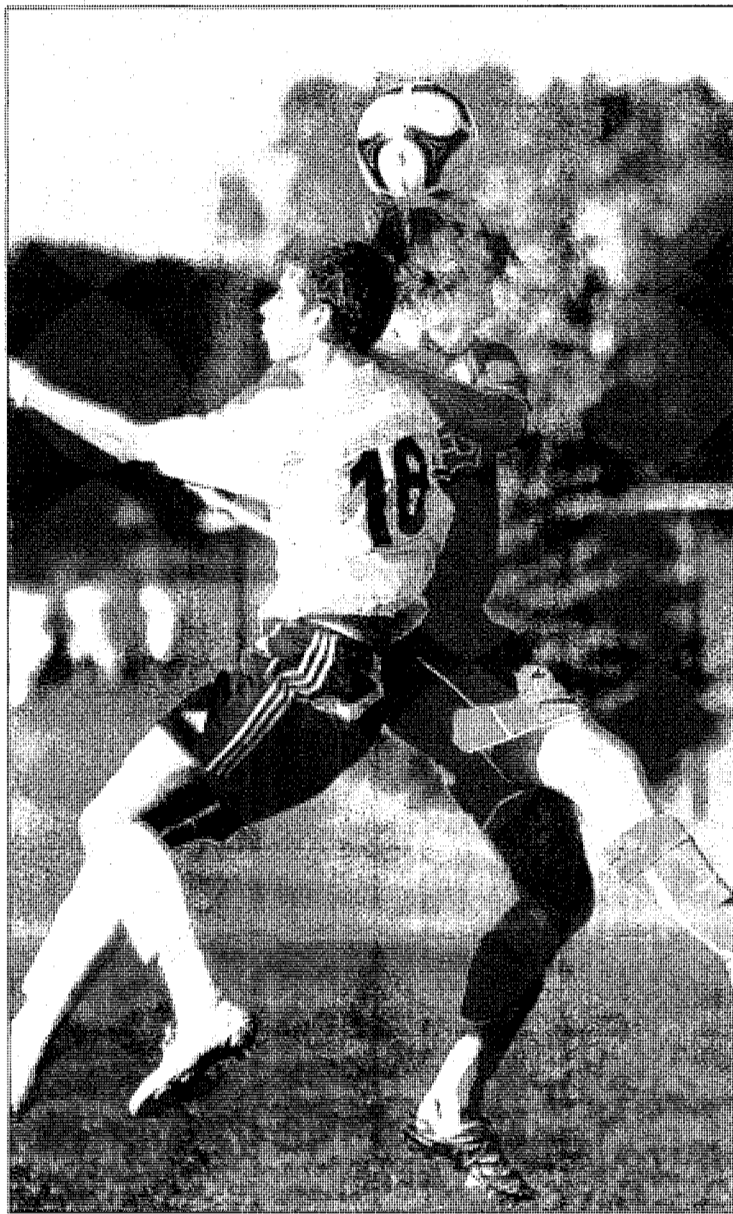
Mortada, off to a 3-3-1 start this season, confirmed Tuesday he stepped down after three seasons as varsity coach. He was 18-26-2 overall during his stint.

The 30-year-old Mortada told Wayne-Westland Schools athletic administrator Greg Ambrose he resigned on Monday. That was on the heels of a lopsided loss last Thursday at Livonia Franklin, a game where two Glenn players received red cards (ejections).

"After the Franklin game I decided not to coach anymore," said Mortada. "We had a bad game against Franklin — 6-0 — we're not used to getting beat like that. After the game

### BOYS SOCCER

Please see **MORTADA, B3**



John Glenn's Alex Isaevski (18) goes high into the air to contest the air ball with Canton's Kyle Krause in Tuesday's KLAA South Division encounter.

OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

## Upstart Patriots end 14-year hex

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

You have to delve back into the archives to find the last time Livonia Franklin got the best of rival Livonia Churchill in a boys soccer match.

And for the first time since 1995, the Patriots came out on the winning end with a 2-1 triumph Tuesday night at Churchill.

Junior Jordan McGuire's two first-half goals proved to be the difference as surprising Franklin improved to 7-1 overall. The Patriots also take over sole possession of first place in the KLAA's South Division at 3-0.

Goalkeeper Ryan Tikey, who stood out with 16 saves, got plenty of help from defenders Dillon DeBeliso, Andrew Crechiolo, Brad Tatro and Ben Iacoban.

"We were outstanding in the back," Franklin coach Vic Rodopoulos said. "And when Churchill got through and got opportunities, we chased back and recovered on the ball. Our stat guy had Tikey for nine saves midway through the second half. He just played outstanding."

McGuire's goal came at 12th and 39th minutes of the first half, the first on a scramble inside the box and the second on a breakaway.

Churchill (4-5-1, 2-1) cut the deficit to 2-1 at the 67-minute mark on a goal by Evan Schweizer from Allen Woodruff, but couldn't tally the equalizer.

"I'm as disappointed as a coach can get," Churchill's Reid Friedrichs said. "We got beat to the ball and we don't have the will to score. We couldn't finish and that was the biggest thing. No one had the finishing touch."

Rodopoulos, meanwhile, praised the play of his starting midfielders Nick O'Brien and Craig Beebe, along

Please see **SOCCER, B3**

## Men's Senior Golf League thrives

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It may not be on a par with the Champions Tour just yet, but the Livonia Senior Men's Golf League may be the next best thing going.

With 151 members strong in 2010, the league recently held its season-ending awards banquet at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland.

Winners and runners-up in five different flights were recognized following two weeks of match-play where 16 qualified in each handicapped flight. Qualifiers contested up to four nine-hole rounds of match play.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey was on hand for the awards luncheon.

Among the winners were: Roger Pattee (Championship Flight); Richard Laramore (First Flight); Craig Cebulskie (Second Flight); Bill Irvine (Third Flight); and Ken Johnson (Fourth Flight).

Runner-up honors went to Dave Woloch (Championship Flight); Albert Hernandez (First Flight); Bill Mazur (Second Flight); John Gjernes (Third Flight); and Robert Selasky (Fourth Flight).

Don Hooper, who sports the league's lowest handicap at 2.3 (for nine holes) and averaged 37.8 per nine this season, won closest-to-the-pin honors (4 feet, 10 inches).

Hooper, who recently captured the Detroit News Hole-In-One Contest, was among 58 members who took a shot and was only one of five to land their attempt within 15 feet on the green.

The LSMGL continues to thrive as an estimated 2,602 nine-hole rounds were recorded this season at Whispering Willows and Fox Creek golf courses in Livonia. Another 500 nine-hole rounds were played at Idyl Wyld.

An estimated \$20,371 of revenue went to the three City of Livonia golf courses. "This is truly a win-win relationship,"



Among those on hand and recognized last Friday in the 2010 Livonia Senior Men's Golf League included first-place award winners (back row, from left): Don Hooper (closest-to-the-pin), Ken Johnson (fourth flight); Bill Irvine (third flight); Roger Pattee (championship flight); (front row, from left) Karen Kapchonick, Livonia Parks and Recreation Superintendent, runners-up Albert Hernandez (first flight), John Gjernes (third flight), Bob Selasky (fourth flight), Dave Woloch (championship flight) and Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey.

said Livonia Senior Men's Golf League president and treasurer Tony Amadori. "The golf courses enjoy a steady revenue source from our league, and we enjoy golf on well-maintained courses that are a real bargain to Livonia senior players when compared to any other area in southeast Michigan. The golf courses have been very cooperative, especially people such as Bill Durham (operations director) and Judy Kovsky."

According to Amadori, the league was formed in the "mid-to-late 1970s" by a group of Ford Motor Co. retirees.

"We probably had 300 members at its peak," Amadori said. "We did a demographic

about four years ago and the average age was 75.5. Now it's probably 72-to-73 because we have about 25-to-30 new members. We lose a number due to age and frailty."

The LSMGL is open to residents and non-Livonia residents 62 and older.

"If a guy doesn't have anybody to play with, he's usually reluctant to come out," Amadori said. "But we make every effort to introduce current members with those who have no permanent group to play with. We pair them up based on handicap and age for compatible groups."

