



SKITS PROMOTE BOOK READING TO FRESHMEN
PAGE A3

ALL-AREA HOCKEY
SPORTS, B2

THE THREE STOOGES
IT'S STOOGES TIME AT THE REDFORD
ENTERTAINMENT, B6

THURSDAY
March 31, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 46
Number 89

\$1.00

WESTLAND OBSERVER
hometownlife.com A GANNETT COMPANY



IN BRIEF

School candidates

The Observer is featuring four more candidates who are campaigning for two four-year terms on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education in today's paper



as part of its coverage of the Tuesday, May 3, school election. See the responses of the final four candidates — Scott Davis, Harold Dunn, Charles Griffin and appointed incumbent Jeffrey Hayton — to questions asked by the Observer on Page A8.

Kindergarten round-up

Wayne-Westland Community Schools is inviting parents and their youngsters to "come and see what all the buzz is about" at its annual Kindergarten Round-Up.

All 11 of the district's elementary schools will host a round-up for parents and children 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5. Parents will have an opportunity to tour the school and explore programs, meet the principal and kindergarten teachers, receive registration materials and a free T-shirt, school supplies, and a backpack for youngsters.

For parents who can't make it during the day, school offices also will be open 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, so that you may register your incoming kindergarten. Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2011, in order to attend kindergarten.

Wayne-Westland currently offers all-day kindergarten at all of its K-4 elementary schools. For more information, call (734) 419-2083 or go online to wwcsd.net/kindergarten-round-up.

Library Board meets

A study session to review applications for the vacant post of director of the William P. Faust Public Library has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, by the Westland Library Board.

At a library budget study session Monday, the five board members were provided with a packet on the nine applicants for library director. The director position has been vacant since November when Cheryl Napsha left after more than three years to become director of the Provincetown, Mass., library.

Interim Library Director Marilyn Kwik was not among the applicants for the permanent job.

Mother knows best

Local women and girls are invited to send us (in 50 words or less) the best advice you received from your mom. Include a photo of your mom or better yet you and your mom.

E-mail your best submission and photo (jpg format only) to smason@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include your first and last name, your hometown and identify your mother (first and last name, please). Include a daytime phone number or cell phone where you can be reached during business hours.

The photos and advice will appear in the Thursday, May 5, Salute to Women edition of Hometown Life Woman. Deadline to submit advice and photo is 5 p.m. Friday, April 15.

Grant helps Youth Assistance expand services

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Programs for at-risk Westland youths are getting a boost through a nearly \$1.5 million grant to be spent over three years.

The funding focuses on diversionary programs through Westland Youth

Assistance and a police youth bureau which will increase the number of referrals to the program.

"We will maintain our existing services but we are expanding and enhancing them. This takes us to the next level," said Westland Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz. "We will hire three more case

managers. We'll be able to work more closely with kids and families. It's a great thing."

In addition to the caseworkers, the grant will also fund for a Westland police officer to be assigned to a youth bureau, pay a portion of the School Resource Officer position and provide expanded recreational programs for youths.

"There has always been a need for a Youth Bureau and this brings it to the forefront," said Westland Police Chief Alan Ramsden. "Our focus with the grant will be for us to up our referrals to the Youth Assistance Program. We will be able to more proactive."

The county-administered state grant comes through

CASASTART — the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows.

Youth Assistance has eight service components to provide for each child and family in the program, including social

Please see **GRANT, A2**

Order up!

Romanowski VFW Post continues long tradition of Lenten fish fries

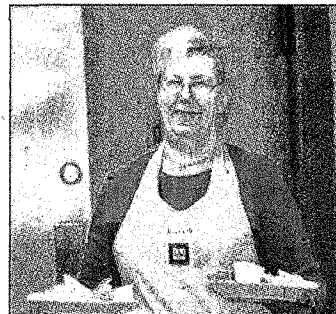
BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Barbara Gucwa describes herself as not being a fish eater throughout her life until the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 started offering a fish fry some years ago.

"I came very week when we did the fish fries when the post was on Lonyo," said Gucwa, who was having a Lenten fish dinner at the current post located on Joy in Westland. "I'm taking fish home. My bachelor son will eat it cold tomorrow. He used to help out at the fish fries — that's how he starting eating fish."

A Detroit resident, Gucwa is president of the Romanowski Post Ladies Auxiliary and her late husband, Edmund, was a past post commander.

"I've been coming for the fish fry for as long as they've



Kathy Coleman serves up dinner during the Lenten fish fry held Friday evenings at the Romanowski VFW Post in Westland.

had it. It's very good fish and the cole slaw is good, too," said Gerald Gennett, a Livonia resident. He's a member of VFW Post 3941 in Livonia but lives near the Romanowski Post.

Sponsored by the Men's Auxiliary, the fish dinners — fried or baked — are served 4-7 p.m. each Friday in Lent



Canton resident Wanda McQueen and Diane McQueen of Livonia are served their fish dinners at the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post in Westland.

wrapping up on Good Friday, April 22.

"When we first got a Men's Auxiliary, they wanted to do something each year to benefit the post so they do the fish fry," said John Welchman, post commander. "It's their way to make a couple of dollars. They help us and in turn, we help veterans — that's the bottom line."

With three to five people working in the kitchen and another two or three helping out front, Men's Auxiliary member Dave Banks said the more volunteers the better.

"We use however many people we can get. We're not quite as big as some of the church fish fries — they get parishioners who favor theirs — but we have a solid core of people who

come here all the time," said Banks, a Livonia resident. "We do more than 100 dinners each week for post members and friends. It's one of your biggest fundraisers."

After the fish fry on April 1, a free family game night will be held at 8 p.m. It's part of the post's efforts to attract a

Please see **FISH FRY, A2**

Police seek two women in reported wallet theft



A surveillance camera at Best Buy photographed this woman allegedly trying to use a credit card from a wallet reported stolen at Kroger Sunday afternoon.

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two women are being sought for stealing a wallet from a Westland Kroger store shopper and attempting to use a stolen credit card at Best Buy.

A Westland woman, 73, told police that while she was shopping at the Ford and Central City Parkway store about 4 p.m. Sunday when a woman approached her and asked about a product on the shelf. The Westland woman said she walked over to help

the other woman, leaving her wallet and purse unattended in the cart.

"When she got to the checkout, she had no wallet and thought she had left her wallet home," said Westland police Sgt. Dan Serrano.

By the time the woman arrived home, Serrano said she received a call from the credit card company about suspicious activity on her card.

"The suspect was attempting to purchase a \$2,100 lap top at Best Buy (on Central City Parkway near

Wayne Road). That was denied. There were multiple attempts to make purchases," said Serrano, adding that none of the purchases were approved.

Police obtained a photograph of the suspect attempting to use the stolen credit card at Best Buy. Serrano said the victim described the woman who distracted her to facilitate the theft as a tall thin black female, who had abruptly walked away after seeking assistance and left the store.

Police are in the process

of obtaining a photograph of the second suspect from Kroger store security video.

"We might be able to see the whole incident. The victim was specific about where and what time the incident happened," said Serrano, adding "You should always maintain control of your purse and wallet at all times."

Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to call Serrano at (734) 722-9600.

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

Proposed amendment would limit fund to support only K-12

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It may not go to voters until the next statewide election in 2012, but Senate Democrats believe a proposed constitutional amendment will go a long way in upholding the promises made with Proposal A.

The proposed amendment

would guarantee money from the state's School Aid Fund is dedicated to K-12 education. It comes in response to Gov. Rick Snyder's budget proposal which would divert money from the School Aid Fund to higher education.

"This is one way to protect the School Aid Fund," said Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who supported the

measure. "It's been introduced because the governor is trying to raid the fund in a major way this year to spread money to community colleges."

Snyder has proposed cutting per pupil funding for K-12 schools by \$300 at a time when the School Aid Fund has a surplus and diverting

Please see **AMENDMENT, A3**



Home Delivery:
(866) 887-2737
Return Address:
41304 Concept Dr.
Plymouth MI
48170

INDEX

- APARTMENTS B10
- AUTOMOTIVE B12
- CAREER BUILDER B11
- CROSSWORD PUZZLE B10
- HOME & SERVICE B10
- OBITUARIES B5
- REAL ESTATE B10
- SPORTS B1
- STRICTLY BUSINESS A5

MORE CHOICES, MORE FLAVOR, MORE VALUE

MR MIKE'S GRILL
REAL HOME COOKING

Sweet or Savory Crêpes and Eggs Benedict
Friday, Saturday & Sunday Mornings
\$5.99*

FREE COFFEE
7 am-10 am Daily

6047 NORTH WAYNE ROAD - WESTLAND
NOW OPEN UNTIL 11PM
EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY
www.mrmikesgrill.com

*Limit 2 w/coupon. Expires 4/31/11.

WESTLAND RELAY FOR LIFE

Holding a Relay for Life fundraising event? Let us know about it. Send your information to Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

Avon Fundraiser

Time/Date: Now through July 31
Details: Support Team AMVETS Post 171 by ordering your Avon products online. Go to jfinfrock.avonrepresentative.com and click on online events to place your order. Be sure to use the promotional code of AMVETRELAY2011. Team AMVETS will earn 30 percent of total sales now through July 31. Products will be home delivered.

Euchre Tournament

Time/Date: 6:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, April 2
Location: American Legion Post 32, 9381 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Team Red, White and Blue is holding a euchre tournament to benefit Relay for Life. Entrance fee is \$20. There will be cash prizes, 50-cent euchres, free hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, \$1 Jell-O shots and 50/50 raffle. Seating is limited and tickets are available in advance at the Legion Bar or contact a team member.

Bowling benefit

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4, check-in is at 4 p.m.
Location: Town N Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Enjoy some Cosmic Bowling and help Team AMVETS Post 171. Cost is \$20 of adults and \$15 for children age 13 and under for bowling, pizza and pop. There also will be 50/50 and basket raffles and door prizes.

Creative Memories

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21
Location: AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, Westland
Details: Bring your friends and family and have some fun scrapbooking - traditional, digital, shop and make memories. Team AMVETS 171 will receive 30 percent of sales which will go toward the team goal for Westland Relay for Life. The event will be held in the club room and a cash bar will be available.

LPS board OKs \$2.24 million in building improvements

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Livonia school board has approved construction bids totaling \$2.24 million for improvements to the Churchill High School pool room, the Franklin High School gym and the Emerson Middle School heat control system.

It also approved a controversial change to its policy governing the disposition of real property and a two-year concessionary contract with 59 child care workers.

LARGEST PROJECT

The largest bid package, totaling nearly \$1.6 million, is for replacing the pool pump equipment and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in the pool room at Churchill, plus replacing the

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

unit ventilators in three classrooms.

Rod Hosman, director of secondary programs and facilities, said the improvements will reduce the humidity in the pool room, making it safer and last longer. "Even the doors rust out because of the moisture," he said. The new pump system will use ultraviolet light to sanitize pool water so less chlorine is needed, meaning students' suits won't bleach out as quickly. And, new energy-efficient overhead lights will be installed in the ceiling. Some painting and patching work will also be done in the pool room.

The three classrooms — the dance studio and two family living classrooms — will get

new unit ventilators that control the heating and cooling in the rooms, as well as new ceiling lighting like 70 classrooms at Churchill received last year.

At the Franklin gym, where the bid package totals \$565,770, the improvements include a new heating system, new lighting, a refinished floor and new lockers. At Emerson, the outdated controls for the entire building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system will be replaced. The bid total for that project is \$84,397.

The bulk of the work will be started and completed over the summer when classes are not in session, Hosman said. But contractors will get a jump start in early or mid-May on the Churchill project with plans to have the pool ready

for the start of the swim season in August.

All of the money for the construction projects will come out of the district's sinking fund. The board unanimously approved the bids.

SPLIT VOTE ON CHANGE

The board policy change governing the disposition of real property was approved 4-3, with Trustees Patrice Mang and Mark Johnson and board Secretary Rob Freeman voting against it.

"I don't think we should sell land and use the money for things that are disposable," Freeman said.

Vice President Colleen Burton said she voted for the policy change because the money would be used for long-term assets like capital equipment, not supplies like paper.

The board is expected to discuss the proposed sale of 5.5 acres of land to the Basilica of St. Mary Church for \$140,000.

The board also unanimously approved a two-year agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - Livonia Community Education Association. The agreement, retroactive to July 1, 2010, and in effect until June 30, 2012, calls for a wage freeze and one less paid holiday. The agreement was ratified by AFSCME-LCEA members Feb. 15. The members work in child care at the Jackson Early Childhood Center and in before- and after-school child care programs at other buildings.

ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2098

FISH FRY

FROM PAGE A1

broader section of the community. "There used to be an old saying that you go to the VFW to hear war stories and drink beer," said Welchman. "We're not getting the vets. We're changing. We're making it more family-oriented."

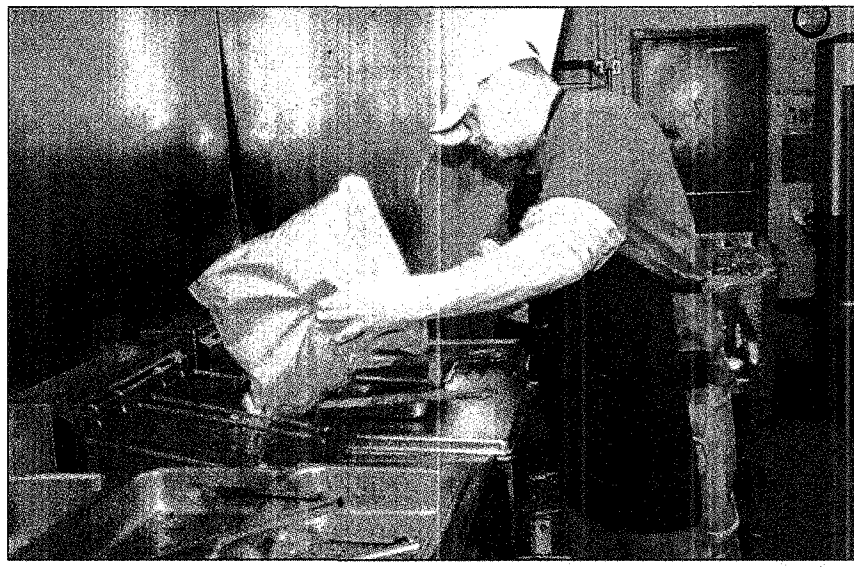
The Sgt. Romanowski Post was founded in 1947 in Detroit and met in different locations — for the longest time on Lonyo in Detroit — before the move to Westland on Joy between Inkster Road and Middlebelt. With the majority of members being World War II era veterans, the post membership has been declining to the current 453 members.

"We're looking for members — 85 percent of our members are World War II veterans. We expect to lose them in the next few years," said Welchman. "At one time, we were the largest post in Michigan with over 2,900 members. I feel strongly that all posts should look at their membership and future membership. There may need to be some consolidation."

Upcoming is a Legends show and dinner Saturday, April 9. The post hosts monthly trivia nights — the next at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, April 16 — and in May will begin a new Monday car cruise night.

For more on the post activities, call (734) 525-9454 or go online to www.vfw6896.com.

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



Men's Auxiliary member Jeff Shingler cooks french fries during the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 Lenten fish fry held Friday evenings.

GRANT

FROM PAGE A1

support/intensive case management, family services, education services, after-school and summer activities, mentoring, incentives, community policing/enhanced enforcement and juvenile justice intervention. "What I really like about it

is that the case managers can also serve as mentors. Kids with mentors do better," said Motz. "If each case manager has 20 cases, that's 60 kids who can do better."

Youth Assistance is already providing weekly tutoring sessions for youngsters at the Bailey Recreation Center. The grant will also allow other supervised recreational activities to be set up, Motz said,

such as martial arts, other exercise programs and jewelry making.

"The great thing about this why Wayne County wants us to have this — there are cuts all over. They are putting more money into diversion to keep kids out of the court system," said Motz. "The most expensive part is when kids' behavior puts them out of the

community."

With earlier intervention, Motz said behaviors of at-risk youths can be addressed locally — more serious offenses involving larger quantities of drugs or guns can require removal from the community.

Having a Youth Bureau — something Westland police lost through attrition — will result in more investigation

into juvenile crime and as a result, more referrals to Youth Assistance, said Ramsden.

"The goal is to be more thorough in response to juvenile crime in the city and this allows us to do that," said Ramsden. "This will certainly refocus our enforcement efforts in juvenile."

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

COMIC OPERA GUILD
presents the Michigan Premiere

Sing in ENGLISH!

OFFENBACH'S GRAND DUCHESS OF GEROLSTEIN

Sat., April 2, 8 pm &
Sun., April 3, 2 pm, Village Theater

50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187
Credit card orders: 734-394-5460
OnLine: www.canton-mi.org/villageheater or at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Pkwy, Canton and at the door.

FINAL PERFORMANCES!
Last weekend to see one of the world's most popular operettas, presented for the first time in Michigan.

A lovelorn monarch promotes a handsome but inept soldier to commander-in-chief, with disastrous consequences. All set to the glorious music of the Father of Operetta!

Presented by Produced by Lia De Biasi, Director, Allison Soranno, Music Director, Debbie Tedrick, Choreographer, Olivia Rhoades. Music by MARY RODGERS, Lyrics by MARSHALL BARER. Book by JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER, and MARSHALL BARER.

Once Upon a Mattress

(The Princess and the Pea)

PERFORMANCES
 April 8 - 8:00pm
 April 9 - 2:00pm & 8:00pm
 April 10 - 2pm
 April 15 - 8:00pm
 April 16 - 2:00pm & 8:00pm
 April 17 - 2:00pm

TICKETS
 \$15-\$18
www.SpotlightPlayersMi.org

LOCATION
 The Village Theater at Cherry Hill
 50400 Cherry Hill Road
 Canton, MI 48187

Come and see what all the buzz is about!

