



IN USA WEEKEND



SUNDAY June 26, 2011

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IN BRIEF

Officers sworn in

Two new Westland Police officers were sworn in Thursday in a ceremony at City Hall.

Officer Derek Trosper





in Canton and gradu-Canton Trosper obtained

his associate degree in criminal justice at Schoolcraft College and attended the Wayne County

Regional

Police Academy.

Officer John Gatti grew up in Northville and graduated from Northville High School. Gatti obtained his bachelor of arts degree in education from Albion College and attended the Oakland Community College Police Academy.

"It is an honor to welcome these two new officers to the City of Westland Police force and wish them a rewarding career serving and protecting the residents of our All American City," said Westland Mayor-William Wild:

Dems meet

Westland residents are invited to attend a meeting of the Westland Democratic Club 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 28 to learn more about their Democratic representatives in government and how to become more involved. Refreshments will be served.

The meeting will be held at the Dorsey Community Center. Palmer and Venoy in Westland. For information, contact Nan Melke at (734) 674-7327.

Class reunion

The Westland John Glenn High School class of 2001 is planning a class reunion in September and is having trouble reaching some of their classmates.

The reunion will be 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Sept. 17 at the MGM Grand in Detroit. Alumni can buy tickets online through a Facebook page at http://www.facebook. com/home.php#!/JGHS2001 or they can e-mail at 2001JGHS@ gmail.com or call Angela Howard at (734) 891-2561. Tickets are \$115 each and are on sale through July 15.

Butterfly lecture

Brenda Dziedzic, president of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association will present a lecture on attracting butterflies to your garden at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford

Learn the necessary components of a Butterfly Garden. Want Monarchs, Black Swallowtails, or American Lady butterflies in your landscape? Learn which plants to plant to attract the butterflies you want in your yard.

Skype: Do elected officials need to be physically present for public meetings?

BY LEANNE ROGERS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Can a member of a public body be considered present and participate in a public meeting without being physically present by using Skype video technology or it is a violation of the Open Meetings Act?

That's the question asked of the Michigan Attorney General's Office after a recent Wayne-Westland Board of Education meeting in which board trustee John Goci, who is out of the country, took part in the meeting connected via Skype.

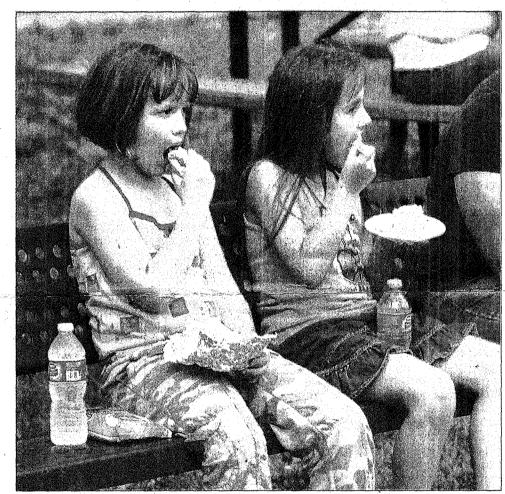
"I'm not making it a huge deal but I initiated an inquiry of the Attorney General's Office. I wanted to consult someone with expertise," said State Rep. Richard LeBlanc (D-Westland). "At that point, if there is case law I

could ask for an opinion. I think you must have a physical body present to participate in the meeting under the Open Meetings Act."

After the board meeting, LeBlanc said he received a complaint about the use of Skype at the board meeting and he shares the concern about the lack of openness and interaction when officials aren't physically present at public

"Some people say the television monitor is on - it's the same thing. I can't vote in Lansing with a laptop from across the street let alone if I'm absent," said LeBlanc, a former Wayne-Westland Schools board member. "I think overwhelmingly people expect those who govern to be present to govern."

Please see **SKYPE**, **A2**



Sophie Aulph chows on a hotdog while Alexis Fredericks digs into some birthday cake at the Westland's Kick Off the Summer celebration at Tattan Park. The cake was in honor of the city's 45th birthday.

Families gather to kick off summer

A little rain didn't dampen the festivities at the Kick Off the Summer event at Tattan Park Thursday evening.

"We had about half an hour of rain — we just went under the tents and the pavilion," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski, estimated the turnout at about

2,000. Party guests use the Play Planet and H20 Zone sprayground, both located in Tattan Park, along with face painting, water games and other activities to music provided by a disc jockey. Everything was free, including hot dogs, popcorn and birthday cake in honor of Westland's 45th birthday.

Youngsters helped Mayor William Wild slice the birthday cake which had been provided by Sam's Club.

"It was a little cool for the spray park but the kids were still in there," said Kosowski, who expects warmer temperatures at the next community event hosted by the city to be scheduled next month.

Westland Assessing Director James Elrod is retiring but did his traditional job at city-sponsored events — grilling hot dogs. -By LeAnne Rogers



Daniel Loop cools down with some water at the Play Planet in Tattan Park during the Kick Off the Summer event.

City Hall flooding BY LEANNE ROGERS in the basement is unsafe and there is asbestos. OBSERVER STAFF WRITER "An employee filed a com-Westland homeowners plaint with MIOSHA. I don't weren't alone when their basehave a problem with that. ments flooded recently - City There is no question there is a history of flooding in the Hall was also flooded again and it's causing more probbasement," Westland Mayor William Wild said, adding lems with the building. City officials are working the basement walls had been to respond to the problem

Officials to address

complaint about conditions at City Hall with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The complaint is that the basement flooding forced

sewage up into drains, caused

mold in the basement, storage

after an employee filed a

removed and the mold remediated.

MIOSHA inspectors will be visiting City Hall the week of July 13 to look at the basement and any asbestos issues. Wild recommended having the air quality in the building

Please see CITY HALL, A2

Streetlighting cost increase approved

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland residents who have streetlights will be seeing a hike in their annual special assessment that funds the lighting.

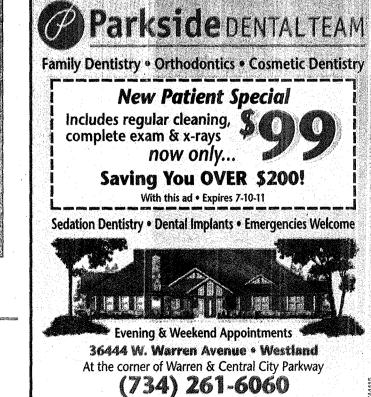
Citywide, property owners will see an average increase of 60 percent in charges that hadn't been increased since 1991. The average cost for residential street lighting is \$42.85 annually, which would require a \$25 increase. For properties on major streets, primarily

businesses, the average current lighting cost is \$55.19, which would result in an average \$32 increase for businesses.

At a public hearing on the special assessment increase held earlier in the month, 27 spoke against the increase, with 10 others filing letters of protest.

Before the council vote Monday, resident Burke Rock repeated his objections to the increase, noting the increase would generate \$700,000 over

Please see LIGHTS, A2





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CITY HALL

checked - MIOSHA will only monitor the air for asbestos.

Additionally, Wild said he has city engineers OHM Engineering Services examining the City Hall structure.

"We have a 12-foot basement and six-foot depth in the water table. Snaking it (the drain) usually gets the water to go down," Wild said. "This time they kept bringing in sand. On the east side of the building you can see the soil pulling away from the building. It's kind of like creating a sink

from MIOSHA and engineers, Wild said he would have council hold a study session to discuss the problems with the building.

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While the city would need to address the MIOSHA findings, Councilman Dewey Reeves said he would propose looking at alternatives to remediating flooding and other problems at City Hall.

'I don't want to keep throwing good money after bad. At some point in time if we continue to put money into something that can't be repaired, it's a waste," Reeves said. "We need to make sure the works are safe and secure, but we need to take a deep look at it.'

Once the reports are received | trogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

Not available for comment, Goci had requested using Skype to participate in the June 13 meeting. Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy said the request had been cleared with the district's legal counsel and the Michigan Association of School Boards.

"They said it was perfectly acceptable. We were perfectly comfortable that we were working within the law," said Baracy. "It's been done in other districts. It's the first time we've used Skype for a board meeting but we use it for meetings with districts we partner with and to meetings in China."

Noting Skype is a different type of technology with twoway audio and video, Baracy

five years. Part of the reason for

ending subsidy of the streetlight-

the increase is that the city is

ing fund by Metro Broadband

- more than \$500,000 in the

"The Metro Broadband funds

Council members Bill Johnson

and Christine Bryant both voted

against adopting the assess-

ment roll with the increased

streetlighting charges, which covered a total of five years with

anticipated 3-percent annual increases from Detroit Edison.

"I agree that it is a necessity.

I would like the council to work

in small groups to find ways to

offset the huge cost increase,"

"I agree we should look at

alternate ways for funding. We

need streetlights, but we should

look at other ways to offset the

costs," Bryant said. "These are

Johnson said.

should stay there (in the streetlighting fund)," Rock said.

funds and the general fund

current fiscal year.

agreed that public servants have an obligation to be physically present. "I don't think this will become a common practice," he said.

Beside concerns about openness, LeBlanc said he could see other problems with officials not being physically present at public meetings.

"If it's allowed, it's such dangerous territory. What if someone doesn't want me to speak and keeps hanging up?" said LeBlanc. "I asked about this in front of my (Democratic) caucus and all of the members who approached me said it was illegal. There are not too many people who think it is legal, even less who think it's proper."

Even if video conferencing is found to be legal, LeBlanc said he thought bodies should adopt policies against using the technology.

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unprecedented economic times.

We can't count on an average 3percent increases from DTE."

Supporting the increase,

Councilman Michael Kehrer

said that the streetlighting fund

was set up so people with street-

"Unfortunately, the council

hadn't kept up on the bills and

used other sources which have

dried up. So we have to go back

"It's not fair to use general fund

dollars to subsidize lights when

them need to pay for the lights."

The resolution was amended

"Three percent would be the

maximum rather than opening

their projections," said Council

President James Godbout, who

Property owners will see the

increased streetlighting charges

it to Detroit Edison trusting

proposed the amendment.

on the winter tax bill.

to limit increases for the next

thousands of homes don't have

lights. The people who have

to the citizens," Kehrer said.

lights would pay for the lights.

Library board vacancy filled with some complaints

BY LEANNE ROGERS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A new member has been appointed to the Westland Library Board but not without some criticism.

The council confirmed the mayoral appointment of Sheri Robinson to the board with a term that will expire July 2, 2016. The sister of Westland Economic Developer Director Lori Fodale, Robinson replaces Rebecca Kelly, whose term expired and was not reappointed by Mayor William Wild.

'We can see what is happening. You didn't get your way, so you're replacing people," said resident Judy McKinney, referring to an effort last year to charge the library rent for use of the city-owned building.

