

LOCAL election information

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Next Thursday's Observer for COMPLETE roundup of the Nov. 2 general election

- ☐ ENDORSEMENT RECAP, A6
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GLENN'S PRODUCTION OF 'MURDER IS NONSENSE' A4

IN BRIEF

Election closings

City offices other than the Westland City Clerk will be closed on Election Day, Tuesday Nov. 2. The clerk's office will be open for election business only. Also open will be the Bailey Recreation Center and the William P. Faust Public Library.

Hometown welcome

The Detroit Red Wings' Mike Modano will get hometown hero's welcome Tuesday, Nov. 9, when Westland Mayor William R. Wild honors him as part of "Mike Modano Day" in the city.

Wild will present Modano with a key to the city during a ceremony at 2:30 p.m. at the Mike Modano Ice Arena which is named in honor of the future Hall of Famer. The event also will kick off a new season for the arena and spotlight the recent improvements that include significant energy upgrades made possible through an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

The event, which is open to the public, also includes the unveiling of two two-story silhouettes that will join the existing likeness of Modano hoisting the Stanley Cup as a member of the Dallas Stars. The new likeness will include Modano as a member of the U.S. Men's Olympic Team and the Detroit Red Wings. There also will be a sneak peek at the arena's Zamboni that has been refurbished by North Brothers Ford to resemble a new 2011 Ford Fiesta.

The Mike Modano Ice Arena is at 6211 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road.

Holiday Kickoff

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is holding its Christmas Kickoff 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1, at its Community Center on Venoy north of Palmer.

The Salvation Army will be taking applications for Christmas assistance, giving out winter coats for children and Dickies work pants for anyone who recently obtained employment or those actively seeking employment. Pants and coats are on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, call (734) 722-3660.

Market thank you

The City of Westland will host a Farmers Market Appreciation Day 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3, in the parking lot west of the Westland City Hall at 36601 Ford.

"The market was a huge success this year and we wanted to show our appreciation to the farmers, vendors and shoppers who participated," said Mayor William Wild. "I want everybody to be able to take advantage of the great fresh produce before the season comes to a close."

"We reached our target this year and are looking to expand the number of vendors next year," said Parks and Recreation Director Bob Kosowski.

Next year's goals for the market include more interaction with the customers, with cooking expos, taste tests, crafts and more live music.

For an application to be part of one the market, visit city's website at www.cityofwestland.com or call (734) 722-7620.

Clerk sees strong turnout in Tuesday's election

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When it comes to elections, Westland Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof is always happy to see more people turning out to vote.

"You can't complain if you're not involved in the process," said Schoof. "Normally with this type of election, we would have a 27 percent turnout. I expect that we will have more. That makes me very happy."

Westland currently has nearly 60,000 registered voters who are eligible to cast ballot 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday in the general election. An indication of the interest in this election may be the high

number of absentee ballots sent out — just under 7,000 which is a record for a state election.

Westland has no local questions or city races on the ballot, but there has been a lot of interest in the statewide races. DeHart commented that the interest seems to be coming from all political parties.

Along with choosing between Democrat Virg Bernero and Republican Rick Snyder for governor, voters will also be casting ballots in other state and federal races, along with county elections.

Westland voters will be choosing between incumbent Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and Republican candidate John Pastor,

a Livonia councilman, in the Michigan Senate 6th District, which also includes Garden City, Livonia and Redford.

In the 18th District state House race, incumbent Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, is being challenged by Republican Floyd Collins, a Westland resident who works as a truck driver.

Finishing her first term, Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, is seeking re-election as 12th District Wayne County commissioner. She is being challenged by Westland Republican Michael Case, who works for an auto dealership.

Westland voters living in the Livonia Public Schools also will

elect two trustees to the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees. Running for the seats are incumbent Carol Strom of Livonia, who has served on the board since 1994, incumbent James Fausone of Canton, who is Westland's city attorney, and Howard Petty of Livonia, a professor at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and founder and chief technology officer of Ocu-Sciences Inc., a U-M spin-off corporation.

Voters also will be asked to decide two state proposals, including convening a constitutional convention, and renewal of the Wayne County Parks millage.

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Raising the walls

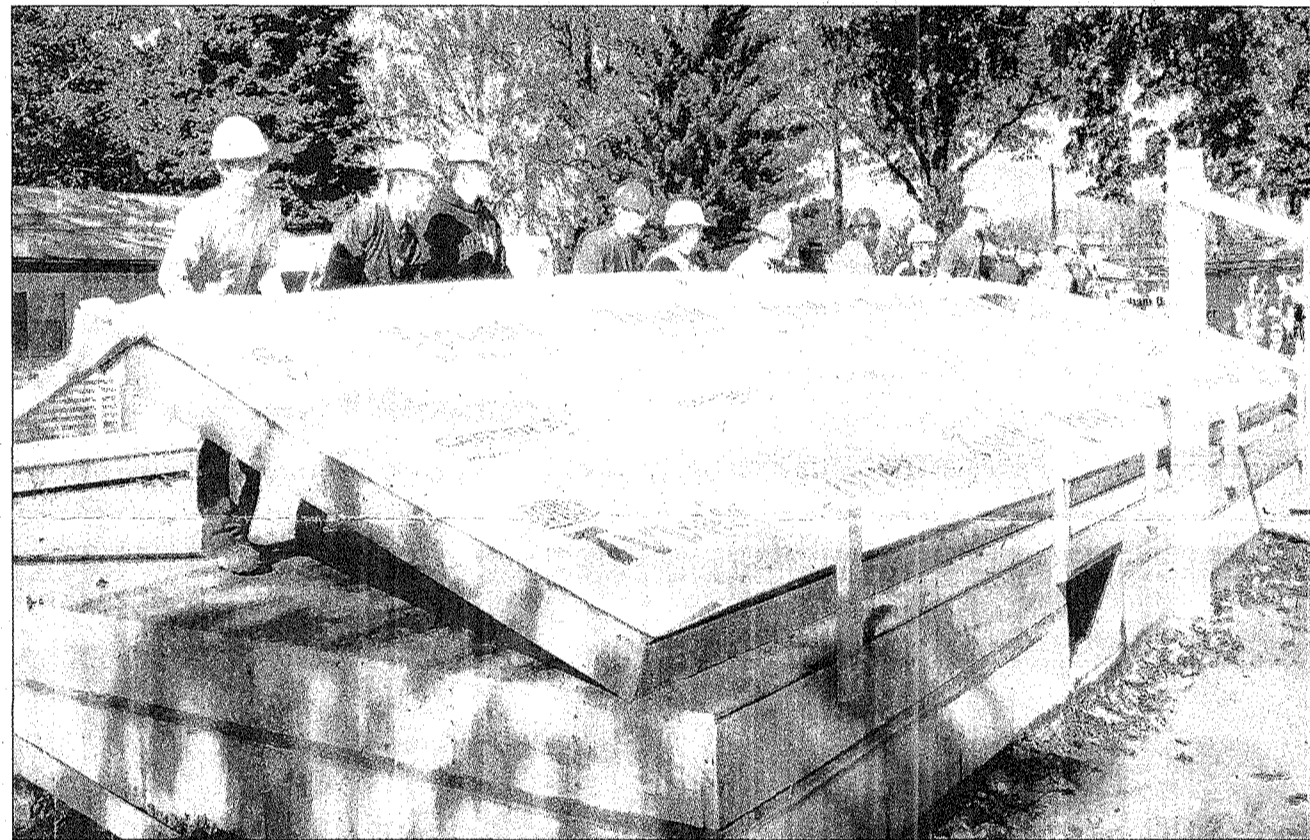
City, W-W Schools partner to build home through NSP program

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By the end of the week, all the walls will be up at a new home on Birchwood and the house will be completed by the end of the school year.

The 1,200-square-foot, three bedroom, 1 1/2-bath ranch is being built by Construction Technology students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. The site of a blighted home, the lot was acquired by Westland through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program which is also providing \$75,000 for construction costs.

"When the city found out that we would get NSP money, we sat down and put together a strategy. One of the first things mentioned was partnering with the schools," said Westland Mayor William Wild at the wall raising ceremony Wednesday. "This will be a beautiful home. This construction program puts together great projects — there isn't a better time to raise the walls than in 50-mile-per-hour winds."



Students in the Construction Technology program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center lift a section of wall into place during a wall raising ceremony on Birchwood.

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools had no hesitation in partnering with the city on the NSP home, said Superintendent Greg Baracy.

"This wouldn't have happened without the leadership of the city. I think it is a great opportunity to be a part of

the revitalization of the neighborhood," he said. "It will have a huge impact. It's the gift of an opportunity for the neighborhood and for the students to

Please see **HOME, A2**

Audit: W-W uses fund equity to maintain programs

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district continued to use up its fund equity to maintain programs in the face of declining state school aid, but an in-house energy savings program and cost containment helped cut

the amount needed to cover expenses in fiscal 2009-10.

The district continued to see its fund equity be used up to maintain programs, leaving it with \$7.8 million or enough money to continue school operations for 11 days if there is a catastrophic event and state funding ended. That amount represents 6.61 percent

of expenditures and is below the state average of 11.68 percent.

"There's a lot of uncertainty in the financial arena related to school districts," said auditor Jeff Higgins of Plante Moran, the school district's auditing firm. "A vast majority of your funding comes from the state and is dependent on the state economy. And

the state's ability to appropriately fund education is dependent on tax collections which is dependent on the economy. It's makes budgeting difficult, it's hard to plan."

Higgins said that there is concern about the status of the federal stimulus

Please see **AUDIT, A2**

LeBlanc: Fund's literature is 'deceiving'

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The treasurer of a Plymouth-based independent PAC is apologizing for an "discomfort" that may have been caused by a mailing that went out to residents in Westland Thursday.

The four-page piece by the New Century Fund listed state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, a Westland Democrat, and Republicans Rick Snyder, John Pastor, Ruth Johnson, Bill Schuette and James Fausone, as its choices in Tuesday's Nov. 2, general election.

"His inclusion certainly doesn't imply there's a coalition or a slate," said William Case, the fund's treasurer. "We certainly didn't mean to

confuse electors."

LeBlanc was on his way home from a funeral in Kalamazoo Thursday afternoon, when he heard about the literature. He received numerous phone calls which "weren't pretty," questioning his allegiance and the impression that the piece gave of him "hooked with Pastor at the hip."

LeBlanc is seeking a third and final two-year term as representative in the state House's 18th District. He's being challenged by Floyd Collins of Westland

Pastor is seeking the 6th Senate District seat and is challenging incumbent Democrat Glenn

Please see **MAILING, A2**

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AUDIT

FROM PAGE A1

money and the "funding cliff" that still exists because of it. Wayne-Westland received \$3.7 million in stimulus money in 2009-10 and is getting \$2.3 million in 2010-11. When that money runs out next year, if there is no change, the state will have to come up with \$300 million to keep the current funding level.

"There's a lot of concern about where the money will come from," he said.

Higgins' remarks were part of a presentation to the Wayne-Westland school board on the 2009-10 audit. The district received an unqualified, or clean audit. There were no material weaknesses identified or significant deficiencies in the control process or non-compliance in controls that warranted reporting, Higgins said.

According to Deputy Superintendent Gary Martin, the audit shows revenue losses at \$51,000 under budget due to an additional \$82,000 in state at risk money, and an additional \$51,000 in increased tuition payments,

mainly at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. The district continued to see a slide in local tax revenue, down \$170,000 because of declining property values.

"That (\$51,000) is a very small variance for an \$111 million budget," he said.

The good news was on the expenditure side, where the district spent \$350,000 less on utilities, due in part to its in-house I-SAVE energy conservation program and a relatively mild winter.

"Our I-SAVE program has been very successful," said Martin. "The lion's share of this savings was conservation in the district. Two years ago, we spent \$4.2 million on utilities and it was around \$3 million this year. This shows the savings the district has achieved."

The district also saved \$500,000 on year-end benefits as a result of the state's early retirement program. One hundred Wayne-Westland teachers took advantage of the program so the district did not have to pay their benefits for July and August.

Martin and the staff of the business office also were praised for their work. For

the 11th consecutive year, the district has received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officers International and a Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2009.

"This validates the credibility of the school district in financial reporting and the technical expertise of its staff," said Martin. "Attaining these awards has remarkably increased our financial reporting credibility not only to the district but to the community."

Martin credited Linda Kempton, senior executive director of business and operations, Angela Black, supervisor of business and purchasing, and Sue Rawson, executive secretary, for their work on the annual report.

"Wayne-Westland was one of two initially and now one of four of the more than 700 school districts in the state who produce these reports," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. "They're very time consuming and disclose our finances to the world."

The annual report can be found on the district's website at www.wwcsd.net. Copies also are available by calling (734) 419-2042.

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Construction Technology instructor Mark Valchine watches students working on raising walls on the home that's being constructed as part of a partnership with the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the City of Westland.

HOME

FROM PAGE A1

develop skills. Their legacy will be left for many years, it's a huge contribution of giving back to the community."

The Construction Technology students — 50 students in the first year with 20 in the second year — had also built the walls for a Habitat for Humanity house on Donnelly.

Students who complete the two years of training are ready for an entry level position in any construction trade, said instructor Mark Valchine. Students can also move into union apprenticeship programs. They also have also earned college credit that can be applied toward a degree in construction management.

Senior Keslie Honeycutt, a

Wayne resident, said that she is excited about coming to the construction site each day.