The league uses the black (medium)

Please see **GOLF, B3**

## Benefit skate to honor late LHA director

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

During his stint as director of the Livonia Hockey Association, the late Jim Stack attended nearly 1,500 games.

The LHA family is now planning to give back to a man that gave so much with a memorial dedication and

open skate in his honor from 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

Jim Stack, 54, who died unexpectedly on July

22, is survived by his wife of 25 years, Kim, along with two children, Richard, 19, who plays for the University of Michigan-Dearborn club hockey team, and Katrina, 16, an accomplished figure skater and honor student as a junior at Churchill High School.

Other survivors included two sisters (Marie and Helen); and mother (Mary Stack).

Stack, a certified public accountant and treasurer with the LHA, served as director from 2000-06.

According to family friend

Please see **BENEFIT, B3**







# STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, September 16, 2010

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

## Co-op Services helps students with Operation Backpack drive

Members and staff of Co-op Services Credit Union helped ensure that nearly 200 children started the school year with much needed supplies and backpacks.

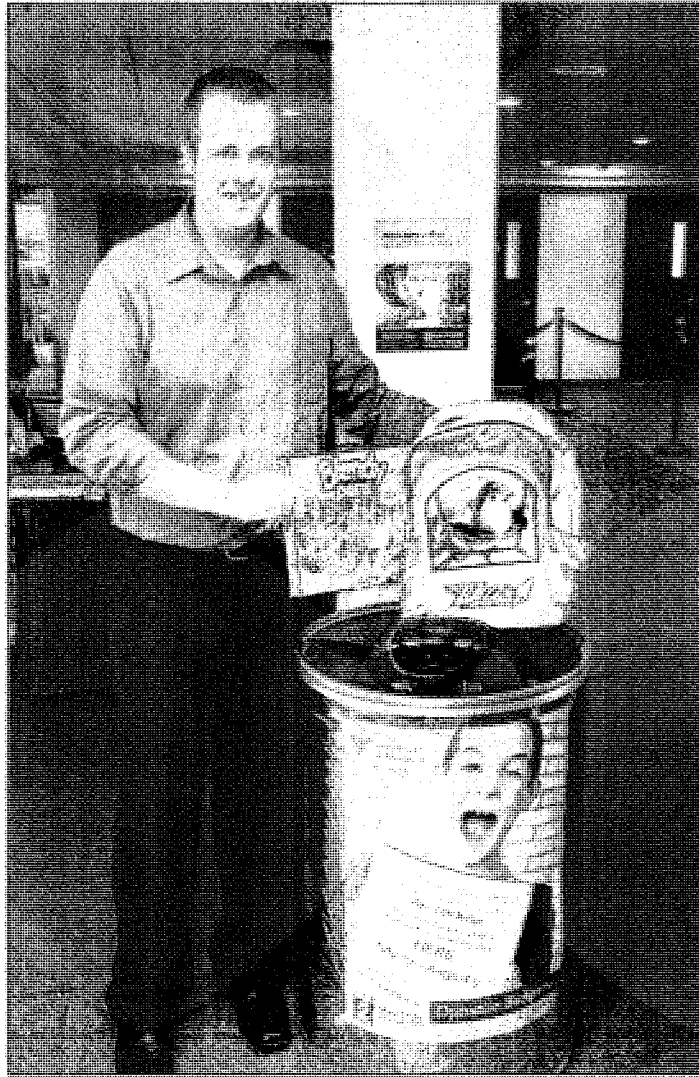
The credit union teamed up with Volunteers of America, FOX 2 TV and 96.3 WDVD radio for the 2010 Operation Backpack drive, which helped more than 1,000 students in the Detroit metropolitan area.

"Even though times are still tough financially for a lot of people, we're extremely pleased with the amount of basic school supplies and backpacks that members, staff and others donated at our eight branch offices," said Jeremy Cybulski, youth and community development coordinator for Co-op Services Credit Union. "This was our second annual drive, and we were able to help more than twice as many children as last year."

Cybulski oversees Co-op Services' student credit union programs and gives financial education programs in six local elementary schools. He understands firsthand the needs of students and their teachers.

Co-op Services also participated in the "Stuff-a-Bus" collection drive in August, sponsored by the Volunteers of America and WDVD 96.3FM.

Headquartered in Livonia, Co-op Services Credit Union has more than 52,000 members and maintains eight full-service branch offices



Bryan Feldpausch, Co-op Services' marketing coordinator, shows some of the school supplies and backpacks received during the credit union's second annual Operation Backpack drive.

in the Detroit metro area. It has offices at 35050 Ford, Westland, and access at the Credit Union Service Center at 30094 Ford, Garden City.

For more information about Co-op Services, visit the credit union website at [www.cscu.org](http://www.cscu.org) or call (800) 321-8570.

## MILESTONES

### Win a truck

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 8  
**Location:** Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union, 500 S. Wayne Road, Westland

**Details:** Credit Union members have a chance to win \$20,000 toward the purchase of a 2010 Chevy Silverado or \$20,000 when they make a \$5 contribution to support Michigan Credit Unions' political action efforts. Participants must be a credit union member 18 years of age or older to enter. Contributions to MCULLAF are not considered charitable contributions or business expenses for income tax purposes. Participants need not be present to win, prize must be claimed within 60 days.

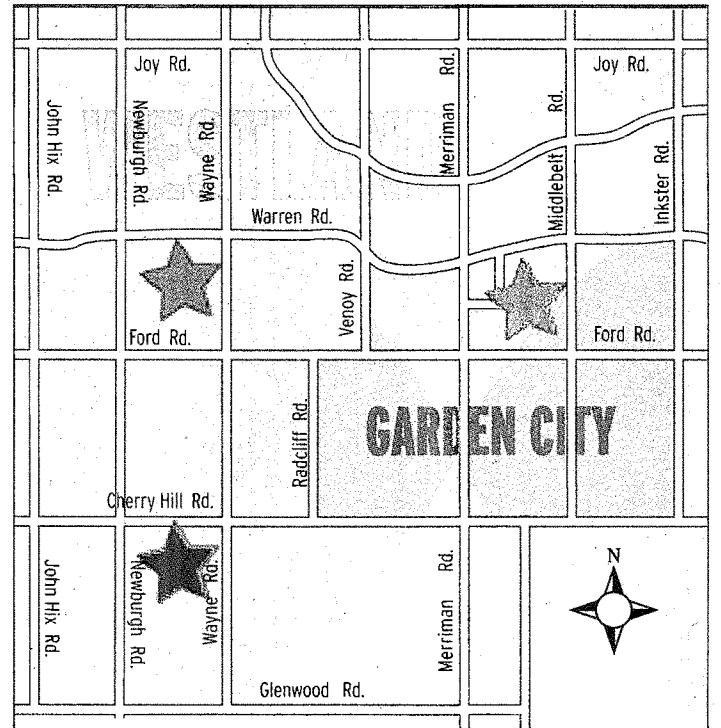
**Contact:** For more information, call the WWFCU at (734) 721-5700.

### Drop-Off Center

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday  
**Location:** Easter Seals Center, 929 Wayne Road, just south of Ford, Westland.

**Details:** Easter Seals offers a drop-off service for gently used clothing, miscellaneous household items, and furniture. They will also provide a special service to people with disabilities with curbside pickup. The donated clothing and small household items are sold at Savers Thrift Stores with proceeds used to support Easter Seals programs for people with disabilities. Items that can be dropped off included clothing, accessories, shoes, draperies and curtains, kitchenware, dinnerware, glassware and furniture.

**Contact:** For more information, call (800) 708-2716 or go online to [www.easterseals.com](http://www.easterseals.com).



### End of Summer Beach Party

**Time/Date:** Thursday, Sept. 30, through Saturday, Oct. 1  
**Location:** Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt, Garden City

**Details:** Come and celebrate the end of summer at a beach party at Albert. Live music with the Christina Chriss Band and DJ Fatty-2-Slim. Wear your beach wear and enjoy limbo contests and tropical drink specials.