Wayne-Westland COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

You and your child are invited to our **Kindergarten Round-up**
 Tuesday, April 5
 9 am - 10 am

Meet our staff, explore our programs and tour our schools! Wayne-Westland Community Schools provide a distinct academic advantage to help your child grow, learn and thrive with:

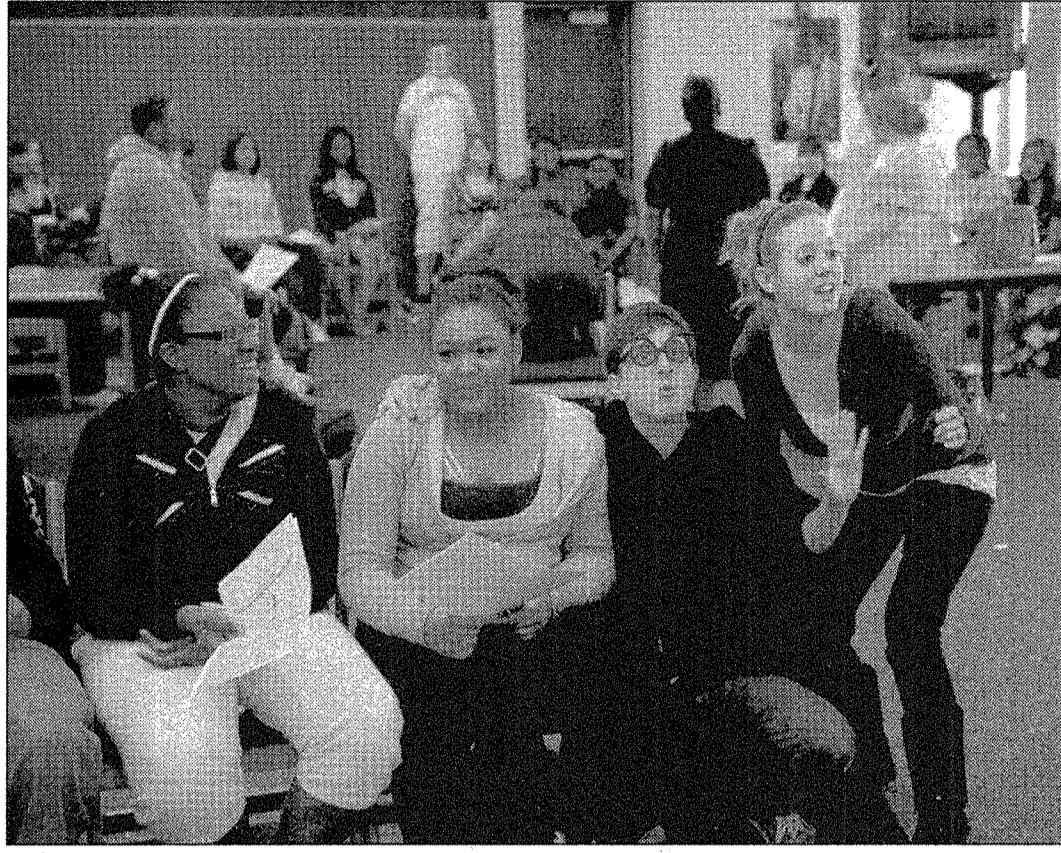
- an award-winning curriculum
- life skills program
- after-school options
- state-of-the-art facilities

PLUS get a FREE t-shirt and backpack just for attending!

To find a school near you, call (734) 419-2083 or log on to wwcsd.net/kindergarten-round-up.

All-Day Kindergarten Programs
 offered at all of our elementary schools.
wwcsd.net | (734) 419-2083

Great Futures Start Right Here!



Freshmen Aisha Salaam (from left) and Alexandra Bright get up close and personal with seniors Cody Buege and Jessica Pesenecker during the "Harry Potter" vs. "Twilight" skit.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOUIN

Westland police, fire hold child safety seat check

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The leading cause of death for young children is car crashes, according to National Traffic Highway Safety Administration statistics. Child car seats are legal requirements and the best way to protect young passengers, but Westland police Officer Nathan McRae notes statistics also show a high number of people are using the seats incorrectly or not using them at all.

That's why the Westland police and fire departments are joining with Children's Hospital of Michigan and Safe Kids Detroit to host a free Child Car Seat Check. A free

backless booster seat will be provided to the first 20 eligible children at the event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at Westland Fire Station 1, on Ford at Central City Parkway.

"We've not had this event here before as far as I know," said McRae, who was certified as a child passenger safety technician in September. "They do these events around the area."

With child car safety seats, the problems can be a child having outgrown the seat, he said, or seats that are the wrong type or broken.

"At a check in Taylor, there was one kid with a five-point harness which I wasn't able to attach (due to the youngster's size)," he said. "It's the money

for a new seat. It's like driving on bald tires and not dealing with it until the tire bursts."

Even if the child car seat is the correct type and what is legally required, McRae said the child may not be placed into the seat correctly.

"There are some gray areas where it's legal but not what they call the best practice," he said. "The difference could be a child living or dying."

There is no charge for the inspection and no advance registration is necessary. The child must be present for the check and there must be a vehicle with a lap/shoulder belt available for the child needing a booster seat.

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

Skits promote books to freshmen

AMENDMENT
FROM PAGE A1

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If Hollywood had been casting the villain in a horror movie, Daryl Shahid would have gotten the part. Dressed in black from head to toe, the John Glenn High School senior rolled his eyes back in his head, wagged his tongue and warned freshman students about reading his books.

"If you read my books and are still alive by tomorrow, you've passed my test," he told them. "If you can't read anymore, I'll have your soul."

Shahid and fellow senior Adewale Daramola were among students who tackled the job of explaining literary genre to the freshmen as part of the second annual Reading Day in the high school media center.



Adewale Daramola (left) and Daryl Shahid scare the students with their skit about horror stories.

that money to fund community colleges. Coupled with a \$170 funding cut last year, school districts around the state would lose \$470 per student for fiscal 2011-2012.

"Gov. Snyder recently said 'It's not about politics, it's about doing the right thing,' and his budget is far from it," said Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing. "He wants to cut school funding so the state can afford corporate tax handouts that have no guarantee of creating jobs. I ask what corporation would want to locate in a state with the failing school systems his budget would surely create."

The John Glenn Kick-Off Mentors as well as members of Sheri Grove's drama classes presented 11 different skits, covering genres from horror and fantasy to humor and mystery.

"We'd like to see check-outs increase in the library," said ninth-grade coordinator Deanna Strong. "We got a grant through Wayne RESA last year to encourage sustained reading. The kids did this and enjoyed it so much that they kept asking if we're doing it again, so we put it in as part of reading month."

The students picked the books and wrote the skits that they performed throughout the day for the ninth-grade English classes. The ninth-graders cycled through each skit and at the end were given time to check books.

While Shahid and Daramola kept their audience captivated with their looks and a casket that required some repairs near the end of the day, the fantasy group was going for looks with *Harry Potter vs. Twilight*.

Harry's shouts of "expecto patronum" didn't seem to phase *Twilight's* Edward Cullen who struck a pose with Bella Swan and told the boy wizard, "That won't work here because we're hot."

Across the way, Thing 1 and Thing 2 joined the other characters in *Cat in the Hat* to introduce the freshmen to humor.

"I think throughout the day we've gotten better, we're adapting to their humor," said Katie Moran, who played the Cat but without the hat.

The group, which included Jennifer Drum, Brooke Graham, Patrick Boda, Jake Ferguson, Allie Murphy and Allyson Shaker, spent five minutes brainstorming "It was like here's a genre, grab a book and make up a skit," said Murphy.

While their skit followed the Dr. Seuss book, it let their audience know that reading can "take you to other places than a boring house."

"It lets you explore your imagination," said Leila May.

When it comes to mystery, the students picked the best bone-loving sleuth they could find — Scooby Doo, who, with his two-legged pals, tried to figure out who killed the president while zombies tried to kill them.

"They seem to like, some of them even play a long," said Paul Porter.

"They seem entertained by it," added Jordyn Davis.

The group had a few days to pull the skit together, according

to Shannon Salisbury.

"When they come into the library, they don't think reading is cool, so our job is to show them that it is cool," she said. "They're definitely a hard audience."

While the students did their best to convince the freshman to read, senior Cody Buege was more specific.

"Clearly fantasy is the best section of the library," he told the ninth-graders.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Proposal A primarily dealt with switching K-12 funding to a sales tax from property tax, I don't think it created this loophole," said Anderson. "Is this legal right now? There's still a constitutional question if school aid can be extended to community colleges."

"If these cuts takes place it will create an upside down situation for these school districts," he said. "I believe the governor looked at the numbers from the 40,000-foot view."

The proposed amendment would require a super majority — two-thirds — vote of each house to have it placed on the next statewide election ballot. Anderson believes it will pass both the Senate and House "overwhelmingly."

'ACCOUNTING GIMMICK'

State Sen. Bert Johnson, D-Detroit, said the budget proposal is the type of "accounting gimmick the governor said he wanted to avoid, and is yet another example of this administration saying one thing and doing another."

"The citizens of Michigan have made it clear that they expect education to come first," Johnson said.

Senate Democrats also plan to host a series of town hall meetings throughout the state to seek input from Michigan's

families on their concerns and priorities for the state budget.

Anderson has been fighting to get adjustments in the governor's K-12 budget. If it passes as proposed, two school districts in his Senate district would use enhancement money they receive en lieu of millage not allowed when Proposal A took effect.

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools would be the most severely hit school district in the state with elimination of the more than \$6 million payment along with the per pupil cuts and hike in the retirement costs. Estimates are that the district will lose \$1 million or \$1,150 per student.

The Garden City Public Schools would stand to lose more than \$700,000 in addition to the per pupil cuts and retirement rate increase. The per pupil loss would be \$953 per student.

"We don't want to be known as the state that cut education to the bone," Anderson said. "You can't try to turn this state around in one budget year. We're starting with a hole in the budget and he's doubling that hole."

"It's really sad to see what's happening to education in Michigan," he added.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Canton Animal Hospital
Full service medical, surgical, dental care, grooming & boarding.

Open 7 Days!
Mon.-Fri. 8am-Midnight
Sat.-Sun. 9am-9pm

43439 Michigan Ave.
Canton, MI 48188
734-397-7779
www.CantonVets.com

FREE EXAM New Clients Only (a \$29 value) Not valid with any other offer. Must present this coupon. Expires 4-6-11.	20% OFF Blood Work, X-rays, Spay, Neuter, De-claw or Dental. Not valid with any other offer. Must present this coupon. Expires 4-6-11.	15% OFF Vaccine Packages Not valid with any other offer. Must present this coupon. Expires 4-6-11.
---	---	---

Spring Thaw Got You OVERWHELMED?

Dog Waste Clean-up Services
One-Time Only or Weekly
Residential and Commercial Properties

PREMIER PET CARE SERVICES
734.620.4400
www.PremierPetCare.net

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS
WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

HOW TO REACH US

Home Delivery/Customer Service.....1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)
Newsroom.....(313) 222-2223 Fax.....(313) 223-3318
Classified Advertising.....1-800-579-SELL (7355)
Display Advertising.....(734) 582-8363

visit us online at hometownlife.com

615 West Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON 2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of Westland for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012 will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk

Publish: March 31, 2011

CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 7 3/21/11

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Bryant, Hammoms, Johnson, Kadi, Kehrer, Reeves
41: Appr. req. of North Bros. to hold 5K Run/Walk on 5/14/11 from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., close Marquette & Carlson Rds. and have Bailey Ctr. open for use.
-Appr. YAP Grant Agrmt w/Wayne County.
-Intro Bud. Amend 2011-12; General Fund \$206,250.
-Adopted Bud. Amend 2011-11; General Fund \$145,600.
-Appr. grant app. from MDNRTF for "Central City Park Restoration Plan" City's share \$200,000.00.
-Adopted Ord. 254-A to amend Ch. 34, Art. II, Sec. 34-32 & 34-37 of City Code to amend definitions of annual shelter rent & mortgage loan and automatically return the development to tax rolls upon tax exemption expiration.
-Intro. Ord. 255-A to amend Ch. 26, Art. XIII, Sec. 26-902(10) of City Code to provide for annual registrations & renewals for precious gems & metals dealers.
-Intro. Ord. 192-A-3-C to amend Ch. 22, Art. VI, Sec. 22-131 & 22-132 of the City Code to adopt International Property Maintenance Code as amended.
42: Appr. minutes of regular meeting held 3/7/11.
43: Set 5/2/11 as Public Hearing Date for Vacation of Water Main Easement, MJR Theater site.
44: Appr. Spec. Land Use for Scriptway Pharmacy, 1207 S. Wayne Rd.
45: Appr. amendment to YAP Contract as a result of Wayne County Grant Agrmt.
46: Adopt. Prep. Res. to grant PILOT Program for Country Court Apts.
47: Adopt. Prep. Res. to grant PILOT Program for Westland Woods Apts.
48: Adopt. Prep. Res. to grant PILOT Program for Country Village Apts.
49: Appr. checklist: \$332,205.94 & Prepaid: \$3,894,874.28.
Mtg. adj. at 8:03 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk, CMC

Publish: March 31, 2011

WHY BE CATHOLIC?

The successful monthly series of personal testimonies continues with a change-of-pace format "Ask the Pastor", an exciting opportunity to ask St. Michael's pastor, Fr. William Tindall, any question you may have about the church, its practices, teachings and theology. If you've ever had questions, this is the place to ask them.

Series Continues Wednesday, April 13th at 7 PM

Father William Tindall, pastor of St. Michael's Parish will be joined by Pastoral Associate Sharon Williams, and Catholic author and apologist Gary Mitchuta, to answer any and all questions about Catholicism. No charge, no reservations, no pressure.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

St. Michael the Archangel School
11441 Hubbard Rd.
(South of Plymouth Rd.) Livonia
734-261-1455 • www.livoniastmichael.org

THINKING ABOUT...

A NEW A/C or FURNACE?

Receive up to a... **\$1,400⁰⁰ Rebate***
Offer expires 6-3-11
*See dealer for details

LENNOX

Plus Up to a **\$500** Federal tax credit
Plus Up to a **\$450** Utility company rebate

FREE ESTIMATES

Visit Our Showroom! • Our 37th Year!

UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA
(734) 525-1930
www.unitedtemperatureservices.com

Offer Expires 6/3/2011
*Rebate offer is valid only with the purchase of qualifying Lennox products. **See dealer for details.
©2011 Lennox Industries, Inc. Lennox dealers include independently owned & operated businesses.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, March 31, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason
Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751
E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com
Comment online at hometownlife.com

Armed robber takes cash from Check and Go store

Armed robbery

Garden City police are investigating an armed robbery at the Check and Go, 2083 Middlebelt, at 6 p.m. March 25. The masked man, armed with a short shotgun, entered the store and demanded that the employees open the cash drawers and place all of the money in a bag. During the commotion, one of the employees remembered that the outside of the bag said, "Thank You."

GARDEN CITY

Before he fled in an easterly direction, the gunman told the employees, "Sorry that I had to do this but do what you got to do." Canvassing the area, the police learned from an observer at the nearby McDonald's restaurant that the man got into the passenger side of a gold Chevy Malibu parked at the curb near the restaurant. The car had a large dent on the front driver's side fender. Reviewing a store surveillance tape, the police said that the black man wore a blue canvas-style jacket, blue jeans and black tennis shoes with white soles and white toe caps.

Fires

A call to dispatch summoned the police and fire departments to a home in the 31000 block of Marquette about 5 a.m. March 27. The wife admitted to starting a chest on fire after she and her husband fought about her "past." When the officers arrived, they observed burnt "property" in the kitchen. According to the police report, the woman was casually smoking a cigarette at the

kitchen table near two lighters and lighter fluid which she had used to light the fire. The police also observed broken dishes and glasses in the kitchen. During the incident, the woman reportedly announced to her husband that she set a fire in the kitchen in order to destroy her "past." He entered the kitchen to find a fire up to his knees. He walked through the fire in order to get to the kitchen sink where he used the sink sprayer to douse the fire. The husband and his daughter retreated to a bedroom where his daughter called her mother to tell her what had happened at the home. The mother, who was elsewhere, called the police.

The woman who set the fire was arrested and her husband's burns were treated by the fire rescue team. Her husband said he was in too much pain at the time to give the police a statement, but planned to do so later. The police and fire department responded to call of a burning couch placed at the curb of a home in the 32000 block of Florence about 11:30 p.m. March 24.

During this time, the owner of the couch, a 39-year-old resident, returned home. She said that she is moving and has been placing items at the curb for people to take. She didn't know who or why anyone would start her couch on fire.

Stolen copper

A vacant home in the 5700 block of Helen was broken into sometime before 11 a.m. March 25. A Westland woman said that she is in the process of moving

and found that an unknown suspect entered through a bedroom window and stole copper plumbing from the basement. The plumbing was valued at \$1,500. A Real Estate One representative reported a break-in of a home in the 29000 block of Barton some time before March 22. Copper plumbing, valued at \$1,000 was cut and removed from the basement. A new owner of a home in the 27000 block of Sheridan who had not yet moved in reported March 22 that someone broke in and stole a small portion of copper plumbing from the basement. The plumbing was valued at \$120.

The police said that there was no water damage. They found muddy boot prints in the home. One boot print measured 13 inches long and five inches across.

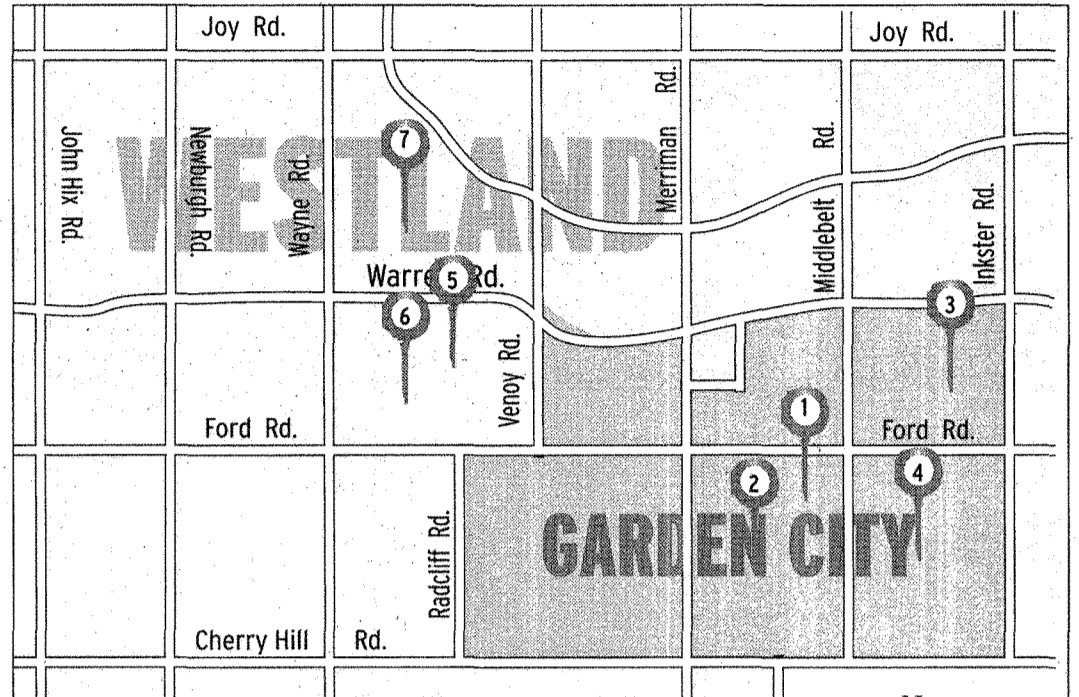
Theft

The owner of a 2008 Chrysler 300 found his vehicle damaged at 5:30 a.m. March 25 in the 29000 block of Bock. He said that the thief took a stereo and a GPS unit that was in the dashboard. He estimated the damage at \$2,570.