"I love it, it's hands on. There is no boring book work, it's not just sitting at a desk, you're not falling asleep like other classes," said Honeycutt, who plans to attend the University of Toledo to be an engineer or architect.

Another senior, Travis Fouty of Ypsilanti, said he plans to eventually work as a contractor or an iron worker.

"This program has helped me make a decision on what I want to do. The best part is seeing the progress we make on the house and knowing you are building a house," said Fouty.

Through NSP, Westland has acquired 58 blighted residential properties like the home on Birchwood which was later demolished.

"From the outside, the house

looked good but it had a lot of structural damage — the whole floor was rotted out," said Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis. "Most of what was demolished was in Norwayne — one of the goals there is less density. Some of the lots were too small to rebuild."

The property on Birchwood was the first acquired through NSP that was a good fit for the school program, said Inglis, adding there were additional properties which could also provide good partnership opportunities with the schools.

"I'm thrilled about this partnership. The Habitat for Humanity houses are about done," said Inglis. "With being able to start this and other renovations, we are seeing it come together. It really warms the heart."

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MAILING

FROM PAGE A1

Anderson, who has close ties with LeBlanc.

"I didn't ask for this and I don't want it," said LeBlanc. "I had no inkling about this, I wasn't asked about it. I didn't authorize it. I wasn't notified about it until people started getting it in the mail."

LeBlanc, concerned about the connection to Pastor, sent out a robo call to Westland

residents Friday afternoon, asking for their support and to remember Anderson. In the call, he said that while he will continue to work for Michigan, he "can't do it without my good friend Glenn Anderson."

"This was done at the 11th hour so it is difficult to respond to," LeBlanc said, adding that if people go around the city, "they won't see my signs with Pastor signs, two-thirds of them are with Glenn Anderson signs."

According to Case, the New Century Fund, as an independent PAC, cannot have contact with the candidates. Its selec-

tion of the candidates for the mailing was based on what's best for the state.

"We think he is a good legislator, he's very effective and we want him to continue what he's been doing," he said. "We don't care if there's a D or an R after their name. As an independent PAC, we cannot have contact with the candidate directly."

Case added that he spoke to LeBlanc Friday morning about the mailing and said that LeBlanc "agreed that it was a complimentary piece."

"I've known him for many years from my work in the district and consider him a

friend and a great servant of the people of Michigan," said Case, who was the chief of staff for former state Sen. Loren Bennett. "I want him to continue that work."

LeBlanc, however, stressed that he is a supporter of Glenn Anderson and that he did not "ask for support from these people."

"If I could, I would have chosen that this piece not be delivered to Westland," said LeBlanc. "It's clearly misleading, clearly some people are being deceived by it. I know it's legal, but it really is deceiving."

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Sunday, October 31, 2010

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PHOTO GALLERIES
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Glenn's fall play lets audience guess who did it

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The audience for the John Glenn High School fall play should come prepared to be a part of the production. Six members will be asked to figure out the suspect in *Murder Is Nonsense*.

"They'll go through a set of obstacles and challenges, then after take a guess at who the suspect is," said Sheri Grove, drama teacher and one of the assistant directors for the production. "We'll ask for volunteers from the audience. The winner will receive a gift certificate."

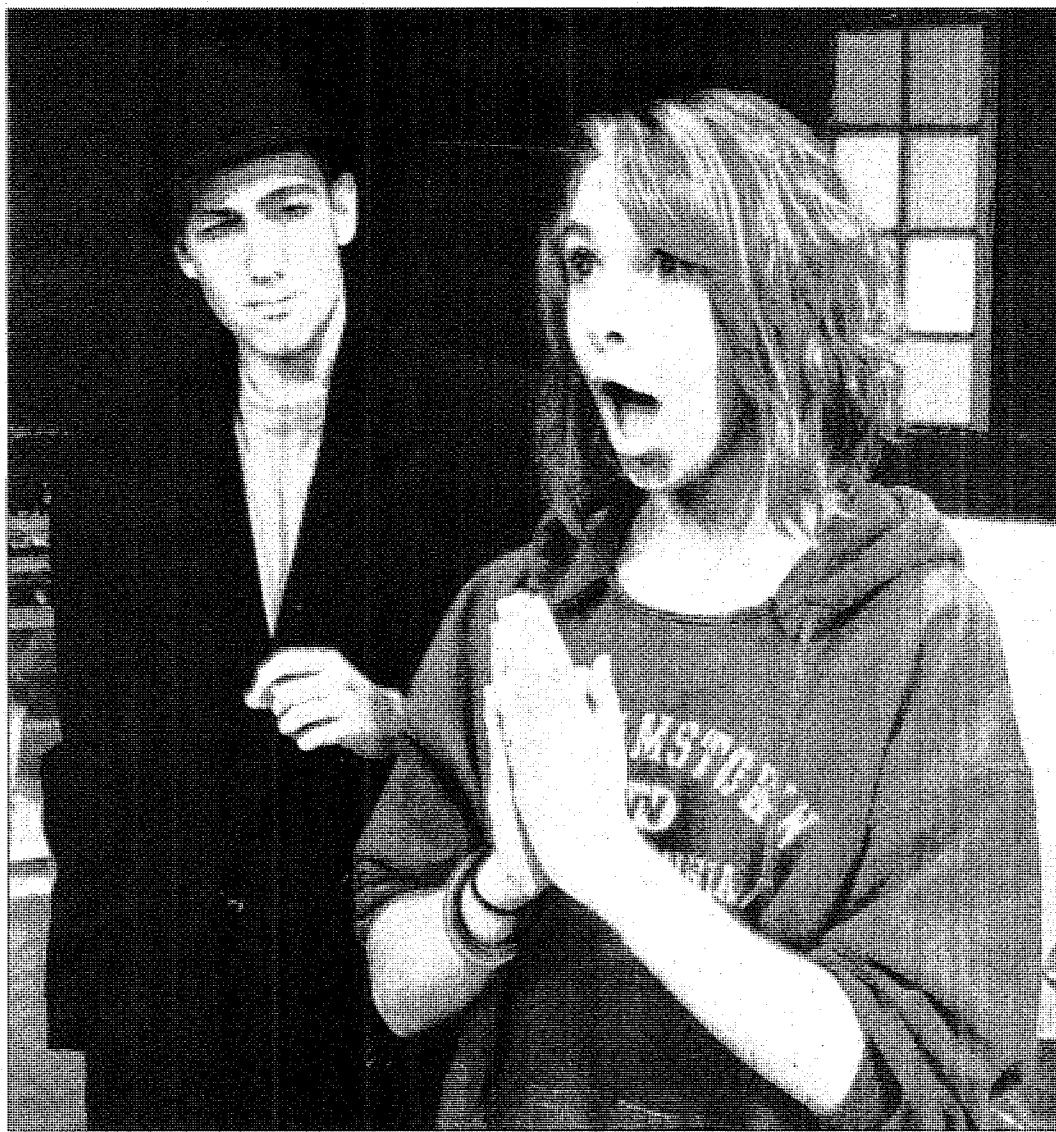
The play, written by Kamron Klitgaard, brings the greatest detectives in the world to the mansion of Virgil Clemens to solve a murder. According to Grove, the play revolves around the five senses and the lack thereof and challenges that revolve around those senses and a sixth one — common sense.

"Their biggest challenge has been working with timing for the comedy," she said. "They have to keep the pace fast and come up with new and creative ideas to add more humor to the show."

In the play, each of the detectives' assistants is missing one of the five senses.

During the evening, there are several murder attempts that are thwarted by the lack of one of the senses. Eventually there is a blackout and the host, Virgil Clemens, played by Paul Porter, is murdered.

In the past, Grove and Belinda Walakonis-Semak have been the directors of the play. But this time, the



Detective Bogus, played by Jake Ferguson, tries to understand what the Chinese speaking Pong (Sarah Toarmina) is saying in the John Glenn High School production of "Murder Is Nonsense."

production is "85 percent student driven," with three students — Cody Buege, Julianna Stewart and Sarah Mellas — as the directors.

"They picked the play, ran the auditions and rehearsals.

I've handled the administrative duties," Grove said.

Buege is no newcomer to directing. He's been an assistant director twice.

"I think I have a little bit more understanding of what

to expect. I'm a little less afraid to give my input," said Buege, who's been in five productions at the high school.

The play's selection was last minute, according to Buege, who said that it came online and "we didn't give it much



Julianna Stewart (from left), Kory Kalnasy, Cody Buege, Breanna Reid, Sharron Salisbury and Steve Goldberg rehearse a scene from "Murder Is Nonsense."

attention." But when the other scripts fell through, he gave it a read through "and found it funnier than I thought."

"This play is funny and we have a lot of comedic talent this year," he said.

Stewart, who plays Bee, admits that the role of director offers a challenge. They're responsible for making sure the cast gets to rehearsals on time and that they're focused.

"It's a lot of work, but it feels nice," said Stewart, who also is making a third appearance in the director's chair. She's been involved in the theatrical productions since her freshman year, when she was one of two first-year students tapped for the production of *Poison Pen*.


"I think it's a balancing act with the responsibility of being the director and a high school senior," she said. "You have a lot of homework, you're applying for college. It's hard to find enough hours in the day."

Buege plays the role of Inspector Clue, while Stewart

plays Bee. Also part of the ensemble are Sarah Toarmina as Ping, Nicole Quinn as Pong, Steve Goldberg as Dr. Theodore, Kory Kalnasy as Sherman Holmes, Shannon Salisbury as Martha Honeywell, Breanna Reid as Chew, Jake Ferguson as Detective Bogus and Jessica Pesenecker as Sweetie. The clue finders are Harold Sullivan, Bailley Jarzemba, Sarah Mellas, Olivia Robinson, Kayla Mills, Megan Krushlin, Maria Iduante and Kaylie Rodler.

Grove is confident the play will be a hit with the seniors sitting in the director seats. "It's been a challenge for us step back and turn control over to the students," she said. "That's where the learning comes in — the problem solving, figuring things out. We've let them do what they want to do and inject a bit more of themselves into. We're more of a resource for the kids than anything."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Trick or Treat

Parents of Westland's ghosts, goblins and other characters are urged to bring Halloween candy to the 18th District Court, at 36675 Ford Road, for a free candy check before kids gobble up treats. The candy screening is available 6:30-10 p.m. Halloween - Sunday, Oct. 31. For more information, call (734) 595-8720.

Quilt show

Ladies United Voice of Westland Christian Union Church will hold their annual quilt show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, at the church at 1046 N. Wayne Road at Marquette, Westland.

There will be door prizes, vendors, a bake sale, make and take and lunch available. Everyone is welcome. A \$3 donation is appreciated. For more information, call Mary Surbrook at (734) 721-6871.

Wrestling Club

Westland Bottle Rockets is a wrestling club for ages 4-14. The club meets 5:30-6:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School, beginning Nov. 18, 2010 through March.

Registration is 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, in Gym 4 of the high school, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan. Membership for the season is \$50.

More information and/or a copy of the registration form can be obtained by visiting the club link at www.glennwrestling.com. Questions may be directed to Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Timebanking training

Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion has announced three informational meetings about a program it is organizing called Time Banking.

The project involves helping others, such as driving a disabled person to the doctor or tutoring an at-risk student,

among many other ways of assisting community residents. In return, those who help others can get help in return, whether they may need a broken sink fixed, a minor car repair completed or something they can't do themselves.

It's a web-based effort to draw together community residents of all cultures and ethnic backgrounds, as well as those of all ages and those with disabilities.

The informational meetings are 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1, at the Karma Coffee Shop, 3015 S. Wayne Road, in Wayne; and 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3, at Panera Bread, 400 S. Main Street, Plymouth.

Annual church fair

The First Congregational Church of Wayne will host its 64th annual holiday fair Nov. 4-5. This year's event, with a theme of "Sleigh Ride", will feature numerous booths with interesting items for sale. Some of the booths include Christmas Shop, Country Store, Attic Treasures, Homemade Candy, Boutique, Aprons, Bookstore, Coffee Shop, and Specialty Shop.

The fair will run from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Lunch will be served both days from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. And a turkey dinner will be served from 5-7 p.m.

The church is located at 2 Towne Square in downtown Wayne. For more information, contact the church at (734) 729-7550.

Appraisal Clinic

The Westland Historic Village Park will benefit from an Appraisal Clinic, beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, behind City Hall. DuMouchelle Galleries will do the verbal appraisals, which cost \$10 per item with a maximum of three items per person. All appraisal items must be able to be carried inside the Bailey Center. Proceeds will benefit the village.

Call (734) 522-3918 to sign up for an appraisal, indicating how many items will be brought and receive an estimated time slot.

Walk-ins will be accepted at the end of the scheduled appraisals.

Association meeting

The Westland Condominium Organization will hold its fall meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8, in the clubhouse of the Woodview Condominiums.

Representing the more than 52 condominium associations in Westland, WCO membership is free and open to all condominium owners and association board of directors. The purpose of the WCO is to provide an open forum for networking to address issues related to governing associations.

The meeting topics will include attorney and realtor's views and opinions on boards' fiscal managing of foreclosure, liens, bank sales, bankruptcy and collection of delinquent dues. The presenters are attorney Dean C. Robinette of Foley & Robinette, P.C. and Realtor, Jo Ann Thureau of The Properties Group Management Co.