The proposal to charge \$51,000 annual rent and collect \$500,000 back rent was later dropped but received vocal opposition from the Library

Another resident, Robert Froreich, commented that he regularly attends Library Board meeting but had never seen Robinson or Mark Neal, who was appointed to the board several months ago, in attendance.

"If they were interested it seems they'd attend a board meeting before their appointment," he said.

For her part, Robinson thanked the council for confirming her appointment, noting she was a 17-year resident and had been extensively involved in the community, primarily in business-related activities.

"I'm excited and interested to see how I can assist the city," said Robinson, who has an accounting background.

Noting that she was offering only her personal opinions, Board President Leslie Bell was unhappy with comments made by Wild about the library in a recent Westland Observer article and wanted to clarify a few points.

The article noted the rapid turnover of the board members - board member Antoinette Martin was appointed last fall and Neal earlier this year. With Kelly not reappointed and the resignation of Duane Moody at the last meeting, only Bell has served more than a year.

'We wouldn't have had the rapid turnover if the mayor had reappointed Ms. Kelly. Mr. Moody wouldn't have resigned

in protest — you'd have three experienced board members, said Bell. "It was disrespectful of the mayor."

Regarding Wild's comments that some board members hadn't been fully informed pending litigation and potential liability, Bell said the board had spent over an hour in a closed session with their attorney to be updated about the lawsuit.

The lawsuit in question is an action pending before the Michigan Employment Relations Commission over an unfair labor practice charging library management interfered with efforts by library staff to unionize. Three individual employees claim to have lost their jobs as a result of those organizing efforts. A ruling is pending in the lawsuit which could potentially carry a huge financial impact, if the library doesn't prevail.

The article also gave an impression of financial mismanagement, Bell said. "We are under budget and adopted a balanced budget for next year. That is no small feat when we depend on property tax revenues," said Bell.

Wild stood by his comments that based on a five-year finan-

cial projection, the library will go through all of their funding including fund balance unless budget changes are made.

"I said that I obviously made a mistake on the rent before I saw the five-vear plan. It's time to look at the finances," said Wild, who suggested that the Tax Increment Finance Authority might be able to provide some assistance.

Commenting that previous library Director Cheryl Napsha left some issues behind like the labor lawsuit, Wild said he wanted to make sure the new library director understands the risk. The Library Board is in the process of hiring a new director.

"At the end of the day, we need to make the library sustainable. The millage decreases each year," said Wild. "A district library maybe is a long-term solution. I've not heard any Library Board member say they weren't interested in that."

Still needing to replace Moody, who cited health concerns in his resignation letter, Wild added that he plans to attend the next Library Board meeting.

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Board approves pay cut for school chief

BY KAREN SMITH ORSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Livonia school board on Wednesday approved a \$12,000 pay cut for Supt. Randy Liepa and concessionary contracts for three employee groups, including teachers, that save the district \$3.5 million.

The give-backs helped the board maintain programs for the 2011-12 school year.

"We keep sports, we keep transportation," Trustee Patrice Mang said in thanking employees. "That didn't happen easily. It's out of your pockets."

The board on Wednesday also set tax rates and approved a general fund budget for 2011-12 that calls for \$146.3 million in expenditures and \$141.7 in revenues. The deficit will be made up by using nearly all of the district's savings, leaving just \$209,285 to start the 2012-13 school year.

Board President Lynda Scheel said Liepa volunteered take a pay cut of \$12,000 next school year, move to a lesser expensive health care plan and increase his four years to what Edison charghealth care contribution to 20 percent of the cost. es or 3 percent, whichever is less.

"It was something he came forward with on his own," she said. "I think it's great he would offer to do that.'

Board Vice President Colleen Burton thanked Liepa, saying he was leading by example and his contribution was greatly appre-

PUBLIC PUSH-BACK Irogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

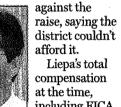
The board and Liepa came under fire last October when the board approved a \$50,000 raise for Liepa to bring his salary in line with those of superintendents in area districts. Trustees Mang and Gregory Oke voted

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Liepa

Liepa's total compensation at the time,

including FICA and retirement, was \$203,637, \$58,071 less than the going rate.

The three-step raise in base salary takes Liepa from \$148,919 to \$175,000 in 2011-12, \$182,500 in 2012-13 and \$190,000 in 2013-14.

He was to receive additional compensation of \$4,300 for having a doctorate degree, \$9,100 for obtaining a good rating (4.0 on a scale of 1-5) on his evaluation, and longevity pay of \$5,000 for serving for five to eight years, \$7,500 for nine to 11 years and \$10,000 for 12 years.

He will now forgo the additional compensation for the doctorate degree and the longevity pay. The board Wednesday amended the contract to reflect the give-backs for 2011-12.

The two-year contract for the 1,016-member teachers union, the Livonia Education Association, calls for a 1-percent pay cut in the first year except for those at the top of the scale at the bachelor's and master's degree levels and a 20-percent contribution toward health care costs, up from about 5 percent.

Members with families will now pay \$3,940 annually, said LEA President Joanmary Nenninger. Formerly, they paid \$960 annually.

In the second year of the agreement, step increases will be frozen or reduced if the district doesn't achieve additional savings in health care costs. If under 40 people opt out of

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receiving health care benefits from the district because they can get coverage through their spouse or another plan, the step increases will be frozen. If 40-80 people do, they will get halfstep increases; if more than 80 do, they will get their full step

Nenninger said concessionary contracts are difficult, adding that the new two-year agreement means teachers will have given back four years in a row by the time the contract expires.

'IT'S TOUGH TIMES'

Asked what she thought of the changes to Liepa's contract and the other concessionary agreements, she said: "I think everyone stepped up to the plate in their own way. I think the governor should be very proud of us. We understand it's tough times."

The two-year contract for the 47-member union representing the supervisory custodial staff, called the Supervisory Employees' Association Livonia Schools, calls for a 10-percent wage cut the first year, a pay freeze the second year and a change to a HAP HMO plan that saves the district 21 percent. The members will continue to pay the same amount in contributions.

SEALS President Glenn Macorkindale said the group agreed to the pay cut because of the push in Lansing toward privatization of nonteaching school district jobs.

The two year-agreement for the 45- to 50-member administrators' union, LEADS, calls for half-step rather than full-step increases for both years and switching to a HAP HMO plan that saves the district 21 percent. Members will continue to pay

the same amount in contribu-

Liepa said the district has tentative agreements with its other three employee groups that could be approved by the board as early as Monday.

SCHOOL AID FIGHT CONTINUES

Administrators had set a target of \$5 million for costs savings and revenue enhancements in order to balance the 2011-12 budget, and Liepa said he is confident they will reach that. He also thanked employees for their contributions.

He said a \$146.3 million budget that calls for using all but \$209,285 of fund equity is a "precarious position" to be in but at this time, "I think it's the right thing to do" because it preserves programs for children.

He said administrators will work to reduce the deficit during the school year. He said the school funding issue was settled for this year in Lansing but, in his mind, it is not over with.

Board Secretary Rob Freeman said if the state hadn't raided the School Aid Fund, which had a surplus this year, for higher education, the district might have been able to add back programs cut over the past eight years.

"Next year, let's look at adding programs," he said.

The board set the sinking fund tax rate at 1.12 mills, the same as last year, and increased the debt fund rate from 1.99 to 2.20 mills. The .51 hold harmless millage on homestead property will disappear because Livonia is no longer a hold-harmless district.

That means a resident having a home with a \$75,000 taxable value will pay \$22 less per year in overall school taxes.

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Rides, food and fun: Westland Summer Festival returns

BY LEANNE ROGERS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Whether it's carnival rides, live music, a petting zoo or arts and crafts, the Westland Summer Festival has something for all ages and interests.

Held on the Westland City Hall grounds at Ford and Carlson, the 41st annual festival kicks Thursday and is open daily through Monday, July 4 when there will be fireworks at approximately 10:15 p.m.

The festival, with carnival rides provided by Wade Shows,

with open at 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, then open at noon for the remaining three days. Discount ride wrist bands are available with a coupon for Friday through Monday but not needed for Thursday when the price is already reduced.

The World Famous Robinson Racing Pigs will be returning to the festival. "They're hugely popular," said festival committee chairman Ken Mehl.

Returning after several years absence, the festival will host the Motor City Muscle Car Club car show beginning at 10 a.m.

Saturday.

"We've not had a car show for a few years. We've been getting calls about this one and I think it will be well attended," said

Also Saturday morning, there will be the second annual Miles for Memories Alzheimer's benefit walk which has registration at 9 a.m. with the walk beginning at 10 a.m. Walkers will travel north on Central City Parkway to Warren from the municipal complex and make a

The non-denominational

Harvest Bible Chapel, which recently purchased and moved into the former Patchin Elementary School, will be holding a outdoor worship service 10:30 a.m. Sunday, July 3 at the festival stage.

"We're going to be involved in the festival for outreach. Ken (Mehl) said there used to be a worship service as part of the festival," said Mike Moses, Harvest Bible Chapel director of ministries. "Anyone will be welcome. We hope to get people from other churches or no church.'

The festival will also feature a horseshoe tournament, exotic animals on display and a child identification program Saturday and Sunday at the fire station.

Look for Miss Westland Summer Festival to make appearances throughout the festival. The pageant, which awards scholarship money to the winner and two runners-up, was held to be held Saturday, June 25 at the Friendship Center.

There will be live entertainment each evening:

•Thursday, June 30 8 p.m.

Jaded Soul

•Friday, July 1 8 p.m. Impact7 •Saturday, July 2 8 p.m. Robots in the Garden

•Sunday, July 3 3 p.m. saxophonist Steven Thomas; 8 p.m. Annabelle Road

•Monday, July 4 1 p.m. Yankeeville; 7 p.m. Second

Free parking and shuttle service to the festival is offered from Westland John Glenn High School and the William P. Faust Library.

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Concert moves indoors

Rainy weather forced the Gratitude Steel Band to move their concert inside Westland's Faust Library Thursday but didn't hurt the performance. The weekly concert series continues 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday at the library pavilion with soft and smooth sounds from Stolen Moments. The concerts are free but bring your own lawn chairs.

Radio upgrade approved for Fire Department

Westland firefighters will soon have upgraded radio capabilities partially funded through a federal grant.

The Westland City Council approved the bid from ComSource Inc. for on site Motorola radios for the Westland Fire Department. The Motorola radios are part of the Federal Emergency Management grant from the Department of Homeland

Security awarded to the fire department.

The total amount of the FEMA grant is \$145,600.00. The city's required 20 percent amounts to \$29,120.00 with the approved radio bid amount of \$14,688.50.

"The state has required that all communities comply with the narrowbanding mandate by July 2013," said Assistant Chief Scott Neal.