The owner of a 2006 Chrysler 300 reported that someone stole a stereo and a GPS unit from his car which was parked in the 29000 block of Beechwood March 25.

Stolen car

A Garden City man reported that sometime March 27, someone stole his 2001 Dodge Stratus that was parked in the driveway in the 500 block of Clair. -By Sue Buck



Bogus job costs unemployed man \$20

Check fraud

A resident in the 34000 block of Sheridan told police March 23 that he is unemployed and found a website offering a job as a mystery shopper. He said he applied and was immediately hired by Shopping Spys as a mystery shopper. He was to evaluate a shopping experience at Kmart, J.C. Penney and Western Union.

The man said he received a \$2,950 check from which he was to receive a \$250 payment in advance of his work. The balance of the check was to be sent back to the company via Western Union.

WESTLAND

Instead, after the check was deposited, the man said he was notified by the bank that it was fraudulent. The man was charged \$20 for the bad check transaction.

Larceny

On March 28, a resident in the 500 block of North Hanlon told police that someone had stolen the rear bumper and tailgate from his 2001 Dodge Ram pickup truck while it was parked on the street. The missing items were valued at \$1,000.

Break-in

Police were called to the Petland store, 34610 Warren Road, March 23 when a witness reported the front door of the store had been smashed out. The officers reached in and unlocked the door to check the business as someone could have been inside.

The officer said it appeared the store was in the process of closing as there were no animals and no heat in the building although there was still merchandise. Officers were able to locate a telephone number for the store owner and left a message telling him the door need to be secured. -By LeAnne Rogers

AROUND WESTLAND

Healing Hearts

Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Individuals share ideas, resources and experiences that are helpful to one another. Meetings are 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Donations only. For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237, by e-mail at bonnie@hope4healinghearts.com or visit the website at www.hope4healinghearts.com.

Dinner-theater

Inspire Theatre will be serving up a heaping helping of Elvis when it presents

Graceland, dinner-theatre musical tribute to the King of Rock 'N' Roll, Saturday, April 2. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the one-night-only event. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and includes "C.C. Rider" chicken or "Tupelo" tilapia, "Roustabout" rice, "Viva Las Vegas" vegetables, "Suspicious Minds" salad, an "American Trilogy" of beverages and "Graceland" cake. Tickets are \$25 for the dinner and show, which will be presented at the theater inside Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, Westland. Tickets are available by calling (734) 751-7057 or online at www.inspirationtheatre.com.

Baby shower

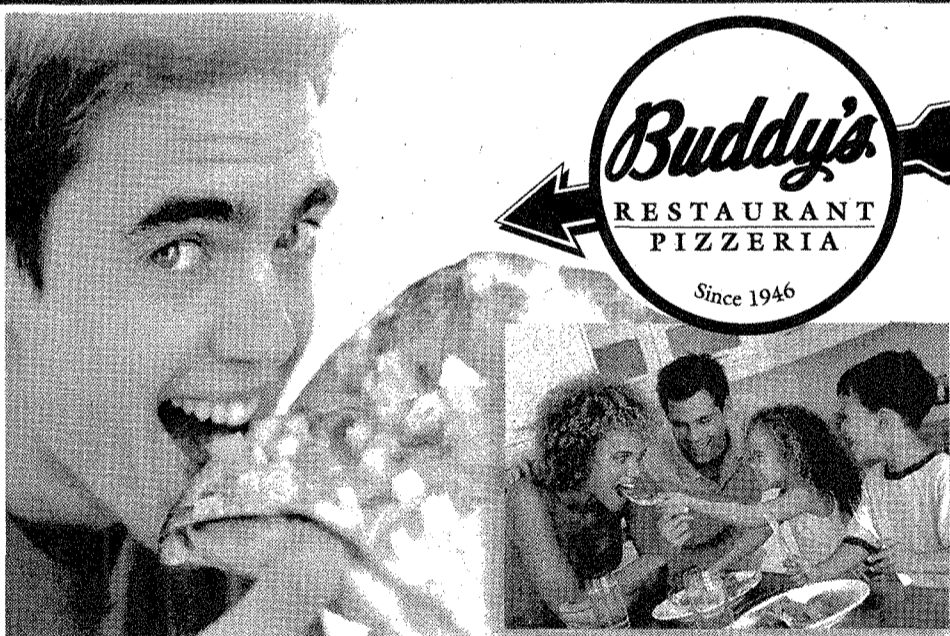
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army and Warm Hearts are again hosting their annual Community Baby Shower for women who are pregnant or the mother of an

infant under 1 year old. The shower will be held 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 6, at the Corps Community Center at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer in Westland. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served, and all moms will receive prizes and gifts. No children will be allowed at the event. To reserve a seat, moms can call (734) 722-3660, Ext. 107.

Singles skate

Looking for a great way to meet new friends and enjoy a fun atmosphere? Look no further, come and enjoy a great night out at the Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood. Singles Skate Night is every Tuesday 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. Rates for residents are \$4 and non-residents are \$4.50. Skate rental is \$3. This event is for ages 18 and older. For more information, visit the city website at www.cityofwestland.com.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS



The Observer & Eccentric and Buddy's Pizza presents Good News, Good Chews!

Share your good news with our readers and you could win dinner for four at Buddy's Pizza (any metro area location dine-in or carryout).

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Buddy's Pizza are partnering to make sure good news is recognized and rewarded! We want you to share good news stories - from your school, your business, your place of work, your neighborhood, your family.

Tell us about that uplifting event, person or other that made you smile and feel good. Tell us about the good things going in your community and we'll share them with readers.

Email your GOOD NEWS (include a photograph too if that helps to tell your story) to: goodnews@hometownlife.com.

Tell us your story in 150 words or less (attach photos in a jpg format as large as possible and be sure to identify everyone in the photo).

Deadline is the last day of each month.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

AN EXCEPTIONAL HOME-LIKE SETTING FOR ACTIVE/ALERT, FRAIL/RECOVERING, MEMORY IMPAIRED AND ALZHEIMER'S RESIDENTS.

Crystal Creek Assisted Living



- 24 Hour Professional Staffing
- Private/Semi Private/Barrier Free
- 3 Home Cooked Meals A Day
- Daily Housekeeping & Laundry
- Wander Secured/Enclosed Courtyard
- Planned Activities
- Beauty & Barber Shop
- On Call Nurse Practitioner
- Medication Management
- Incontinence Management

CANTON • (734) 453-3203

Located at 8121 Lilley between Joy & Warren Roads

CrystalCreekAssistedLiving.com

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, March 31, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Neurotic Ink - Good art, good price

NEUROTIC INK

Business name and address:
Neurotic Ink, 37600 Ford Road,
Westland

Your name and title:
Corey "Hippo" Rettino

Your hometown: Westland
Business Opened When: 2009

Number of Employees: 4
Hours of operation: Noon-9
p.m. Monday-Saturday and by
appointment on Sunday

Your business specialty:
The professional application of
body art (tattoos)

**Business phone and/or
website:** (734) 727-4845, our
website is under construction

**Observer: Tell us about your
business, including the types of
services and/or products you
feature?**

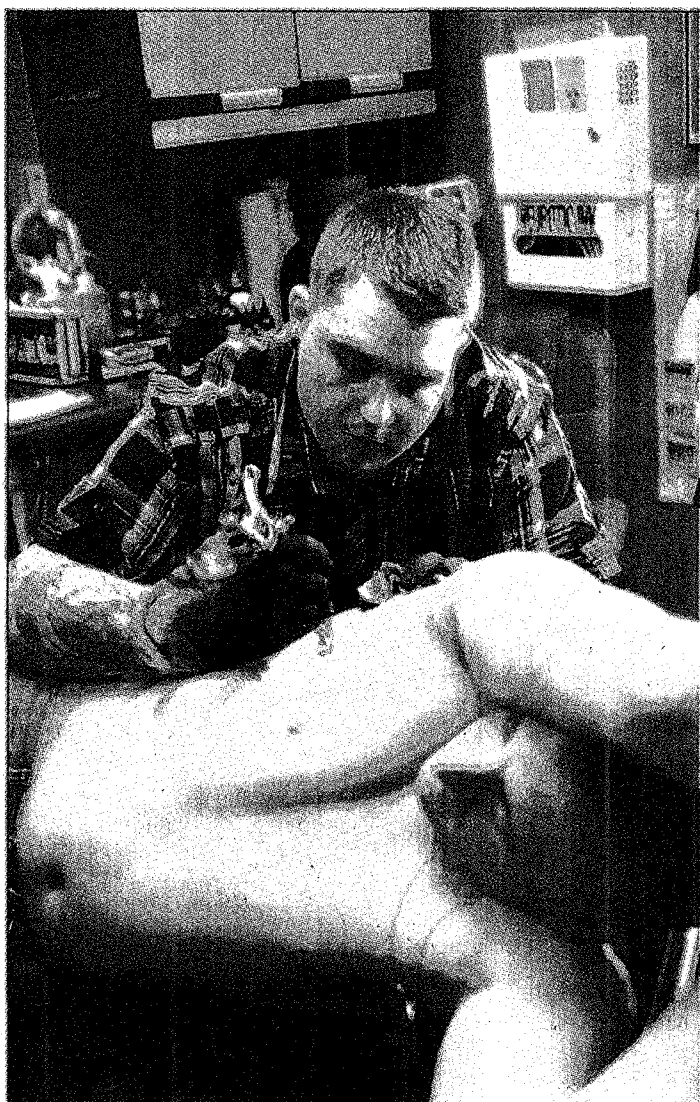
We pride ourselves on producing the highest quality tattoo work for more than fair prices. All of our artist have a base price of \$100 an hour, which for any avid tattoo collector, they know that is a cheap price for the quality that you receive.

Observer: Why did you choose Westland?

There was not a whole lot of competition in Westland and Ford Road is prime location for a prospering business.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

We strive to set our self apart from the average hole in the wall tattoo parlor. We decided that a clean sterile medical look would suit us best, plus the padded walls and strait jacket add a nice touch.



Neurotic Ink manager and artist Corey "Hippo" Rettino works on a tattoo for Alex Pierpoint of Garden City.

THOMAS BEAUDOIN

We all had poor experiences in the industry, whether it be the pure lack of respect for the customer or just down right dirty, so we said enough is enough and decided we should run our own tattoo studio and

run it right.
Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share?
It astounds me that all of our artists have made a living hurting people ... and they pay us to do it.

How to backup your electronics, data

Last month, users of Google's popular e-mail system, Gmail, experienced a service interruption. For one weekend — and, in some cases, longer than that — users lost e-mails saved in their inboxes, sent folders and more.

The service disruption came as a wake-up call to gmail users, many of whom use the reliable service as a filing cabinet for important communication and documents.



Jon Gunnells

Although only a small number of users were impacted by the snafu, the loss of service for even one weekend served as a reminder that not even technology giant Google is perfect. Computer and Smartphone users should regularly back up their information.

Here are a few inexpensive ways to keep your documents, e-mails, even multimedia safe and secure:

- **E-mail backup:** There are countless websites and programs that can help you back up the entire contents of your e-mail account, but none may be easier than Mozilla Thunderbird. In less than five minutes, users can configure Thunderbird to back up their gmail, hotmail or other e-mail accounts. The system essentially duplicates each file in your e-mail account, storing it in a secondary location. If your e-mail host goes down like gmail did, your files will still be available.
- **Google storage:** If you already use gmail and Google docs, Google storage is another

option to store your larger files or large collections of files. Google offers 20GB of storage for \$5 per year up to 1TB of storage for \$256 per year. I wouldn't suggest storing 1TB worth of your life's collection of music, video and tax returns solely on Google, but the site does provide some peace of mind in case your computer and or external hard drive goes down.

- **External hard drives:** You may already have one and, if not, you've likely heard of them. External hard drives are a terrific storage option for computer users who have multiple computers, or users who require more space than is available on their laptop. CNet.com offers comprehensive reviews for the best and worst external hard drives of all sizes. Don't have the money to purchase an external hard drive? You might already have one and not realize it. You know that expensive XBOX 360 or PS3 that you have lying around? It has plenty of storage — the PS3, for example, can have 250GB of storage per unit or more. It's not the most ideal place to store your music or video, especially if you only use it for gaming — but it is an economical option.

- **DVDs, USB drives:** If you only have a few files to save, burning them to a DVD or saving them to a USB drive are other options. Both types of storage are cheap and you can always save multiple copies of what you need on multiple USB devices or DVDs.

- **Dropbox.com:** Another online storage site that is ideal for storing files that are shared between non-networked computers or shared between multiple users. With dropbox.com

you can save, share and sync all of your folders. Dropbox.com and other online storage sites are ideal for, say, storing things between a work and personal computer.

- **Backing up your Smartphone:** While just about everyone knows about their phones removable storage (mini SD cards, or SD cards), do they actually back it up? Or do they complain about the difficulty of re-entering new numbers and downloading new apps when they get a new phone to replace the old one they dropped in the toilet?

Transfer your phone book and other secure information to your computer in case it ever breaks, gets lost or ends up in a body of water. From there you can even store it on a USB drive, an external hard drive, with Google or anywhere you please. For apps, Blackberry even offers a site that keeps tracks of what you've downloaded and purchased in case you lose the copy on your phone. You can find out more at Blackberryappworld.com

Of course there are many other ways to secure your data and information. As long as you are using at least one information backup method, you won't have any problems the next time gmail crashes or you accidentally drop your computer down a flight of stairs.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media, driving and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @thegunsh0w.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Grand re-opening

Customers are finding a new look and a convenient new layout at the Westland Kroger at 200 S. Merriman at Michigan Avenue.

A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand re-opening of its 57,271-square foot store was held Wednesday, March 30.

The newly remodeled Kroger store features new fixtures, new shelving and equipment and a bright and cheerful décor. There's a variety of new amenities and services available, including a cheese island, soup bar and olive bar. The combined deli/bakery will offer a sandwich station and a hot and cold food combo case.

Other amenities include new meat and seafood service cases, with three new islands for fresh meat and frozen meat and seafood; a new wine and beverage area; and a Nature's Market natural and organic products department, located adjacent to produce. The produce department has been updated with new orchard bins, tables and a new island.

"The store underwent a major renovation that touched every department," said Stacey Goodell, Westland Kroger store manager. "The goal was to provide customers a pleasant shopping experience with a tremendous product selection offered at the right prices."

Shoppers will notice other updates, such as new check lanes and Uscans to speed the checkout process. The floral department, which is enhanced with new cases and a new cooler, moved to the front of the

store. Kroger also installed new lighting fixtures and energy saving control systems.

The store is open 6 a.m. to midnight seven days a week. Kroger's fuel center is open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, call (734) 713-1122 or visit www.kroger.com.

Win a MINI

Dairy Queen has a mission for its fans, if they choose to accept it: Treat someone in a BIG, mini way. AKA, the Mini Blizzard® Treatment. Your reward: a chance to win a New MINI Cooper Countryman.

And because good isn't good enough, DQ isn't just giving away one, or even two. It's giving away six of 'em! An elite task force, known as the Mini Blizzard Treatmen, has already been assembled to carry out the Mini Blizzard Treatment. Now is your chance to join them.

Submit a video of you giving someone the Mini Blizzard Treatment and you could win a MINI Cooper Countryman!

No purchase necessary. The contest is open to legal U.S. Residents 18 years of age or older (excluding Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories and Possessions). Contest Submission period ends at 11:59 p.m. April 30. Go to the Dairy Queen website, www.dairyqueen.com for rules and more information.

Achievement Award

St. Mary Mercy Hospital has been awarded the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Performance Achievement

Award. The award recognizes hospital's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment for at least 24 months, according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations.

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and St. Joseph Mercy Livingston were awarded gold and bronze recognitions, respectively.

"This recognition exemplifies our ongoing commitment to provide research-driven stroke care for patients in the communities we serve," said Todd Larson, director of Inpatient Rehabilitation at St. Mary Mercy.

To receive the Get With the Guidelines-Stroke Bronze Performance Achievement Award, St. Mary Mercy demonstrated 85 percent adherence in the Get With the Guidelines-Stroke key measures for 24 or more consecutive months. These include aggressive use of clot busting and blood thinning medications, cholesterol-reducing drugs, and smoking cessation.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States and one of the leading causes of long-term disability. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds, someone dies of a stroke every three minutes, and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

For more information about St. Mary Mercy, please the website at www.stmarymercy.org.

CHAMBER CHAT

WESTLAND CHAMBER

The April Coffee Connection will be 8-9 a.m. Thursday, April 7, hosted by Panera Bread.

Join us for a cup of coffee and opportunity to build connections with fellow Chamber members. Panera is located at 35300 Warren Road, on the south side of Westland Shopping Center.

No need to RSVP, just stop in when you can. For more information, call the chamber

at (734) 326-7222 for more information.

Also, circle Tuesday, April 19, on your calendar.

That's when the Five Star After Hours Event will take place 5-7 p.m. at the Sports Venue Bar and Grill, 6327 Middlebelt, Garden City.

Five Star events are joint networking opportunities between the Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Redford, Wayne and Westland Chambers of Commerce. There

is no cost to attend. Join us for this great opportunity to network with businesses throughout all five of our communities.

Also check out our online version of the Members Directory. Just visit the chamber home page at www.westlandchamber.com and click on the link at the bottom of the page.

Brookellen Swope
President and CEO



The Easter Bunny is coming to Westland Shopping Center!

Saturday, April 2nd at 11am

He'll be here every day until Saturday, April 23rd!

Several photo packages available, plus receive a FREE gift when you visit with the Easter Bunny.

Be sure to hop on in that day and enter to win a chance to see a live studio taping of Disney's "Wizards of Waverly Place." Radio Disney will choose one lucky local semi-finalist for a chance to win a trip for four to Los Angeles, CA to see one of the last studio tapings of "Wizards of Waverly Place" LIVE in person!!



"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to be one of the FIRST to know about sales, contests, events and so much more. Between now and April 15th, go to our Facebook page and tell us what your favorite Easter candy is. One lucky post will be randomly selected to win a \$50.00 mall gift card. One entry per person, please.