The Woodview Condominiums are at the northwest corner of Warren Road and Central City Parkway. The entrance on Central City Parkway, and the club house is at the back of the complex.

For more information, contact WCO President Ed Turnquist at eturnquist@sbcglobal.net or by calling (734) 354-8743.

Time to laugh

Looking for a way to ease a little pre-holiday season stress? You don't have to look far.

The Edison PTO is inviting residents to attend A Comedy Night Out Friday, Nov. 12, at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 N. Merriman, Westland.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Professional comedic troupe Project 2 Improv will headline at 8 p.m. There will be door prizes, raffles and a cash bar. Appetizers will be available for purchase.

Seating is limited and the show is for adults only. To purchase tickets contact Mary Biber at (734) 458-2239 or by e-mail at ambiber1@att.net.

Holiday craft show

Garden City Middle School is hosting a Holiday Craft and Vendor Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11.

There will be more than 50 tables of home vendors such as Tupperware, Avon and Tastefully Simple, as well as homemade crafts. There will be door prize raffles, 50/50 drawing, bake sale, and concessions. Admission is \$1 which includes a free raffle ticket.

Garden City Middle School is at 851 Radcliff, south of Ford. For more information, e-mail Sheryll at vendorshow@gmail.com. Proceeds will benefit the GCMS PBS program.

New services

Garden City Presbyterian Church's fall schedule is in full swing. Everyone is welcome to come and share in this exciting time. Sunday adult Bible study is at 8:15 a.m. The traditional service is at 9:30 a.m., with scripture, vocal choir anthems, handbell choir and brass quartet on occasion, and sermon. Fellowship hour is immediately after.

Youth Sunday school and nursery care begins at 9:30 a.m. A second service, "Praise," is a new addition and offers an informal, contemporary format at 11:30 a.m.

The church is on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Holiday reunion

It's been 26 years since Wayne County General Hospital closed, and its retirees and former employees will be gathering for their annual holiday reunion Tuesday, Dec. 7.

The reunion will be held from 5-9 p.m. at the Café Marquette inside the William D. Ford Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road in Westland. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Space is limited to 62 people. Reservations are necessary, and guests can pay at the door. To reserve a seat or for more

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

information, contact Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or by e-mail at chknlit@wideopenwest.com, Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or by e-mail at fightingirish316@scbglobal.net, or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or by e-mail at pibbotso@aol.com.

Friends of the Museum

The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum are continuing their fund-raising efforts, selling engraved brick pavers and renting the Grande Parlor for social and business occasions.

The bricks are \$50 for the 4-inch by 8-inch size that has up to three lines. The 8-inch by 8-inch bricks are \$75 and have room for six lines of text.

The Lathers General Store is open from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, offering a variety of collectibles and gift items. For more information, call (734) 838-0650 or visit www.sfonline.org.

Free testing

As a service to the community, the staff of Garden City Hospital's Community Services offers blood pressure

testing, free of charge, on a bi-weekly basis to senior citizens at the Maplewood Community Center, located on Maplewood just west of Merriman. Testing will be available at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3 and 17. For more information, call (734) 458-4330.

Office hours

Need to talk with Garden City Mayor Randy Walker? You'll find him Tuesdays at Garden City Hall. Walker will hold office hours from 4:30-6 p.m. Residents can schedule an appointment by calling Administrative Assistant Margo Ciecierski at (734) 793-1660.

Shop online

Help Garden City Schools support its staff and students whenever you shop at Amazon.com.

Simply follow the link at the bottom of the district's website — www.gardencityschools.com. A portion of any resulting purchases will be returned to Garden City Public Schools. Products do not cost more by using the link, and residents don't have to do anything more than click on the link to start shopping.

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 • Sponsored legislation increasing the penalty for driving under the influence of alcohol and requiring repeat offenders to drive a vehicle with an ignition interlock
 • Authored legislation updating the Michigan unemployment insurance law resulting in substantial savings for Michigan businesses
EDUCATION
 • Graduate, Annapolis Public High School
 • B.A., University of Michigan
 • Juris Doctor, University of Detroit School of Law
COMMUNITY SERVICE
 • Chairman, Watershed Steward's Commission
 • Vice President, Goodfellows
 • Past President, Kiwanis
 • Member, Sons of the American Legion
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
 • Council Chairman Pro-Tem
 • Practicing Attorney for 23 years
 • President, Dearborn Area Bar Association
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PERSONAL BACKGROUND
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 • Father of three children
 • Usher for 12 years at local church
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OPINION

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

OBSERVER

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

PAGE A6 (W) SUNDAY, October 31, 2010 hometownlife.com

OUR VIEWS

Cast your ballot on Tuesday Help decide state, country's future

On Tuesday, voters will be deciding who they want to represent them at the county, state and federal levels. The decisions that will be made are important, and will determine what direction our nation, our state and our county will take in the second decade of the 21st century.

Having looked at the issues and talked to the candidates, we believe the following candidates deserve to be elected in balloting on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



McCotter

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter is a politician of principle and integrity who harbors a keen intellect focused on the interests of his constituency. We don't always agree with McCotter, but anyone who has observed him at a congressional hearing knows that he seeks answers to legitimate and necessary questions.

We believe these characteristics sets him apart from many others who at present serve in Congress and we endorse Thaddeus McCotter's re-election on Nov. 2.

He has served in Congress since 2002. A Republican, he represents the 11th District which includes the western Wayne and western Oakland communities of Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Milford, Redford, South Lyon and Westland as well as others. Before being elected to Congress, McCotter served in the state Senate, the Wayne County Commission and Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.

He brings an intelligent, studied and principled approach to issues. Except for a short tenure in the private sector, he has been a career politician but we don't regard that as negative. He's smart, principled and knows how Washington runs.

Voters in the 11th District know that by re-electing **Thaddeus McCotter**, they have a congressman who will work hard to balance the budget, represent the interests of a manufacturing region and state and all the while make decisions based on sound ethical, deeply held personal conviction.

6TH STATE SENATE DISTRICT

Incumbent Democrat **Glenn Anderson** is seeking a second four-year term and is being challenged by John Pastor of Livonia. Both men are political veterans with experience in the state House and in local government



Anderson

In looking at their records and what both candidate have done, we believe Anderson is the best choice for the district which includes Westland, Garden City, Livonia and Redford.

He has proven to be a lawmaker who is willing to work quietly behind the scenes to get things done. He practices what he preachers and walks across the aisle and the building to remain connected with everyone in the legislature. He has built relationships on both sides of the aisle and compromises when necessary, but always has a clear focus on one thing — moving the state forward.

Anderson has proven he is a doer who works for all of his constituents. We believe residents of the 6th Senate District will be best served by casting their vote for **Glenn Anderson** in the Nov. 2 general election.

18TH HOUSE DISTRICT

In the state's 18th House District, which takes in all of the City of Westland, Democratic incumbent State Rep. **Richard LeBlanc** is seeking his final two-year term in the legislature. He is being challenged by Republican **Floyd Collins**. The difference between the two men is stark.



LeBlanc

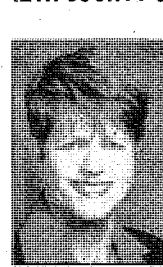
Collins is a conservative whose "core beliefs" are a reduction in the size of government, including creating a part-time legislature, lower taxes on business to create more jobs and lower taxes on individuals to stimulate the economy.

Viewed as a moderate, LeBlanc has the demeanor and the ability to work with his colleagues in the House on both sides of the political aisle to bring about the change needed, if Michigan is to successfully reinvent itself. He is not a party yes man, but rather votes for what he believes is right.

He believes he represents the state first and the city second and believes he does things the way the people of Westland want it done. We agree and believe he is the man for the job. We urge voters to

re-elect **Richard LeBlanc** to represent the House's 18th District.

12TH COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT



Gebhardt

In Wayne County's 12th District, which includes Westland, Inkster and southern Livonia, incumbent Democrat **Joan Gebhardt** is being challenged by Republican newcomer **Michael Case**.

Wayne County is facing fiscal challenges. Massive loss of jobs, record number of home foreclosures and the shuttering of businesses big and small have had an impact. Dealing with those problems at the county level requires a person capable of working with members of the commission and Wayne County Executive **Robert Ficano** and that person, we believe, is **Joan Gebhardt**.

She clearly understands that resolving the conflict between Ficano and the commission requires communications not finger pointing. By sitting down and talking the two sides can come up with compromises that can help the county deliver services while slowly eating away at its deficit.

Gebhardt has done well in working for and with her constituents as well as with her commission colleagues. She has been able to bring county tax dollars, especially parks millage money, back to the communities she represents. She has shown a keen understanding of the problems facing the county and is willing to do what it takes to solve them.

The issues facing Wayne County are serious at best, and we do believe she can help move the county forward. That's why we encourage residents to re-elect **Joan Gebhardt** in the Wayne County Commission's 12th District. She is the right person for this time.

STATE PROPOSALS 2010-1 AND 2010-2

Michigan voters also are being asked to decide two state proposals. One would be to convene a constitutional convention to rewrite the state constitution.

The proposal is generated by Section 3 of Article XII of the Michigan Constitution which mandates that Michigan's voters be asked every 16 years whether they want a constitutional convention. The last time the question was asked was in 1994, when voters overwhelmingly rejected it and they did the same again in 1978.

We believe voters should once again vote no. It's estimated that it would cost \$45 million to hold special partisan elections to elect delegates and hold the convention. It's money that could be better spent on our schools, roads and public safety.

Besides, changes can be made by the state Legislature and voters without a significant rewrite of the basic government document.

Proposal 2010-02 is a legislatively proposed constitutional amendment that would add language to Section 8 of the constitution to put a 20-year ban on anyone convicted of a felony involving dishonesty, deceit, fraud or a breach of public trust while in office from seeking election or appointment to a position with authority over public assets.

Michigan's Constitution currently forbids anyone convicted of a felony involving a breach of the public trust from serving in the Legislature for 20 years. While the proposal sounds like a good idea, a candidate's criminal record is generally an issue in any electoral contest and elected officials who appoint people with criminal records know they will be held accountable.

Vote No on Proposals 2010-1 and 2010-2 on Nov. 2.

WAYNE COUNTY PARKS MILLAGE

Wayne County is asking voters to renew for another five years a tax levy for parks that comes in at just under 0.25 (0.2459) of a mill.

Proposal P would generate about \$10.62 million in 2011 to improve parks, including Hines Park, Chandler Park, Elizabeth Park and Historic Fort Wayne. Some 15 percent of the millage has been rebated back for local park improvement projects like the Concrete Jungle skate park in Westland, a new skate park that's planned for Garden City and helping pay the cost of remediating a portion of the contaminated Central City Park in Westland.

Wayne County has been a good steward of the money, and residents don't have to look far to see that. It's the kind of a millage where western Wayne County residents can actually see and enjoy their tax dollars at work.

We urge you to vote **Yes** on Proposal P. We also urge you to take the time to vote on Tuesday. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Help decide the future of your county, state and country by being a part of the electoral process.

LETTERS

Vote Democrat

Please remember on Nov. 2, the political party that voted for us, the middle class. Remember who voted to save the American car companies, extend the unemployment insurance, provide jobs through the stimulus plan, provide new consumer protections for credit card users, make college loans more affordable, overhaul health care, etc., etc., etc. It was the Democratic Party that voted for us.

The Republicans? The party of NO ... like 2-year-olds, they only learned the word NO.

Deficit? Yes! Two years ago, the Republicans voted into law a tax cut for the richest 25 percent of our country. It was never paid for ... for 10 consecutive years, this generous tax cut to the rich along with two disastrous wars drained our economy; then during all of that time, Wall Street without regulation went wild and all of the above catapulted our nation into the deepest recession of all time. None of the above was paid for. Deficit? Of course, since none of the above was paid for, we are now in an unprecedented recession that was started 10 years ago. And know what? The Republicans want to extend the tax cut to the rich ...

To all of you who receive Social Security, Medicare and/or Medicaid, beware, the Republicans want to kill those programs. If you don't agree with government-run programs, then turn in your Social Security cards, your Medicare/Medicaid cards and go it alone. Personally, our life depends on Social Security and Medicare. We thank God for the safety net of Social Security and Medicare.

Let's not forget who is really looking out for us, fighting for us, those of us on Main Street and not on Wall Street, it is the Democratic Party.

The above are facts, not spins on misinterpreted facts. So, if you want to help our country by going forward, please vote Democratic. Recovery is slow, but we are going in the right direction. Your vote is needed to prevent our country from going backward. Go forward ... Vote Democrat Nov. 2, 2010

In hope,

Jim and Mary Murphy
Westland

Anderson's results dismal

Only in the Michigan Legislature can one accomplish nothing and still believe that he should be liked enough by the voters to serve another term in office. State Sen. Glenn Anderson is a great example. In the past 3 1/2 years, incumbent state Sen. Glenn Anderson has not passed one bill that he introduced.

Imagine if you met a salesman who never made a sale, a lawyer who never won a trial, or a doctor who never cured a patient. You would be out of a job, not advertising to convince everyone to like you. State Sen. Glenn Anderson is telling us to do just that.

If state Sen. Glenn Anderson failed or neglected to present a bill in his first term, why should the next four years be any different? There is too much at stake in Michigan to re-elect/rehire someone with such dismal results.