**Contact:** Call (734) 525-5231 or go online to [www.albertsonthealley.com](http://www.albertsonthealley.com).

### Dinner Theater

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 18  
**Location:** Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, north of Warren Road, Westland

**Details:** Cinema legend Doreen Lewis is about to make her Broadway debut opposite her ardent admirer Paul Burnside, when she intercepts a

phone call for her dresser, confirming that "Mrs. Lewis" is pregnant. Shocked to learn of "her" condition and thinking Paul wants her ousted from the show via her contract's moral clause, she wears her mink on stage knowing Paul fur-allergy will reduce his dialogues to sneezes. The producer, a shrieking neurasthenic who fears his backer Nunzio will machine gun his knees if the show flops, is terrified, and the Bavarian playwright is reduced to sobbing uncontrollably as his beautiful play goes to the dogs." A loony resolution caps the evening of non-stop guffaws in "Star on the Door." Cocktails are at 6 p.m. (cash bar), dinner at 7 p.m. The show Immediate follows dinner. Cost is \$31.95 and includes choice of entree, soup, salad and dessert with show, taxes and gratuity. Payment due at time of reservation.  
**Contact:** For more information, call (734) 422-3440.

## Decisions: Look at consequences

Today's sunny thought is a piece of practical advice a friend of mine

gave me earlier this week. It's simple, helpful and worth sharing with you. When weighing important decisions, this approach helps put the decision and the potential consequences in perspective.

It's the "10-10-10" principle.

The principle boils down to this: When facing a difficult decision, it helps to ask ourselves, how will this affect me in 10 ten minutes? In 10



Clarity Patton Newhouse

### A SUNNY NOTE

months? In 10 years?

Three slightly different questions that can generate three very different answers. Sure, the answer to the immediate question is important, but sometimes we don't consider far enough into the future. Often it's the long view that gives us the best perspective.

After hearing my friend's story about how helpful he's found this principle to be, which he originally heard about from another friend, I did a little Googling. I learned that 10-10-10 was authored by Suzy Welch, who has written a whole book on

the subject. So if you'd like to know more, you can check out [SuzyWelch101010.com](http://SuzyWelch101010.com).

Best wishes for all your decisions and have a sunny day!

**P.S.** "You are as powerful and strong as you allow yourself to be, and the most difficult part of any endeavor is taking the first step, making the first decision." Robyn Davidson, Australian author born 1950

**Clarity Patton Newhouse** is Quality and Business Development Manager for Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at [ASunnyNote.com](http://ASunnyNote.com) for readers across America and beyond.

## GARDEN CITY CHAMBER

The 5 Star Business Group is offering a "Turf Management Seminar" to interested golfers on Oct. 1.

The seminar otherwise known as "Fall Golf Classic" is being held at Idyl Wyld Golf Course in Livonia. The cost to reserve a spot is \$65 per person and includes 18 holes of golf with cart and three drinks and dinner.

The day begins with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

All are welcome from part-time golfers to the semi-pro. This is a no frills no fuss day, so get out of the office one more time before it snows and have a good time with fellow chamber members from Westland, Wayne, Garden City, Dearborn Heights and

Redford.

For details and registration, call the chamber office at (734) 422-4448.

Upcoming chamber events also include:

- Office Depot will be hosting a networking breakfast for the Garden City Chamber members, along with WSACC and their members at its Canton location at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21. A light breakfast of bagels, donuts, coffee and other beverages will be provided. The cost to attend is \$5 per person. The event will introduce all members with the Affinity-discount program provided by Office Depot.

As part of this new program, Office Depot Store Purchasing Cards will be available for all

members, these cards will allow members to shop in store and receive instant an discount without having to sign up for anything. Any member who prefers to shop online will be able to sign up that day, too.

Office Depot event store is located at 45580 Michigan Ave., at Canton Center Road, in the Kroger plaza. Participating chambers include Garden City, Westland, Wayne, Redford, Dearborn Heights, Canton, Dearborn, Livonia, Southern Wayne, Lakes, Plymouth, Northville, Belleville and Allen Park. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 422-4448.

**Amelia Oliverio**  
Executive Director

## Garden City Public Schools INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL EDUCATION "The G.I.V.E. Program"

G.I.V.E. serves high school students from **ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

G.I.V.E. is a school of choice program serving High School students from **ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Need to graduate? See us!

Need to earn your High School Diploma?

G.I.V.E. is a nontraditional, on-line instruction program designed to meet the need of students seeking an alternative path to a high school diploma.

Students are enrolled in a variety of classes on campus and off campus (on-line) each semester, depending on the program requirements.

You Can Earn Your High School Credits and Get Your Diploma FREE!

Call or come in to enroll now thru Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

only 40 seats remaining!

This **NO COST** program offers students who have been unsuccessful in the traditional education model the opportunity to earn high school credits.

- Earn up to 9 credits per year (23 required for graduation)
- Student/mentor ratio of 1/15
- Self paced
- All books, materials and a notebook computer are supplied for student use
- State approved curriculum

Learn From Home!

MATH HISTORY CLASSES START: Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> for alternative ed students

Enroll at Henry Ruff Building 30300 Maplewood, Garden City Enroll Mon.-Thurs. 9am-4pm or by appointment Call 734-762-8470

CHECK US OUT DAILY ONLINE [HOMETOWNlife.com](http://HOMETOWNlife.com)

Conference on Oct. 2 focuses on ministry, teaching, growth

The International Christian Education Association will present its 64th annual conference for pastors, teachers, Christian education directors, youth leaders and church workers on Saturday, Oct. 2, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Northville Township.

"Second Time Around" will recycle Christian books appropriate to all age levels from a collection of materials covering at least five decades.

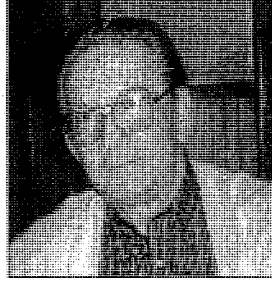
Kids Korner runs all day (except lunch hour) for those age 5-12 offering Bible stories, music, arts and crafts, surprise guests, snacks and more.

The afternoon general session will feature keynote speaker the Rev. Earl Hood of the Berean Chapel, Detroit. He is known for founding "Faith Walkers," for his inspirational preaching, and for leading countless, in-depth Bible studies.

Morning refreshments and lunch are included in the registration fee. Call (248) 557-5526 or visit: www.iceaOnline.org for more information.

The event is non-denominational, open to the public and will offer 30 workshops centered around the themes contemporary issues, personal growth, special ministry, teacher education and teaching techniques. Exhibit City will be available to tour throughout the day, offering a variety of wares for church needs, Sunday School classes, and Bible studies, as well as gift items appropriate for birthdays and holidays.

United Memorial Gardens and The Old Testament Tabernacle. The only full scale duplication of the original Tabernacle in the United States which is in full view for visitors to see without charge. Available only thru Ed Wensley 734-693-1426



JOHN S. McGUIRE

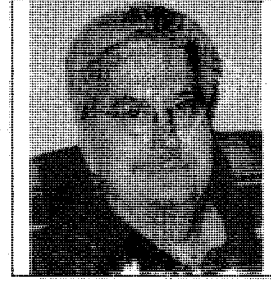
Age 78, of Westland, died Monday, September 13, 2010 after a three month battle with cancer. John survived by his beloved companion of 14 years, Marilyn Wilt.



MARY JANE WRIGHT

Age 95 of Plymouth, September 14, 2010. Former co-owner of Harold G. Wright Florist in Detroit. Beloved wife of the late Harold G. Loving mother of Robert H. (Sheila) and Richard "Tim" (Patricia).

In Memory Of



IN LOVING MEMORY OF RICHARD E. PORTER

April 8, 1950-September 15, 2009 It has been a year now since the good Lord has called you to his side. You are often in our thoughts and are deeply missed with each day that passes.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6.

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

EDWIN DALE CLINE Beloved Father and Grandfather, preceded in death by his beloved wife Della. Survived by his children Teri, Mary, Ed and Val, his grandchildren Alyssa, Rebekah and Josiah, and his siblings Fernita and Ronald.



DR. GERALD LEE COX

Retired Detroit Public School Teacher of Troy, MI, a resident of Garden City, MI for 51 years, died peacefully August 17, 2010. He was born July 25, 1926. After serving in the 78th Infantry Division in World War II, he was the first and only one in his family to pursue a college education.