"These grants funds allow us to comply with narrowbanding regulations without a financial pinch to our department."

ComSource, Inc. is the leading provider of Motorola two-way radio and high speed wireless data equipment in the greater Detroit area. They have been serving clients in Eastern Michigan since 1995.

Recreation trail 'victim' lied about attack

BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

A 55-year-old Westland man lied when he claimed he had been robbed and beaten while riding his bike on the I-275 Metro Trail in Canton, police confirmed.

"He admitted that the whole thing was a lie," Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

The man had been drinking alcohol when he fell off his bike while riding on the trail on the night of Saturday, June 18, Schreiner said. He concocted the robbery story the following morning when he went to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne to seek medical treatment for injuries he suffered during his

Canton police delved deeper into the story, which attracted media attention, and the man changed his story and said he lied because "he was embarrassed" by what really hap-

pened, Schreiner said. "This drew a lot of attention," he said. "It's good to know this case was bogus."

The man initially told police he had been attacked and robbed by three men while he was riding from his Westland residence to visit a friend at Sherwood Village, a mobile home park southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty in Canton.

He lied when he said he was pushed to the ground and kicked by assailants who he said took his cash and threw his bike and wallet in the Rouge River.

Further investigation by Canton police revealed the man caused his own mis-

haps.
"He said there was no money taken and no bike taken. He made it up," Schreiner said.

The man had claimed he was assaulted near Michigan Avenue. Many of his statements had been made to hospital employees rather than police, so authorities said it's possible he might not face charges of filing a false police report after he came clean.

Schreiner dismissed the man as someone who apparently has a drinking problem. Brad Sharp, Canton park

and facility manager, called it unfortunate that one man's lies briefly tarnished the trail's image. "That trail does mean an

awful lot to the community,' Sharp said. "We want it to be safe, and we hope the people using it will help keep it safe by being the eyes and ears of the trail. The more people use it, the better it will be and the safer it will be."

People should always be aware of their surroundings, Sharp said, whether they are on the bike trail or anywhere else. And when possible, he said it's not a bad idea to ride with someone.

Still, he and others hope the man's lies will not keep people from using the trail, a 40-mile pathway that was recently rebuilt between Michigan Avenue and Hines Drive. Hundreds of people celebrated the trail reopening on River Dav.

"We believe it's still safe," Sharp added, "and we want it to be used. We don't want people to stay indoors because of one man's misrepresentation."

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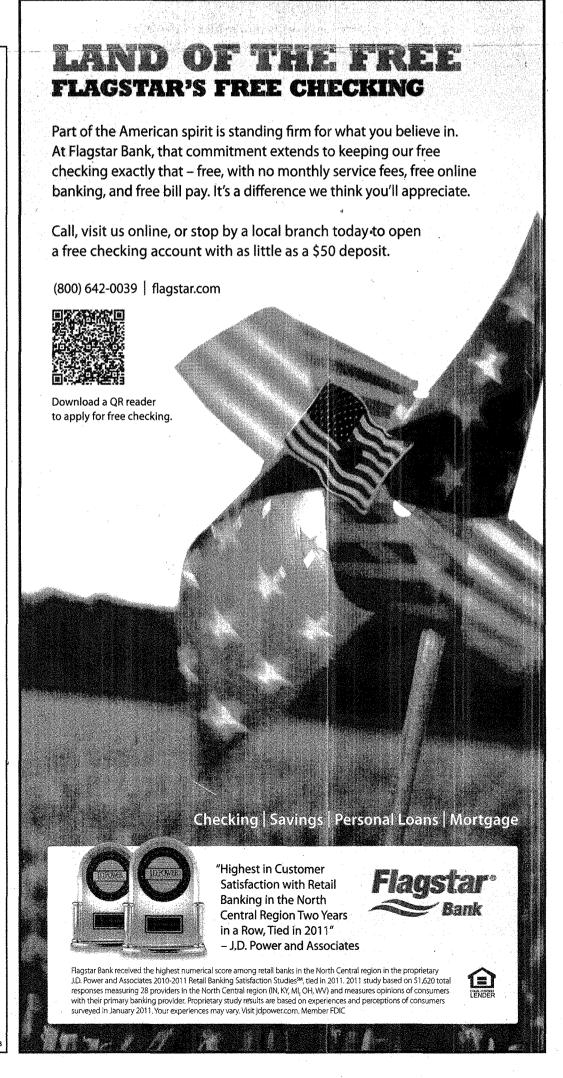
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observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 26, 2011

The power of reading to your child

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." — Dr. Seuss

Reading to your child provides them with many benefits as they grow developmentally, socially and intellectually. In addition to helping your child learn the joys of reading, reading to your child encourages imagination and creativity, strengthens the child's selfesteem and communication skills, introduces children to new concepts, and builds the child's listening, vocabulary, memory and language skills.

The Michigan Department of Education says early childhood years are the most important for literacy development. Children have a higher success rate at school when they have been read to at home. Visit nea.org/ grants/13662.htm for statistics about how reading to children gives them advantages over children who are not read to at home.

For young children (birth to age 4), read and reread books that are predictable or have repetitive passages such as Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown, or The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.

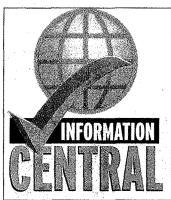
It is also good to read to children who are starting to learn or have already learned how to read. Some great books to read to beginning readers are Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes, Stellaluna by Janell Cannon, and Where the Wild

Things Are by Maurice Sendak. For fluent readers or older children, try chapter books like A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle, Frindle by Andrew Clements, Holes by Louis Sachar, or the Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling.

For more information on reading to your child, check out these resources at the Westland Public Library including Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children will Change Their Lives Forever by Mem Fox and The Read-Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease.

Consult the librarians in Westland Public Library's Children's Department for

Ford Road



more recommendations, call us at (734) 326-6123, check the online catalog at catalog.westlandlibrary.org or stop by the library to learn more. - By Tara Scott

Highlighted Activities

•Writers Club, June 27, 7 p.m. Adults and Teens. Have you written stories or poems you'd like others to hear, but not critique, in a casual atmosphere? Join us as Cheryl Vatcher Martin leads the Westland Library Writer's Club. All writing is interesting to us, so bring whatever you're working on.

•Summer Afternoon Movie Classic: The Natural, June 28, 3:30 p.m. Adults and Teens. Join us for the summer version of Afternoon classics. This month's theme is Summer Favorites, this week: The Natural starring Robert Redford, Robert Duvall, and Glenn Close. Refreshments served. This movie is rated PG. No registration. Just drop by.

 How to Attract Butterflies to Your Garden, June 28, 7 p.m. Adults and Teens. Join author and Southeastern Michigan **Butterfly Association president** Brenda Dziedzic as she discusses ways to attract butterflies to your yard. Brenda has recently authored a book about this subject, "Learn About Butterflies in the Garden" and copies will be on sale at the event and available for signing. In addition, Brenda will bring a sampling of her caterpillars for viewing. No registration.

 Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club, June 29, 7 p.m. Adults. Join us for a discussion of Philip K. Dick's The Man

in the High Castle. This Hugo Award-winning 1962 alternative history considers the question of what would have happened if the Allied Powers had lost World War II. Some 20 years after that loss, the United States and much of the world has now been split between Japan and Germany, the major hegemonic states. But the tension between these two powers is mounting, and this stress is playing out in the western U.S. Through a collection of characters in various states of posing (spies, sellers of falsified goods, others with secret identities), Dick provides an intriguing tale about life and history as it relates to authentic and manufactured reality. Copies will be available at the Reference desk a month before the meeting.

•An Unconventional Life: A Journey through Limitation to Gifts of Creativity, June 30, 7 p.m. Adults and Teens.

Artist, curator, and instructor Nancy Paton discovered a gift for the arts when she hit hard times a few years back. Come hear how art and creativity helped to give her a new lease on life and how it might help those unemployed or reeling from the recent economic crisis. No registration.

•Job Seekers Lab, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays; and 1-4 p.m. Fridays. Have a question about formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

•Drop-in Knitting Nights at the library, 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters.

•Chess Group, 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign up required.



State inspectors order bolts replaced on carnival ride

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

State inspectors ordered that all the bolts be replaced on the arms of a carnival ride at Livonia Spree.

A piece of the ride, Fighter, fell 25 feet and struck a 36year-old Westland woman in the head Tuesday night. The woman was in "very stable" condition Friday afternoon at Botsford Hospital with head, neck and back injuries.

The ride was closed and remained closed Friday until all of the bolts on the ride's arms were replaced by carnival operators Wade Shows. As of 1 p.m. Friday, the ride was being worked on, but it was unclear if it would be repaired and opera-

In order for the ride to be operational, state inspectors would need to reinspect the ride and approve it for opera-

A preliminary investigation by the city indicated that the hydraulic arm of the ride struck the corner piece, a decorative facade with lights on it.

RIDE CLEARED FOR OPERATION

The ride had a sticker indicating that it had passed a state inspection for 2011 operations, which is what city inspectors check before the carnival begins. All of the rides that were operating had the state certification, according to Dave Varga, director of administrative services.

A final report had not been completed as of Friday, according to Barrington Carr, director for the enforcement division of the Bureau of Commercial Services of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Carr would not comment on the specific malfunction until he received the final report.

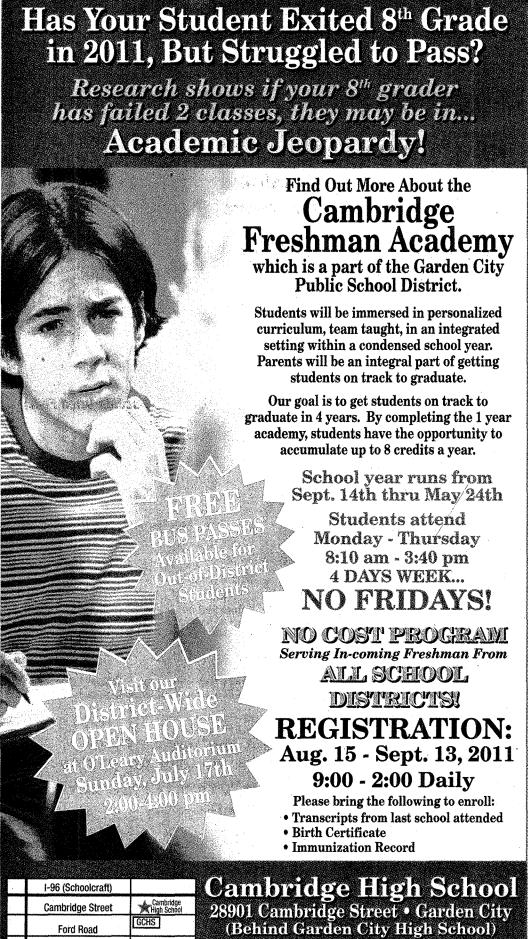
"It's ongoing," Carr said Friday morning of the state's investigation. "We believe a bolt failed as a result of bending because of the normal

course of the ride's use." Carr said the state must be contacted within 24 hours of a ride malfunction that results in injury. "We did receive information that the ride failed," Carr said.