Joanne Cook
Livonia

Anderson supports job growth

Sen. Glenn Anderson recently announced his new jobs plan, and it wisely builds on what's working in Michigan to create jobs, and will put an end to policies hurting our businesses. Anderson pledges to continue to push for state incentives like those that helped Detroit Diesel expand in Redford and retain 1,900 jobs, and the advanced battery manufacturing credits he voted for that attracted A123 Systems to locate and invest in Livonia and create thousands of local jobs. And I believe him! He stands by his word.

He also wants to cut the job-killing Michigan Business Tax that is hurting so many small businesses and making it hard to create jobs. Glenn Anderson gets what Michigan needs to turn our economy around. He keeps his promises and the best interest of his constituents in mind. He is trustworthy and dependable. That's why I'm voting to keep him as our state senator Nov. 2.

Joan Gebhardt
District 12 Wayne County commissioner

Push for Pastor

Obama, Pelosi, Granholm — what makes incumbent Sen. Glenn Anderson any different?

If Anderson is any different from his Democrat friends, what has he done by himself to stop them from driving our country and state into the ground?

I don't think any Republican or independent with any conscience can vote for Anderson this fall. He won on dirty smear tactics in 2006 and, if recent mailers are any indication, he plans to use this method to win again in 2010. Throughout his first term, all the man has done is hop on the popular Democratic bandwagon, run around town shaking hands, and take credit for every good thing he possible can. Well, no more.

John Pastor has the energy and set of principles we need to carry us out of the doldrums of such do-nothing politics. I believe in his dedication to our city and his perspective as a businessman in tough economic times. Where Anderson represents unions which have never stood for the interests of the average taxpayer, Pastor represents the job providers which our state desperately needs right now.

I keep hearing that 2010 is the year for Republicans, but that's a simplistic perspective. I believe that 2010 is a year for the people to stand up against the overspending and hopelessly flawed political ideologies that Democratic politicians represent.

Let's push for the people. Let's push for progress. Let's push for John Pastor.

Conrad P. Schwartz
Livonia

Anderson is for the people

Throughout his career in the Michigan Senate, Glenn Anderson has shown he is an avid advocate for the people of Michigan. He stays in touch with the people and their needs, challenges and opinions. He is always accessible and available to listen and learn about what we need to move this state forward. He is dedicated to our well-being, and is taking a stand with his new jobs plan which will ensure that state incentives go to businesses that create jobs for our citizens of Michigan, not send them elsewhere.

Glenn Anderson is on the Senate floor every time there is a vote. When we send him to Lansing, we know he will be there, standing up for us.

A vote for Glenn Anderson is an investment in the future of our state.

S.L. Flippo
Livonia

Re-elect Glenn Anderson

I like the way Glenn Anderson supports Michigan workers and businesses. He always is there to listen to his constituents and seldom, if ever, misses a vote. He is pushing to pass the Hire Michigan First bill, giving incentives to small businesses to create jobs in Michigan.

I feel that Sen. Anderson is a man of the people. I hope everyone votes to help him retain his seat in the state Senate.

Duane Flippo
Livonia

McCotter: right candidate

In your Sept. 30 issue, Thaddeus McCotter stated that tax relief means more jobs. The so-called stimulus plan was a failure. The billions of taxpayer money spent to create 1.4 million jobs broke down to \$300,000 per job. Now leading Democrats are starting to realize it was a flop and are signing on to extend the Bush tax cuts. But Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid delayed the voting until after the election.

Democrat Natalie Mosher is a liberal who believes in tax and spend, which has gotten us into the mess we are now facing and Obama's plan to assist small businesses with loans. What she has failed to tell the public is that Obama has hired 16,000 IRS agents to make sure they comply with the Obama health care plan or face stiff penalties. I hope voters wise up and vote for the right candidate, McCotter.

Our president has lied about everything he promised when he ran for office from having a transparent government and working with Republicans to solving the mess that George Bush got us into. All I hear from him is blaming George Bush and the Republicans for not following his policy, which is socialism and complete control of your lives.

Robert Siedlik
Livonia

COUNTY COMMISSION 12TH DISTRICT CANDIDATES



ELECTION 2010

Democrat Joan Gebhardt of Livonia and Republican Michael Case of Westland are running for a two-year term in the Wayne County Commission's 12th District, which includes Westland, Inkster and the southern portion of Livonia.

Gebhardt was elected to the commission in 2008.

Case is employed as an automotive technician at Victory Honda of Plymouth.

The Wayne County Commission is the legislative branch of county government. The chief role of the commission is to adopt a budget and to enact ordinances. It also approves contracts, appointments and rules. Commissioners' salaries start at \$68,676, and chairs of the eight standing committees getting an extra \$4,000.

Name: Joan Gebhardt

City: Livonia

Age: 61

Employment: Wayne County commissioner, District 12

Family: Married, husband Fred, two children, one granddaughter

Education: Wayne State University doctoral program; Eastern Michigan University, master of arts degree in educational leadership; Eastern Michigan University, bachelor of arts degree in elementary education

Community involvement: Trustee, Schoolcraft College, 11th Democratic Congressional District, Friends of Eloise, Friends of the Rouge, League of Women Voters, NAACP Western Wayne County, Women of Westland WOW, the Westland and Livonia Chambers of Commerce, Friends of Greenmead, American Association of University Women and the Livonia Democratic Club



Name: Michael Case

City: Westland

Age: 34

Employment: Automotive technician at Victory Honda of Plymouth

Family: Married with three children

Education: Wayne-Westland Community Schools and GED/automotive trade school

Community involvement: Attends Canton Calvary Assembly of God Church and other than working 60-plus hours a week, I try to give money where I can, in place of my time.



1. How can Wayne County work more closely with local government to save money and resources? How? Be specific.

1. Shared services will save money and resources. Examples: I have provided Westland's DOT director with the county professional IT services and advice; now Westland is investigating the possibility of the Wayne County Resource Center for storing and securing their data. The cities came to me as commissioner to assist in retaining funding for prisoner transport and securing beds at the county jail. I introduced a resolution to do just that. I was appointed to the Jail Bed Task Force to look for ways to open beds so that our locals do not have to send all of their prisoners out-county.

1. As I see it, residents of local municipalities and the county as a whole share many of the same expectations from government: do the things you should be doing and do them efficiently. We pay our taxes because we expect things to be done in a timely, honest and cost-effective way. Therefore, my specific answer would be this, limit red tape and tied hands between county and local levels, things are bad enough out there right now, people should not have to jump through obstacles to get things accomplished.

2. Provide at least three serious ideas for budget reform.

2. 1) Pass a sensible budget by funding those areas that are mandated in the charter and by law; 2) Reduce the deficit by passing a workable deficit elimination plan - and sticking to it; 3) Institute a county-wide technology plan to provide accessible data allowing transparency resulting in less staff involvement; 4) Require fiscal responsibility for all mandates from state and federal governments.

2. 1) Lower taxes: A rebate or dismissal of tax owed due to the following criteria - time in home, actual value of home, if you own your home outright; 2) Limit government: Governments best serve people when they do what the people gave them power to do. Bureaucracy and the county were never intended to be as involved in our lives as they are; 3) Lessen regulations: Unfettered regulation hurts free markets and small business in particular. I will work to clear what seems to be unnecessary regulation from the rolls of Wayne County and off the backs of the people within it.

3. What are the top three priority issues that the County Commission should address and what actions would you, as a commissioner, take?

3. The top three priority issues are all budgetary and are listed above in the budget reform ideas. The budget and deficit elimination are critical. As a freshman commissioner, I was fortunate to be appointed to the influential Ways and Means Committee. Our committee is deliberating now on the budget that must be passed by Oct. 1, the start of the county fiscal year. We must be fiscally conservative, yet provide the money for mandated services.

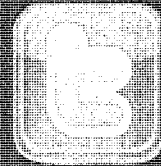
3. 1) Make it easier to do business in Wayne County. I would work to lessen regulations on business. But you say well who will guard the people from the corporate interests? People are free to spend their money as they see fit; 2) Make it simpler to be a resident of Wayne County. People expect to have good roads, police and fire forces and whatever else they give their elected officials authority to do in representing them; 3) No more good ol' boy network. I will not be afraid to confront and stand up to what I perceive to be crony capitalism or out and out cowardice at the hands of special interests.

4. What can the county do to help promote new business growth?

4. The county needs to develop an economic development plan which will build upon, rather than duplicate, our existing programs. We need to take advantage of our area's strengths and opportunity for growth. By working with our county and city leadership to develop partnerships, we can share expertise in acquiring business and investment both nationally and in the world. Finally, we need to improve our ability to provide fast and expedient access to county services for all new businesses. We need to cultivate our new relationships and capitalize networking possibilities.

4. Lower taxes - tax is synonymous with burden. Limit government - government, when misapplied, is synonymous with hardship. Lessen regulation - regulation is synonymous with toll stops every mile on a toll road.

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Snyder touts vision at Plymouth Panera

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rick Snyder put a decisive halt to an ugly rumor toward the end of a quick campaign stop in Plymouth Friday morning.

"We're not selling the Mackinac Bridge," said Snyder, drawing laughter from several dozen people who packed into a corner of the Panera Bread restaurant in downtown Plymouth for a spirited stump speech from the Republican gubernatorial candidate.

Snyder, who leads in the polls as he and Democrat Virg Bernero head toward a Tuesday showdown in their contest for governor, was responding to Bernero's contention, earlier in the week, that Snyder would sell the landmark bridge if elected.

Aside from the laugh-line reference, Snyder barely mentioned his opponent, instead outlining his vision for the state and his approach to governing.

He said he'd take a positive, but no-nonsense, approach to uniting diverse interests in the state to pull in the same direction.

"It's a broken system," Snyder said of state government. "There's been no real leader-

ship, there's been no plan, there's been no vision." Snyder, 52, is the founder of Ardesta, an Ann Arbor venture capital firm, and the former chairman of the computer company Gateway Inc. Bernero, 46, is the mayor of Lansing and a former member of both the state Senate and House of Representatives. The Green, U.S. Taxpayers and Libertarian parties are also fielding gubernatorial candidates.

Snyder, who has called for replacing the Michigan Business Tax with a 6-percent corporate tax, said improving the economy is the way to cut taxes.

"By strengthening our economy, that's how we ... bring down taxes for everybody," he said.

He said he'd shake up the status quo in Lansing. If elected, Snyder said, he doesn't want politicians coming to him to ask for project funding.

Instead, he said, he wants their pitch to him to be, "Here's an outcome, a result, you can ask for that will make a difference."

Snyder also said that, as governor, he'd challenge the bureaucracy and ask why things are done a certain way. "Do not tell me, 'Because

we've always done it that way,' because I will throw you out," he said.

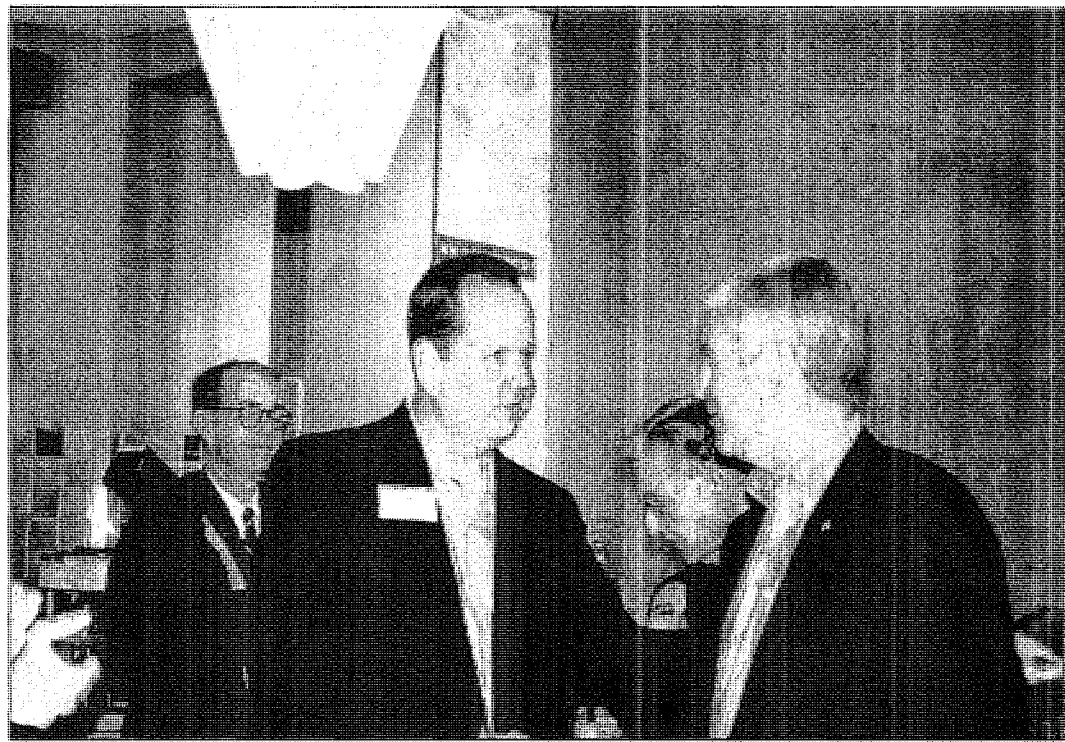
Snyder vowed support for the city of Detroit, and said he had confidence in Mayor Dave Bing's leadership. But supporting Detroit means enacting programs that work, "It's not just about spending money," he said.