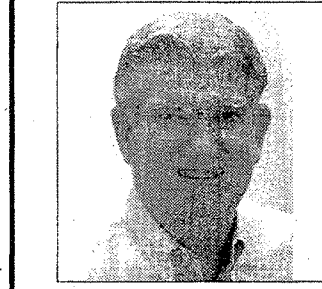
EARL WALFRED HILL

Of Farmington, formerly from Detroit, South Lyon and Negaunee, Michigan where he was born on 2-20-1930. He was released from his pain on September 6, 2010. Earl was 80 years old and the youngest son of 11 children to John and Hilma Hill.



JO ANN "JENNIE" SHINN

80, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, formerly of Plymouth, passed away at 10:12 a.m., Thursday, September 2, 2010 at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Born on February 8, 1930 in Logansport, Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Giuseppe "Joe" and Marfina (Marocco) Scagnoli.



JAMES WILLIAM "JIM" FLANNIGAN

Of Livonia, Michigan, Age 82, Died September 3, 2010 at Woodhaven Retirement Community in Livonia, Michigan. Survived by son John Flannigan and daughter Lois Whitmire.

GALEN (MIKE) LE MIEUX

September 13, 2010, age 69. Beloved husband of Barbara. Dear father of Michael (Lori) and Matthew (Renee). Grandfather of Madison and Max.

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CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45601 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525

PRESBYTERIAN Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 mile W. of Sheldon)

LUTHERAN-ELCA ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE



# ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, September 16, 2010 hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay  
 Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883  
 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com  
 Comment online at hometownlife.com

# Sew much fun

## Livonia woman will compete in on-the-spot fashion contest

BY SHARON DARGAY  
 O&E STAFF WRITER

Raminta Vilkiene knows what it's like to be a fish in an aquarium.

"People can't enter your work area but they can see you and ask you questions," she described her experience in a *Project Runway*-style fashion design challenge two years ago at the American Sewing Expo in Novi.

"Everybody looks at you and you think, 'how will I concentrate?' But I was so surprised, when I was working, it's like everything else disappears."

The Livonia woman won third place for her three-piece day-to-evening ensemble that year in the Passion for Fashion competition. She'll attempt to design and sew her way to another victory Sept. 24-25 when the expo returns to the Rock Financial Showplace.

"It's two days. Friday morning they announce the challenge," said Vilkiene, 38.

"You're given a half hour to sketch and a half hour to shop inside the expo. In 2008 they gave us \$100. And you shop inside the expo for everything — thread, fabric."

That year contestants were challenged to create day-to-evening looks inspired by water, air, earth or fire. They worked in the middle of the expo, on public view, designing and sewing their garments. The contest culminated in a fashion show and judging.

Vilkiene expects much of the same this year, with a twist on the challenge garment.

"For me and maybe all contestants, it's the time," she said, describing the brief sketching, shopping and sewing timetable. "The first day you still think you have enough time and you decide to do maybe more difficult designs. And at the end of the day or Saturday morning, you see you don't have enough time to finish."

Vilkiene said she sometimes faces tight deadlines while working as a free-lance fashion designer and seamstress in her basement work shop at home.

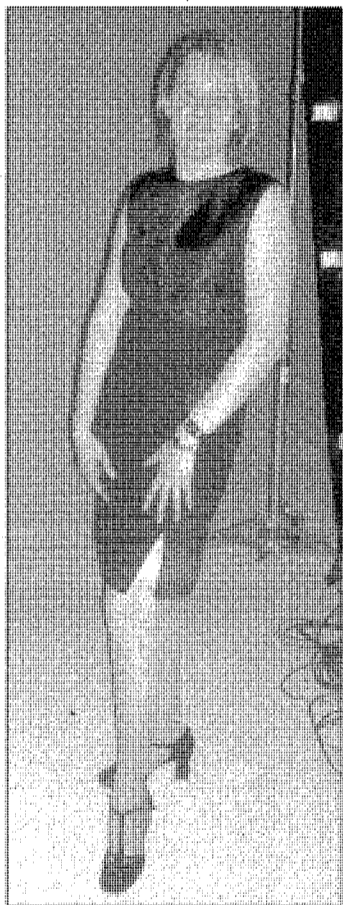
"Every time I promise myself not to leave work until the last night. But even if you are professional and you trust yourself, and know how to do seams and you think you have enough time, sometimes you mismanage it."

### SEWING IN LITHUANIA

Vilkiene, who is married and has two children, has honed her sewing ability over a lifetime. She started designing and sewing doll clothes when



A model struts the runway wearing one of Raminta Vilkiene's creations during a student fashion designer show last year in Detroit.



Raminta Vilkiene of Livonia will compete in the Passion for Fashion contest at the American Sewing Expo.

she was 6 years old in her native Lithuania.

"My grandmother was an excellent seamstress. I learned on a Singer that was not even electric. Back in Lithuania, we didn't have (sewing) patterns."

She studied at Vilnius University in Vilnius, Lithuania and moved to the United States in 1998.

"It was a cultural shock to move from one country to another. When I went into a fabric store here I thought I

would pass out. I never saw so many fabrics and threads and sewing machines in one place."

She discovered the American Sewing Expo in 2002 and began attending seminars at the annual show.

Vilkiene earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Detroit and hopes to teach sewing to disabled individuals in the future.

"I have a huge fashion library — 300-400 books — and I'm not afraid to share. Sometimes you feel instructors or designers are afraid to share secrets or techniques. I am not. Even if someone copies a design, that's in the past. As a creative person, you are always looking to the future."

"Every designer dreams to have a clothing line. But I don't think I have to have a huge line, maybe some boutique stores, definitely."

In addition to participating in the Passion for Fashion challenge, Vilkiene will take a seminar, as she did last year, with one of her favorite designers, Koos van den Akker. Vilkiene likes his "wearable art" style.