A state inspector working on the report was unavailable Friday, Carr said. Carr expected more information to be available Monday.

Carr said the rides are not inspected every year, but that particular ride was inspected two months ago. "One would not necessarily see these abrasions or breaks (on the equipment) or these kinds of failures," Carr said. "It's not that unusual for a bolt to fail. In this instance, it failed and it caused an injury.'

Carr compared it to a motor vehicle. "You can check it over and over, and when you see something wrong, you fix it," Carr said. "Mechanical devices will fail and when they fail, you fix them. We don't have a lot of these things happening."



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Tour, 9/11 memorial show highlight Fife & Drum Corps' 40th year

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

They wear heavy woolen uniforms and tricorn hats, march in formation and play tunes with roots in the martial music of more than two centuries ago.

It's another season for the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps, which has about 30 performances scheduled between now and early October. The Corps of 14 fife players and seven drummers, plus a color guard with flags and old-fashioned weapons - swords, muskets and pole weapons like the halbred - performs at festivals and parades throughout the state, plus takes a tour to the East Coast or the South every summer.

The Corps' next appearance in Plymouth is at the annual Good Morning USA parade, scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, July 4, on Main Street.

This is no ordinary season. This year marks the Corps' 40th anniversary, and its 2011 tour, which begins in late July, includes a performance near Shanksville, Pa., for a memorial for the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93. The plane, which had been hijacked during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, went down near Shanksville as passengers tried to overpower the hijackers.

CORPS CAMARADERIE

"The kids are really looking forward to it," said Jim Predhomme of Plymouth Township, the Corps' director since 1991, during a recent rehearsal outside Salem High School. The trip is the culmination of months of hard work, Predhomme said. The caravan, some 20 vans with Corps members and parents, plus the Corps' equipment truck, will also be stopping in Boston, Lexington and Concord, Mass., and the 18th-century Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New

"I just like music and I like history," said Calvin Mayman of Ann Arbor, a second-year fife player. "I taught myself to play fife and then I came here.'

Calvin also likes the camaraderie the Corps offers, something many other members also mention.

Observer & Eccentric

Programs[§]

for Men &

Women

"You end up with a group that's very tightly bonded,"



Fife instructor Sydney Stabler warms up the fife section of the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps before a parade in Redford Township earlier this month.

said Pierre Brideau of Canton Township, whose daughter, Meaghen, is a snare drummer. Brideau is the vice president of the group this year.

The Fife & Drum Corps is for young people ages 12 to 18. They play fife and drum music with an emphasis on the kind played from the American Revolution to the War of 1812, and their 10-pound woolen uniforms, with 64 pewter buttons and no zippers, are like those worn by George Washington's personal guards. Their music, most of it in medley form, includes tunes like Yankee Doodle Dandy, Grandfather's Clock and Downshire.

A musical background isn't required, although many of the members take music lessons and perform outside the Corps.

"If you want to be in this group, we'll find a way for you to participate," Predhomme

But there is competition, especially in the drum section, which is limited to 10 by the number of drums the Corps owns. Beginning drummers sometimes have to try color guard for a year, or take a break. then audition again when

Check out our new redesigned website

they've improved their skills.

Alex Perry of Plymouth Township is a fife player who also plays piano and flute. Despite its similarities to the flute, he finds the fife more difficult.

"I don't have to memorize any of my flute music, but I have to memorize all of my fife music," he said.

Alex likes performing in parades. "They're all fun," he

At a recent parade in Redford Township, the Corps was among several participating marching bands, and Corps members mustered on the grounds of a church at Six Mile and Beech Daly before the parade began.

Their performance captured onlookers' imaginations.

"They sound really good," said Dawn Cline of Dearborn Heights, viewing the parade from the front lawn of a house. Cline especially liked the Revolutionary War-era design on the sides of the drums. "It was really pretty on the drums. It was like a work of art."

The parades and other performances, said Predhomme, raise

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money for the Corps' annual trip and its other expenses.

RIGOR, REWARDS

The Corps demands dedication, Predhomme said. Rehearsals are weekly for

most of the year, sometimes more often during the summer

"This group takes a lot of involvement. It's not for everybody," he said. "You can't just show up when you want.

"It's what I do the whole year," said Robbie Holmes of Plymouth, a second-year fife player.

Parent volunteers, Predhomme said, play a big part in keeping things organized.

"The only reason this group has survived is that parents have stepped up to some of these roles," he said.

Predhomme said performers grow socially, and build confidence and leadership skills. Plus, there's the show.

"You produce this really excellent product that people really appreciate," he said. The music — a season's repertoire is rotated every four or five years - "keeps them challenged," he

Predhomme has been the Corps director for half its life. A snare drummer, he joined in 1978 while in middle school, and played for six seasons. At the University of Michigan, he was in the marching band, and in 1987, be became the Corps' drum instructor, and, four years later, the director.

"It's surprising to me how quickly it's gone by," said Predhomme. "It feels like I'm the same college kid who came back to help."

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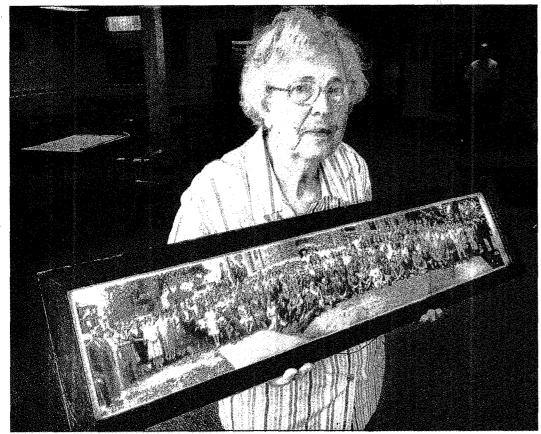


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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 26, 2011



Miriam Kleven, a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, holds a photo of the congregation from 1932.

Redford church merging with Livonia congregation

BY PAT MURPHY OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When a church is closing after 50 years, you might not expect to hear the words, "A good time was had by all."

Yet that's how pastor Jim Fogle described the celebration at St. John's Lutheran Church as the congregation marked its demise in Redford Township and its merger with Christ the King Lutheran Church in Livonia Sunday. The congregation was also commemorating the 50th anniversary of the church's moving from Detroit to Redford.

In June 1961, when the church left Detroit, St. John's had more than 400 parishioners and a promising future. That membership dwindled to less than 75 or so, according to Fogle, something he attridemographics.

St. John's isn't the only church affected by aging membership and changing demographics, said pastor Jack Eggleston, director of Evangelical Mission for the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Many churches in metro Detroit have seen their membership dwindle for the same reasons, said Eggleston, who was one of the estimated 175 people at the last Sunday's service.

The church building - on Mercedes, one block south of Schoolcraft — has been sold to Merciful Ministries of Jesus Christ, which may hold its first services as early as Sunday, according to pastor Lee Williams. "We like the location," said the pastor. "We

butes in large part to changing hope to bless the community in whatever way we can," he said, "but we're particularly interested in young people."

But for the congregation at St. John's, the future is in Livonia, said Eggleston. "The congregation had the resources to continue in Redford for several years," he said. "But it decided to put those resources to better use in Livonia.

The last service at St. John's was an uplifting experience, said John Call, a member of the church's congregation council. "There were a few tears," he said, "but many people see it as a new beginning, and they're optimistic."

Maria Hill, who was a St. John's parishioner when it was located in Detroit, agreed Sunday's service was mostly a celebration, even though some of her close friends stayed



The cross from St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford Township will hang over the altar at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Livonia. Pastor Jim Fogle and Christ the King parishioner Melodie Provencher received the cross this week.

away. "They were afraid they'd cry," she said.

As many as 175 people attended the final service. Some of the old-timers who had moved away came back, Hill said, "and I'm sure we had some people from Christ the

King."
Hill was pleased when Fogle gave the benediction at Sunday's service in Finnish, the language that at one time was common in some services. Fogle, who doesn't speak the language, said he memorized the benediction in Finnish to acknowledge the church's roots and its early members,

many from Scandinavia and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

"He did a good job," said Hill, who speaks the language, "although he spoke Finish with an Ohio accent."

Hill, Call and others said they are encouraged by the manner in which the Livonia congregation is welcoming their Redford brethren. The Livonia congregation has reserved two positions on its council for members from the Redford church, Call noted, "And the cross from the Redford Church will have a place of honor in its new

home," he said.

Other records and artifacts from St. John's will be sent to the archives of ELCA Region Six (which includes lower Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky) in Columbus.

Fogle has been pastor at Christ the King Church in Livonia for about six years and recently has been simultaneously working at St. John's in Redford. He will now lead the combined congregation.

There are also talks that could lead to the merger of Westland's Prince of Peace **Evangelical Lutheran Church** with Christ the King Church.

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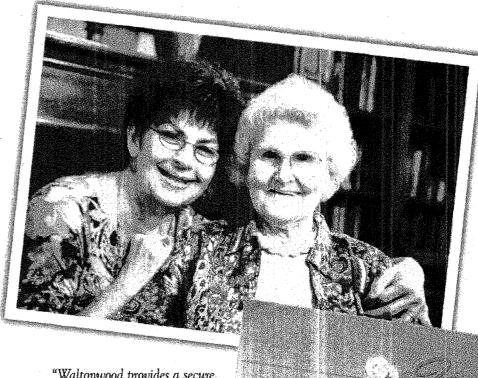


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Beware of pitfalls when lending money to a friend

O: Dear Rick: I have a dear friend I've known since childhood. He's run into tough financial times, lost his job and his house. He has an idea to start a business and I would like to help him. The problem is, he doesn't have the money to start the business. We've talked and there's two ways to go. The first would be to co-sign a loan. The other would be to borrow from my 401(k) and loan him the money. I'm not in great financial shape myself, so I can't take a lot of risk. I am leaning toward co-signing a loan because I think it's the least amount of risk. My friend has informed me that if he cannot repay the loan, he will file bankruptcy. He said he will take full responsibility. Is the loan a good way of going or would be safer to borrow the money from my 401(k)?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

to understand that despite what your friend says, you have risks. Whenever

A: It's great

want to help

shows where

your heart is.

That said, it

is important

a friend. It

that you

someone co-signs a loan, he/ she assumes responsibility to pay that loan if the primary borrower is unable. Therefore, if your friend defaults on the loan and files for bankruptcy, it would not relieve you of your obligation to the lender. The fact that your friend would go into bankruptcy would only affect the lender's ability to go after your friend. It would not affect the lender's ability to go after you. That is why the lender is asking for a co-signer, so in case of a bankruptcy they have someone to go after.