Lou LaRiche, of the Plymouth Township Chevrolet dealership of the same name, liked what he heard from Snyder.

"He's a breath of fresh air, believe me," said LaRiche, whose dealership earlier this year won an arbitration that allowed it to return to the General Motors Corp. fold after the troubled automobile manufacturer, in the midst of reorganizing, dropped it in 2009.

LaRiche likes Snyder's upbeat message, suggesting a focus on the negative by many state residents is harmful.

"We feel that Michigan's economy is coming back slowly, but it's going to be very difficult, because there are so many



Gubernatorial candidate Rick Snyder (right) talks with 20th State House candidate Kurt Heise of Plymouth Township, a fellow Republican, at the Panera event.

people downplaying Michigan," LaRiche said.

College student Pam Hull of Redford Township was also impressed. She said she liked Snyder's businesslike approach. "Not just your same old everyday politician," Hull said.

"I think he's very clear-minded about everything."

Diane Verploegh of Northville Township said she hopes Snyder can turn around Michigan's economy so that two sons, both studying engineering at the University of

Notre Dame in Indiana, can return to the state to start careers.

"I'm not ready to give up on this state," Verploegh said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

IN BRIEF

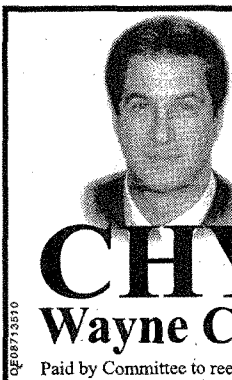
Recycle for cash

Drop off used ink jet cartridges, cell phones, digital cameras and similar items at City Hall. Garden City Charities, a group formed by city staff, sends the items off to be recycled by Cartridges for Kids and gets cash in return. Money raised by Garden City Charities benefits

local organizations.

Donations sought

Have a used video, book or DVD you looking to pass on? Well, consider donating it to the Garden City Library which is looking for donations of books, videos and DVDs in good condition. For more information, call the library at (734) 793-1830.



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Wayne County Circuit Court

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Garden City High School students showed they weren't too old to dress up which they did to help at Metropolitan Lincoln's third annual Community Halloween Party Oct. 23.

Pastor, DNRE reach agreement in water quality, wetlands dispute

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A settlement has been reached in a water quality and wetlands complaint filed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment against the Livonia-based family business of state Senate candidate John Pastor.

The complaint filed in June 2007, alleged that George H. Pastor & Sons, Inc. and GHP II, LLC had violated state laws regarding water quality and wetlands protection. Specifically, the allegations were that the companies failed to complete construction of a 6.26-acre wetland mitigation in Salem Township in Washtenaw County and failed

to implement adequate soil erosion measures resulting in repeated sediment discharges into wetlands and a stream located on the property.

The firms agreed to complete construction on the mitigation site and have agreed to monitor for a five-year period the success of the 6.26 acres of constructed wetlands and to convey to the DNRE a valid conservation easement over the constructed and existing wetlands present on the property. Pastor & Sons has agreed to a monetary settlement payment in the amount of \$35,000.

"There was no wrongdoing on either side. We have completed the mitigation. Anytime there is wetlands mitigation, there is five years' monitor-

ing to make sure the wetlands are viable," said Pastor. "The \$35,000 was to reimburse the DNRE for their time."

The companies also donated 19 acres to the site as had been planned all along, said Pastor.

A Livonia councilman and Republican candidate for 6th District State Senate, Pastor wasn't happy with ads referring to the DNRE dispute being run by his opponent, incumbent State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland.

"It makes it look like I dumped toxic waste, we traded for wetlands," said Pastor. "Rainwater hit the ground and the silt went in through the silt fence."

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

Dealership holds annual Trick-Or-Treat event

Halloween parties are fun opportunities for community members to get together for good old fashioned family fun.

That's exactly what took place last Saturday at Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City. The dealership transformed its showroom with Halloween decorations to host Metropolitan's third annual Trick-Or-Treat Event.

Each year's event has been bigger than the last, so this time Metropolitan's event planners reached out to Garden City High School to invite students to join in hosting the festivities. The high school responded enthusiastically

and Metropolitan hired 12 students to help with the event.

"Collaborating with Garden City High School was a great success," said Clarity Patton Newhouse, a manager at Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury. "The students were wonderful and they helped make the event even better than ever."

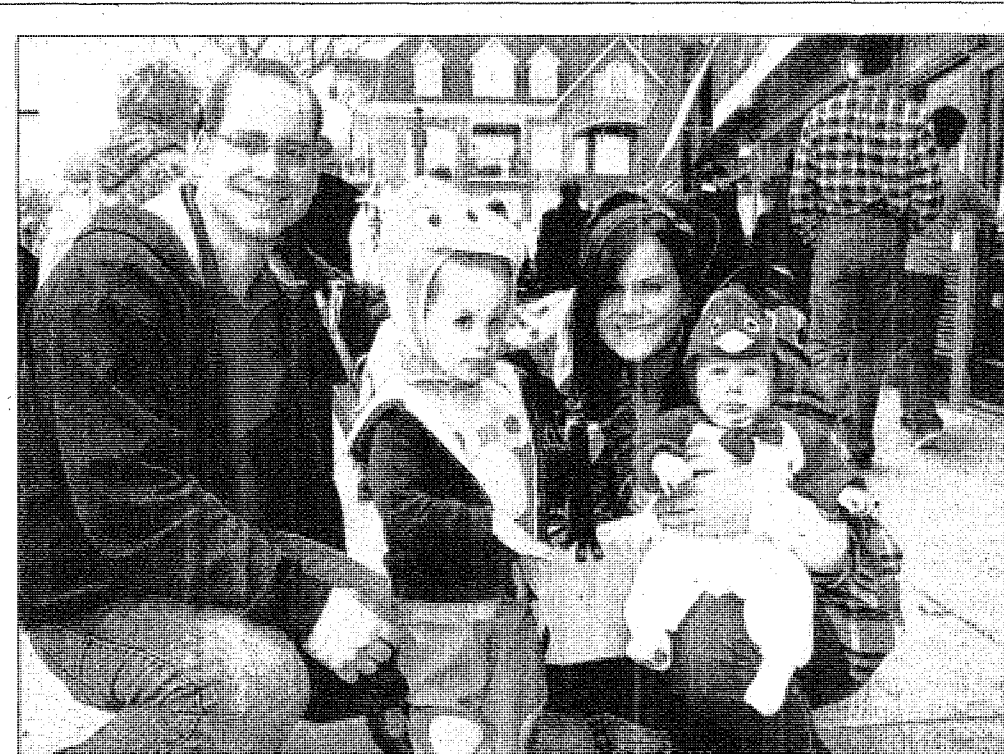
Garden City High School students arrived in costume and helped Metropolitan employees hand out candy and pumpkins, serve hot dogs and take photos. The photography studio was a popular new addition to the activities and more than 80 people signed

up for portraits of their children.

Throughout the two-hour event, Metropolitan gave away nearly 200 pumpkins, served more than 200 hotdogs and handed out more than 4,000 pieces of candy.

"We're happy provide a safe and entertaining place for children to enjoy Halloween festivities," said Newhouse. "It's one of our ways of saying 'thank you' to the community for supporting Metropolitan."

Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury is located at 32000 Ford Road, Garden City, MI 48135. For more information, call 800-755-1720 or visit www.MetroMichigan.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trick or treat

Tim and Amanda Lawrence of Westland took their children Audrianna, 2, and Landon, 3 months, to gather candy during the Great Pumpkin Caper, held Thursday evening in downtown Plymouth.

IN BRIEF

Office hours

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, is holding regular office hours in the 12th District.

Gebhardt, who represents south Livonia, Inkster and Westland, will be at:

- The McDonald's restaurant (27125 Cherry Hill Road, Inkster, at noon the first Monday of the month.
- Starbucks at 36545 Warren Road at Central City Parkway, Westland at 10 a.m. and at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, 6-8 p.m., both on the second Monday of the month.
- Biggby Coffee, 33328 Plymouth Road, Livonia, at 10 a.m. the fourth of the Monday of the month.

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Dear Voter,

On November 2, please take the time to vote the nonpartisan portion of the ballot and re-elect me to the Wayne County Circuit Court. It has been my honor to have served you for the last 10 years as a Family Division Judge. During those 10 years, I have reviewed thousands of cases involving families and, most importantly, the children of those families. I want to continue to serve all families in Wayne County with respect, passion and fairness.

Judge Lita Helene Popke

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The Rugiero Family: (left to right) Patrick, Anthony, Endrica, Antonio Sr., Mark and Robert.

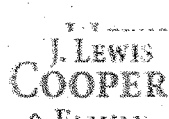
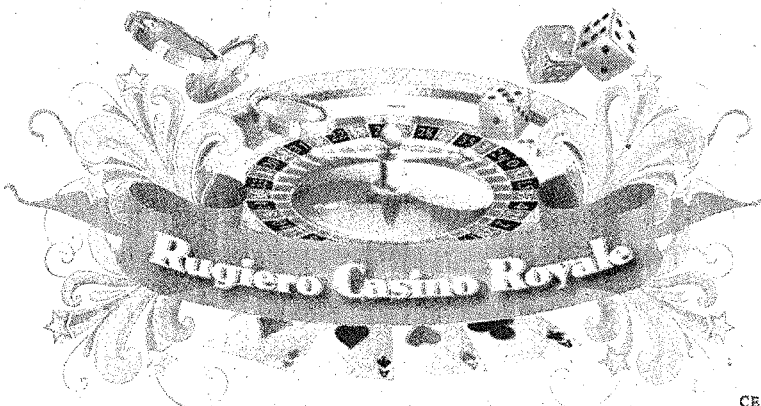
On behalf of the Rugiero Family, we wish to thank everyone who supported and participated in The Rugiero Casino Royale event, held October 30th. Our event raised funds for the Antonio Rugiero Diabetes Research Fund, which supports the U of M Brehm Center for Diabetes Research. Thank you once again for helping us support a wonderful cause in memory of our father, Antonio Rugiero.

The Rugiero family recently created the Antonio Rugiero Diabetes Research Fund in honor and memory of Antonio Rugiero – a cherished husband, father and grandfather who lived with type 2 diabetes for nearly 40 years.

"We wanted to keep our father's memory alive, and one way to do that is to support causes that our father believed in. We have a lot of respect for the University of Michigan and so did my father. He received wonderful care there late in his life and now we are giving back. The new University of Michigan diabetes research facility and what they are doing there is amazing. We are glad we can help and I know my father would be too."

– Anthony Rugiero

A Special Thanks to Our Premium Sponsors...



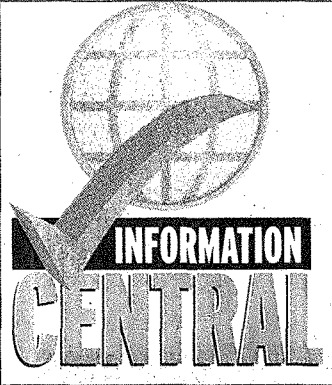
Energy management for your home

With winter right around the corner, this is the perfect time to consider energy management for your home. Greening up your routine is not only good for the environment, but it can also help keep money in your bank account rather than immediately applying it toward your heating bill.

Did you know that simply unplugging appliances like lamps and toasters when they aren't in use can save money and decrease energy usage? Small lifestyle changes like that can have significant impact on your bills and your carbon footprint. Books such as "True Green" by McKay and "Living Green" by Horn, discuss tips and techniques to move toward a greener existence without making drastic, expensive alterations to your home. Or take a look at Kate Heyhoe's "Cooking Green," which showcases various methods you can adopt into your routine to cut back on energy use in the kitchen.

If you are looking for some more extreme solutions, the library has resources to help you physically alter your home in order to promote green living. Snell and Callahan's "Building Green" has detailed instructions with great pictures illustrating ways you can build earth-friendly structures from the ground up. For a more mechanical point of view, check out "Energy Efficient Building Systems" by Jayamaha, which delves into the cooling and heating systems to maximize cost-saving and energy efficiency.

Maybe you're more interested in exploring energy management from the comfort of your own home. Explore www.westlandlibrary.org/green without getting up from your couch and learn of different online and print resources you can access,



as well as local and national organizations that are always looking for member involvement.

We'd be happy to show you where these materials are located at the library. See the Reference Desk or give us a call at (734) 326-6123, and we'll place a book or two on hold for you.

Highlighted Activities

Holiday Stamping with Cari: 7 p.m. Nov. 1

Take your stamping to the next level with the library's own Cari Fry. We'll be making some great cards and gift bags. Space is limited, so be sure to stop by the Reference Desk or call (734) 326-6123 to reserve a seat.

Documentary Movie Night: "Facing Ali," 7 p.m. Nov. 3

Join us for a viewing of the documentary film, "Facing Ali." He rocked the sport, shook the world, and changed their lives. Now, several decades after they met in the ring, 10 of the sport's finest fighters tell what it was like to battle Muhammad Ali, the man many consider the best boxer ever. This brutally honest documentary recounts Ali's incomparable jour-

ney as seen through the eyes of those who stepped through the ropes and into history. No sign up required.