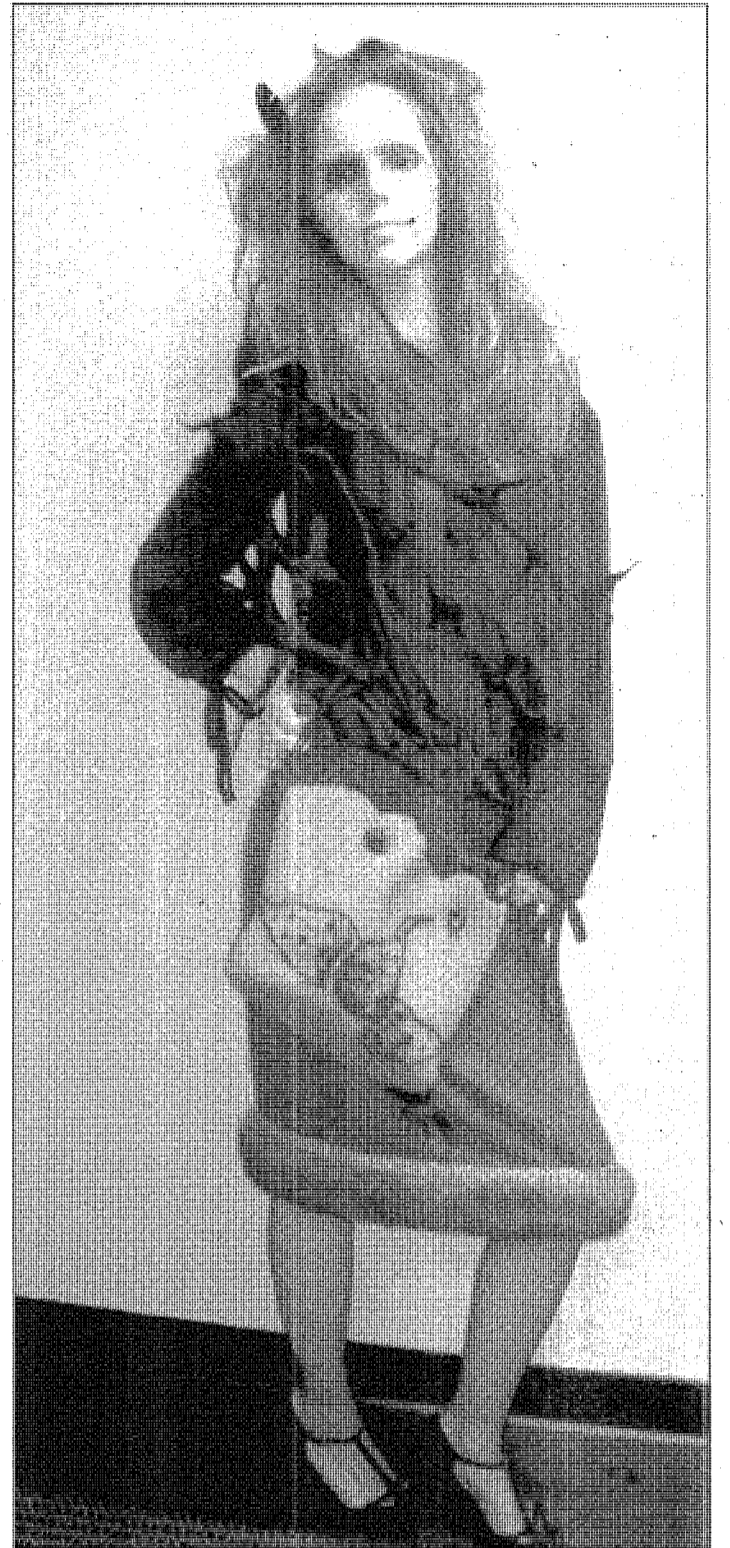
### SEWING SHOW

The American Sewing Expo runs 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Sept. 24-25; and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at the Rock Financial Showplace, located at 46100 Grand River Avenue between Novi Road and Beck in Novi.

Attendees can purchase unique fabrics and supplies at more than 300 vendor booths, watch reality sewing competitions, enter contests, attend hands-on classes and hear

lectures from experts such as Kenneth D. King, professor of the haute couture program at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology.

Expo admission is \$14 and children 16 and under are admitted free with a paying adult. One-hour seminars are \$14, all-day workshops are \$98 to \$148 and special combination packages are available. On site parking is available for \$5. (248) 889-3111; www.americansewingexpo.com



Even zombies like to look fashionable. This one models a Raminta Vilkiene creation at an annual zombie party and fashion show in Warren.

# Michigan Health & Beauty

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Jane Stewart  
 overcoming life



Marge Burns  
 Pampered Chef

# Kiss Me Kate

Music & Lyrics by  
**COLE PORTER**

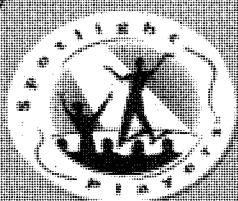
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For tickets: Call 734-394-5300 or go to www.spotlightplayersmi.org

**SEPTEMBER**  
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(866) 625-6161 ★ HealthAndBeautyExpo.net

ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Through Sept. 18
Location: 15095 Northville Road, south of Five Mile, Plymouth
Details: "Social Realism" photography by Thomas McMillen-Oakley, Shaq Kalaj, and Julia DeClerck
Contact: (734) 420-0775

City Gallery

Time/Date: Through Oct. 15
Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Great Lakes Beadworkers show beads with "attitude." Artists' reception, open to the public, will run 5-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19
Contact: (248) 473-1856



Beadwork "with an attitude" is on display through Oct. 15 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times
Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times
Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Marc Ryan, through Sept. 18; Doug Williams, Sept. 22-25; Ira Proctor, Sept. 29-Oct. 2
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Brian McKim, Sept. 16-18; Jackie Flynn, Sept. 23-25; David Alan Grier, Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Toad The Wet Sprocket, Sept. 16; Vishten, Sept. 19; Aimee Mann, Sept. 21; The RFD Boys, Sept. 24; The Chenille Sisters, Sept. 25
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Barn Theatre

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Sept. 25
Location: 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Jill Jack; tickets are \$19 for adults; \$17 for seniors and students
Contact: (248) 473-1856

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 18
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Eight "Open-Mic" performances plus a featured group "A Circle of Friends" with a tribute to Peter Paul and Mary. Annual memberships are available for both individuals and families. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts
Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjmmullen@yahoo.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16
Location: 5200 Woodward Ave
Details: George Winston performs; tickets \$8
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Hillberry Theatre

Time/Date: Oct. 1 through Dec. 4 in rotating repertory
Location: 4743 Cass, Detroit
Details: "Hay Fever," one of Noel Coward's earlier, notable comedies; tickets \$10-\$30
Contact: (313) 577-2972; www.wsush-ows.com

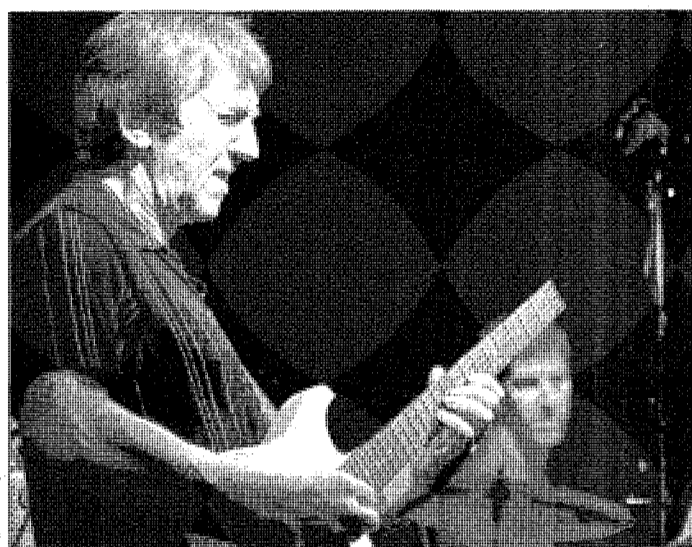
Jazz Cafe

Time/Date: 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., Sept. 17-18
Location: Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: Curtis Fuller and his quintet



On television

Ariel & Zoey (Eli too), a locally-produced television show, will debut at 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 26, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds will go toward Ann Arbor Public Schools arts and music programs. Ariel and Zoey are 11-year-old twin sisters, and their brother Eli is 9 years old. They attend Ann Arbor Public Schools. The music variety show will enter national syndication the week of Sept. 27, and will be available in more than 85 million homes. The show is about people who have accomplished great things and have a positive message for kids. During the live debut, season one highlights will be shown on the big screen and Ariel, Zoey and Eli will perform. After show there will be a meet and greet for autographs and pictures. For more information, visit arielandzoey.com. Ticket information is at http://www.michtheater.org/events.php



Allan Holdsworth will play Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Jazz Cafe at Music Hall.

Kick off the new season of Jazz Cafe; tickets \$30
Coming up: Allan Holdsworth, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1; tickets \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door
Contact: www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8500

Livonia Symphony

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Oct. 9
Location: Louis Schmidt Auditorium, Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia
Details: Program includes Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and more; adults, \$20, students of any age, \$5 and senior citizens, 60 and over, \$18

Contact: (734) 421-1111; www.livonia-symphony.org

Magic Bag

Time/Dates: Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise with Jamie McCarthy and Alyssa Simmons, Sept. 17; The Ultimate Retro Party with The Mega 80's, Sept. 18 and 25; Stan Ridgeway, Sept. 21; Michelle Shocked, Sept. 24; Rick Emmett, Sept. 26; Bettie Serveert, Sept. 30
Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale
Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com

Music Hall

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Oct. 7-9



"Kiss Me Kate" starts a two-weekend run Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, in Canton.



Samantha L. Rosentrater plays Judith Bliss and Alan Ball is David Bliss in "Hay Fever," the season opener at the Hillberry Theatre.

Location: 350 Madison, Detroit
Details: "The Merchants of Bollywood," a dance and music spectacular based on the real-life story of the Merchant family dynasty, whose members have been prominent choreographers and filmmakers since the beginning of the Hindi film industry in the 1920s; tickets are \$25-\$65
Contact: Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster Outlets or charge by phone at (800) 745-3000

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Matt The Electrician, Sept. 16; Pat Terry and John Austin, Sept. 18; Martyn Joseph, Sept. 23; Nobody's Darlin', Sept. 24; Kevin Meisel, Oct. 1; Jason Dennie and John Latini, Oct. 2; Madcat and Kane and Maxwell Street, Oct. 8; Rob Lute with Jo Serrapere, Oct. 9; Dana Cooper with Daphne Willis, Oct. 15; Daniel Martin Moore and Ric Hordinski, Oct. 21; David Nefesh with Delta Twins, Oct. 23; Roy Bookbinder, Oct. 29; Gaslight Square with Joel Palmer, Annie and Rod Capps, Jim Bizer and others, Oct. 30
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 8
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton
Details: AcappellaFest Detroit includes regional a cappella sensation Cartoon Johnny (D.C.), as well as local Doo-wop favorites Full Throttle, and the winners of this year's "So You Think You Can Sing" competition from CMU. Fish 'N Chips. Tickets are \$12-20
Contact: CantonVillageTheater.org or call (734) 394-5460.