Remember, Westland Shopping Center Gift Cards always make the perfect gift no matter what the occasion. Tired of the high gift cards fees others charge you? At Westland Shopping Center, you'll enjoy FEE FREE days every weekend in April.

WESTLAND
SHOPPING CENTER

BUILT AROUND You

Join us online!
www.westlandcenter.com

Monday - Saturday: 10 am to 9 pm Sunday: 11 am to 6 pm
35000 W. Warren Westland, MI 48185 734/421-0291

EASTER ACTIVITIES

Easter Egg Scramble

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 16
Location: Westland Jaycee Park at Wildwood and Hunter, east of Wayne Road
Details: The Westland Jaycees in association with Westland Parks and Recreation Department will hold their annual Easter Egg Scramble for youngsters age 14 and under.

Contact: For more information, call the Bailey Recreation Center at (734) 722-7620 or the Westland Jaycee Hotline at (734) 226-0400.

Bunny Brunch

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 16
Location: Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale, Westland

Details: The Westland Civitan Club and Westland Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast that includes a special visit by the Easter Bunny. The cost is \$3 for children ages 1-2 and \$5 for those age 13 and older. The meal includes home-made, hot off the griddle pancakes with butter, syrup, breakfast sausage, juice, coffee, tea and milk. Children are encouraged to make and wear an Easter bonnet or hat for their picture with the Easter Bunny. Bring your own camera for Easter Bunny portraits. Tickets are available at the Bailey Center.

Contact: For more information, call Donna Jensen at (734) 729-8075.

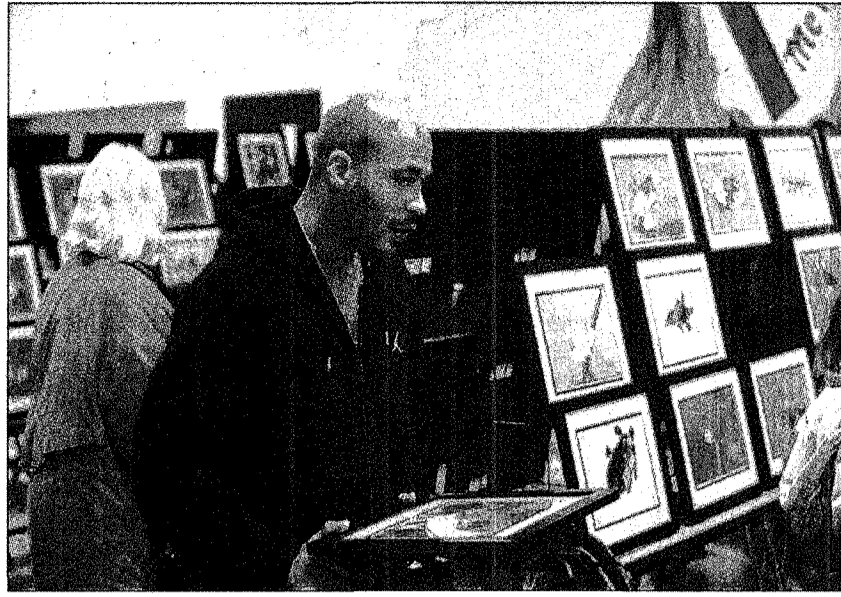
Easter Delight Night

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19
Location: Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland

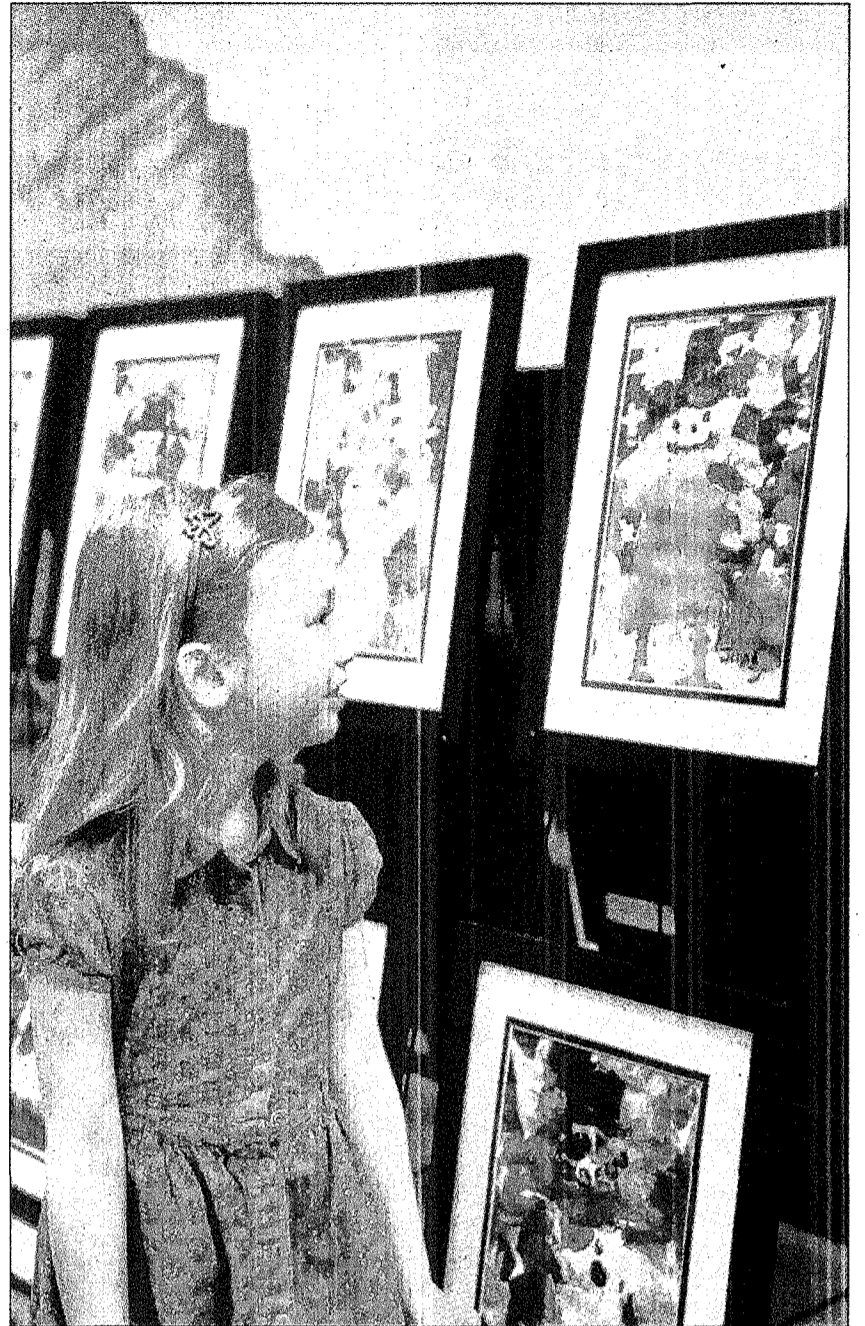
Details: Kids ages 3-12 (children under age 6 must be accompanied by an adult) will decorate their basket and make different types of Easter eggs. The cost is \$10 per child and includes all supplies included. The Westland Civitan Club has arranged for the Easter Bunny to visit briefly on his way to decorate his own eggs. Parents can bring their cameras for pictures with the Easter Bunny. Pre-register at the Bailey Center by April 15. Supplies for projects will not be available, if youngsters aren't pre-registered.

Contact: Call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620 for more information.

Budding artists show off work at school fair



Art collector Tabarus Wilson goes shopping for a framed print done by his daughter Haven, a first-grader at Memorial Elementary 1/2 Campus.



First-grader Jenna Preece admires her work displayed at Memorial Elementary's recent Student Art Fair.

BY SUE MASON
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It wasn't quite like a visit to the Detroit Institute of Arts, but there was plenty of original artwork to behold when Garden City's Memorial Elementary 1-2 campus recently held a Student Art Fair.

Art "aficionados" packed the building for the show that was organized by art teacher Wendy Betway and ran concurrently with the school's book fair.

"The kids were so proud of their work," said Betway. "First- and second-graders can create some awesome art and to put a frame around it is even better."

In her second year as an art teacher, Betway decided she was ready to take on an art fair. She worked with Kids Art Fair which provided frames and matting for the students' artwork. Parents had the opportunity to purchase the framed pieces at cost during the show.



First-grader Devon Collins, is happy her mom bought her framed drawing of a turtle.

The students made four-five pieces of art. Some they chose, some Betway chose. The projects included crayon resist art in which the students used crayons and chalk to create designs, an art form of batik, using Kosher salt to create patterns in the paint.

The youngsters also used tissue paper, watered down glue and tempera paint to make snowman collages.

"We also did cutouts like Matisse in primary and secondary colors," Betway said.

Besides seeing the artwork framed, Betway was pleased to see the crowds at the show.

"It made me feel good to have a lot of parent volunteers, I was touched,"

she said. The success of this year's art fair has Betway thinking about doing it again. However, it may be every other year. "The one thing with an art class is that you can make a student feel successful," she said.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Out On The Town

Check out these local businesses. Many are offering great values and are ready to serve you...ENJOY!

Corsi's Family owned and operated Since 1963
 RESTAURANT & BANQUET CENTER
 27910 West 7 Mile Rd. (Between Middlebelt & Inkster in Livonia)
 Closed Tuesday
GREAT HOMEMADE ITALIAN & AMERICAN FOOD

Friday Lenten Specials
 Fish & Chips or Linguini with Clam Sauce.....\$6.95
 Pecan Encrusted Tilapia.....\$8.95

Our Banquet Center Seats 30 to 300 Guests for All Occasions
 Memorial Luncheons from.....\$7.95 pp
 Sports/School Banquets from.....\$8.00 pp
 Wedding Receptions from.....\$30.00 pp
Mother's Day Buffet
 Adults & Seniors \$16.95 pp 5 to 10 years \$7.95 pp
 Voted Best Pizza and Best Pasta in Livonia for Three Years!

\$5.00 OFF TWO FULL PRICED FULL DINNERS
 with beverage purchase
 Not valid on Lenten Specials or any buffet. Not valid with any other offer. Expires Friday April 29, 2011

For Reservations Call: **248-777-4960**
 www.corsibanquethalls.com

Welcome to

Mayberry's
 EST 1991

27810 Grand River Ave. • Farmington
248.477.2525

Great Serving FREE WI-FI
HOMEMADE BREAKFAST TASTE! ANYTIME

Buy One, Get One FREE
 (Up to \$5.00)
 Not valid with any other offer. Expires April 6, 2011
 mayberrysfamilyrestaurant.com

mayberrysfamilyrestaurant.com

Live, Professional Theatre Close to Home!

Tipping Point Theatre

TPT strives to revive classic plays and musicals and bring the best of current off-Broadway productions to the Metro Detroit area.

Our warm and welcoming space is shared by 100 patrons, so all performances are intimate and quaint and full of surprises!

For tickets, call (248) 347-0003 or visit www.tippingpointtheatre.com

361 E. Cady Street, Northville, Michigan 48167

NOW OPEN!

BIG BITE'S DELI

BIG BITE'S DELI
 Buy 1 Sandwich at regular price, get a **FREE MEDIUM DRINK & CHIPS**
 Not valid with any other offers • Expires 5-12-11

BIG BITE'S DELI
 Buy 1 Sandwich, get one of equal or lesser value **FREE**
 Not valid with any other offers • Expires 5-12-11

ALL THE CLASSICS
 Corned Beef • Pastrami
 Lean Roast Beef Turkey
 Tuna • Club Salads
 Personal Pizzas
 Cappuccino

Mon-Thurs. 11-6 Fri 2-7 Sat Noon-7 Sun Closed
27505 Ford Road 1 Blk W. of Inkster by Ruby Jewelers
Garden City, MI 48135
734.261.9780

Rose Catering Inc. (734) 453-2980
 (248) 855-0330
 "Your Request is Our Specialty" (248) 476-8385

Monaghan Banquet Center
 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, Mi. 48152

Banquet Facility
 25-400 guests
 Meal, hall, linen,
 bar package
 Starting at \$32.95

Rose Catering can also handle your outdoor wedding
 Tent • Table-Chair Rental
 We Also BBQ on Site

• Hire Rose Catering, Inc. as your professional caterer and planner
 • Professional Photography by Jaclyn Available

Get Ready to be a Guest at Your Own Party!!!

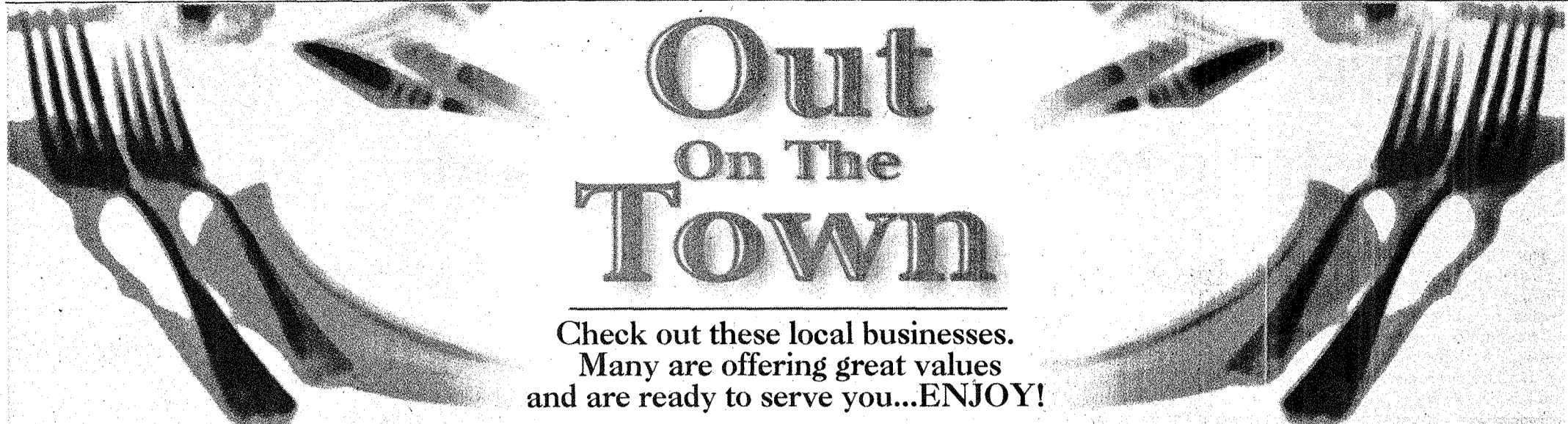
Look your best for going out on the town!

At *Ordained Beauty*, we offer the following skin care treatments:
 Botox® • Restylane® • Dermal Fillers
 Laser Hair Removal
 Juvederm • Chemical Peels
 Medical Microdermabrasion

\$175 BOTOX®
 per area
 Must mention coupon when making appointment and present at time of service. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Offer expires 4/30/11

Ordained Beauty

31870 Northwestern Hwy. • Farmington Hills
248.851.3900
 www.ordainedbeauty.com



Check out these local businesses. Many are offering great values and are ready to serve you...ENJOY!

Amantea RESTAURANT
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 4-10 pm, Fri.-Sat. 4-11 pm, Sun. Open at 12:30 pm

ITALIAN AMERICAN CUISINE

Lenten Seafood Features Friday-FISH AND CHIPS \$9.95
Salmon, Walleye, Perch, Haddock and more!

\$10.00 OFF 2 Regular Priced Entrees
with the purchase of 2 beverages.
Valid Sun.-Thurs. With this coupon only. May not be combined with other offers or on holidays or carryout. One coupon per couple. Maximum 3 per table. Expires 4-28-11.

32777 W. Warren • Garden City
Just East of Venoy
734-421-1510

Hellenic Cultural Center Presents Lenten Fish Fry Friday
Every Friday in March & April • 5-8pm
All You Can Eat Buffet: Fried/Baked Cod, Fried Calamari, Salad Bar and More, Beverage.

ADULTS...\$8.95 CHILDREN under 10...\$4.95
36375 Joy Road (W. of Wayne Rd.) Westland • 734.525.3550
Saint Constantine & Saint Helen Church

Easter Brunch
Sunday, April 24
11:00 am and 1:30 pm Seatings

Adults \$19.95
Children 4 to 10 \$8.95
Children Under 3 Free

George Murphy's at the Creek
36000 Seven Mile Between Farmington and Newburgh Roads Livonia
Reservations Required
248.473.1300

Authentic Home Cooking

Leon's Life is FULL of Choices...
GOOD FOOD

Enjoy homemade specials daily
All-You-Can Eat Soup Bar included with all entrees!
4 Homemade Soups Daily
Lenten Soup Varieties
Homemade Bread • Full Breakfast Menu

Friday FISH Specials
Fresh White Fish or Broiled Salmon Steak \$7.89
Fish & Chips \$6.99

Banquet Room Available
Family Owned & Operated Since 1983

Leon's Family Dining 248.478.7811
House of Leon 248.478.3710
Both Locations on 7 Mile • Just E. of Middlebelt • Livonia

HAPPY'S PIZZA
RIBS • CHICKEN • SEAFOOD

6 TOPPING DEAL \$13
2 MEDIUMS

2 LARGE \$17
6 toppings total for both pizzas combined

FREE 2 LITER

LUNCH \$5
10am - 3pm
SMALL 1 TOPPING \$3.99
LARGE 3 TOPPING \$5.99

HAPPY'S DAYZ \$10
2 LARGE PIZZAS 2 TOPPING

2 LARGE ALL MEATS \$17

WE CATER ALL OCCASIONS
21998 FARMINGTON RD (9 MILE & FARMINGTON RD)
(248) 427-3333
Visit us at happypizza.com All prices are subject to change.

Open 7 Days A Week!
Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm
Fri.-Sat. 11am-11pm
Sun. Noon-9pm

ICHIBAN STEAKHOUSE
Hibachi Steakhouse
Sushi Bar • Thai Food

Full Sushi Bar
We use only FRESH ingredients - never frozen.

Full Service Cocktail Lounge & Happy Hour Drink Specials

\$10 off Your Purchase of \$60 or more
Ichiban Steakhouse • 734-414-1888
43750 Ford Rd. • Canton, MI
With this coupon. Offer valid Mon.-Thurs. Not valid with other offers. Not valid holidays. Expires 4-30-11.

\$20 off Your Purchase of \$120 or more
Ichiban Steakhouse • 734-414-1888
43750 Ford Rd. • Canton, MI
With this coupon. Offer valid Mon.-Thurs. Not valid with other offers. Not valid holidays. Expires 4-30-11.

43750 Ford Rd. • Canton 48187 • (734) 414-1888

FOUR FRIENDS BAR/GRILL
OPEN 7 DAYS

This Is Where It's At In Our Neighborhood!
Portions, Prices & Service With Neighborhood Comfort.