NaNoWriMo Kick-off Event at Biggby Coffee: 7 p.m. Nov. 3, Adults and Teens

NaNoWriMo (short for National Novel Writing Month) is here for all of those closet (or not) writers ready to write their first (or second or third) novel. We're getting things started with a kick-off party at the ever-friendly Biggby Coffee, 37644 Ford, in Westland, (734) 326-1648. Jim Hines, author of the "Goblin Quest" series, will talk about his own work as well as the challenges (and fun) involved in writing a novel in a month. Sign up at the Reference Desk or show up at Biggby. See you there!

Green Job Training - ReEnergize Your Career: 1 p.m. Nov. 4

Find out how you can get free training for today's green jobs. Virginia Gillman, an intake/outreach specialist of Regional Energy Efficiency Partnership Training Program, will stop by the library this afternoon to talk about this educational opportunity and answer any questions you may have. This training programming is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is available to people living in Wayne County. Call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the library to sign up. Walk-ins are welcome, too.

Friday Movie Night: "Runaways," 7 p.m. Nov. 5

Information Central was compiled by reference librarian Mary Beth Fixler. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

County receives two financial honors

Wayne County has taken home two awards for its financial books.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to Wayne County by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

The Certificate of

Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement was awarded to Carla E. Sledge, Wayne County chief financial officer, who had primary responsibility for preparing the

award-winning CAFR.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals.

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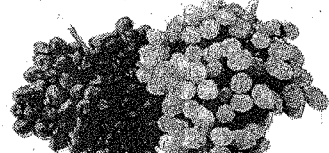
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RE-ELECT JUDGE GRONER NOV. 2ND



Mustangs pounce on Pats' miscues for 37-7 win

SIDELINES

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Northville's high-powered spread offense has received most of the accolades this season.

But in Friday's Division 1-Region 2-District 2 football playoff opener Friday, the Mustangs' defense played a major role in the scoring as they routed visiting Livonia Franklin, 37-7.

Northville, which improved to 9-1 overall, converted two of Franklin's four turnovers on the night into touchdowns.

Senior defensive back Levi Perry scooped up a fumble and raced 13 yards into the end zone with 1:32 left in the first quarter to give Northville the lead for keeps, 13-7.

And Trei Walton duplicated Perry's score by picking up another Patriot fumble and running 80 yards to give Northville a 30-7 advantage and put the game away with 10:12 left in the final quarter.

"You never expect that," Northville coach Matt Ladach said. "But when you see when those things happen, those are 'baggers' and those things are what really put Franklin away."

"The key tonight was our defense scoring. We're pretty good offensively, and when our defense puts points on the scoreboard, we're very dangerous."

Franklin (7-3) took the opening kickoff and scored its lone TD with an



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin quarterback Brent Marzion tries to escape the grasp of Northville tackler Shawn Williams during Friday's Division 1 state playoff opener.

Dempsey lifts MU

■ A near triple-double by Liz Dempsey on Senior Night carried the 21st-ranked Madonna University women's volleyball team to a 25-10, 25-10, 25-13 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory over visiting Concordia University.

Dempsey, a senior from Livonia Franklin, led all players with 11 kills while also recording 10 ace serves and nine digs.

Junior Megan Fricke contributed 10 kills, while redshirt freshman setter Evia Prieditis just missed a double-double of her own with 29 assists and nine digs.

MU hit at a blistering .500 clip, while Concordia was limited to an .059 rate.

Senior defensive specialist Anna Gatt (Livonia Churchill) was also honored prior to the match as the Crusaders improved to 28-7 overall and 13-1 in the WHAC.

Danielle Guss led the Cardinals (7-24, 1-13) with six kills.

■ In Friday's quarterfinal round of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Tournament, Muskegon CC ousted Schoolcraft College in four sets, 25-19, 25-12, 16-25, 25-18, in a match played at Kalamazoo Valley CC.

Muskegon improves to 30-6 overall, while the Lady Ocelots fall to 20-13.

MU escapes, 3-2

Despite scoring a trio of first-half goals, the Madonna University women's soccer team had to hang on Wednesday for a 3-2 non-conference win over visiting Marygrove College in a match played at Canton's Independence Park.

The Crusaders, who improved to 3-6-5 overall, got goals from Kristin Black (her third), Amanda Ferrick (her third) and Amanda Jenaway (her second).

Diana Brda (Livonia Franklin) and Ferrick set up Black's goal at 18:50, while Andrea Mareel drew the assist on Ferrick's goal at 33:47.

Meanwhile, Jenaway's unassisted goal occurred at 35:26.

Marygrove (5-8-1) answered on goals by Jessica Niemi (unassisted in the 85th minute and Joneli Cook (from Nicole Polite) at 88:28, but couldn't tally the equalizer against MU back-up goalkeeper Chelsea Gregg (Livonia Clarenceville), who made three saves.

MU's Brittany Warner started in goal the first half and did not face a shot.

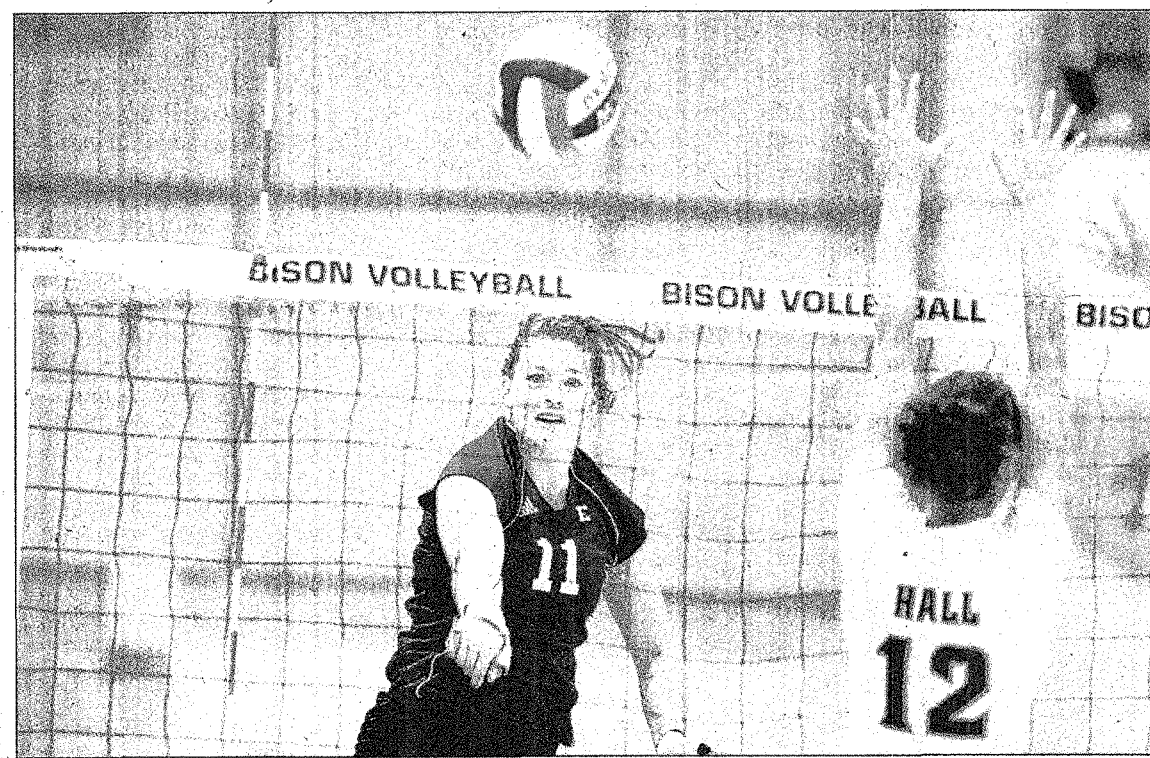
Marygrove keeper Kristen Jolly (Clarenceville) had 10 saves.

Lady Ocelots No. 3

Schoolcraft College is ranked No. 2 behind defending champion Kirkwood CC (Ia.) in the inaugural poll National Junior College Athletic Association preseason Division II women's basketball poll.

The Lady Ocelots, coached by Karen Lafata, finished 33-2 last year and third in last year's national tournament.

Please see **PATS, B3**



EMU SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Westland John Glenn grad Jenn Swartz (11) is the only senior member of the Eastern Michigan University women's volleyball team.

Soaring Eagle

Glenn grad Swartz puts EMU in MAC contention

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Eastern Michigan University volleyball coach Kim Berrington recruited Jenn Swartz out of Westland John Glenn High School, she envisioned a diamond in the rough.

But Berrington had to wait a full season to see if that gem, a 6-foot middle blocker, could be polished after Swartz was forced to sit out her freshman year due to a medical redshirt.

"She broke her finger, but it was the best thing that ever



Swartz

could happen to her because she was able to work on her strength, conditioning, speed and explosiveness," Berrington said. "She had the athletic ability. She came in a little behind in volleyball I.Q., but she's come a long way. She's our only senior starter and we set her a lot."

Swartz, now a senior, has been a mainstay in the Eagles' lineup ever since and is one of the big

reasons why EMU is 22-6 overall and 9-2 (tied for second) in the Mid-American Conference's West Division.

Swartz, who hails from Canton Township, currently ranks third on the Eagles' squad with 212 total kills and is in a virtual tie for the team lead with Kristen Baker total blocks with 77.

"She's become a big, strong and fast player for us," Berrington said. "She's not big for a middle blocker, but she's

Please see **SWARTZ, B3**

CMU career for Krupsky is storybook

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Lauren Krupsky's volleyball career ends this season at Central Michigan University, there will be a huge void to fill.

That's because Krupsky, a 5-foot-10 outside hitter from Livonia Churchill, will leave the Chippewas volleyball program as one of only 13 players ever to surpass the 1,000-mark in kills.

She was a first-team All-Mid-American Conference selection as a junior and is enjoying another banner senior season, leading CMU with 298 total kills (3.43 per set) with an attack percentage of .242.

"I'll miss everything about her," CMU coach Erik Olson said. "As a person, she's one of the neatest players I've ever coached and, academically, she's a top student. Just the way she plays with fire and passion, and the way she celebrates with her teammates, is something we'll miss."

"She's also taken on a leadership role. She's been a captain since the spring of her freshman year. We've had multiple captains and this year she's clearly the lead captain."

CMU, which had captured four straight matches going into Thursday's showdown with Eastern Michigan, stands 11-12 overall and is 5-6 in the MAC's West Division. (EMU won in five sets.)

Krupsky, who was named to the All-MAC freshman team in 2007, knows her stellar career is winding down, but there's still a lot of volleyball left to be played.

"I think we've worked out the kinks since the beginning of the year," Krupsky said. "We've played a lot of East Division teams and we were able to break our losing streak, and now we're

Please see **KRUPSKY, B2**



Krupsky

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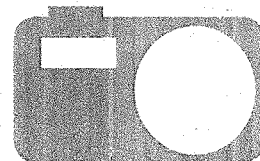


PHOTO GALLERIES

hometownlife.com

Dog advocate group keeps pressure on pet stores

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Pam Sordyl will watch election returns Tuesday, but will be just as eager to hear about balloting in Missouri as she will the results of her home state.

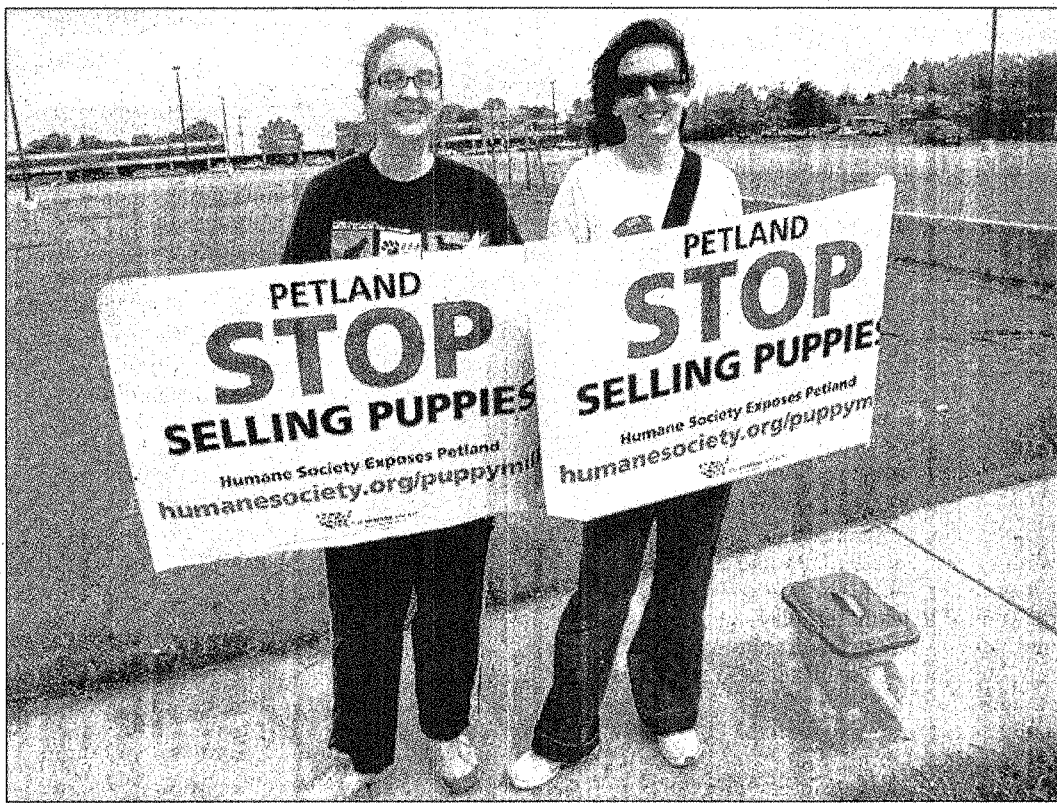
"Proposition B in Missouri is huge. They're the capital of puppy mills, so on Nov. 2, that's what I'm going to be watching, because it could be a huge win for the overall campaign," she said.