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays
Details: Jazz for Kids Program
Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit
Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakers-keyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Detroit Zoo

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Oct. 31
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free
Contact: (248) 541-5717

FILM

Penn Theatre

Time/Date: 7:05 p.m., Sept. 16
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," \$3 admission
Coming up: "Inception," 7 p.m. Sept. 17-19 and Sept. 23, 4 p.m. Sept. 18-19; "Despicable Me," 7 p.m. Sept. 24-26 and Sept. 30, and 5 p.m. Sept. 25-26
Contact: (734) 453-0870. www.penn-theatre.com

Redford Theatre
Time/Date: Sept. 24-25
Location: 17360 Lahser, Detroit
Details: "The Godfather," \$4
Contact: www.redfordtheatre.com

MUSEUMS

Cranbrook

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Thursday through Sunday
Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
Details: Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.
Contact: (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

Plymouth Historical Museum

Time/Dates: Through Oct. 24
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Coming up: "Margaret's 1910" honors philanthropist Margaret Dunning's 100th birthday with a look at life in 1910
Contact: (734) 455-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org

THEATER

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Time/Date: 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Sept. 17-18 and Sept. 24-25; and 2 p.m. Sept. 18-19 and 25-26
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Corner of Ridge and Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: "Kiss Me Kate" by Cole Porter; tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for senior citizens and students
Contact: (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.spotlight-playersmi.org

Advertisement for The Princess Laura Riverboat, featuring dinner cruises and family fun on Belleville Lake.

Advertisement for Canton Animal Hospital, offering pet services, exams, and vaccinations.

Large advertisement for the movie 'Devil', featuring promotional text and a large image of the word 'DEVIL'.

Advertisement for Dan's Custom Brickwork, specializing in residential and commercial restoration.

Advertisement for St. Michael the Archangel Church, featuring a series of personal stories and testimonies.

# FOOD

Thursday, September 16, 2010

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

# The fabulous flavors of FALL

**F**all brings a whole new set of flavors to the table, and that's reason enough to celebrate with friends. Award-winning celebrity chef and cookbook author Michael Chiarello has created some delicious seasonal dishes that make the most of autumn's bounty and make it easy to entertain.

"If you want to create beautiful food for your friends and family, the most important thing you can do is start your recipes with the best possible ingredients," says Chiarello. "Progresso makes it easy to fill your pantry with the very finest ingredients." Using Progresso 100 percent natural broth and panko bread crumbs, Chiarello has created dishes with exceptional flavor and paired them with the award-winning wines of the Cavit Collection.

Find more seasonal recipes at [www.progressofoods.com](http://www.progressofoods.com) and [www.cavitcollection.com](http://www.cavitcollection.com).

### TURKEY SCALOPINI AND SQUASH RAVIOLI WITH CRANBERRY BROWN BUTTER

Makes 8 servings

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Start to Finish: 30 minutes

8 portions boneless turkey breast (4 ounces each)

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

¼ cup all-purpose flour

2 eggs, beaten

2 cups Progresso plain panko crispy bread crumbs

1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter

1 package (18 ounces) frozen squash ravioli

¼ cup finely chopped fresh sage or 2

teaspoons dried sage

1½ cups fresh cranberries

3 tablespoons dark molasses

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

1 cup Progresso chicken broth or reduced-sodium chicken broth

Salt and pepper

Bring 4 quarts lightly salted water to a boil in a large pot.

Between two sheets of plastic wrap, pound turkey breast pieces to an even ¼-inch thickness with a meat mallet. If you don't have a meat mallet, the back of a frying pan will work fine. You can do this a day ahead and leave them stored in the plastic wrap, folded over on each other. You can also ask a good butcher to cut and pound the turkey for you.

Heat olive oil in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Lightly coat turkey pieces with flour, and pat off excess; dip in beaten eggs and then dredge in bread crumbs. When oil is hot and bubbling, add turkey pieces. Do not crowd the pan. Let brown about 1 minute, then turn to cook the second side, another 30 seconds. The turkey will cook very quickly and will dry out if overcooked. When done, remove to a baking sheet or platter and keep warm. Do not wash sauté pan!

To make the sauce, add butter to sauté pan and place over medium-high heat. At the same time, drop ravioli into the boiling water. When butter begins to turn light brown, add fresh sage. Stir for a few seconds; then add cranberries, and sauté until skins begin to burst. Add molasses, balsamic vinegar and broth, scraping bottom of the pan to pick up all the flavor of the turkey. Simmer until cranberries are soft and the sauce coats the back of a spoon, about 2 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Be sure to taste sauce for seasoning before you pour it over the turkey.

Test ravioli for doneness in about 3 minutes — pinch edges of dough; it should be tender. Drain. Divide ravioli among hot plates and layer a piece of turkey over the ravioli. Spoon sauce over them.

Tip: The sauce must be put together very quickly, so have all the ingredients premeasured and ready at the side of the stove.

Enjoy with Cavit Riesling or Pinot Noir.