Sun-Wed Mix & Match Dinners For 2 \$14.95

DINNER Starts at 4 pm Mon-Sat NIGHTLY SPECIALS \$9.95 and UNDER

BEST FISH FRY IN THE AREA!

LENT SPECIAL
Friday 11am - 11pm
Beer Battered Fish & Deep Fried to Perfection Served with Fries & Cole Slaw
All You Can Eat \$9.50 9 oz. Dinner \$8.50

Thurs.: KT's Alibi Fri.: Karaokee

Big Fatty - Rock N Roll
Saturday, April 2 9:30 pm

DD EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION
It's not just a service, it's a lifestyle.

AIRPORT • ALL EVENTS ANY OCCASION
In comfort and style.

- Airport Shuttle Service
- Luxury Event Transportation
- Business Travel
- Executive Transportation
- Sedan Service

734.397.3741
reservations@ddexec-tans.com
www.ddexec-trans.com

St. Michael's Parish presents "ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT" LENTEN FISH FRY
April 1, 8, & 15 • 4:30-7:00 PM

- Full Dinners
- Carry-Out Available
- Choice of Hand-Dipped Fried or Baked Fresh Atlantic Cod

ADULTS \$8
Seniors \$7
KIDS 3-11 \$4
3 & Under FREE

11441 Hubbard Rd., S. of Plymouth Rd. • Livonia
734.261.1455

MARVANO'S ITALIAN GRILLE
6581 N. Wayne Road, Westland
734-405-5222
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm, Fri.-Sat. 11 am-11 pm; Sun. Noon-10pm

\$10.00 OFF 2 Dinner Entrees
\$6.00 OFF 2 Lunch Entrees

With this coupon and the purchase of 2 beverages.
Good every day except between the hours of 6-9 pm on Sat. and Sun. Dine in only. Not good on holidays or with any other offers. Offer expires 4/14/11.

Page's
23621 Farmington Rd. • Farmington
248.477.0099
www.pagesfoodandspirits.com

THE BEST BURGER YOU EVER HAD! You Be the Judge!

20% OFF ALL MENU ITEMS
Dine-In Only Not Valid On Fridays

COME WATCH THE MADNESS ON OUR 17 HIGH DEFINITION SCREENS
ENJOY 20 DRAFT BEERS AND SELECTED DRAFT SPECIALS

Savor the areas best slow smoked BBQ or a stone fired pizza while watching your favorite team!

IRONWOOD GRILL
840 West Ann Arbor Trail PLYMOUTH • 734-667-5614
WWW.IRONWOODGRILLPLYMOUTH.COM

Don't be left behind...Call 734.582.8363 today to learn more about advertising in OUT ON THE TOWN!

Davis: Hold Lansing accountable for funding

Scott Davis is campaigning for a seat on the Wayne-Westland school board because he wants to "serve my community and offer my expertise to the district." As a parent, former educator and business leader in the community, he believes he brings a lot of experience to the table that can benefit the district and help it through the challenging times ahead.

"I am the best candidate for this position because I am not a career politician," he said. "I am a concerned parent and citizen and I can bring a different perspective on how to work through the financial challenges facing the district."

He describes himself as "a proven business leader" who is always challenged to "think outside of the box" when it comes to solving issues, especially budget and cost saving issues. As a former educator, he is always putting students and their needs first, he said. And as a father of two school-aged children, "I have a vested interest in the quality of my their education."

Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is facing severe financial problems. As a school board member, what ideas or proposals do you have to cut costs and save the district money?

Due to the financial hardships facing Wayne-Westland Community Schools, the district is forced to operate differently. We must reduce expenses by performing a detailed spending analysis. We must also work together with all employee groups for cost saving measures while maintaining relationships. And lastly, we must carefully scrutinize how every dollar is being spent. This all must be done without compromising the integrity of the student's education.

Observer: A lot has been said about putting more money in the classroom. What is your definition of "putting more money in the classroom" and how would you accomplish that? Please be specific.

Putting more money in the classroom means to hold our legislature in Lansing

SCOTT DAVIS

Age: 42
City: Westland
Employment: General manager of Value City Furniture of Westland
Family: Married and father of two students enrolled in district, one at Graham Elementary, one at Stevenson Middle School
Education: Wayne Memorial High School Class of 1986, bachelor of arts degree in secondary education from Eastern Michigan University
Community Involvement: PTA member and school volunteer, business sponsor for John Glenn High School football and basketball teams for past five years

accountable to how funding is allocated for education. The quality of our student's education cannot be compromised due to budget cuts. It's not unreasonable to expect that a large portion of the money spent on our public school system should directly benefit students. As a school board member, I will urge our lawmakers to stop tapping into public education funds as a means to balance other state debts. I will work at convincing all parents in the district to contact their legislature to do the same.

Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools faces the loss of more than \$14 million, if the governor's budget proposal is approved as presented. What steps do you believe need to be taken to handle the revenue losses? Please be specific.

Obtaining a balanced budget is not going to be an easy task given Governor Snyder's proposed cuts. Adding to the problem is the ever-looming housing crisis that has affected more than just homeowners. The loss of revenue from fewer and lower taxes being collected has already had a negative impact on our schools. The district must look at every dollar being spent, cut unnecessary spending, and work together with the employee groups to share in the sacrifices that are necessary for the district to operate. We owe it to our students and our community to operate effectively in these

difficult financial times.
Observer: What do you see as the positives about the Wayne-Westland Community Schools? What are the negatives?
 Positives: We have great teachers, administrators and staff in our buildings. In my experiences as a parent, they have all exhibited an unwavering commitment to educating our students and preparing them for the future. Our buildings have state of the art technology that the students need in order to be competitive in society. The district has a proven track record of being able to make difficult decisions and changing with the times. Wayne-Westland has already consolidated operations and closed buildings to save money.

Areas for improvement: Maintaining relationships with all employee groups, focusing on necessities, and continually working toward improving parent involvement.
Observer: Is there anything that you believe school officials could do differently to help the school district? If so, what would it be? If not, why?

Things school officials could do differently: Work diligently with parents and urge them to contact the legislature in Lansing about rethinking the proposed budget cuts. Because of the "Wayne-Westland language" attached to Proposal A, the funding cuts being suggested for us are the most drastic of all districts in Michigan. I'm not suggesting that we shouldn't receive any budget cuts, everyone needs to make sacrifices during difficult times. I'm suggesting that our lawmakers really take a close look at how severely the proposal is affecting one district vs. another.

Observer: What is your main goal, if elected, and how do you plan to accomplish it?
 My main goal as a school board member is to provide our children an excellent education that prepares them for the future. I also want to make our community an attractive choice to potential new residents by having excellent, sought after schools. I am confident I am the right person to help the district through the difficult times ahead and I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and taking on the challenge.

Griffin: Experience prepares him for board

Charles "Trav" Griffin believes his experience is what sets him apart from candidates in Wayne-Westland's May 3 school election.

He has served as the treasurer of the Wayne-Westland school board, served on the Westland City Council and as mayor of the city and has been an MEA Uniserv Director,

during very tough economic times. That he said has served "to teach me just how important it is to have actual experience when dealing with these budget shortfalls."

Griffin is seeking one of two four-year terms in the May election. He said it is "merely a continuation of that involvement and my lifelong passion for quality public education."

"I believe having a thorough understanding of school district finances will be an asset to me in weathering this storm with a minimum disruption to our core curriculum," he said.
Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is facing severe financial problems. As a school board member, what ideas or proposals do you have to cut costs and save the district money?
 The bond issue passed by the voters addressed the districts technology needs quite well and placed us in a position where we can now capitalize on our extensive technological infrastructure. Moreover, I believe the future holds a greater role for technology in the classroom, irrespective of current financial constraints and now serves as an asset to be utilized to improve scores and reduce costs.
Observer: A lot has been said about putting more money in the classroom. What is your definition of "putting more money in the classroom" and how would you accomplish that?

CHARLES 'TRAV' GRIFFIN

Age: 70
City: Westland
Employment: Retired
Family: Widowed with three sons and four grandchildren
Education: Bachelor of arts degree in government/military science from Eastern Michigan University and master of arts degree in business administration, also from Eastern Michigan University
Community Involvement: Treasurer of the Board of Education, Wayne-Westland Community Schools; president of the Westland City Council; mayor of the city of Westland; Citizens Bond Oversight Committee / Wayne-Westland Community Schools; and Building and Site Fund Committee; Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Please be specific.

Any entity the size of the Wayne-Westland Community School district is going to have spending in support of education that does not necessarily translate into pupil instruction specifically. With severe budget cuts looming on our horizon my definition of "putting more money in classrooms" means redirecting that spending into pupil instruction. Specifics on this issue require a more thorough review of pending budgetary issues than has been available to me thus far.
Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools faces the loss of more than \$14 million, if the governor's budget proposal is approved as presented. What steps do you believe need to be taken to handle the revenue losses? Please be specific.

I think most people understand that a financial loss of \$14 million cannot help but result in larger classroom sizes at some point. Larger classroom sizes have always been something

a school district wants to avoid because it reduces the one-on-one time between teacher and student.
 I think the proper application of our technology assets can improve our results by providing students requiring more personal attention the time they need while students with a greater grasp of the subject matter can forge ahead at their speed thereby providing every student an equal opportunity.

Observer: What do you see as the positives about the Wayne-Westland Community Schools? What are the negatives?
 We are in a strong position on several fronts. First and foremost is our community involvement. When a board member recently resigned from the board over a dozen citizens applied, which is a strong indicator of an involved citizenry and a healthy school district. Secondly, we have taken very good care off our school district buildings and equipment so we have no massive repairs to deal with. Third, our communities continue to offer quality housing that will continue to attract young families to our district. One negative is while our teachers do a great job of communicating with parents, the board must adopt better procedures for informing the public about ongoing board-level issues.
Observer: Is there anything that you believe school officials could do differently to help the school district? If so, what would it be? If not, why?

They need to improve communication to parents.
Observer: What is your main goal, if elected, and how do you plan to accomplish it?
 My main goal is to make sure our budget shortfalls do as little disruption as possible to the students classroom experience and quality of education. This will be accomplished by prioritizing spending and focusing on classroom instruction.

Dunn: Vows to hold line on taxes

Harold Dunn is no stranger to the elective process. A member of the Constitution Party, he is making his first bid for a seat on the Wayne-Westland school board, after campaigning for a variety of elective offices since 2000.

The Westland resident said that, if elected, he will represent the citizens of Wayne and Westland and vows to hold the line on taxes.
 "Since times are tough and are not expected to get much better for some time, I will not agree to any tax increase," he said.

Dunn is among six candidates vying for two four-year terms on the Wayne-Westland school board. He believes that as a retiree, he will "have the time to investigate the problems myself, which I feel is a major benefit."

Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is facing severe financial problems. As a school board member, what ideas or proposals do you have to cut costs and save the district money?

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy has determined that the state of Michigan has a gap between what private-sector workers and public-sector employees receive in benefits that amounts to \$5.7 billion annually.
 Bringing this disparity into balance without cutting

HAROLD DUNN

Age: 79
City: Westland
Employment: Retired automotive engineer from Ford Motor Co.
Family: Married, he and wife Sharon have seven children and 18 grandchildren
Education: Bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Lawrence Technological University, master of science degree in automotive engineering from the Chrysler Institute
Community Involvement: Active in the Constitution Party, formerly the U.S. Taxpayers Party, he has been a candidate for a variety of elective offices, including the Westland City Council.

a single program, lowering anyone's wages or laying off a single employee is one way to help.

Observer: A lot has been said about putting more money in the classroom. What is your definition of "putting more money in the classroom" and how would you accomplish that? Please be specific.

I do not agree with this proposal at this time
Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools faces the loss of more than \$14 million, if the governor's budget proposal is approved as presented. What steps do you believe need to be taken to handle the revenue losses? Please be specific.

Many school boards around the state are attempting to renegotiate current contracts or negotiate new ones with their local teachers unions to contain costs. And this is the approach I would propose essentially the employee benefits that are way more than the public can obtain.
Observer: What do you see as the positives about the Wayne-Westland Community Schools? What are the negatives?

I attended my first school board meeting March 14 and found nothing but positive approaches.
Observer: Is there anything that you believe school officials could do differently to help the school district? If so, what would it be? If not, why?

Yes! I would recommend the school board contact the Mackinac Center and solicit their help with financial problems.
Observer: What is your main goal, if elected, and how do you plan to accomplish it?

My main goal would be to balance the budget with the expected cuts from the state government without any deduction of current school operations. Again, the Mackinac Center has suggested many different proposals to many school boards that cut costs without cutting operations, so I would recommend investigation these proposals. I am currently a member of this organization, so I will be able to obtain what is needed in information.

Hayton: Work experience helpful in fiscal crisis

Jeffrey Hayton's interest in serving on the Wayne-Westland school board position stems from having two children in the district.

Appointed in February to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of longtime board member Martha Pitsenbarger, Hayton is seeking a full four-year term in the May 3 election.

"The ongoing financial situation will require careful cuts to ensure that

we do not reduce the quality of education or inadvertently make our financial situation worse," said Hayton, a quality assurance analyst. "I believe my work experience in reducing costs through process improvement and contract administration will be helpful in finding methods to reduce spending without adversely affecting education."

Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is facing severe financial problems. As a school board member, what ideas or proposals do you have to cut costs and save the district money?

Identifying specific cuts will require input from parents, teachers, administration and other affected groups. I expect that many ideas will come directly from teachers and other "front line" employees who are in the best position to identify activities which are costly but do not contribute educational value

JEFFREY HAYTON

Age: 41
City: Westland
Employment: Quality assurance analyst with the State of Michigan
Family: Married and the father of two children
Education: Master of business administration degree from Eastern Michigan University and is currently working on a master of public administration degree
Community Involvement: Assistant Boy Scout leader

for our students.
Observer: A lot has been said about putting more money in the classroom. What is your definition of "putting more money in the classroom" and how would you accomplish that? Please be specific.

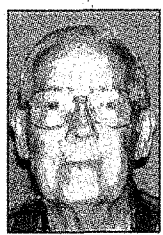
"Putting more money in the classroom" is about allocating a higher percentage of our budget into core educational activities. This requires spending less in non-core educational activities, such as administrative and maintenance costs.
Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools faces the loss of more than \$14 million, if the governor's budget proposal is approved as presented. What steps do you believe need to be taken to handle the revenue losses? Please be specific.

We need to continue to put steady but firm pressure on Lansing (not just from the school board but from parents and teachers as well) to provide adequate funding to our schools.

Because our revenue is tied to student count, we must make sure that when we make spending cuts that those cuts do not result in a losing students ... saving a nickel but lose a dime.
Observer: What do you see as the positives about the Wayne-Westland Community Schools? What are the negatives?
 Our classrooms are staffed with excellent teachers and para-professionals. We have a terrific curriculum which a good mix of academics and extracurricular activities that prepares our students for college and work after graduation.

There are opportunities to improve communications with parents.
Observer: Is there anything that you believe school officials could do differently to help the school district? If so, what would it be? If not, why?

We need to look at adding alternative funding methods to supplement the per pupil funds received from the state.
Observer: What is your main goal, if elected, and how do you plan to accomplish it?
 A critical goal is to improve communication and increase parental involvement. Using web technologies, I believe we will be able to share information in a more usable fashion. For example, our budgets are not always easy for the public to follow. The information should be presented in a way that is simple but detailed enough that parents can see precisely how programs are funded and the expenses that are associated with them.



Dunn



Hayton



Davis



Griffin

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.

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

OUR VIEWS

Census data

Work by count committee pays off for city

With the release of some of the data collected in the 2010 Census last week, the feeling in Westland obviously is one of relief. The city lost population, but the 3 percent drop isn't as bad as it could have been, all things considered.

In fact, it could have been worse — a lot worse — especially with what the city and state have been through for most of the past decade and especially since 2008. Foreclosures and layoffs have taken their toll on the state and the city, but somehow the spectre of a mass exodus of people from Michigan isn't reflected in the Census numbers.

It's obvious that the time effort the committee put in preparing for the count paid off. When it comes to numbers, Westland fared better in the count than some of its neighbors like Wayne and Garden City which saw their populations drop by almost 8 percent and Livonia which lost 3.6 percent.

The fact that the city's loss was low is a tribute to Bruce Thompson and Westland's Complete Count Committee. The committee focused on making sure everyone in the city — from people living in home and apartments to the homeless — was counted.

It's obvious that the time effort the committee put in preparing for the count paid off. When it comes to numbers, Westland fared better in the count than some of its neighbors like Wayne and Garden City which saw

their populations drop by almost 8 percent and Livonia which lost 3.6 percent.

More than \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities each year based to a large extent on the results of the U.S. Census. Besides affecting the total federal funding received by the community, data collected in the census is used by the state and local governments to determine exactly how that money is used. By keeping the population loss at a minimum, the city gets to hang on to more of that money.

The most telling part of the Census data released last week is the makeup of the population. Thompson attributes the change to an aging population. The city saw the size of a household go from 2.5 residents to closer to 2 and that may be indicative of the families who have had to leave the city and the state to find jobs or have had to move in with relatives to get by.

We would like to thank the Complete Count Committee for the hours it devoted to getting people to respond to the Census. It's an effort that will continue to pay dividends for Westland during this decade. We hope that the committee's work will become a blueprint for the next Census count in 2020.

And we also hope that in 2030 we will be reporting on a Michigan that has successfully reinvented itself and reversed the population losses we've experienced.

analyticthinker

thetruthhurts13

COMMUNITY VOICE

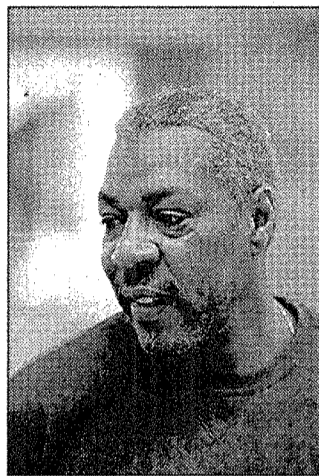
It's baseball season. How well do you think the Detroit Tigers will do this year?

We asked this question at Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



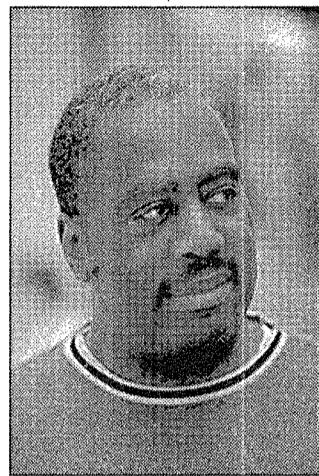
"I hope they do better than last year. They've been doing better in spring training."