If your friend did default on the loan and go into bankruptcy, you would be primarily liable on the loan. In addition, because your friend went into bankruptcy, you would not be able to go after him because he would be discharged from his obligations under the bankruptcy.

I recognize that your friend wants to sign a document that makes him primarily responsible on the loan. However, it would not affect the lender's rights to go after you. The bottom line is, when you cosign a loan you are assuming a substantial obligation. You have to ask yourself: Can I afford to repay the loan in case of default? If the answer is no, think twice about co-signing.

Borrowing from your 401(k) and lending the money to your friend also has consequences. If your friend does not repay the loan, you'd be faced with the difficult decision to either write the loan off or pursue him legally. However, if he chose to file bankruptcy, then the loan would be discharged and you would have no alternatives. In this situation, not only would you lose the money, but there also can be an adverse tax consequence.

When you borrow money from a 401(k) and you don't repay the loan, it is treated as a distribution. Therefore, to add insult to injury, you lose the money and also have to pay taxes on it at your ordinary income tax bracket.

Lending money to friends is always a difficult situation because it's not just a dollar and cents issue, it is also an emotional issue. Ask yourself whether you can afford to take the loss if the loan is not repaid. If the answer is no, then in general, I don't recommend the loan be made.

If, however, you decide to lend money to your friend, I recommend you have an attorney draw up legal papers. This will make sure that there is a

meeting of the minds, between you and your friend, as to the terms of the loan and how it will be repaid. I know a lot of people don't want to hire an attorney because they don't think they need one, however, you do. You're entering into a business transaction and it needs to be properly documented.

Trust is not the issue. The issue is good business. It is important to properly document the transaction.

Good luck!

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

Wrestling camp

The Wresting Program will hold its annual "Rocket Camp" 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 25-29 in the Wrestling Room of John Glenn High School. The camp is open to high school students. The cost is \$100 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is at 12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 25.

There will also be a Youth
Camp 4:30-6 p.m. July 25-29
for youngsters in kindergarten through eighth-grade in
the Wrestling Room. The cost
is \$50 and includes a T-shirt.
Registration is at 4 p.m.

Monday, July 25.
Registration forms are available at www.glennwrestling.com. If you have any questions, contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

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

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

For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237, by e-mail at bonnie@ hope4healinghearts.com or visit the website at www. hope4healinghearts.com.

Golf Outing

John Glenn High School Wrestling Program will hold its 14th annual Golf Outing Fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Idyl Wyld Golf Course in Livonia. The cost is \$85 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn, and steak dinner after golf.

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

For the Comets

Help the Westland Comets football and cheerleading teams raise money while earning a free beverage from Biggby Coffee in Westland.

The Comets are selling
200 Biggby travel mugs - 100
designated for football and
100 for cheerleaders - at \$10
each. The teams will earn
\$5.65 for each travel mug
sold. In addition, the person
buying the mug is entitled to
one free drink of their choice
at Biggby Coffee on Ford
just west of Newburgh which



could be up to a \$5 value.

Store owner Mo Alfakir is selling the travel mugs in the store throughout June.

Progressive raffle

The Westland Goodfellows have added a new progressive raffle to its fund-raising efforts. In addition to its long-standing regular Bingo event, held every week at the Wayne Ford Civic Center, and poker tournaments, at Marvaso's-Electric Stick, the Goodfellows have launch an "Ace of Spades" Progressive Raffle, a 54-week event, hosted by Buffalo Wild Wings, 6677 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Drawings are held at 9:30 p.m. every Monday. It is a 60/40 raffle with 60 percent of the jackpot going to the winner. People interested in participating, can visit Buffalo Wild Wings to get tickets each week.

Weatherization help

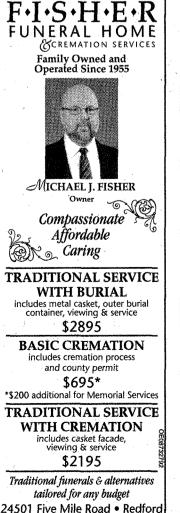
Weatherization Assistance is a home energy conservation program providing services to low-income residents. Families receiving weatherization services can expect heating costs to be reduced 20-25 percent, amounting to about \$300 saving per year.

Eligible projects include such things as floor insulation, storm windows, window repair/replacement, programmable thermostat, furnace and duct repair or replacement and roof repairs.

Wayne-Metropolitan
Community Action Agency
manages the Weatherization
Program for Wayne County,
including the city of
Westland. Contact Jeff Boyd,
weatherization director, at
(734) 284-6999.

Lions Club

The Westland Lions Club meets at 11:30 a.m. the second Monday of the month and at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month at Logan's Roadhouse on Ford in Canton. For more information, call Debbie Dayton at



(Between Beech Daly and Telegraph)

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American Legion

The American Legion,
Westland Post 251, meets at 7
p.m. the first Tuesday of each
month at the Harris-Kehrer
VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne
Road, Westland. All veterans, male and female with an
honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post
Web site at www.post 251.
org or call (734) 326-2607 for
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Keep walking

In the mood to walk, but don't like the weather? Westland Shopping Center has the answer — mall walking.

AROUND WESTLAND

Westland Shopping Center opens its doors before usual operating hours for people who want to walk for exercise. Walking begins at 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Enter through Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen on the northeast end of the mall. All other doors are locked until approximately 8.30 a.m. On Sunday all doors are opened at 10 a.m.

Westland Walkers also hold a meeting at 9.30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Community Room on the lower level. Call (734) 425-5001 to check when a meeting has been scheduled. It's easy to become a member of Westland Walkers.
Just fill out a registration card available at the Customer Service booth in East Court. Return it to the Customer Service associate or put it in the Walkers Box

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Fund-raising events

The AMVETS Post 171
Relay for Life is continuing
its fund-raising efforts with
an online Avon fundraiser
now through July 31. Go to
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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 26, 2011

Contestants wanted

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2011 Miss Wayne County Scholarship Pageant, an official Miss America preliminary.

Any woman age 17-24 who lives, works full time or attends school full time in Wayne County is eligible to apply. Contestants will compete in the following categories: interview, lifestyle, swimsuit, evening gown, talent, and on stage question.

The winner will receive a cash scholarship and will represent Wayne County at the 2012 Miss Michigan Pageant to be held in Muskegon. The application deadline is Aug. 21. To apply online, visit www. misswaynecounty.org.

For more information, call (734) 367-0560 or e-mail SheilaMae116@aol.com.

Applications are also available for the Miss Wayne County Princess Program, a noncompetitive pageant experience open to girls ages 4-12. Visit www.misswaynecounty. org to apply.

The pageant is set for Sept. 10 at Livonia Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia.

Office hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will host district coffee hours on Monday, June 27. Citizens of the 6th Senate District are welcome to attend. No appointment is necessary.

From 9-10 a.m., Anderson will be at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Anderson will be at the **Maplewood Community** Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail; P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909; Phone: (866) 262-7306; or e-mail: SenatorAnderson@senate. michigan.gov.

There will be no coffee hours in the month of July. Coffee hours will resume at their regularly scheduled times and locations in August.

Pickers Paradise Sale

Booth space is available for the Plymouth-Westland Grange 389's Pickers Paradise Sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 23, , at Maxwell's Art and Treasures, 32416 Industrial. north of Ford, Garden City. Rain date will be July 30.

The Grange is looking for people with items to sell, especially unique items. The booth size is eight feet by eight feet and costs \$15. A space will be assigned on the day of payment. Make checks payable to the Grange No. 389.

Food also will be available. Donations will help the community and Maxwell's. For more information, call Laura at (734) 427-5300, Ext. 7, or Sharon at (734) 722-4857.



The PCCDI Plymouth-Canton Timebank held a dance at the Plymouth Opportunity House with community members and people with disabilities. Some 40 people were at the dance, including kids ranging in age from 5-14.

Timebank dance brings joy

CHECK US OUT DAILY ONLINE hometownlife com

Abandoned vehicle auction: 07/01/2011 12 noon Sparks Auto and Towing, 31797 Block Street Garden City MI

Ford 1986 Pontiac 1994 Ford 1998

Chevrolet1984 Toyota

1FALP13PXVW189970 2G2GJ37H8G2276691 1FMDA31U5RZA77985 1GNEC13R0WJ310981 JT2MX63E7E0063586 WAUBJ54A2NN009098 WVWMA63B6WE207390

The PCCDI Plymouth-Canton Timebank held a dance at the Plymouth Opportunity House with community members and people with disabilities.

People with disabilities in the community are very important stakeholders for PCCDI and the timebank and officials say doing volunteer time with them "is a humbling, uplifting experience!"

There were about 40 people at the dance, including kids ranging in age from 5-14 and they had a blast. On the way home some kids had a lot of questions about people with disabilities, and were "very touched by how special the

people they met at the dance were," said the PCCDI's Anne Marie Graham-Hudak.

Seven-year-old Hadley H. said Ross, the person with whom he played soccer, was very nice to "every kid there."

"I think he deserves a big thank you," Hadley said. "I never had so much fun in my life. I would love to go back again and see the people that were very nice. It was also fun to play an instrument that they used to play in the olden days.'

Hadley's 5-year-old sister, Elise, loved the cake.

"I loved the party," Elise said. "I really want that party to be at my house because I like all the people. I like playing with that one girl and her mom. I liked drinking pop

and playing with the dog."
Saad Syed, 10, wanted to know when he was going to go back again, and showed off his soccer skills to everyone. The kids played soccer and tag with the residents for hours. The Plymouth band - 'The skinny raccoons,' played bluegrass and everyone danced, sang and took turns playing the 'bass washtubs.' It was obvious that everyone had a

great time. Saad's sister, 8-year-old

Tahla, said she looks forward to going back and playing soc-

"I liked meeting the new people at the party and the new instruments because they were letting us play the big instrument, she said.

The Plymouth-Canton Timebank is always looking for volunteers to work side-by-side with people with disabilities. They are also looking for people to help tutor Starkweather students in the fall, and help pull weeds at the local libraries. Anyone interested can email the Timebank at pctimebank@gmail.com.

City of Garden City Close of Registration Notice City Primary and School Special Election, Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Notice is hereby given that the last day of registration for the City Primary and School Special Election is Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

Candidates for the following office are to be voted on:

City Council

The following proposal will also be voted on:

MILLAGE PROPOSAL BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the School District of the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 2 mills (\$2.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2011to 2015, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the repair or construction of school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2011 is approximately \$1,202,000?