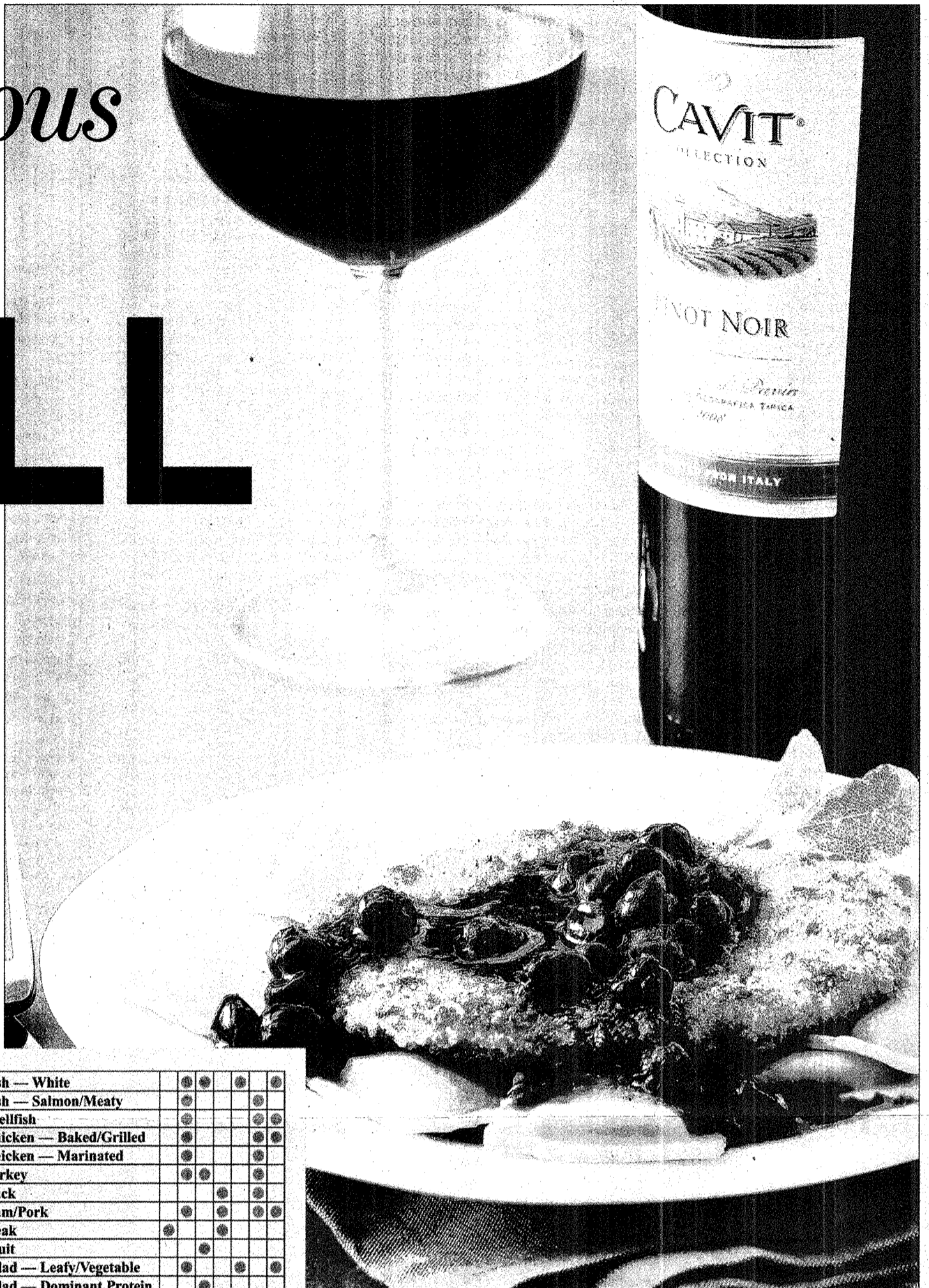
### Wine Pairing

When it comes to pairing wine and food, there are some general guidelines that will result in great combinations. However, everyone's sense of taste is different and what tastes good to one person may not taste good to another. If you find a combination that you like, but it doesn't follow the guidelines, don't worry — just enjoy! Part of the fun is experimenting with different combinations to find the ones you like best.

For more wine pairing tips, visit [www.cavitcollection.com](http://www.cavitcollection.com).

Fish — White									
Fish — Salmon/Meaty									
Shellfish									
Chicken — Baked/Grilled									
Chicken — Marinated									
Turkey									
Duck									
Ham/Pork									
Steak									
Fruit									
Salad — Leafy/Vegetable									
Salad — Dominant Protein									
Pasta — White Sauce									
Pasta — Red Sauce									

Riesling  
Pinot Noir  
Pinot Grigio  
Merlot  
Lametta Prosecco  
Chardonnay  
Cabernet Sauvignon



### ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

Makes 4 servings

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Start to Finish: 60 minutes

#### Roasted Winter Squash

2 tablespoons butter

2 cups diced (¾-inch) raw winter squash (butternut, hubbard, acorn)

Salt and pepper

#### Soup

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

½ cup diced onion

¼ cup diced celery

¼ cup diced carrot

1 cinnamon stick

Sea salt and freshly ground pepper

1 carton (32 ounces) Progresso chicken broth (4 cups)

½ teaspoon ground toasted coriander, if desired

1½ cups Roasted Winter Squash (above)

½ cup half-and-half, if desired

2 tablespoons toasted pumpkin seeds

½ cup Progresso plain panko crispy bread crumbs, toasted light brown in sauté pan over medium heat

To make roasted winter squash: Heat oven to 375°F. Heat butter over medium-high heat in an ovenproof sauté pan; add diced squash, salt and pepper. When squash begins to brown, place pan in oven. Roast for 15 minutes or until medium-brown on all sides. Remove from oven and let cool slightly. Puree in food processor, or mash with potato masher or ricer. Measure 1½ cups squash; reserve.

To make soup: Heat olive oil in large saucepan over medium heat until hot. Add onion, celery, carrot and cinnamon stick; sauté until soft but not brown, about 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add broth and coriander; bring to a boil. Simmer for several minutes. Stir in reserved squash until smooth; simmer gently to let flavors meld, about 10 minutes. Discard cinnamon stick.

Puree soup using an immersion blender or in a blender until smooth. (The soup can be made ahead to this point, cooled, covered, and refrigerated for several days or frozen for about 1 month. It will thicken as it cools and may need thinning with broth or water when reheating.)

Return soup to pan and reheat gently. Add half-and-half. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Top each serving with pumpkin seeds and toasted bread crumbs.

Tip: Depending on how rich you want it, or how cold it is outside, you can use cream, yogurt or mascarpone instead of half-and-half.

Enjoy with Cavit Chardonnay.

### MAMA CHIARELLO'S STUFFED EGGPLANT

Makes 4 servings

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Start to Finish: 1 hour 20 minutes

1 large eggplant

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

½ teaspoon grey sea salt

¼ teaspoon black pepper

½ pound ground beef

1 onion, diced small (about 1 cup)

1 red bell pepper, diced small (about 1 cup)

3 cloves garlic, finely chopped

½ cup chopped fresh parsley

½ cup chopped fresh basil leaves

1½ cups grated pecorino Romano cheese

½ cup Progresso plain panko

crispy bread crumbs

1 whole egg

2 chopped tomatoes

Heat oven to 350°F.

Cut eggplant in half and scoop out center, leaving enough meat inside the skin so that it holds its shape when baked. Chop eggplant that has been scooped out of the inside; place in saucepan, cover with water and boil until very soft, 10 to 12 minutes.

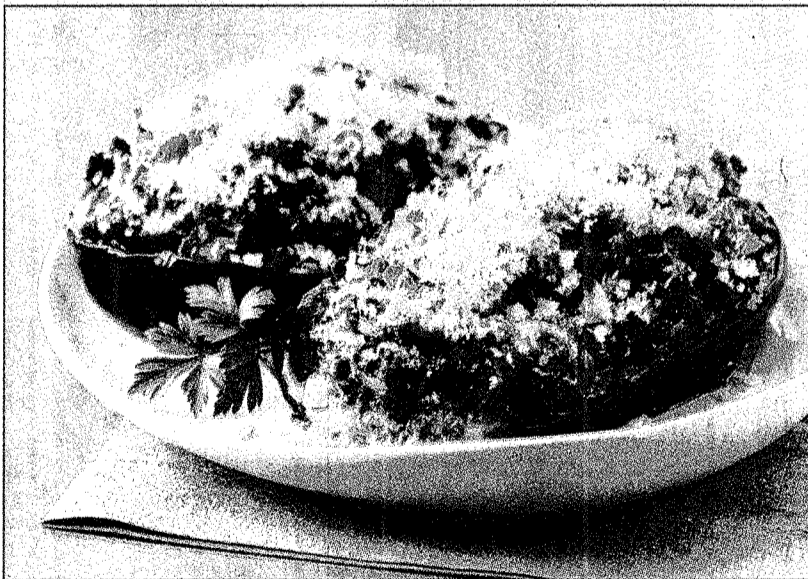
Meanwhile, in medium sauté pan, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat. Salt and pepper the beef. Add seasoned ground beef to pan, and sauté until all of its liquid is evaporated and beef begins to brown slightly. Let cool briefly, and chop cooked beef so that there are no large chunks of meat. In another medium sauté pan over medium heat, add remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil, and sauté the onion, pepper and garlic together in oil.

In bowl, mix together cooked eggplant, vegetables, beef, herbs, 1 cup cheese, ¼ cup bread crumbs and egg. Fill scooped-out eggplant halves with this mixture, dividing it evenly between the two halves.

Top with chopped tomatoes, remaining ½ cup cheese, remaining ¼ cup bread crumbs, and season with salt and pepper. Place on an oiled oven tray or baking dish, and bake for 50 minutes. Let cool briefly; slice widthwise and serve.

Enjoy with Cavit Pinot Noir, Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon.

— Courtesy Family Features



# New cookbook offers taste of Armenian cuisine, heritage

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

*Armenian Cuisine — Preserving Our Heritage*, a new cookbook set to debut Sept. 24 at St. John Armenian Church's fall festival, maintains culture while eliminating all the "atch-key-chop."

"There's a saying in Armenian — atch-key-chop — which means 'as much as your eye sees,'" explained Dolly Matoian, an Orchard Lake resident and co-chair of the Southfield church's Women's Guild cookbook committee.

When grandma or great-grandma cooked, she often skipped measuring implements in favor of eyeballing the ingredients — atch-key-chop.

Most of the recipes that St. John's members submitted for the cookbook were "passed from grandmother to mother or mother to daughters," and many used Armenian terms, hand-mixing methods and approximate measurements.

Matoian said the 12-member committee reviewed about 600 recipes, narrowed the collection to 450 and updated them to include modern methods and terms.