Nancy Tripp
Garden City



"It's hard to say. Yes and no, it'll depend on what September looks like."

Cal Baber
Westland



"I think they're going to do well. They have a good team and it looks like they'll be successful this year."

minister Clifford
Gannaway
Canton



"They sound good so far. We'll have to hold on to that thought."

Cynthia Breisch
Livonia

LETTERS

Governor sets kids up to fail

I am writing to let you and everyone of your readers know of the potential devastating effects Gov. Rick Snyder's State Education Funding Act would have on our schools. I know almost everyone has heard Gov. Snyder is making cuts to our schools. What I am very sure of is though the potential devastating effects this would have on our schools.

In the Wayne-Westland Community Schools district, there could be an up to \$1,150 per pupil loss of revenue! How does Gov. Snyder expect any school district to sustain a loss this huge? Does Gov. Snyder really believe the same quality of educational programs would not be affected? This loss of revenue would be beyond devastation to our schools.

A loss of over \$1,000 per pupil would most certainly set every child up for failure. It would be increased classroom size, layoffs, loss of bus service, loss of programs such as gym, art, drama, just to list a few of the cuts that would most definitely be made. Gov. Snyder should look to the future of our Great State of Michigan. Our future IS our children. By NOT providing them a proper education we most certainly set them up for failure.

I am urging every single parent, grandparent, concerned citizen to write to your state legislators, to write to Gov. Snyder. Tell each and everyone of them how you feel about Gov. Snyder setting every single child up for failure. As a mother I am not willing to accept failure for my children. Do not balance the budget on the backs of our children.

Julie Briese
mother, Westland

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

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

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

School Aid for colleges, too

I wanted to take the time to clear up a couple of misconceptions that certain individuals may have regarding the School Aid Fund and any allocation of its surplus to "other" areas.

When Proposal A passed, it was clear by the overwhelming support behind it that voters wanted to have a steady source of revenue that could be dedicated to education. There has been nothing that has occurred in the past fiscal year that would be contrary to that desire and the governor's current proposed budget does not appear to contradict that either.

The first misconception that people have is that the School Aid Fund is only limited to K-12. There

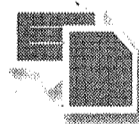
was no language in the ballot proposal or currently in the State Constitution that would indicate this to be the case. The language refers to "school districts" and "higher education." Community colleges should be included in the definition of "higher education." For example, if the governor's proposed budget states that he is going to use a certain amount of money from the School Aid Fund to help community colleges, this would not contradict the State Constitution. Any argument that would exclude community colleges would be quite contradictory to the general purpose of any education funding, that being the necessary education of our young people. To exclude community colleges, which tend to serve a different part of the population than do four-year educational institutions, would greatly restrict access to a public benefit of which the community greatly supports.

The second misconception is that money was directed to "other" areas in FY 2010. During that fiscal year, the School Aid Fund had a \$208 million surplus. The Legislature, with support from the governor, approved a measure to direct those funds toward community colleges. To think those funds went anywhere but education is completely false.

As someone who has greatly benefited from a community college, I struggle to understand why certain individuals would express support for all public educational institutions except community colleges. Those institutions are allowed access to the School Aid Fund just like every other public school.

Alexander Steward
Livonia

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



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

The issue: Westland census figure

The information in this article is wrong. Westland is still the 10th largest CITY in Michigan. It was the 19th in the 2000 census and 2010 census.

If ranked with TOWNSHIPS and CITIES, Westland was 11th in 2000 and now 12th in 2010. Canton Township replaced Westland in the 11th spot as everyone would have predicted.

BUT, Westland is still the 10th largest incorporated municipality and has held its own when you look at the full list of cities and townships.

Clinton township passed Westland back in 2000 to move them from 10th overall to 11th.

So, there was no drop in CITY rankings and only a ONE position drop (NOT 10th to 12th) if you were to rank them overall with townships.

analyticthinker

The issue: Mayor to unveil budget

Hmmm ... I wonder if anyone in the Mayor's inner circle will get laid off? Lol! Yeah right! Maybe this Mayor should take a pay cut from his 6 figure salary to maybe save some jobs. Nah ... he won't. He is really only concerned with his and his "followers" futures. All you have to do is look at the hiring they have done in the past few years of people with NO experience in the job they were hired for. And why are we paying a "deputy mayor" 80 grand a year? The comment about layoffs is laughable from someone making that kind of money.

thetruthhurts13

MSU, Mott Foundation team up to reinvent Michigan as a land of great learning

BY TOM WATKINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Go Green! Sorry, this column is not about Sparty basketball or football. It is about something much more important — our collective future.

Michigan does not need any prima donnas but will benefit from the expanding mission of Prima Civitas foundation (PCF).

"Prima ... what," you ask? Prima Civitas Foundation (www.primacivitas.org)

The PCF is a community economic nonprofit that is working to build a new, sustainable economy for Michigan. The PCF began as a regional Lansing area foundation that is taking its mission statewide.

Knowledge, creativity, innovation and globalization will be a moving force as the second decade of the 21st century unfolds.

The revised PCF exists, "to create,

facilitate, and bridge the network that is necessary for local, regional, and state growth in today's knowledge-based economy. Partnering with four year universities, community colleges, intermediate school districts, local economic development groups, workforce development agencies, and other local and regional partners, PCF seed to bring about foundational change to the culture of Michigan's economy, while stimulating activity for job creation and retention."

The leadership comes from Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon and the C.S. Mott Foundation. The new statewide mission is to tap knowledge to assist communities and business transition and grow in our hyper-competitive, disruptive, global, knowledge economy where ideas and jobs move around the world effortlessly.

Steven Webster, MSU Vice President for Governmental Affairs, becomes the new CEO of Prima Civitas. He will retain his key role in government relations for the university, replacing former CEO, David Hollister who has been an

innovative spark for the region and state for decades. Mayor Hollister will now serve as a senior vice president and senior adviser to PCF. The new President, Michael Brown, a former interim mayor of Flint, will retain his leadership role at the Flint Area Reinvestment Office, a regional economic development agency working to revitalize Flint.

MICHIGAN LOVES GREEN

The expanded role of PCF is good for Michigan as we adjust to the new normal, finding ways not to simply survive, but to lead change and thrive in the knowledge economy.

Leadership matters. As they have since their founding, once again Michigan State University and the C.S. Mott Foundation have stepped up to the challenges facing Michigan.

Expect good things to happen as PCF takes its mission statewide.

Tom Watkins is former state superintendent of schools, state mental health director and president and CEO of the economic council of Palm Beach County, Fla. He is a proud MSU grad. He can be reached at: tdwatkins@aol.com

Caregivers offered coping skills, support at program

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Millie Dallacqua of Redford cares for her husband of 58 years, John.

John, 87, has dementia, but no other physical problems, and lives at Woodhaven Retirement Community in Livonia.

"I'm blessed still to have him," she said. "I never think of it as a challenge. I know he would do the same for me."

The couple has six children and 10 grandchildren. "It used to be 24/7," she said of her caregiving. "I do see him (now) every day."

She's pleased with his care, which also includes Angela Hospice although he's not terminally ill. "It's just another set of eyes, another set of hands," Dallacqua said of hospice.

She was among the attendees Thursday, March 24, at a "Candles of Caring" program presented by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and Adult Well-Being Services. The afternoon program drew some 40 people to the Redford Township District Library.

"I thought it was wonderful," Dallacqua said of the program, which featured a series of speakers and interludes of harp music by Christa Grix. "Very comforting."

Among the speakers was Dr. Hubert Huebl of Dearborn, a retired Oakwood surgeon who teaches medical students at Wayne State University. He's a past state president and current Dearborn affiliate president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

"I have a family member that's had serious mental illness," he said prior to the program.

Professional caregivers can be more emotionally detached, Huebl said, but that's hard for family members. He praised forums like Thursdays, with both sponsoring groups offering support group settings for caregivers.

CARE PARTNER BILL OF RIGHTS

- The right to say no. Do what is needed, not all that is wanted.
- The right to feel a full range of emotions. You have a right to your feelings. Recognize them.
- The right to make mistakes. Your best is good enough.
- The right to "take a break" from caregiving. You have to take care of yourself to take care of others.
- The right to have fun, laugh and be happy. It is OK to enjoy yourself.
- The right to say yes. When others offer help, just say yes.
- The right to ask questions. The answers will help you be a better care partner.
- The right to say "I don't know." You are not expected to have all the answers.

COPING AND CARING

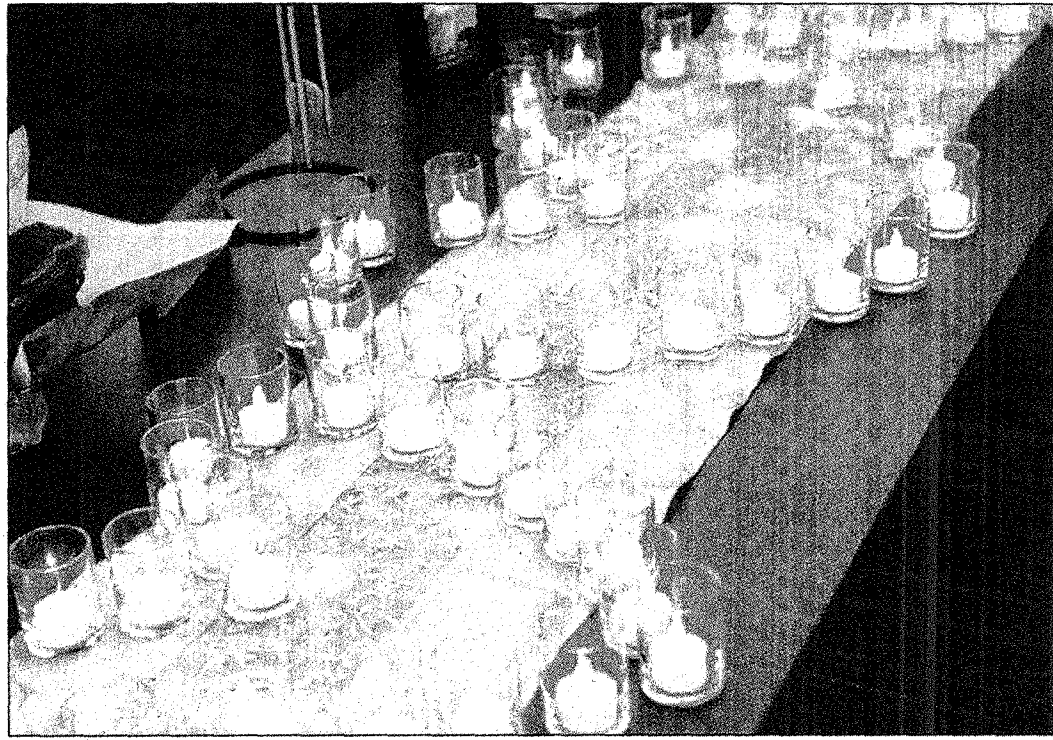
Huebl reminded caregivers to take care of themselves. He noted dementia and Alzheimer's patients differ from those with physical ailments.

"The relationship is hard to sustain," he said. "In some ways, I've thought mental illnesses are among the cruelest of illnesses for that reason."

Huebl outlined feelings of guilt, resentment, anger, worry, loneliness, grief and defensiveness among caregivers. Having realistic expectations helps with guilt, he said, as does venting to a confidant, perhaps to deal with resentment over other family members who do less.

"Anger can lead to depression and anxiety," the doctor said, noting seeing humor in daily situations helps. For loneliness, it's good to expand your circle, seek respite care and join a support group.

"Grief can be anticipatory, too," Huebl said. "You should allow yourself to feel sadness



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Candles were used to symbolize light during the 'Candles of Caring' program Thursday afternoon in Redford.



Nancy Coman (left) of Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and Christine Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services put the 'Candles of Caring' program together. Both women also spoke Thursday afternoon, with several of Coman's relevant poems read aloud.

and express it."

Sometimes, another family member has a good idea and you should keep that in mind before becoming defensive, he said: "You need to accept that you have limitations."

If you become irritable or have trouble sleeping, those are signs you need to change. Huebl recommends setting goals: "Use the 'I' word

thing you will do in your life and yet it is the most rewarding," Kusak said.

She noted a heart full of love is needed to be a caregiver: "Perhaps that is the reason why we got this job. It's very important to be able to know our boundaries. God can fill in what is difficult for us."

She emphasized flexibility and balance in caregiving: "There's a third person in that relationship and that person is God," Kusak said.

Also emphasizing the spiritual was chaplain Kent Aughe of Royal Oak, who works at The Village of Redford, a senior community. He's cared for parents and in-laws, and focused his comments on gratitude.

"I think one of the big challenges is navigating the health care system, feeling overwhelmed by that," Aughe said. It's hard even to know what questions to ask, said Aughe, from a Lutheran background. He's had 16 years in health care chaplaincy.

He urged attendees to seek help from others, nature or a

instead of the 'you' word."

SPIRITUAL SIDE

Exercise, talking to friends and keeping a journal can all be helpful, he said.

Sister Joan Kusak, IHM, of Plymouth Township is retired from campus ministry posts at Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College. "This is probably the most difficult

higher power. "Each person has to define that for themselves." As Aughe tells his kids, "It's not about you. There's a larger perspective that gives us some joy each day."

He described a Village of Redford resident with health problems who nevertheless found joy in sun melting ice patterns on his window. "Often, we emphasize the negative. It's part of human nature, I suppose," Aughe said.

He gave "homework" of noting each day one thing to be grateful for and build on. "No, it won't be what life was before," he said. "You can make progress toward what life will be. You can practice gratefulness in all circumstances."

Nancy Coman, senior services case manager for WMCAA, also spoke, as did co-organizer Christine Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services. Goldberg, a social worker, lives in Dearborn Heights.

The program, funded in part by The Senior Alliance, featured organizer Coman talking about reminiscing. That can help provide companionship, the Southgate resident said, along with encouraging sociability and healing at the end of life — and even after life ends.

Her dad had early onset Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, and died of pancreatic cancer. Coman recalled getting through to him with the news she had married.

"So don't give up on your care recipient," she said. "They do understand."

Greg Lucky of Redford cares for both his parents at home. His mom has advanced Alzheimer's. Lucky was glad to attend the program, which included extensive printed information on caregiving.

"It was excellent," Lucky said. "The speakers were very in tune with caregivers' stress. It's encouraging and motivational for me. It's a realization that others are doing the same thing."



Savory HAND-HELD PIES

FRESH BAKED • HANDHELD PIES
The secret's in the crust™

Want a quick wholesome meal that's also delicious? Piepers has 13 varieties of hand-held savory pies with a flavor for everyone's tastes. Best of all, Piepers pies, made-to-order salads and homestyle soups are made with natural ingredients, so you can feel good about eating fresh & delicious every day!

All Natural Garden Vegetable Soup

House Vineyard Salad

Gourmet Turkey Burger

FREE PIES For One Year!

Join our email list at pieperspies.com and enter to be one of 25 people who will be drawn at random to receive FREE PIES for an entire year! Visit pieperspies.com for more details and contest rules.

Just a few of our flavors...
VEGETARIAN OMELETTE * BACON, EGGS & CHEESE
ORIGINAL BEEF * SPINACH & FETA * GOURMET TURKEY BURGER
SICILIAN STYLE PEPPERONI * PHILLY CHEESE STEAK
plus many more!

*****Valid thru 4/7/11*****

\$5 OFF

ANY DOZEN PIES

Choose from any of our Breakfast or All Day Pies

*Limit ONE per customer. Cannot be combined w/other offers.

*****Valid thru 4/7/11*****


2 PIES FOR \$5

Choose from any of our Breakfast or All Day Pies

*Limit ONE per customer. Cannot be combined w/other offers.

CATERING ALSO AVAILABLE | pieperspies.com

Northville M-Sat. 7a - 9p Sun. 8a - 6p (734)402-2214
20540 Haggerty Road just south of 8 Mile next to Trader Joes



SAINT JOSEPH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM

Michigan's First... Senior ERsSM

Unique in Every Way

We recognize that seniors have unique health care needs. That's why we're the first health system in Michigan to create Senior Emergency DepartmentsSM at all of our emergency locations.

What is a Senior Emergency DepartmentSM?

Our staff is specially trained in geriatric medicine and provides personalized care for seniors including, review of pre-existing medical conditions, medication assessments, and evaluation of nutritional needs. We also address the emotional needs of seniors, which can often affect their physical well-being. Our Senior ERsSM are uniquely designed to enhance the level of care and comfort for seniors and their caregivers, while providing the most advanced medicine and technology available.

REMARKABLE MEDICINE
REMARKABLE CARE

Learn more about our unique approach to senior emergency careSM

Ann Arbor, Brighton, Chelsea, Howell, Livonia, Pontiac, Port Huron, Seline

stjoeshealth.org

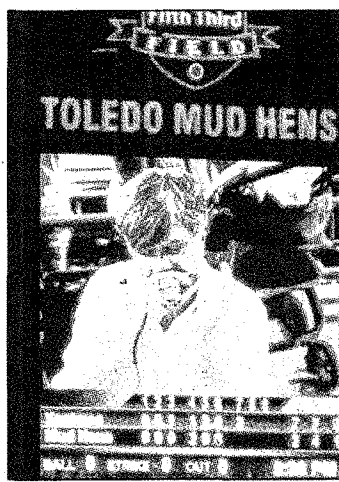
Westland man plays at Mud Hens game

A Westland resident will be performing the National Anthem to kick off a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game.

Chris Badynee, who performs under the name Bogdon Vasquaf, will open the minor league baseball game at Fifth Third Field on Thursday, April 21. He will play the National Anthem with a harmonica solo.

It will be Badynee's second performance for the Mud Hens. Last year, he was invited to perform the National Anthem as the stadium hosted Harmonica Night. That night 4,000 free harmonicas were given to those attending the ball game.

The performance was well received, Badynee said, resulting in his performance at minor league baseball stadiums in Lansing and Grand Rapids.



Westland resident Chris Badynee, who performs under the name Bogdon Vasquaf, performed the National Anthem before a Toledo Mud Hens game last year and will be back for a repeat performance April 21.

IRS extension is for filing, not paying

BY RICK BLOOM
MONEY MATTERS COLUMNIST

I can't believe how fast the first quarter of 2011 has gone. Since the beginning of the year it's been nonstop — one crisis after another. These are the times that we live in and I guess that's just the way it is. However, even though our attention is on international events mostly out of our control, we must never take our eyes off the ball regarding something we can control — our personal financial affairs. This time of year we all have an important deadline to meet and that is the filing our income tax returns.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Some of the recent numbers suggest that not as many people have completed their tax returns as did a year ago

at this time. There are many reasons for that, including the passage of tax reform late last year. That being said, it doesn't matter what they do in Washington, you and I have an obligation to make sure that we file something by the April 15 deadline, or this year because of a legal holiday in Washington, D.C., (emancipation day), April 18. It's not imperative that you complete your return by the deadline, however, if your return is not filed, you must file for an extension to avoid penalties and other unwanted problems.