The office of the City Clerk, located in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan, will be open for the registration of all qualified electors, not already registered, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan

DAVID T. BITTNER, Attorney, 710 E. Grand River, Howell, Michigan 48843 STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate
Estate of JUNIOR
FREEMAN, Deceased, D Birth: January 3, 1926.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Junior Lee Freeman, who lived at 8649 Liberty Blvd., Westland, Michigan died May 20, 2011. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the

estate will be forever barred unless presented to Daniel Freeman named personal representative or proposed personal representative, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. Date: June 23, 2011

Personal Representative: Daniel Freeman c/o 710 E. Grand River, Howell, Michigan 48843 Attorney: David t. Bittner, P-44948. 710 E. Grand River, Howell Michigan 48843. Telephone No. (517) 546-7363.

Publish: June 26, 2011

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by Wayne-Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185 for:

MEDIA CENTER FURNISHINGS -ELLIOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Proposals are to be submitted in accordance with contract documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. 1191 W. Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302 dated June 27, 2011.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY,

Detroit, MI 48221

A. Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after June 27, 2011. Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ARCHITECTURE, INC.

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-3204

B. Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Architect's office, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Bidding documents are available for review at the following plan rooms: McGraw-Hill construction Dodge Construction Association of Michigan 20475 Woodingham Dr. 43636 Woodward Ave., Suite 100

DUE DATE

A. Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Date and Time: July 11, 2011 at 1:00 PM EST

Place: Wayne-Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185

GENERAL INFORMATION A. Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period on ninety (90) days after date for receipt of bids. A 5% bid bond is required in accordance with the Section 00100-F -Instructions to Bidders (See Page 00100-F-1, Paragraph 2.G.).

B. Accepted Bidder shall be required to enter into a contract with Wayne-Westland Community Schools and furnish satisfactory Performance Bond in accordance with the Section 00100-F -Instructions to Bidders. (See Page 00100-F-2, Paragraph 2.L.).

C. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein. If in the Owner's opinion it is in their best interest, the contract may be awarded to other than the lowest bidder, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time,

Publish: June 26, 2011



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Past Forward

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6

Location: Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Learn about Karma along with "Past Lives." Have you ever wondered if you were a peasant or a princess? Gayle Buchan, certified hypnotherapist, and Kristy Robinett, psychic medium, take you on a journey of your past lives. Open the book to your past and learn how to heal to move on with the future. Tickets are \$35 per person. Light Refreshments will be served.

Contact: Tickets are available at www.tangledwishes.com/events.

Grief Support

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. first and third Tuesday of the month **Location**: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lille, Suite A, Canton **Details:** Compassionate Care Hospice conducts an ongoing grief support group, The Grief Journey, for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. The goal of the group is to provide support and education on the grief process. There is no

Contact: For information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050.

Class Reunion

Time/Date: Saturday, Oct. 15 **Details:** Garden City High School Class of 1986 is holding a 25-year reunion. E-mail Trish First (Patty Buggy) for more information at pm2b2005@yahoo.com or contact Kristy Hickson (Roberts) on Facebook.

Summer School

Details: Kumon Centers are enrolling for their summer program. Parents of preschool to high school

more about its summer enrichment program. Registration fees are waived for families who enroll now through July 15 in the math or reading program.

Contact: To find a local Kumon center, call (877) 586-6673 or go online to www.kumon.com

Car show

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. every Thursday evening, now through Sept. 29th

Location: American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, just south of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia,

Details: In addition to a variety of cars on display, there will be dinners will be served inside as well as grilled items like hot dogs, hamburgers and sloppy joes outside. There also is a DJ, 50/50 raffle and a bake sale hosted by the American Legion Riders. Everyone is welcome.

Fall Craft Show

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22 Location: St. Theodore Parish, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland Details: St. Theodore's CCW is looking for vendors for their fall craft show. Table rental is \$25. Contact: all Mary at 734-425-4421

(voicemail #10) Support group

Time/date: 3rd Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month

Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland **Details:** Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance is sponsoring a support group that provides support and guidance for families caring for an older person. Contact: Chris Goldberg at (734) 629-5004. Call to confirm meeting, if coming for the first time.

American Legion

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month

Location: Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland **Details**: American Legion Westland Post 251 meets at the VFW hall the first Tuesday of each month. The post welcomes all veterans male and female who have

been honorably discharged. Contact: Bill Acton at (734) 326-2607, Ron Nickels at (734) 455-3415 or visit the website at www. post251.com or www.post251.org.

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. every Friday Location: Monaghan Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Livonia

Details: Dinners cost \$8.95 per person.

Contact: For details and reservations, call (248) 476-8383.

Fish Dial-A-Ride Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, designate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to nonemergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.

Contact: For more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Earth Angels

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

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

Higher Rock Cafe

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

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

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

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

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

Details: The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.

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

Dyer Center

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland Details: Offers activities Monday-

Friday at the center. Contact: (734) 419-2020

Senior Fitness

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

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

Contact: (734) 793-1870

VOLUNTEERS

Details: First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Contact: (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

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VNA Hospice

Details: Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.

Contact: (248) 967-8361, www.vna.

Seasons Hospice

Details: Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community. Contact: (800) 370-8592

Literacy Council

Details: The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Contact: (734) 416-4906

Details: Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services.

Contact: (888) 973-1145

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Safe Place

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

DICK SCOTT CHRYSLER . DODGE . JEEP . RAM

Extended Hours: Mon. 9-9, Tues. 9-8,

Wed. 9-8 And Thurs. 9-9

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

Adult Day Services

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays

Location: 570 S Main St., Plymouth

Detail: A structured weekday alternative for adults in need of supervision. Program provides activities and discussions to meet social, recreational and personal needs unique to dependent individuals Contact; Laurie Krause at laurie. lifecareads@gmail.com and (734) 956-2600

Metro Fibromyalgia

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

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

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

Menopause & More

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

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

Contact: (734) 655-1100

Counterpoint

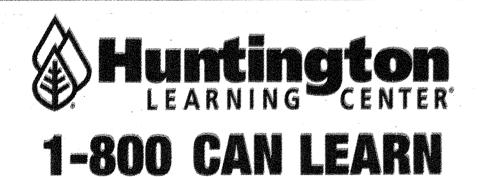
Details: Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. Contact: (734) 563-5005

Toughlove

Time/date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Location: Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia. **Details**: Support group, newcomers welcome.

Contact: (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748



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Tues., Wed. & Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.,

Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jeep



FERRARI FRIDAY Fri., July 8, 5-8pm

Displaying Italy's finest cars by Jack Cauley

KID'S DAY OUT Sat., July 9, 1-4pm

Free Activities for Kids!

BACCHANALIA Sun. July 10 from 4-6pm

A Premium Wine Tasting & Dinner Event!
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- Rich and Exquisite Taste
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CUCINAITALIANA

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DEARBORN-DEARBORN HEIGHTS-CANTON-FARMINGTON HILLS www.antoniosrestaurants.com

SECTION B

SPORTS

SUNDAY, June 26, 2011

hometownlife (iii) com



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
PRACTICE SKILLS IN NEW
LAB AT BOTSFORD, B8

Kesler delivers precious gift to his father

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ryan Kesler's Father's Day present was delivered a few days late.

The Livonia native and Vancouver Canucks' center was honored Wednesday night in Las Vegas as the National Hockey's League best defensive forward when he captured the Frank J. Selke Award

Kesler, who had 41 goals, 80 blocked shots, 124 hits, 65 takeaways and a plus-24 rating in 82 games for Vancouver, credited his father, Mike, for making him a topnotch two-way player.

"I guess all those years my dad was yelling 'backcheck' finally paid off," Kesler told the Detroit Free Press. "He brought me up and always taught me defense first, and I have a ton to thank him for. He's the one that taught me how to play the right

"I pride myself on the defensive part of the game, and it's nice to be acknowl-

The 26-year-old Kesler won by a landslide, receiving 1,179 votes. Chicago's Jonathan Toews got 476 and the Red

Please see **KESLER**, **B3**



JEFF-VINNICK | VANCOUVER CANUCKS

Livonia native and Churchill High grad Ryan Kesler of the Vancouver Canucks earned the Selke Award as the National Hockey League's top defensive forward.



Garden City police officer Craig "Sly" Sylvester ripped this pitch into left-center field during Thursday night's recreation slow-pitch game against Copilot Printing. Admiring Sylvester's swing are (from left) Kenny Dehart, Tom Wallace, Eric Steven, Paul Donaldson and Mike Collard (with bat).

Just Like Old Times

Albert's on the Alley players forge friendships on the diamonds

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As his 50-year-old legs churned toward third base during the first inning of Albert's on the Alley's Thursday night B League softball game against Copilot Printing, retired Garden City police officer Tom Wallace was fueled by words of encouragement from his team's dugout.

"Come on, Tom!" one teammate shouted. "You're running like you have a piano on your back!"

Wallace smiled, kept chugging, and eventually scored during his team's eight-run inning.

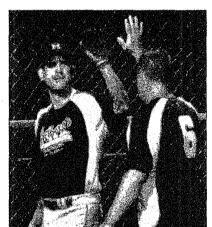
A veteran of 26 slow-pitch seasons, Wallace knows better than anybody that laughter is as abundant as laser-shot hits with this group of players.

"I love the camaraderie and having a night out with the guys," said Wallace, speaking about his love of slow-pitch softball. "Every year I tell myself, 'This is it, I'm done,' but every year I'm drawn back. I know I'd miss it too much if I gave it up."

UNIQUE MAKE-UP

In a lot of ways, Albert's on the Alley is like most recreation softball teams in the metropolitan-Detroit

Its roster is made up of mostly friends and co-workers who have known each other for many years.



Paul Donaldson (left) and Mike Collard share a high-five after Donaldson squeezed a foul pop-up.

Some of the friendships date back to the players' high school days.

And although they play to win, they don't let the final score get in the way of having a great time.

What is unique about this team's make-up is that its roster includes some pretty high-profile Garden City residents, including mayor Randy Walker, who is a fill-in player and regular third base coach.

"The team has been together in some form for 29 years," said current manager Micah Hull, a Garden City police officer. "The majority of the team worked for the police department back then. Now, there are only a few police officers along with some city employees, teachers, the mayor."

VETERAN PRESENCE

Two players — Wallace and veteran Garden City police officer Craig "Sly" Sylvester — have outlasted a long list of teammates and several sponsors.

"This team has been sponsored by the Drake Lounge, the Crystal Lounge, the Industry Lounge, Ramey's, Walker's Speakeasy and now Albert's," said Mayor Walker, during a mid-inning break. "This team is not only made up of great guys, but there are some very good ball players. If they don't win the league, they're always right up there"

Thanks to Thursday's double-header sweep (16-11 and 23-21), Albert's won the regular-season league championship with a 13-1 record. The team has now won the Thursday night title seven of the past eight seasons.