"I hope next year they introduce a puppy mill ban (in Michigan. We've been waiting two years."

Sordyl, an animal welfare activist, knows a thing or two about puppy mills, dog-breeding farms known for keeping dozens and sometimes hundreds of animals in substandard conditions in an effort to maximize their profits when they sell to brokers who supply retail stores or directly to consumers via the Internet. According to the Humane Society of the United States, (HSUS) most of these mass breeding facilities are legal and can keep breeding dogs in cramped cages their entire lives as long as they supply basic food, shelter and water. The HSUS has worked with rescue groups and law enforcement to shut down abusive puppy mills, but its major campaign is convincing the public to end consumer demand for mill-bred dogs by adopting rather than buying pets.

STAGING RALLIES

That's also where Sordyl and Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup members have focused their



Pam Sordyl (right) during a rally with another Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup member. The group hopes to convince retail outlets to switch from selling puppies to adopting out homeless dogs.

efforts for the past two years.

Sordyl, a former Plymouth resident who now lives in Oakland County, founded the group in Northville after a friend from the Humane Society of Huron Valley told her about a new pet store in the community's quaint downtown. Sordyl had participated in educational rallies held near Petland in Westland, but took a different approach when she organized a rescued dog parade in Northville.

"We got the whole town talking. We approached all the businesses and asked them to support us ... put out dog dishes and talked about what

we found, that they (the store) was getting their dogs from Missouri." The store closed and Sordyl's group began to attend animal-related events, including the annual Pet Expo in Novi, to spread the word about puppy mills.

When HSUS investigated Petland nationwide in 2008, Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup headed to the company's Westland store, which closed a few weeks ago after five months of weekly rallies near the store.

Sordyl isn't sure if the group's continued presence compelled the store closing. A corporate spokesperson

did not return a call to the *Observer* by publication time.

"We didn't want them to go out of business. We wanted them to stop selling dogs from puppy mills and bring in rescue dogs," said Christine White of Milford, who led many of the rallies in Westland.

During the 50 rallies the group held in Westland, members of the public shared stories about 15 sick dogs they had purchased from stores.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Sordyl uses shipping

Please see **ADVOCATE, B7**

One woman's story: adopt, don't shop

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Judy Fisher of Livonia knew better.

She was aware that puppy mills — large scale dog breeding farms — are known for the squalid conditions in which they confine their live products. She knew puppy mills supply pet stores via brokers or sell directly to consumers through the Internet, shipping young canines to buyers throughout the country. And she had heard that over-breeding at puppy mills often results in sick dogs.

But Fisher, who had searched unsuccessfully to adopt a new companion after her dog, Rascal, died in July 2009, has a big heart. A lifelong animal lover, Fisher let her heart lead her when she bought a Yorkie mix puppy, "Simon," from a Westland retail outlet in September 2009. Now she faces \$2,100 in surgical fees to repair a results of a congenital disease that causes the hip joint to collapse, leading to osteoarthritis.

"When I went out looking for new companion I wasn't looking for breed or size. When you've had animals like I've had, all my life, that's not what you look for," said Fisher, who visited the Michigan Humane Society several times, looking for a new dog. "Smaller dogs went so fast. To go during nor-



Judy Fisher shows off Simon.

mal adoption hours was hard for me."

Fisher, who works as a logistics analyst for a watch distributor, applied for dogs through a local rescue organization but "it didn't work out with them."

BUYING A DOG

She never considered shopping at a retail store, but was discouraged by her inability to find the right match. Temptation, she said, got the best of her when she saw a puppy sign in a pet store. Meeting Simon was "love at first sight" and Fisher decided to rescue the pup from his cramped cage, and noisy environment.

"I couldn't walk out of that store and feel good about

Please see **ADOPT, B7**

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Louise Scanlan (left) offers a variety of vintage items to customers at previous "Treasures from Grandma's Attic."

Collectibles display, antique appraisal set at Greenmead

Shoppers can browse vintage items and collectables at "Treasures from Grandma's Attic," on Saturday, Nov. 13 and then get appraisals just two days later, all at Greenmead Historical Park, in Livonia.

Vendors will display and sell "treasures" from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Grandma's Attic, a cross between a flea market and rummage sale.

On Monday, Nov. 15, the Livonia Historical Society will present an appraisal evening with Doug Dalton, auctioneer, at Greenmead.

Dalton, who graduated from the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, has been a full time auctioneer for 25 years. He has conducted more than 2,000 auctions and in addition to working independently, also has worked for the Boos Gallery

and Park West Gallery. He has conducted hundreds of charity auctions and raised more than \$3 million for worthy causes.

Dalton is a certified appraiser of fine art and antiques, and is a member of the Certified Appraisers Guild of America.

The Livonia Historical Society meeting with antique appraisal will start at 7 p.m.

Participants may bring up to two items of their choice for appraisal. Cost is \$5 per item.

Both Treasures from Grandma's Attic and the antiques appraisal will be held in the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead, located at Newburgh and Eight Mile, in Livonia. For more information, call (248) 477-7375

Awards given in annual art exhibit

Eugene Clark of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit recently awarded winners in the annual fall art exhibit, "Artistic Expressions," presented by the Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL).

Lori Zoumaris of Belleville won first place for her watercolor, "Flirting with Fuschias." Zoumaris, a professional painter, works in acrylic, watercolor and colored pencil. She is a graduate of Center for Creative Studies.

Second place went to Regina Dunne of Northville for her pastel, "Serenity." Her pastel portraits have won many awards.

Third place went to Sue Mallick of Plymouth for her collage, "Conversations." Sue was a commercial artist before she began painting in fine arts in 2002. She works mainly in acrylics and collage. This is her first award.

Barbara Eko Murphy of Northville, received two awards. She received an Honorable Mention and a Best of Show award for a watercolor painting, "Budding Artist" of her granddaughter.

Other artists who received Honorable Mention awards were Beverly Johnson of Livonia for a mixed media, "Mexican Flowers," Mary Kehoe of Farmington for a water color, "Roosters Paradise," S.K. Spiteri of Livonia for a collage, "First in One, Scape Theory," and Anna Willis of South Lyon a mixed media of "The Escapees."

For more information about VAAL or art classes, call (734) 838-1204 or visit www.vaalart.org.

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Rheumatoid arthritis cause inflammation of the lining of joints; if left unchecked, the inflammation results in joint destruction.

In contrast, osteoarthritis causes little pain on arising in the morning, worsens over the day and abates with rest during the night.

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Excess fluid, particularly in the knee can occur in both rheumatoid and osteoarthritis. In both conditions the fluid causes an impediment to the efficient motion of the joint, and can result in painful motion. Taking fluid from a swollen joint not only improves movement, but helps the doctor make a diagnosis. Joint fluid from a person with rheumatoid arthritis has over 1,000 cells and is considered inflammatory. Joint fluid from a patient with osteoarthritis has less than 1,000 cells and is considered non-inflammatory.

Therapy for rheumatoid arthritis differs considerably from treatment for osteoarthritis. For this reason, both doctor and patient should be clear on the diagnosis of the arthritis under evaluation.

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Sue Mallick of Plymouth shows her collage, titled "Conversations." It won a third place award in the Visual Arts Association of Livonia's annual fall exhibit.

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Simon

ADOPT
FROM PAGE B5

myself, knowing he was still in that cage. They did try to keep it clean, but it was way too hot. To see kids beating on the glass... if I could have taken all of them (the dogs) I would have."

She adopted a second dog, "Nelson" last summer from Almost Home Animal Haven's no-kill shelter in Southfield. Her two "furry children" play like brothers, but Simon is hampered by the painful Legg Perthes.

In correspondence with the Better Business Bureau, the store, now closed, offered to negotiate less costly surgery through its veterinarian. Fisher declined and pointed out that the store's veterinarian had initially examined Simon and signed his health

certificate. The congenital disease was diagnosed by Fisher's own veterinarian several months after Fisher purchased the puppy.

Fisher, who is recuperating at home after suffering a stroke during the summer, was happy to hear the store closed this month.

"I don't have the money to take anyone to court. The only thing I want is his surgery. I'm going to have to start sacrificing for the \$2,100 surgery bill."

Fisher said her decision to buy Simon is a double-edged sword. "It was a rescue thing for me. But if I could go back and do it again, I wouldn't just walk into a store not knowing what I was walking into."

She suggests that prospective pet owners spend time on the Internet doing their research first, before heading to a shelter.

"There are way too many dogs out there in need of a home."



Inclement weather doesn't stop a Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup member from rallying.



Pam Sordyl talks with a motorist during a rally in Westland.

ADVOCATE

FROM PAGE B5

records available through the Michigan Department of Agriculture to find out which out-of-state breeders supply local stores. After finding the breeder, she researches public inspection reports about the their facility.

"Before I protest a new store, I will write a letter to the owner and I will call the owner." She asks them to stop selling and start adopting out dogs, a request that hasn't attracted any takers. "It seems like they are deciding to go out of business instead."

The group has begun to target new stores or those poised to open, sending a "big message" about selling puppies.

When a new store planned to open at dog-friendly Partridge Creek Mall in Macomb Township, Sordyl met with both the store owner and mall management.

"We asked the store to switch to adoptions and we asked the mall to seriously investigate the breeders. They didn't want protesters out there. They liquidated in 10 days."

The group has begun to broaden its efforts and geographic reach. Members now regularly protest at a store in Flint, and there are plans

to conduct rallies this winter in Novi and throughout Macomb County. White, and other members sometimes work undercover as they visit breeders in Michigan or react to information they've culled from the group's Web site and other message boards.

UNLICENSED SELLER

The group last year started watching and visiting a Brighton Township man who was peddling dogs out of his garage.

"We learned that he isn't zoned to be there. And then we found out he needs a veterinary license — that's a felony. He had 30 dogs and was doing his own vetting."

Sordyl, who is married and has three dogs, previously worked in finance at General Motors. She'll be a guest speaker this week at a puppy mill conference in Chicago, Ill.

"Education is important. We can shut down all these pet stores, but then there will be someone selling on the side of the road, or at a flea market. They're everywhere. If we can get to the public first, really educate the public in making wise choices, we can steer them to the shelter. We've got to get people to focus on rescue."

Puppy Mill Awareness offers information on reporting sick dogs, finding adoptable dogs, as well as other online tools at www.meetup.com/pupmillawareness/

Shop, mingle at annual Women's Expo at Summit

More than 40 vendors with products and services ranging from health to home improvement will be on hand at the Women's Expo Saturday, Nov. 13 at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton. The annual event will run from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and will offer health screenings, continental breakfast, raffle prizes, goody bags, and shopping.

Special demonstrations will include holiday decorating by Keller and Stein and appetizers by Chef Paul.

Displays and activities will also include Avon, BC Sweets, Bella Rosa Events, Bizzy Lizzy Bakery, BluLady Crafts, Body Contouring By Design, Bowtastic, Brackney Chiropractic, Canton Farmer's Market, CC Baby, Cellar Door Soap Co., Clearly You, Creative Memories, Don't Worry Bead Happy, Longaberger, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Mind & Mood Clinic, Mrs. B's Brittle, Nutrition for a Change, Oakwood Healthcare System, Phoenix Trading, Renewal by Anderson, Sansonetti Sauces, SendOut Cards, Simply Fun, Somers Primitive Painting, Sophia's Boutique, Soul Purpose, Summit on the Park Personal Training, Stella & Dot, The Pampered Chef, Thirty-One Gifts, Tupperware, UCI, University of Michigan Livonia Vein Center, Usborne Books & More, Walden University, and Wowgreen International.

All guests will receive a gift bag filled with goodies from participating vendors. This annual event is sponsored by Community Financial, The Goddard School, Oakwood Healthcare System, and Renewal by Anderson.

Advance tickets are \$5 from the Summit on the Park front desk, or \$10 at the door on event day. For more information visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.



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- Wayne BP Gas 7139 N Wayne Rd.
- Wayne Med-Mart 417 S Wayne Rd.
- Wayne Restaurant and Coney 3709 Metro Mall St, Wayne
- West Town Market 4095 Howe Rd, Wayne
- Westland Party Store 34745 Warren Rd.
- Westland Family Dining 35560 Ford Rd.
- Westland Maple Rx 34500 Ford Rd.

WESTLAND OBSERVER

- 7-Eleven 33920 Van Born
- 7-Eleven 8791 N Wayne Rd.
- 7-Eleven 29331 Warren Rd, Garden City
- 7-Eleven 31385 Joy Rd.
- 7-Eleven 9479 Newburgh Rd, Livonia
- 7-Eleven 126 N Hix Rd.
- 7-Eleven 970 S Wayne Rd.
- 7-Eleven 1826 S Merriman Rd.
- 7-Eleven 31403 Michigan Ave, Wayne
- 7-Eleven 32324 Annapolis St.
- 7-Eleven 160 S Venoy Rd.
- A&M Petro 8405 N Inkster Rd.
- Admiral Gas 542 N Wayne Rd.
- Al's Beverage Warehouse 1962 S Venoy Rd.
- Al's Friendly Store 4568 Howe Rd, Wayne
- American Family Restaurant 501 S Wayne Rd.