Every year at this time I stress there is no additional audit risk by filing for an extension. People are under the mistaken belief that extensions mean additional scrutiny by the IRS. That's just not the case. Missing information, incorrect Social Security Numbers, mathematical errors and general sloppiness are what increase audit risks.

My advice is instead of

rushing to complete your return and increasing the risk of mistakes, file for an extension and take your time to ensure an accurate, complete tax return.

Extensions are automatic. The IRS doesn't approve or disapprove extensions. By filing form 4868 with the Internal Revenue Service you automatically receive a six-month extension. However, it is important to remember that when you file an extension, it is an extension of time to file your tax return, not to pay your taxes. Your tax liability is due this year on April 18 and the extension of time does not apply to the payment of your taxes. Therefore, even if you file for an extension, you must guesstimate your tax liability and pay the amount owed with your extension.

If you're receiving a refund, then you don't need to make any additional payments with your extension.

Also remember the State of Michigan taxes are different than the federal govern-

ment. Therefore, if you owe money to the federal government you're required to pay it along with your extension, you must do the same for state income tax. You're not going to owe any money and, in fact, you receive a refund, then your federal extension is sufficient for the state and no additional forms are required.

The clock is ticking, but there is no reason to panic. If you decide to do an extension, pull out last year's return and use that as a guideline for your extension. Remember, if you underestimate your tax liability, the IRS can assess you with interest and penalties. Therefore, all things being equal I'd overestimate and pay a little, as opposed to acquiring unnecessary penalties and interest.

Good luck!

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

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Diva Day!

DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH

Saturday, April 2nd

10 am - 6 pm

Lots of specials, sales and special events!

Bring your daughter, mother, sister, aunt, or friend!

Enjoy a day of shopping and pampering!

Have lunch, dinner or just a drink!

Free Boas to First 500 Woman!

BUT HAVE FUN!

Lots of Great Shops with Great Specials for your Inner Diva!

1/2 OFF ALL STUDIO RATES
Offer valid on April 2, 2011 ONLY with this coupon

924 West Ann Arbor Trail • Downtown Plymouth • 734-453-8797 • www.creatopiapottery.com

Something for Everyone, Every Taste, Every Budget

WILCOX CONSIGNMENT

GENTLY USED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, FURNITURE, DECOR, COLLECTIBLES & CLOTHING

865 WING ST. PLYMOUTH, MI 48170
734.455.2164

DIVA DAY ONLY:

Fresh Water White Coin Pearl Sterling Silver Bracelet **Only \$25**

Fresh Water Black Coin Pearl Sterling Silver Earrings **Only \$15**

DEARBORN JEWELERS of Plymouth

805 W. Ann Arbor Trail Plymouth, MI 48170 Located in the Mayflower Centre 734.737.9525 www.dearbornjewelers.com

Enter Your Lips to Win!

Kissable Lips Contest!

\$100 Gift Basket plus **FREE** Lipstick Shades

MADE IN THE USA

MERLE NORMAN®

595 Forest Avenue • Plymouth, MI 48170 • (734) 414-4089

Retailers of over 145 varieties of fine quality loose leaf teas. We carry traditional blacks, oolongs, greens, and white teas. Also, a wide variety of flavored teas, organics, rooibos, and herbals. Plus, an extensive selection of teapots, strainers, and accessories galore, all to brew that perfect cup of tea. A must see for the tea connoisseur.

It's always Tea Time at **TranquilTea**

904 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170 734-459-9686

Eclectic Attic

550 Forest Avenue, Suite #12, Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 416-1186 Open Daily

Designer Clothing/Shoes and Accessories

Upsale/Consignment Home Accessories Gifts

15% off entire purchase

www.eclecticattplymouth.com

550 Forest Ave. #10 Plymouth 734-354-9156

More Than Baskets... Creative and Unique Gift Ideas for Everyone!

DIVA DAY, April 2nd Only: FREE GIFT With Purchase

www.basketkreationsandgifts.com

FRESHER IS BETTER

AWARD WINNING OLIVE OILS & BALSAMIC VINEGARS

- No carryover of from previous years
- Produced twice each year
- The average time between picking and crushing is six hours
- High in polyphenol antioxidants

OLD WORLD OLIVEPRESS

WWW.OLDWORLDOLIVEPRESS.COM
ROCKFORD • PLYMOUTH • BIRMINGHAM

IRONWOOD GRILL

Complimentary Astrologer

On Diva Day, April 2nd Only • 4-6 pm
(for entertainment purposes only)

840 West Ann Arbor Trail • Plymouth • 734-567-5514
WWW.IRONWOODGRILLPLYMOUTH.COM

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Free throw contest

American Legion Post 32 will stage its first-ever Youth Free Throw Championship for ages 7-14 on Saturday, April 2 at the Memorial Church of Christ gym, located at 35475 Five Mile Road (between Levan and Farmington roads).

Age brackets for boys and girls include: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14.

Registration for ages 7-8 and 9-10 will be at 1 p.m. followed competition at 1:30 p.m.

Registration for ages 11-12 and 13-14 will be at 2 p.m. followed by competition at 3 p.m.

The cost is \$5 per competitor with proceeds going to the Michigan Veterans Support Group.

Trophies and prizes will be awarded to the winners in each age group.

For more information, call Charles Wagner at (248) 420-8472.

Stevenson pom clinic

Livonia Stevenson will stage a pom clinic for grades 5 through high school from 6-8 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, April 11-13, at the high school fieldhouse (Court No. 3).

Included in the \$40 cost is a T-shirt and CD (if registered by Monday, April 4).

To register, or for more information, e-mail Nancy Earhart at nancy@gnearhart.com.

Spring Learn to Skate

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will be offering its seven-week Learn to Skate spring season beginning the week of May 3 through June 14 at Edgar Arena, 3384 Lyndon (one mile south of Five Mile and just west of Farmington Road).

Each class is on Tuesday and lasts 25 minutes for the following: age 4-and-up - 7 p.m. (passed badges 1-7); 7:25 p.m., hockey skills (passed badge 1-5); and 7 and 7:25 p.m., new skaters.

No equipment is needed for boys hockey skills. No sticks or pucks are used. There is a

limited free skate rental availability.

The fee is \$55 for residents and \$67 for non-residents.

Walk-in registration starts Monday, April 4 (through April 29) at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Five Mile Road (at Five Mile).

Private lessons are also available for all levels of skating.

For more information, call (734) 466-2412.

WYAA baseball signup

Baseball registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road and west of Venoy).

The WYAA has openings for all age groups, including: Co-ed T-Ball (5-6), Co-Ed Machine Pitch (7-8), Mustang (10-and-under), Bronco (12-and-under), Pony (14-and-under), Colt (16-and-under) and Palomino (18-and-under).

Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt and Palomino age divisions involve local travel with interlocking leagues with other cities.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours (or leave a message) or visit www.wyaa.org.

Steelheaders meeting

The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

Captain Jerry Lee will be one of two featured speakers. He has over 30 years of fishing and guiding experience on the Great Lakes.

Among the topics include use of lead-core, rotators, cut bait, in-line boards and the latest downrigger savvy. His presentation also includes tips and tactics to consistently boat limits of fish for his customers on a daily basis.

Captain Chip Cartwright will also unveil the latest from Wolverine Tackle, which produces the world famous Silver Streak lures.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

Steelhead fishing

The Metro-West Steelheaders invites the public free of charge to learn about fishing for steelhead trout - 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 2 on the Clinton River at Yates Park in Rochester Hills, and also from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 9, Huron River in Huron Park, located one block west of Telegraph Road and Huron River Drive, in Flat Rock.

No reservations required. Look for the Steelheaders banner.

Bring your fishing rod and a can of chicken noodle or vegetable soup (non-creamy). Midday, the Steelheaders will serve hot soup and hot dogs.

For more information, call Phil Bustos at (313) 670-2309; or visit www.metroweststeelheaders.org.

Girls slow-pitch signup

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage open registration for 2011 girls 10- and 13-and-under slow-pitch softball until enrollment reaches 160 participants in each division for those living in the Livonia or Clarenceville public school districts.

Registration forms are available at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Late registration for school district residents is from 9 a.m. until noon beginning Saturday, April 9, at the Rec Center. Non-resident signup starts at 9 a.m. Monday, April 11 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Open registration fees are \$40 (resident) and \$50 (non-resident), while late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410 (option No. 2).

Surprise choice

CCHA's Anastos returns to MSU as hockey coach

BY DAN O'NEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Commish is once again the coach.

Tom Anastos' new job will keep him in hockey, but he moves from the front office back to the bench where he last worked in 1992.

The Farmington Hills resident resigned as commissioner of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association last week to be the head coach of the Michigan State hockey team.

Anastos, who played for the Spartans in 1981-85, was an assistant under former MSU coach Ron Mason (1990-92) after three years as head coach at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (1987-90).

"I am excited about returning to my alma mater to lead the Spartan hockey program to national prominence," Anastos said in a story that appeared on the CCHA web site.

He has spent 16 years in hockey administration, including the last 13 as CCHA commissioner. The CCHA has its offices in Farmington Hills, too.

Anastos, 47, is considered a surprise choice for the MSU job since he has been out of coaching for nearly two decades.

He was contacted by MSU Athletic Director Mark Hollis to discuss coaching candidates, and that evolved into Anastos being the prime choice.

Anastos was offered the job Monday and was introduced as the new coach Wednesday during an announcement event at Munn Arena in East Lansing.

"I have to tell you it's been a whirlwind few days," Anastos said in a Detroit Free Press story Thursday. "Shock and awe come to mind a little bit. I am so appreciative of the opportunity ... and I can't tell you how (eager) and excited I am to get going."

Hollis believes it will be an easy transition for Anastos to make, to go from running a league to running a team again.

"He's stayed in the business



Tom Anastos in a 2006 photo at Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills, across the street from his CCHA office.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

all his life," Hollis told the Free Press. "He's given so much. When you think of a commissioner, it's an ivory-tower position. With Tom Anastos, it's not. He's very much a grassroots-type person."

"I'll take that criticism (for hiring someone who was not presently a coach), but I enthusiastically am excited about this hire. He's what we needed."

Anastos, who had a 68-37-7 record at UMD, also was president of the North American Hockey League before the CCHA hired him as its commissioner in 1998.

Coincidentally, at the same time Anastos goes from the CCHA back to MSU, the Big Ten would like to have its own six-team hockey league. That would take MSU, Michigan and Ohio State away from the CCHA.

Otherwise, Anastos might be the person accepting the Mason

Cup as the CCHA tournament champion instead of the one presenting it.

"I am extremely excited about returning to Michigan State to lead the Spartan hockey program," Anastos said in a story on msuspartans.com, the school's website. "I have maintained a relationship with MSU and been in close contact with the hockey program for the last 13 years in my role with the CCHA, but this opportunity is incredibly special."

"The expectations I have for our program will be to compete annually for conference and national championships. That was the expectation when I was here as a player and as an assistant coach, and I don't believe it should be any different in my role as head coach."

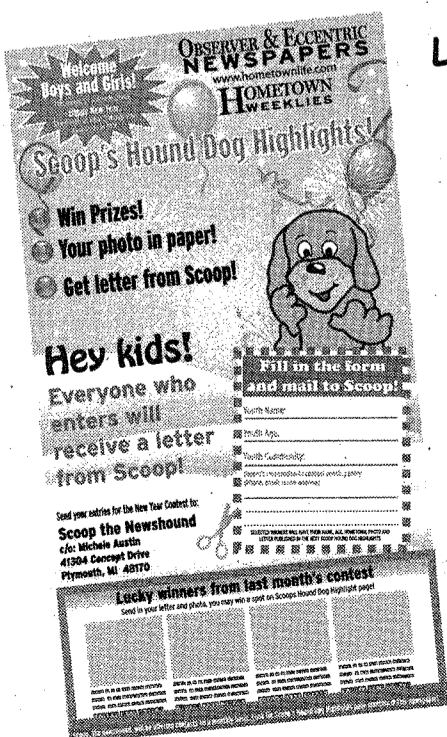
"I am excited to get started, to hire a staff and to get myself re-acclimated with the MSU community."

Attention all Boys, Girls, Teachers and Parents!



Join Scoop, the mascot for the

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC and HOMETOWN WEEKLIES NEWSPAPERS

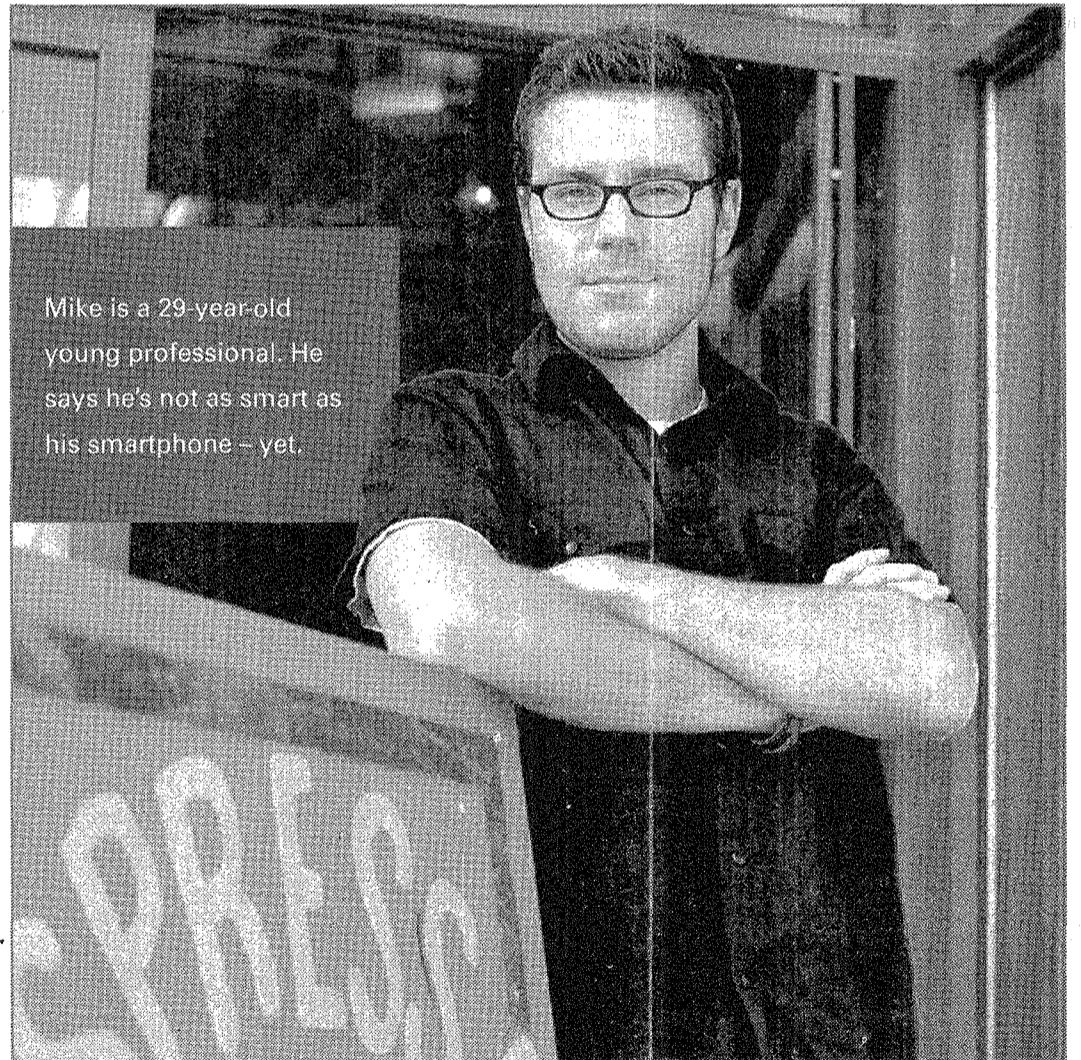


Look for Scoop monthly right here in this newspaper!

Kids ages 7-13 are invited to participate in monthly contests!

- Win Prizes!
- See your photo in the paper!
- Receive a letter from Scoop!
- Get published in the newspaper!

www.hometownlife.com



Mike is a 29-year-old young professional. He says he's not as smart as his smartphone - yet.

Do you know what Mike likes? (We do.)

With our audience expertise and targeting, we can help your business reach more Young Professionals like Mike. Find out how the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weeklies Newspaper Group's solutions — enhanced by partnerships with companies like Yahoo! — make us the local leader in digital marketing.

Call Observer & Eccentric at 734-582-8363 and Hometown Weeklies at 248-437-2011

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN
NEWSPAPERS WEEKLIES
www.hometownlife.com





Actors recreate the Last Supper in the "Living Stations of the Cross." Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate staged the musical meditation at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington for 10 years. The show moves to the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit for 25 performances in April.

Experience the Passion of Christ at Detroit Cathedral

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Kelly Nieto hopes her show, the *Living Stations of the Cross*, will become at Lent, what *The Nutcracker* is at Christmas: A must-see family tradition.

"It's going to be a visual wake-up call, a realization of what Christ did for us on the cross. God wants us to live our faith and not just check the box that says we put in our time on Sunday. I want to inspire people and help them live the Passion," said Nieto, a Catholic convert from Farmington Hills.

The former Miss Michigan, who performed nationwide as a singer, fiddler and comedian, was inspired to create a theatrical Stations of the Cross while praying at a Good Friday service 11 years ago. The mother of five blended her original contemporary songs with Pope John Paul II's text of the Stations of the Cross and began celebrating the devotion as a dramatic presentation 10 years ago at her home parish, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington. Although Nieto is assisting parish members with the 11th annual Living Stations on April 15 and 17, she's also taking a new, more elaborate production to the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit for 25 performances, beginning Friday, April 1.

She and songwriter Nick Dalbis of Crossroads Productions in White Lake have created additional music for the new show, which includes a cast of professional performers, sets, costumes, lighting and sound. Her non-profit corporation, Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate,



An actor portrays a blood-covered Jesus during the "Living Stations of the Cross."

THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

When: April 1 and 15 performances are sold out. Tickets are still available for 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. April 5-8 and 12-15; 7:30 p.m. April 2, 8-9 and 16; and 2 p.m. April 3, 10 and 17
Where: The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward, Detroit
Tickets: \$15 with a \$10 discounted price for groups of 50 or more attending matinee shows.
Contact: www.livingstations.org; e-mail Kelly@livingstations.org or mail a check to Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate, P.O. Box 343, Farmington, MI 48332

an organization dedicated to evangelizing through theater and the arts, is producing the show, which Nieto hopes to take on the road to other cities next year.

"At Our Lady of Sorrows, we've never been able to do sets or bring in lighting effects," Nieto said. "We have a \$140,000 price tag on this one. We have \$50,000 in lights and sound. We have \$15,000 worth

of sets. We have costuming and paid actors and singers. Our Jesus (Christopher Vaught) is from Michigan Opera Theatre."

MUSICAL PRAYER

Nieto says that although the production has "something for everyone," its contemporary style and rock concert-like lighting and effects will appeal especially to young people. She hopes the visual and dramatic storytelling will draw them in and make an indelible impression.

"It's something they'll never forget and they'll be back," she said. "It rivals what you'll see at the Gem or the Fox. It's a performance, a musical drama, and at the same time it teaches people to pray the prayers in the Stations of the Cross. We're creating a new type of musical prayer."

The production encourages audience participation. In addition to praying aloud at the start of each Station, one audience member is recruited to portray Simon of Cyrene and visitors seated along the main aisle wave palms as Christ arrives in Jerusalem. They sing and see some of the

Stations up close as they are played out in the aisle, as well as at the altar.

Mary Tucker, a long-time Plymouth resident who now lives in Auburn Hills, auditioned for the show because "it would be a good way to reflect on the passion of Jesus."

"It would also give me a good opportunity to look at my life and some things that need to change, which is what the Lenten season is all about," she said. Tucker plays a woman in the ensemble cast.

Elizabeth Mihalo of Livonia, who portrays Mary, also sings professionally at Blessed Sacrament, Christ Church Cranbrook and Temple Beth El. The role enables her to "evangelize and spiritually connect" as she does when she cantors, but also brings theater and dramatic intensity into the mix.

"It's a very different role technically than opera or even musical theater," Mihalo said. "I'm partly speaking and singing."

She suspects the role will affect her own faith journey, helping her to understand the historical, human Jesus, in addition to his moral teachings.

"It's a beautiful drama and I think whatever people are coming to find, they will find it, whether that's for spiritual engagement ... a moving theater experience ... a beautiful lyric love story — God and the world — they'll find it and maybe even more."

Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate has prepared a production kit for churches interested in staging Nieto's Living Stations of the Cross. Find more information at its Web site, www.livingstations.org.

Rosedale Gardens calls new pastor

The Rev. Steven Clark will begin a pastorate Monday, April 4 at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, in Livonia.

His first Sunday in the pulpit at Rosedale will be April 10. Clark follows the Rev. Richard Peters, who retired after 23 years in Nov. 2009 at Rosedale.

Clark was a pastor in Pennsylvania for 12 years and has pastored churches in New Jersey and Washington. He graduated in 1978 from the University of California, San Diego, in 1981 from Princeton Theological Seminary and in 2010 from Fuller Theological Seminary. He holds degrees in history, divinity and theology.

After more than 25 years of pastoring in churches, he went back to seminary to learn how to help churches better cope with the challenges of change. His two-year Th.M. program resulted in a dissertation on "Learning for Leading."

Clark and his wife, Jennie, have two adult children.

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church is a congregation of 700 members with a full program of fam-

ily-oriented activities. That includes two Sunday morning worship services: "Friends in Faith" at 9 a.m., and a traditional service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 10:30 is for children and youth from nursery through high school. Adult Bible Studies are conducted in small groups during the year in the fall, winter, and spring seasons.

Mission activities are an important part of the church life including several mission field trips each year. An active youth program involves about 70 students in middle school and high school. A full music program provides opportunities for all ages in several vocal and hand-bell choirs as well as in a new orchestra.



The Rev. Steve Clark and his wife, Jennie will begin serving Rosedale Presbyterian Church on April 4.

FREE CATARACT SCREENING

Are you over 50?
Do you have trouble with halos and glare,
or trouble driving at night?

Call today for your FREE Cataract Screening!

* No Stitches, No Needles, No Patches
* Surgery Takes About 10 Minutes
* State-of-the-Art, In-Office Surgery Center—
No Hospital Visits

Yaldo Eye Center
Dearborn 313.278.4540
Farmington Hills 248.553.9800

Your Invitation to Worship

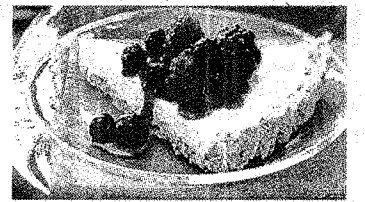
<p style="text-align: center;">CATHOLIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 35100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. First 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UNITED METHODIST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9801 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96. www.christoursavior.org</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, & Creeden 734-522-6830</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3198</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEK ORTHODOX</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Savostes. Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (at 10th W. of Shedd) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Paul's Ev. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Traditional Worship 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11 a.m.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONGREGATIONAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School <i>Faith - Freedom-Fellowship</i> Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron</p>

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, March 31, 2011

hometownlife.com

Spiced up:
FAVORITES REINVENTED
FOOD, B8

The Redford Theatre will show six films starring Moe, Larry and Curly, during its Three Stooges Festival April 8-9.

Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk,

it's Three Stooges time at the Redford

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Some arrive wearing ties and T-shirts sporting the words "Nyuk Nyuk Nyuk."

They can translate the sounds, "smack," and "doink" as a whack to the head, followed by a quick eye poke.

And they can recite lines like "Why I outta..." and "Calling Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard," followed by a rousing chorus of "B-A-Bay."

They are, of course, fans of the Three Stooges and they'll get their twice-annual big-screen fix of Larry, Moe and Curly Friday-Saturday, April 8-9 at the Redford Theatre.

The volunteer-driven movie house created the festival more than 10 years ago at the request of patrons.

"It was Stooges, Stooges, Stooges. It was so popular we decided to do it twice a year. I get e-mails in January asking about it," said Linda Sites, a Redford resident who helps out with publicity and at the box office. "One time we had a family of cousins, uncles and brothers come in who all sat on one side of the theater. Everyone would stand up and do a 'whoop, whoop, whoop,' at times dur-

ing the film."

Not all Stooges fans are as vocal as that family was, but Sites says the fun of watching the Three Stooges — or any other classic film — on the big screen is sharing the experience with others.

"We showed *White Christmas* in December and we had over 1,600 people. We had a huge crowd. It's because people come in with their family and their neighbors," she said. "I always think it comes down to that communal experience. It's the fun of laughing and crying with others."

The shared experience also includes intermission, 65 varieties of candy and "real butter" on the popcorn.

FILM FAVORITES

A film selection committee considers patron requests — a suggestion box is stationed in the lobby — and chooses each season's series.

Summer programming will include *Star Trek* in 70 mm, the classic Hitchcock film, *Rebecca*, and a visit by the *Somewhere In Time*'s international fan club president, Jo Addie. Her appearance will coincide with a screening of the film, which was shot in 1979 mostly on Mackinac Island.

She'll share her experiences as an extra on the set with Christopher Reeve and Jayne Seymour.

"With the passing of Elizabeth Taylor, we want to do something for her in the fall," Sites said. "We're also having our animation festival again. That has become a regular event."

"I tried to get the *King and I* and called around, but it's not on 35 mm any more. We show 16, 35 and 70 mm films."

Sites said the Three Stooges appeared in 190 short films, many of which are available for screening. The theater's film selection committee tries to "mix them up" and show different titles each season.

"I think because of the classic theater and the organ the requests I get more often than not are for classic films. I've had a 16-year-old e-mail me and it was for a classic film."

The Motor City Theatre Organ Society owns and operates the Redford Theatre. About 200 members have pitched in at the theatre and 100 of them are frequent volunteers.

For more information about becoming a volunteer or for a schedule of upcoming films, visit redfordtheatre.com

THREE STOOGES FESTIVAL

What: Six short films

When: 8 p.m. Friday, April 8, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, April 9

Where: The Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River Ave., Detroit

Details: "Whoops! I'm an Indian," "Back to the Woods," "Termites of 1938," "Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise," "A Plumbing We Will Go," and "Cactus Makes Perfect." Films range from 1936-1942. Tickets are \$5

Contact: (313) 537-2560



"Whoops! I'm an Indian" is one of six short Three Stooges Films that will screen April 8-9 at the Redford Theatre.



Art on display at a previous "Artwork After Dark" in Farmington Hills.

Enjoy wine, art at Farmington Hills event

"Art After Dark," a wine tasting with art and music, will run from 7-10 p.m., Friday, April 15, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills.

Whole Foods Market of West Bloomfield will supply more than 30 varieties of wine for the tasting. Wine experts will be on hand to answer questions and a prize raffle will be held for those who order wine that evening.

Participants will get the chance to browse through more than 200 pieces of artwork for sale from the Farmington Art

Foundation, while listening to live jazz.

"Art After Dark is absolutely one of our favorite events of the year," stated Renee Mahon, marketing and communications director for Whole Foods Market. "We love sharing our excellent wines, working with the City of Farmington Hills and supporting our arts community."

Tickets to the event are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. They're available online at <https://recreg.fhgov.com> or can be ordered by phone at

(248) 473-1848. They're also available at the Costick Center; Whole Foods Market of West Bloomfield, 7350 Orchard Lake Road; or the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce 33425 Grand River Ave., suite 101, in downtown Farmington.

Dress for the event is from casual to dressy. For more information on "Art After Dark" and other upcoming events, call the Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1856.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

FAVORITES REINVENTED WITH FLAVORFUL SURPRISES

With spice consumption at an all-time high across America, it's an exciting time for flavor. According to the McCormick® Flavor Forecast® 2011, different tastes, textures and colors are mixed and matched to deliver fun and excitement to eating.

"We're seeing a more adventuresome spirit in the kitchen — playful takes on America's favorites that bring both the comfort of familiarity and the energy of the unexpected," says Larry Tong, McCormick chef. "For example, a contemporary combination of mustard seed and vermouth sparks a martini-inspired steak kabob, complete with onion and olive garnishes."

Tong sees this lighthearted approach showing up in every course of the meal — right through to dessert. Taking a cue from the report's Herbes de Provence & Popcorn pairing, a deliciously creamy, no-bake cheesecake has a crust of playful and crunchy crushed popcorn accented with savory Herbes de Provence.

For more recipes and featured flavors, visit www.FlavorForecast.com.

DIRTY MARTINI STEAK KABOBS

Makes 8 servings (2 kabobs and 1 cup salad each).

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Refrigerate Time: 2 hours

Cook Time: 15 minutes

3 tablespoons McCormick Gourmet Collection Yellow Mustard Seed

¼ cup dry vermouth

½ cup olive oil

¼ cup fresh lemon juice

2 tablespoons honey

1½ teaspoons grated lemon peel

2 tablespoons juice from green olives

1½ teaspoons McCormick Gourmet Collection Sicilian Sea Salt

1 teaspoon minced garlic

¼ teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Coarse Grind Black Pepper

2 pounds boneless beef sirloin steak, cut into 1-inch cubes

16 small cipollini onions

16 large pimiento-stuffed green olives

Mixed Greens with Mustard Vinaigrette (recipe sidebar)

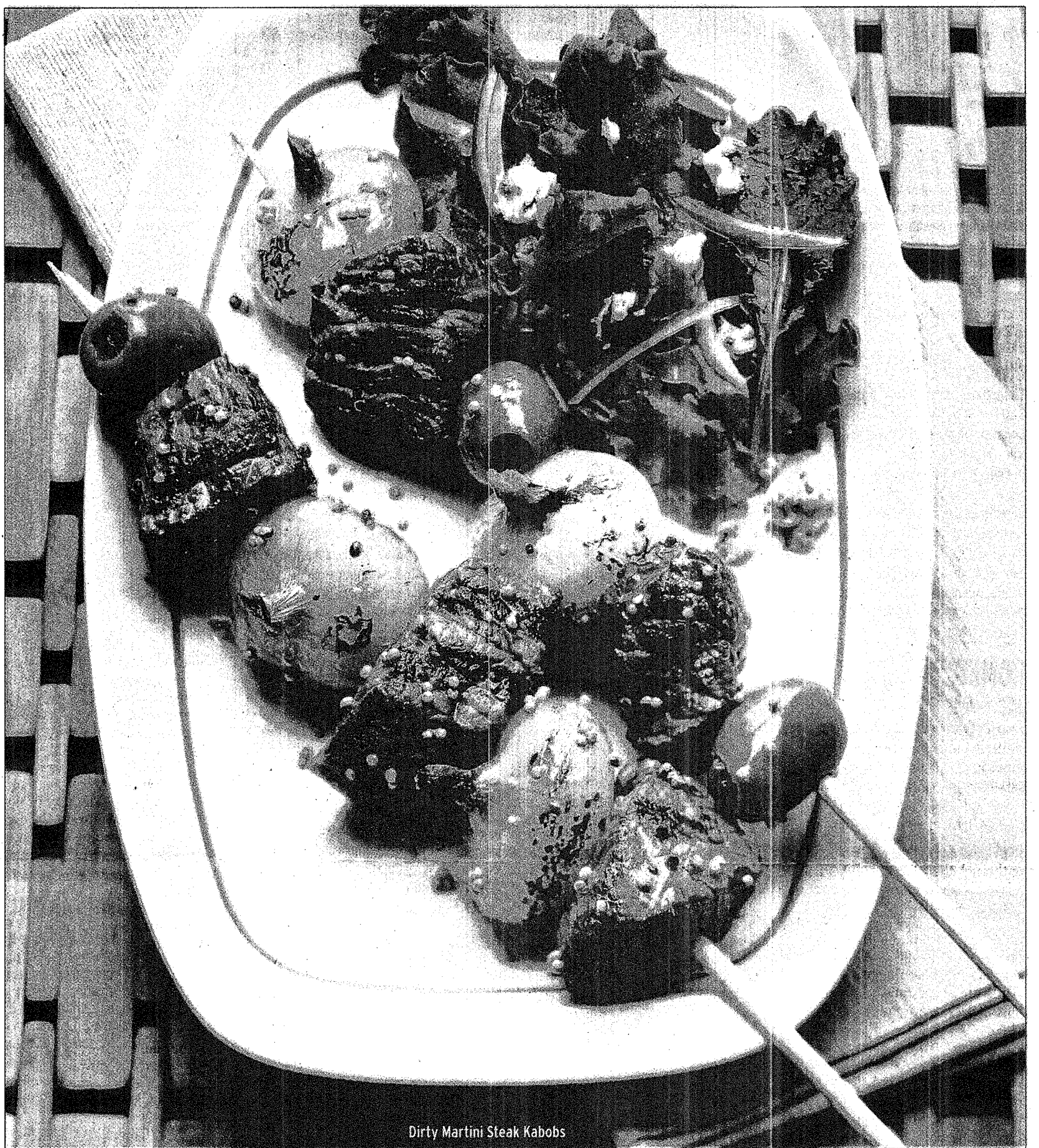
1. Heat large nonstick skillet on medium heat. Add mustard seed; cook and stir 1 minute or until fragrant. Immediately pour out of hot pan to avoid over-toasting. Coarsely crush seeds using a rolling pin or a mortar and pestle. Reserve 1 tablespoon for the Mustard Vinaigrette (recipe sidebar).

2. Mix remaining mustard seed, vermouth, oil, lemon juice, honey, olive juice, lemon peel, sea salt, garlic and pepper in large bowl until well blended. Reserve ¼ cup of the marinade for brushing. Place remaining marinade in large resealable plastic bag or glass dish. Add steak; turn to coat well. Refrigerate 2 hours or longer for extra flavor.

3. Meanwhile, bring water to boil in small saucepan. Add onions; cook 5 minutes. Drain well. Cool onions slightly. Cut off top and bottom ends, then peel onions. Remove steak from marinade. Discard remaining marinade. Alternately thread steak, onions and olives onto 16 skewers.

4. Grill kabobs over medium heat 8 to 10 minutes or until steak is desired doneness, turning occasionally and brushing with reserved marinade. Serve kabobs with Mixed Greens with Mustard Vinaigrette.

Nutritional information per serving: 418 Calories, Fat 24g, Protein 28g, Carbohydrates 19g, Cholesterol 62mg, Sodium 713mg, Fiber 3g



Dirty Martini Steak Kabobs

MIXED GREENS WITH MUSTARD VINAIGRETTE

Mix ¼ cup lemon juice, ¼ cup olive oil, 2 tablespoons honey, reserved 1 tablespoon crushed toasted McCormick Gourmet Collection Yellow Mustard Seed, 1 teaspoon dry vermouth, ¼ teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Ground Mustard and ¼ teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Sicilian Sea Salt in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Set aside. Toss 8 cups mixed greens, 1 small red onion, thinly sliced, and ¼ cup crumbled blue cheese in large bowl. Serve with vinaigrette.



Cheesecake Tart with Popcorn Crust and Berries

CHEESECAKE TART WITH POPCORN CRUST AND BERRIES

Makes 8 servings

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 10 minutes

Refrigerate Time: 2 hours

Popcorn Crust:

3 cups unsalted popped popcorn

½ cup sugar

6 tablespoons butter, melted

2 teaspoons McCormick Gourmet Collection Herbes de Provence

Cheesecake Tart with Berries:

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

1 cup mascarpone cheese

1½ tablespoons honey

¼ cup sugar

1 tablespoon cornstarch

1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Herbes de Provence

½ cup water

1 teaspoon lemon juice

1 cup blueberries

2 cups mixed berries, such as blackberries, raspberries and strawberries

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. For the crust, place popcorn, about 1 cup at a time, in bowl of food processor or blender; cover. Process until finely ground. Mix ground popcorn, ½ cup sugar, butter and 2 teaspoons Herbes de Provence in medium bowl until well blended. Press mixture firmly onto bottom of foil-lined 9-inch tart pan. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely on wire rack.

2. For the tart, mix cream cheese, mascarpone cheese and honey in medium bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Spread evenly in prepared crust. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or until ready to serve.

3. Mix ¼ cup sugar, cornstarch and 1 teaspoon Herbes de Provence in medium saucepan. Stir in water and lemon juice until well blended. Stir in blueberries. Stirring constantly, bring to boil on medium heat and boil 1 minute. Pour into medium bowl to cool slightly. Add remaining berries; toss gently to coat well. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Remove tart from foil-lined pan. Cut into slices to serve. Top with berry mixture.

Nutritional information per serving: 406 Calories, Fat 30g, Protein 5g, Carbohydrates 29g, Cholesterol 98mg, Sodium 182mg, Fiber 3g