"It's a great group of guys," said third baseman Paul Donaldson, a driver for United Parcel Service. "Some of us play together on Friday nights, too.

"I see a lot of guys I used to play with or against in high school when I played for coach (Bob) Dropp. I started playing right out of high school, then I took a few years off

Please see OLD TIMES, B2

SIDELINES

Hebden top defender

Sophomore Jamie
Hebden of Farmington Hills
was named the Defensive
Player of the Year for the
University of Detroit men's
lacrosse team.

Hebden (Brother Rice) was a leader on a U-D defense that led the nation with 11.63 caused turnovers per game.

Hebden was selected to the All-MAAC second team after a season in which he caused 40 turnovers and picked up 60 ground balls.

"He's just a smart and steady player for us," coach Matt Holtz said. "He plays tough, aggressive and smart, and I was glad he was recognized by the coaches for his hard work."

Junior Tim Lehto of Farmington Hills (North Farmington) was one of the offensive leaders for the Titans with 12 goals and 17 points.

U-D tied for second place in the MAAC with a 4-2 mark and was 6-10 overall. The Titans reached the MAAC tourney final, losing to nationally ranked Siena.

"I am proud of the way the guys played this year and continued to improve," Holtz said. "That's the result of the hard work our kids have put in."

Hole-in-one club

Bob Heath, 81, of Plymouth used a 7-iron to ace the 145-yard, No. 5 hole Monday at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia. Heath, who has been playing for 60 years, shot an impressive 84 for 18 holes.

Staying at Breslin

The Michigan High-School Athletic Association has conducted the boys basketball state tournament semifinals and championship games at Michigan State University since 1994. It will still that way until at least 2017.

MHSAA officials and MSU recently agreed to a six-year extension of their existing contract to have the boys tournament at the 14,759-seat Jack Breslin Student Events Center. The girls finals will also be played at MSU this season.

"The central location of the Breslin Center makes it the ideal spot for our basketball finals," said Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA.

"When you think of some of the greatest moments in the Michigan high school basketball tournament, they took place on this campus, and it's that history that we want to continue to be part of," MSU Athletic Director Mark Hollis said. "It's great for our university and community to host teams and fans from across our state for this terrific event."

Teen coaches connect with Little Leaguers

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When a trio of just-graduated student-athletes from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park were younger, they created never-fading Little League memories of sandlots, smiles, friendship and trips to the Dairy Queen.

And a decade or so after playing with neighborhood chums on the Devil Rays, those three stepped up to the plate to ensure those same experiences for a team that until May didn't even have a coach.

Lifelong pals Chase Zebari, Nick

Lifelong pals Chase Zebari, Nick Hayes and Tommy Halewicz banded together to coach the U12 Phillies of the Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association. Despite a 2-8 record, it's been a winning endeavor on several fronts.

"I just think that it's awesome that they're taking their time, especially these guys are going to be graduating, going off to college," Canton dad John Snyder said, watching his son, Jake, and the Phillies during a recent game at Heritage Park. "And they're giving back, sacrificing for these kids. These kids are probably going to look back on this and say this was probably the coolest year."

Also thrilled that Zebari (the head coach) and assistants Hayes and Halewicz saved the season for their son were Patsy and Tom Kelly, of Plymouth. Their 11-year-old son Aaron is on the squad.

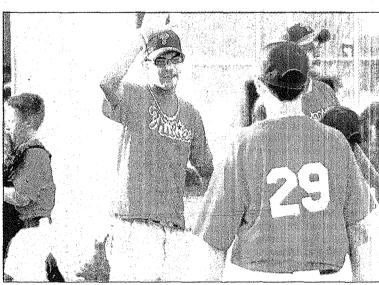
"They're by far his favorite coaches,"
Patsy Kelly said. "I think he looks up to
them, they're like a mentor to them.
"You have more in common with on 10

"You have more in common with an 18year-old than you do a 40-year-old."

GIVE AND TAKE

Besides, she added, the young Phillies "love getting to third to get the knuckle-knock and high fives" from Zebari in the coaches box. "That's what it's all about."

Please see COACHES, B3



JOHN KEMSI

U12 Phillies head coach Chase Zebari (left) gets set to high-five Connor Savage (No. 29) during a recent game at Heritage Park. In the background at right is assistant coach Nick Hayes.

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All-Area softball team recognizes all-star talent

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM Kelsey Susalla, Jr., P/3B, Garden

City: Susalla played an integral role in the Cougars' phenomenal 31-4 season — both on the mound and at the plate. A leadoff hitter with pop in her bat, the junior hit a robust .592 with 28 extra-base hits, including five round-trippers. She also knocked in 44 runs. On the mound, the strong-armed righty fanned 85 in 107 innings on the way to an 18-2 record. She walked just 19 batters and carved out a stellar 2.86 earned-run aver-

"Kelsey is among the premier hitters in the state," coach Barry Patterson said. "She has a great, natural swing. She batted just over 100 times and scored 68 runs. That in itself is huge. She's the complete package. Pitchingwise, she had a very solid season for us. She's just a delightful young lady to coach."

Kayce Nieto, Jr., P, Mercy: Nieto made the all-area team for the second year in a row after another outstanding season. She was 14-6 as a pitcher, but three losses were to Ladywood and one was to North Farmington. Nieto allowed just 10 earned runs (27 overall) and posted a 0.52 ERA with six shutouts. She had 219 strikeouts and only 15 walks in 134 innings. Nieto hit .506 (44-of-87) with 12 doubles, 10 home runs and 24 RBI. She had a .989 slugging percentage and just four strikeouts.

"I can't say enough about Kayce as a person, and she'll be a great addition to the Utah softball program," coach Jack Falvo said. "There aren't a lot of players who come out of Michigan who get that kind of opportunity.

"She's dedicated to being the best she can be. It sure makes it easy to coach, having a young lady like that. She's a fantastic person and a joy to have on the team. As good as she is, she's all about the team and her teammates.

CarolAnn Sexauer, Sr., SS, Canton: A superb two-way player throughout her high school career, Sexauer sparked the Chiefs to a 34-7 record (including a share of the KLAA South Division title).

The senior co-captain also was a key factor in Canton triumphs in the Division 1 districts and regionals.

In addition to sparkling defense (.988 fielding percentage), Sexauer batted .470 to lead the team for a second straight year, also slamming six homers and driving in 34 runs.

Sexauer, who will play softball at Central Michigan University, again nabbed all-district and allconference honors for her efforts.

"She is an outstanding individual on and off the field," coach Jim Arnold said. "She makes her teammates play harder. She is a very coachable young lady (and) she has great leadership qualities.

Briana Combs, Jr., P, Ladywood: The junior right-hander went 32-3 en route to Division 2 first-team all-state honors.

In 261 innings, Combs fanned 330 and walked only 11 with an earned-run average of 0.22 for the state semifinalists and Catholic League champions.

The all-Catholic, all-region and all-district selection also fielded her position well (.990) and posted an eye-opening .528 batting average.

Combs, a candidate for ESPN/ Gatorade 2011 Player of Year, also excels in the classroom with a 4.13 grade-point average

"She's worked real hard and I've got to say it: She's the best-conditioned athlete probably in the state," coach Scott Combs said of the three-time all-Observer pick. "I've never had anybody, in all my years, work as hard as that to be conditioned to throw seven or 14 innings. And that's wha@you

Katy Severson, Jr., P/1B, N. Farmington: A repeat member of the first team, Severson is one of North's most valuable and productive players. She was 18-2 as a pitcher with 137 strikeouts in 142 innings. She issued 22 walks, never hit a batter and had a 1.42 ERA with 29 earned runs.

Severson batted third for the Raiders (34-4) and was 67-of-131 for a .511 average. Her hits included 16 doubles, three triples and three home runs. She also scored 21 runs, had 58 RBI and struck out just four times.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 26, 2011

Katy does it all," Brubaker said. "She's one of the most head'sup fielders we have. She didn't make an error this year, and you're talking two of the hardest positions to field in fastpitch sóftball — first base and pitcher. That's a real tribute to a kid who's worked hard and will work even header to get ready for college. Nobody works harder and takes the game more seriously once you cross the line to play ball."

Jenny Rohn, Sr., SS, Ladywood: Bound for Western Michigan University on a softball scholarship, the senior shortstop hit .410 for the Final Four Blazers, including 19 doubles and seven triples.

Rohn, an all-Catholic, all-state (first-team) all-region and alldistrict pick, also had 36 RBI and scored 42 runs for the 38-4 league champions.

The lone graduating senior also had 38 stolen bases and field at a .980 percentage.

"Jenny's a great kid," coach Scott Combs said. "She learned how to work hard and learned how to commit herself. She's learned how to come out every day and get better. Her leadership has been outstanding.'

Carli San Millan, Jr., 2B, Ladywood: The junior second baseman batted a whopping .470 (69-for-148) with six homers, 22 doubles and three triples for the Catholic

League and state semifinalists. San Millan, who also had a team-high 48-RBI and scored 38 runs, made all-Catholic, allregion, all-district and honorable mention all-state.

She also swiped 21 bases and excelled defensively with 61 putouts and just four errors (.910 percentage).

"Carli hit fourth for us and can hit any type of pitching," coach Scott Combs said. "We had confidence that she could hit against any type of high-quality pitcher. In the (Michigan) Stars Tournament she tore it up, going 15-for-18 in six games.

"She moved from the outfield to second base this year and did a very good job."

Kaitlyn Mattson, Sr., 1B, Canton: The senior was consistently excellent with a .438 average and .983 fielding percentage, an instrumental player in Canton's march to the D1 state quarterfinals.

Mattson drove in 27 runs, scored 20 times and provided extra-base power in the heart of the lineup.

A scholar-athlete, she earned back-to-back all-KLAA and alldistrict honors.

"She is one of the best first basemen that have come out of Canton High School," Arnold said. "She played well both offensively and defensively the entire season and has good athletic ability."

Alexis Powell, Jr., 1B, Salem: The three-year starter belted 13 home runs and knocked in 33, batting .409 to earn honors as Salem's offensive MVP.

When Powell wasn't clearing the fence, she was getting on base. She drew 28 walks to up her onbase percentage to .559.

In the field, she was solid wherever coach Bonnie Southerland played her. In addition to first, Powell filled in at shortstop and catcher — displaying her strong

arm and quick release. "Truthfully, there really is not a single position in the field that Alexis could not play and be superior at," Southerland said. "But as you well know, her biggest strength is her hitting. Alexis, if she stays at this pace, will most likely break the home run record

at Salem." Powell was named to the all-KLAA team and she is an allstate scholar-athlete.

Casey Bias, Soph., C, Churchill: ${\rm The}$ 10th-grader batted .379 with 25 RBI to go along with an on-base average of .442 and a slugging percentage of .632.