- Amoco Gas Station 38350 Ford Rd.
- Big Boy Restaurant 6360 N Wayne Rd.
- Big Ben's Party 38401 Joy Rd.
- Biggby Coffee 37644 Ford Rd.
- BP Gas 1831 S Wayne Rd.
- BP Amoco 35520 Van Born Rd, Wayne
- BP Gas 38800 Michigan Ave, Wayne
- BP Gas 35600 E Michigan Ave, Wayne
- BP Gas 30435 Cherry Hill Rd.
- BP Gas 31341 Van Born Rd, Romulus
- BP Gas 1220 N Wayne Rd.
- BP Gas 2910 Venoy Rd.
- BP Gas 31350 Michigan Ave.
- BP Gas Station 32889 Warren Rd, Garden City
- Bray's Restaurant 35650 Ford Rd.
- Buscemi'S Pizza 1690 S Venoy Rd.
- Charles Liquor 129 S Venoy Rd.
- Cherry Hill Mini-Mart 35035 Cherry Hill Rd.
- Clark Gas Station 7975 N Middlebelt Rd.
- Corkscrew Party 37816 Ford Rd.
- CVS Pharmacy 7250 N Venoy Rd.
- CVS Pharmacy 29347 Ann Arbor Trl
- CVS Pharmacy 37527 Cherry Hill Rd.
- CVS Pharmacy 6501 N Wayne Rd.
- CVS Pharmacy 1750 S Wayne Rd.
- CVS Pharmacy 2950 S Newburgh Rd., Wayne
- CVS Pharmacy 31411 Cherry Hill Rd.
- CVS Pharmacy 31450 Van Born Rd.
- CVS Pharmacy 31450 Van Born Rd.
- Dollar General 1659 S Merriman Rd.
- Dollar Tree 2651 S Wayne Rd.
- Exxon Gas 8755 N Middlebelt Rd.
- Family Fresh Market 31210 Warren Rd.
- Fast Track 5750 S Wayne Rd, Wayne
- Hartland Market 34414 Ford Rd.
- Harvest Marketplace 34500 Ford Rd.
- Holiday Park Townhouses 34850 Fountain Blvd.
- Hunter - Wayne Liquor 35201 Hunter Ave.
- JR3'S 4502 S Wayne Rd., Wayne
- Kroger 36111 E Michigan Ave, Wayne
- Kroger 200 S Merriman Rd.
- Kroger 31300 Michigan Ave.
- Kroger 36430 Ford Rd.
- L George's Coney 7335 N Middlebelt Rd.
- L. Georges Restaurant 34438 Michigan Ave, Wayne
- Laundry Mat 6612 N Wayne Rd.
- Leon's Family Restaurant 303 S Wayne Rd.
- Leo's Coney Island 36595 Warren Rd.
- Marathon Gas 6690 N Newburgh Rd.
- Marathon Gas 31425 Ann Arbor Trl
- Marathon Gas 2646 S Wayne Rd.
- Marathon Gas 35512 Michigan Ave, Wayne
- Marathon Gas 37401 Joy Rd.
- Marathon Gas 4530 S Wayne Rd.
- Marathon Gas 2910 Venoy Rd.
- Marathon Gas 32919 Cherry Hill Rd.
- Marathon Gas Station 29424 Ann Arbor Trl
- Marathon Gas Station 37368 Ford Rd.
- Marco's Party 7977 N Wayne Rd.
- Meijer Gas Station 37201 Warren Rd.
- Michigan Market 39375 Michigan Ave.
- Mobil Gas 38353 Ford Rd.
- Mobil Gas 35336 Ford Rd.
- Mobil Gas 1810 S Wayne Rd.

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Job seekers get the power of Team Eforce support

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cleo Parker, of Livonia, had some good news to share with fellow Team Eforce members this past Thursday.

"I just got a job, so I'm sort of making the rounds of my groups," she said, including Team Eforce (Encouraging, Friendly, Optimistic, Resourceful, Committed, Engaged).

The weekly support group for job seekers is affiliated with a Southfield church, Highland Park Baptist, and meets weekly at the Farmington Community Library's main branch on 12 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

"We've been running about 10 people," said Team Eforce facilitator John Baker, of Farmington Hills, an architect. The group had met Thursday mornings for two hours, but beginning Monday, Nov. 1, will meet at 9 a.m. Mondays at the Hills library.

Parker lost her last professional-type job in the fall of 2008 at Jumpstart Automotive Media. She'll be associate director of research as of Nov. 1 at Starcom MediaVest.

Larry Fee used to facilitate the Farmington Hills group, but got a contract job, so Baker took over the faith-based group.

"I'm reinventing myself," said Baker.

The Team Eforce meetings begin with prayer, although the group is open to people of all faiths.

"What did you do last week and what are you going to do?" Baker asks each person.

The larger Career Solutions Workshop at the Southfield church, which



A recent Team Eforce (Encouraging, Friendly, Optimistic, Resourceful, Committed, Engaged) session included (left to right) Jenny Hu of Farmington Hills, Veronica Player of Farmington Hills, Meatta Reeves of Detroit and Teddy Lee of Novi. The group will begin meeting 9 a.m. Mondays as of Nov. 1.



PHOTOS BY DON MCKERCHER

Facilitator John Baker of Farmington Hills and Cleo Parker of Livonia listen during a recent Team Eforce session at the library in Farmington Hills. Parker was happy she'd landed a job in her field, advertising.

is run like a "Career Boot Camp," encourages the smaller get-togethers. The Hills group began in July 2009.

"It's a self-running program at this point," said Elyse Streit, head of the adult reference desk at the Hills library. Team Eforce started using a study room at the library but outgrew that.

Sharon Vincent, library branch head, and Streit came up with a plan for the group.

"We wanted them to really have a place," Streit said. "It was a win-win situation all around."

The first two facilitators are now working, she said.

"A lot of them are IT people, engineering. It's an encouragement group, a support group. It has complemented our mission. We're really happy to allow them to come here," she added.

Baker worked for 30 years for the Taubman

organization and was let go in a January 2009 downsizing.

"I've been looking and doing freelance," he said.

Group members are encouraged to use LinkedIn for business connections.

"Our motto is 'We never want to see you again,'" he said with a smile aimed at now-employed Parker.

They decided to switch to Monday morning meetings because that's not a great time to call busy employers. That will leave Thursday morning free for job searching.

Most Thursday meeting attendees had college degrees, and were often victims of the auto industry downsizing. Jenny Hu, of Farmington Hills worked for General Motors 20 years, and was laid off.

Hu got a job with the federal government in Washington, D.C., helped by her language skills in Cantonese and Mandarin. That job was too much for

her family situation, so she's back in Michigan.

"I enjoy it very much," Hu said of Team Eforce.

"People are very, very positive and will share a lot of information."

She has a background in statistics/quality as a data analyst and began attending Team Eforce this fall.

A career coach recently visited and has worked with some members.

Group member Veronica Player of Farmington Hills is using a free Take Charge program through Walsh College, bringing in professionals in a larger group in fields like accounting and project management.

Baker noted the group does resume work and practice interviews.

Baker said the group will cross that bridge when it comes, when he finds a job. He's looking forward to someday returning to work.

"When it's a love, it's not really work," Baker said.

Baker can be reached at jbaker48334@gmail.com.

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeals will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2718-A. Wiitala, 819 N. Karle

Request for one non-conforming structure variance and one 16' separation variance from Ord. 248 in order to construct a 12' x 16' addition to the front of the existing non-conforming detached garage which would result in the front building line of the garage being an additional 16' ahead of the rear building line of the home; whereas Sec. 5:23 states that a non-conforming structure may not be enlarged without a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Sec. 7:4.3(c) requires that accessory structures be located a minimum of 10' behind the rear building line of the home.

Petition #2719-Mobil Service Station, 125 S. Merriman

Request for a non-conforming sign variance from Ord. 248 in order to make a one-time change to an existing non-conforming free-standing sign located at the site by replacing the existing panels with LED; whereas Sec. 15:3.6(b)(5) states that a non-conforming sign cannot be changed to any extent without being brought into conformance with current Zoning Ordinance standards.

Publish: October 31, 2010

OE08719248 2x5

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Sunday, October 31, 2010

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NEW FACES

Three physicians recently joined the staff at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. Hazem Eltahawy, M.D., Ph.D., FRCS, specializes in neurological surgery and received his degree as well as completed his residency at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt. He completed a spine surgery fellowship at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit.

He is a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and North American Spine Society.

Jayant Jagannathan, M.D., also specializes in neurological surgery and received a degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. He completed residencies at University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, Virginia, and Wayne State University, Detroit.

Jagannathan is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Both Jagannathan and Eltahawy are located at the Wayne State University Physician Group - Department of Neurosurgery, 14555 Levan, Suite 116, Livonia, and 4160 John R., Suite 925, Detroit; (313) 831-0777.

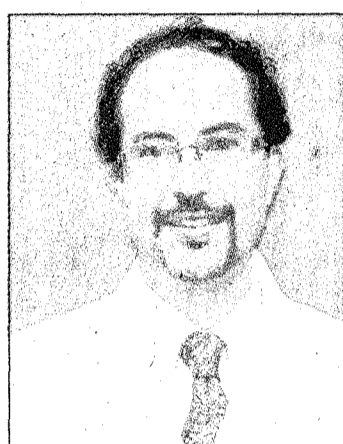
Karol Otteman, D.O., specializes in obstetrics and gynecology, and received a degree from Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, Calif. She completed a residency at Providence Hospital & Medical Centers, Southfield.

Otteman is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She is a member of the American Medical Association and American Osteopathic Association.

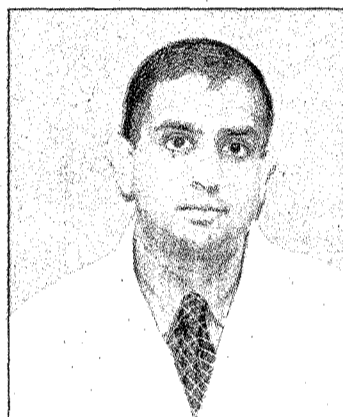
She is located at Westside OB/Gyn, 15370 Levan, Suite 1, Livonia, (734) 464-9055; and 5800 N. Lilley, Canton, (734)



Karol Otteman, D.O.



Hazem Eltahawy, M.D.



Jayant Jagannathan, M.D.

981-2400.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

NOVEMBER

Teens and drugs

Part one of the free workshop, "Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," runs 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 2, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. It will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. Part one is repeated every first Tuesday of each month, from October through June each year. Part two, "What To Do," will run 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday Nov. 9 and will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified, and will include a recovering teen speaker. Part two is repeated every second Tuesday of each month, from October through June each year. The programs are free and open to the public. Parents, other family members, teens, and people who work with teens may attend. Free literature about alcohol/other drugs and teens is provided. For more information call (734) 973-7892 or e-mail teensusingdrugs@gmail.com

Flu vaccines
St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will offer the flu vaccine to family and friends of employees age 18 and older, as well as community members from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2 and Thursday, Nov. 4 in Classroom 11, at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. The 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine covers three strains of flu. There are two strains of influenza A (H3N2 and H1N1) and one influenza B strain all in one dose. The cost is \$15 per person, or free with Medicare B (proof required). Register by calling the Community Outreach Department at (734) 655-8950.

Baby basics

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a class in infant care and breastfeeding from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile in Livonia. The class will teach the skills of feeding, bathing, diapering, skin care, soothing and safety. Participants should bring a stuffed animal or doll to use during a demonstration on how to hold the baby when breastfeeding. The fee is \$55 per couple. To register call (734) 655-1162 or visit stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

Memory screening

Botsford Commons Senior Community will offer free memory screenings 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16 in Farmington Hills as part of National

MEDICAL DATEBOOK



Uplifting and educational

Lee Muller of Livonia holds her balance in the yoga demonstration class at the Massages, Manicures, Mammograms & More women's event held Oct. 23 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. Nearly 200 women attended the event, which included pampering with manicures and massages, free health screenings, yoga and Zumba classes as well as educational sessions with physicians from the hospital.

Memory Screening Day 2010. In addition to the memory screenings, Botsford Commons will offer balance and depression screenings. Guest speakers will include experts on healthy aging, driving, brain fitness and other senior resources. Light appetizers and beverages will be served, and visitors may view a resident art show. Botsford Town Commons at 21300 Archwood Circle in Farmington Hills. To make an appointment for screenings, call (248) 426-6930.

ONGOING

Alzheimer's Association

The Greater Michigan Chapter provides a welcoming and secure environment for families and individuals experiencing the early stages of Younger Onset Memory Loss. Participants can take part in ongoing discussions that focus on issues that affect those with memory loss under age 65. Meetings are 5:30-7 p.m., the third Tuesday of the month, at Bloomfield Township Senior Services, 4315 Andover, Bloomfield Hills. To register call The Harry L. Nelson Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and non-members of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Food Addicts

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a recovery program for people having trouble controlling the way they eat. Based on the 12 steps of AA. Open to all and free. Weekly meetings are held 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton. (866) 914-3663; www.foodaddicts.org

Hearing Loss Association

The Western Wayne Chapter provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. Contact aferack@comcast.net or (734) 664-3297.

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