"We got things on slips of paper that someone's mother or grandmother wrote. We had to re-write it so it's as user friendly as possible," said Charlene Apigian, a Canton resident and committee member. "Try explaining a pinch of this or a coffee cup full of that. Coffee cup — What size is that? We took these things and re-measured and tried different recipes."

## YOUNG COOKS

The cookbook project grew out of a cooking and recipe DVD production that Matoian chaired. The church sold about 2,000 DVDs, many to young members and to non-Armenians as well.

"Many younger people had asked for cooking classes and I asked certain people I knew who were well known to teach that. Some of the recipes you

had to see being made. Those were on the DVD," Matoian said. "It was so well received. These are recipes the younger ones want to learn to make."

The cookbook is geared to age 35-50. Pairs of committee members worked on different sections of the book, updating terminology and method, testing and tasting.

## TIME-SAVING MEALS

Apigian and another committee member tackled the meat recipes — everything from a think Armenian pizza to meat-stuffed vegetables. Apigian even used her own backyard grape leaves in one recipe.

"What I've always liked about Armenian recipes is the amount of one pot meals," Apigian said, adding "The beauty of this food is that it all can be frozen. Someone who is working can do a little work on

Sunday and have meals set up for the week."

Matoian said the book includes about 93 vegetable and grain recipes. Even some of the meat dishes mix vegetables with lamb or beef.

"Armenians are known for healthy eating. They were eating yogurt before it was popular," Matoian noted. "Our people live very long."

She and other members of the Guild have been busy since June, preparing 1,000 cheoregs, a braided brioche-like sweet bread, 5,000 rolled grape leaves and 6,000 meatballs for the upcoming festival.

"We make them every Monday and Tuesday. All of them are ready to be sold at the festival. People wait in line for them."

The cookbook is \$25 and is available at the festival, located at St. John's Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Or buy it from the church during business hours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, with cash, check or MasterCard. For more information or to buy the cookbook, call the church office at (248) 569-3405. Or visit the church Web site at [www.sjachurch.org](http://www.sjachurch.org). The festival runs Sept. 22-26. Visit the church Web site for a complete list of activities.

## YALANCHI SARMA

(Stuffed vegetarian grape leaves)

- 6 cups chopped onions
- 1 cup olive oil
- 1 cup rice, long grain
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon dried dill
- 2 tablespoons-¼ cup fresh lemon juice
- 50-60 grape leaves (1 pint if canned)

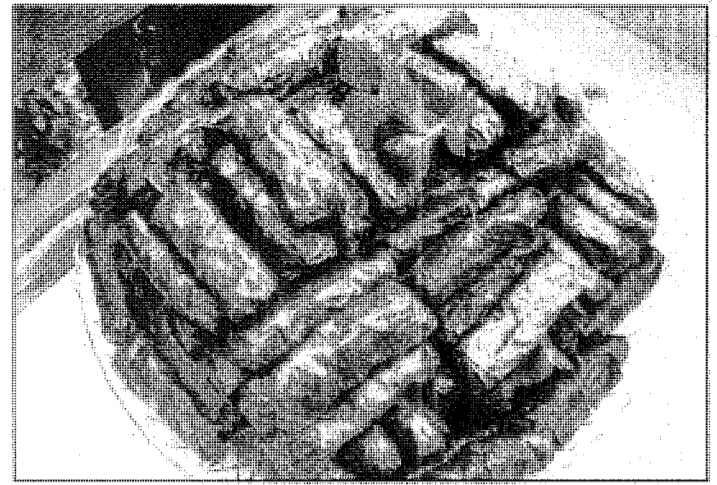
Fry the onions over low heat in olive oil in a 3 quart skillet until soft but not colored, for approximately a half hour. Add the rice and ½-¾ cups of water. Cover and cook until the rice is half done, approximately 15 minutes. Add the rest of the ingredients except the grape leaves.

While mixture cools, prepare leaves. If leaves are freshly picked, soak them in boiling water for a few minutes. If they are canned, wash well in cold water. Place some large leaves on the bottom of a 3-quart pan to prevent the Sarma from burning.

To roll Sarmas, spread a leaf wrong-side-up with the stem towards you. Cut off the stem. Put 1 teaspoon filling near the stem end and fold over the sides. Roll from the stem end like a cigar. Arrange the rolled leaves side by side in the pan in two or three layers. Place a plate or extra leaves on top to keep them in place. Add 1 cup water and cook, covered, at high heat until the liquid begins to boil. Reduce the heat to low and cook for 1-2 hours. May also be baked in a 350 oven for approximately the same amount of time.

Test for doneness by piercing with a fork. When soft, leave in the covered pan until cold to prevent movement and discoloring. Serve cold or at room temperature. Extra lemon may be added if desired. If yalanchi is left covered in the pan it was cooked in and refrigerated, it lasts 5-7 days.

Yield: Approximately 60  
Variation: Same recipe as above but add-in 1 teaspoon sugar, 1 cup chopped parsley, ½ teaspoon cayenne, ½ cup pine nuts and/or dried currants, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon, ¼ cup dried dill and 1 teaspoon allspice.



Yalanchi Sarma Grape Leaves

## IMAN BAYELDI

(Eggplant prepared with Sautéed Onion and Olive Oil Filling)

- 36 small eggplants, about 4 inches each
- ½ cup light olive oil
- ½ cup regular olive oil (not extra virgin)
- Salt

Filling:

- 1 cup light, 1 cup regular olive oil (not extra virgin)
- 9-10 medium onions, very thinly sliced
- 6-7 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1-2 green peppers, small dice
- Kosher salt, pepper to taste
- 3 medium tomatoes, chopped
- ½ bunch parsley, chopped
- ½ cup fresh chopped dill
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2-3 pinches sugar
- Juice of ½ fresh lemon or to taste

Tomato sauce:

- 15 ounces tomato sauce
- ¼ to ½ cups water
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Pinch of sugar

Prepare olive oils for the eggplants by combining half light olive oil and half regular olive oil in a quart-sized liquid measuring cup. Wash eggplants, cut off stems and caps. With a sharp paring knife, peel one narrow strip lengthwise down one side. Make a slit on this strip for filling later. When all are prepared, line the eggplants slit-side-up on a baking dish/tray with 2-inch sides. Salt the eggplants lightly and let stand for 15 minutes. Wipe with a damp paper towel to remove excess salt and moisture. Preheat the oven to 375 and with olive oil combination, place enough to cover the bottom of the tray. Roll

each eggplant in olive oil to coat, to prevent sticking while roasting. Roast eggplants until bottoms are lightly browned. Turn once halfway through cooking time and return to slit-side-up for filling.

Meanwhile, prepare filling, using 2 large frying pans, adding 1 cup combination of light/regular olive oil to each pan. Divide any ingredients added between the two pans. Heat olive oil and add onions, cooking on medium heat until soft but not fried, stirring frequently. Once the onions have just started to turn lightly browned, lower heat and add garlic and green peppers, stirring occasionally. Lightly salt and add pepper to taste. Salt and pepper the chopped tomatoes, add a pinch of sugar and again, divide between the mixtures. Add the chopped parsley and chopped dill. Mix well and cook slightly. Add 2-3 pinches sugar and adjust seasoning. Add lemon juice to taste.

Fill the slits of the eggplants with the filling mixture, leaving the eggplants in the tray, side-by-side. For the sauce, combine the tomato sauce, water, salt and pepper and a pinch of sugar in a small saucepan. Boil lightly for 5 minutes and cool. Place a small amount of tomato sauce on the bottom of the trays. Spoon 1 tablespoon sauce over each filled eggplant. Bake in a preheated 365 oven for 30 minutes. Serve at room temperature. This dish may be served as an appetizer or a side dish.

May be frozen in trays baked. To serve, bring to room temperature, bake in a preheated 350 oven for approximately 15-20 minutes and return to room temperature to serve.

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**9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Rd. Building H Farmington Hills, MI

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Overnight stay and dinner at the Townsend Hotel

**Refreshments**

**Curb-side Trolley Service**

**Health Screening**

**Free Parking**

**Free Admission**

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Entertainer **Del Grebe** (Female Vocalist)

**Social Security Programs, Services and Updates** by Social Security Administration

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**Estate Planning** by Jack Bolling

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