Defensively, the all-KLAA selection threw out 13-of-18 base

"Casey is a two-year varsity



Kelsey Susalla **Garden City**



Mercv





CarolAnn Sexauer Canton



Ladywood





Katy Severson N. Farmington



Jenny Rohn Ladvwood



Carli San Millan Ladywood



Canton





Casey Bias Churchill



Katie Creighton N. Farmington



Sarah Gutknecht



player that is very capable of

playing at the next level," coach

Steve Gentilia said. "She's a great

athlete and someone who is very

committed to the game of soft-

ball. We're definitely looking for

great things from Casey the next

Farmington: As the leadoff batter

offensively for the 34-4 Raiders.

She hit .459 and scored 46 runs.

and two triples, and she also had

Her 61 hits included a double

17 RBI. She struck out just six

times and walked twice in 133

to walk," coach Dave Brubaker

said.) Creighton also played a

solid second base with 63 putouts,

"She gets down the first base

line faster than anybody I've ever

Brubaker said. "Not only was she

able to lay down a bunt, she had a

defense different ways besides just

couple triples and could beat the

putting the ball on the ground.

plays second base flawlessly."

Sarah Gutknecht, Soph., SS,

lead the Falcons (20-9) to the

She's a solid defensive player; she

Farmington: The sophomore short-

stop and two-year starter helped

OAA White Division champion-

district. Gutknecht batted .621

ship and a runner-up finish in the

with 59 hits in 95 at-bats. She had

18 doubles, one triple, five home

runs and 33 RBI; she also scored

36 runs. Gutknecht's on-base and

"Sarah is truly the definition

describing a softball player," coach

Stefanie Volpe said. "Sarah had an

will be hard to match. She started

slugging percentages were .654

of what comes from passion,

hard work and dedication when

unbelievable 2011 season offen-

sively in terms of her stats that

the season on an offensive tear

with a 20-game hitting streak

and finished with a five-game

streak. Her on-field ability and

her leadership was a key part in

our league championship. I'm very

excited to see what is to come the

Ashley Lynn, Jr., SS, Garden

City: The sweet-swinging junior

chiseled out a .579 batting aver-

age from the No. 2 spot in the

used her speed to record seven

doubles and three triples. Lynn

Cougars' batting order. She

next two seasons.'

and .990, respectively.

coached at North Farmington,"

48 assists and five errors in 116

chances for a .956 score.

at-bats. ("She wasn't up there

for a team with a .412 average,

Creighton got things started

Katie Creighton, Jr., 2B, N.

Ashley Lynn Garden City

two years.



Plymouth



Jessica Bondy Plymouth

knocked in 35 runs and drilled

one home run. She was a vacuum

 $sweeper\ at\ shortstop,\ combining$

exceptional range with a strong,

players around who are better

"Defensively, there aren't many

than Ashley in the middle infield,"

Patterson said. "She makes plays

other players, but they're routine

for her. She hit .570-something, so

she's a great hitter, and she brings

great leadership to our program.

head. Ashley is a tough competi-

tor. The bigger the game, the bet-

Elaine Gerou, Soph., P. Plymouth:

Plymouth was co-champion of

the KLAA South Division with a

19-10-2 record and the pitching

season for coach Val Canfield,

sporting an ERA of 1.78 while

in on offense. She batted .300

with an on-base percentage of

.466, drawing plenty of walks.

"Elaine had another stellar

year," Canfield said. "She brought

confidence to the field with her

pitching, and not only that she

was solid on the offensive side as

well, being our three-hole hitter.'

Providing speed and spark at

Canfield's squad.

percentage).

had its offense going.

the top of the Wildcats' lineup,

Bondy was quite the catalyst for

dle of things whenever the team

The all-conference and all-

and stole 21 bases while playing

"We're going to really miss

Canfield said. "She was always

quickness, speed, her accuracy

with laying down the bunts and

just basically having that game

sense. And defensively, nothing

She will attend Wayne State

University to study chemical engi-

Farmington: The addition of Keller

solidified the North infield and

added more offense. Keller bat-

would ever get by her."

Megan Keller, Fr., SS, N.

unstoppable offensively with her

Jessica after these last four years,

flawless center field (.962 fielding

district selection batted .500

Bondy usually was in the mid-

Jessica Bondy, Sr., OF, Plymouth:

striking out 192 batters.

of Gerou had a lot to do with that

She pitched virtually the entire

An all-conference and all-dis-

trict selection, Gerou also chipped

She's our vocal leader. Ashley

doesn't let anyone hang their

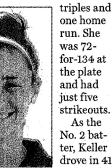
that would be considered great for

accurate arm.

ter she plays."



Megan Keller



N. Farmington

ter, Keller drove in 41 runs and scored 59. She had 40 putouts, 43 assists and eight errors for a .912 fielding percentage. Keller also

As the

is a member of the 16-and-under Honeybaked national champion hockey team. "Megan is one of those players

who comes around once or twice maybe in your coaching career



Scott Combs

who can take control of a game defensively and offensively," Brubaker said. "She has the ability to drag bunt and also hit it over your head. or over the

Coach of Year

fence. If she wasn't knocking runs, she was scoring

them. She can power the ball to all fields any time she swings a bat.

"She wants to be a college and Olympic hockey player. If softball can be a sideshow for her, that would be good for the North Farmington softball program." COACH OF THE YEAR

Scott Combs, Ladywood: Playing one of the most challenging schedules in the state, the fourthyear coach guided the Blazers to a 38-4 record and a berth in the Division 2 state semifinals.

Ladywood also captured the Central Division, Catholic League, district and regional titles, as well as two tournament crowns, including the Michigan Stars and Eaton Rapids.

The Blazers' season ended with a heartbreaking 3-2 setback to eventual state champion Stevensville Lakeshore in eight innings.

Combs, an attorney, is a 1981 graduate of Battle Creek Harper Creek who played baseball at Kalamazoo College

"We started out 17-0 and every game we lost was by one run; we could have been undefeated," said Combs, who is 130-34 in four seasons with the Blazers. "I liked the way we came together as a team this year and the way we worked hard. We got in a lot of repetitions, we conditioned hard and we were in shape as a team. We got an hour-and-a-half of full practice in before 20 to 25 of our games and it made a huge difference."

Ladywood's future appears bright for 2012 as only one senior, shortstop Jenny Rohn, graduates from the starting lineup.

Farmington 2011 ALL-OBSERVER

SOFTBALL FIRST TEAM

Kelsey Susalla, Jr., P/3B, Garden City Kayce Nieto, Jr., P, Farm. Mercy CarolAnn Sexauer, Sr., SS, Canton Briana Combs, Jr., P, Ladywood Katy Severson, Jr., P/1B, N. Farmington Jenny Rohn, Sr., SS, Ladywood Carli San Millan, Jr., 2B, Ladywood Kaitlyn Mattson, Sr. 1B, Canton Alexis Powell, Jr., 1B, Salem Casey Bias, Soph., C, Churchill Katie Creighton, Jr., 2B, N. Farmington Sarah Gutknecht, Soph., SS,

Farmington. Ashley Lynn, Jr., SS, Garden City Elaine Gerou, Soph., P. Plymouth Jessica Bondy, Sr., OF, Plymouth Megan Keller, Fr., SS, N. Farmington

COACH OF THE YEAR Scott Combs, Livonia Ladywood SECOND TEAM Kelli Janiczek, Sr., C, Salem Sam Partain, Sr., 2B, Canton Celeste Fidge, Soph., 3B, Ladywood

Andria Gietl, Soph., 1B, Ladywood Makenzie Coulter, Sr., P/1B, N. Farmington Sarah Fier, Soph., 3B, Stevenson Jackie Johnson, Jr., P. Stevenson Kim D'Arcangelo, Jr., 3B, Redford Union Kaitlin Lock, Jr., P, Farmington Heidi Schmidt, Sr., SS/P, Salem Jesse Larner, Jr., OF, Canton Nicole Williamson, Jr., OF/P, Franklin Natalie Hiser, Sr., P. Churchill

Amelia Mittelbrun, Sr., 3B, N. Farmington Lindsay Lutton, Fresh., SS, Plymouth Marisa Hahn, Jr., SS, Lutheran

Westland Carley Shattleroe, Sr., C, Garden City Nicole Odom, Inf., Wayne Memorial Jacquelyn Murphy, Soph., 2B, Mercy

Karleigh Creighton, Sr., OF, N. Farmington Emma Williams, Sr., SS, Harrison HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Abby Jewell, Rachel Jason, Missy Sidor, Mackenzie Everson, Katie Shereda, Jackie Tolles: Franklin: Chelsea Williams, Katelyn Devers, Jessica Emery, Mariah Barcus; Stevenson: Becca Zarras, Ashley Avery, Morgan Copperstone, Alex Ferguson: John Glenn: Samantha Fox. Brandi Holbrook, Alexis Lester. Kailey Vowles, Brittany McGrath; Wayne: Shelby Hooper; Ladywood: Alyssa Kashat, Nicole Payne, Lauren Hayes; Clarenceville: Kellie Ankiel, Stephanie Bishop, Brittany Tallman, Joanna Burling, Reha Bibik, Angela McAlpine; Lutheran Westland: Erica Killian, Hanna Conley, Aldreanna Fikes, Sam Roberts, Lindsey Emert; Huron Valley Lutheran: Brooke Kuehn, Meghan Kubinski, Dayna Schroeder; Canton: Alvssa Boucher, Lauren Leskovitz, Hanna Warren; Farmington: Jessi Walsh, Sarah Gallagher, Lindsay Liwak, Emily Siskosky; Harrison: Geena Girard, Cassandra Allen; Mercy: Jordan Ewald, Meghan Tarrance, Samantha Bauer; North Farmington: Jessica Sherbin, Kaitlyn Kendall, Nikki Wald: Garden City: Hillarie Werda, Sam Bellovary; Redford Union: Lauren Brenner, Rachel Bommarito; Plymouth: Brooke Senkbeil, Brianna Giordano; Ply. Christian: Bethanv Hale, Clare Barber, Sara Slaughter,

Katie McCormack; Salem: Lizzy

Mazorowicz, Emily Marcero.

because my son was playing little league. I got back in it two years ago, and I'm glad I did. It's a lot of

DRAWN TO THE DIAMONDS

What is it about the sport that keeps these 30-, 40- and 50-somethings coming back year after year?

"The beer," joked one player, sparking his teammates' laughter. "I like it because it keeps me active and it's nice to get a night out with the guys," said Wallace. "The bats are better and the balls are harder than when I started playing, but the athletes are pretty

similar. The speed of the game

seems to be faster, but that's probably because I'm 50 and they're 21." (more laughter)

Hull said a key to the team's longevity is the name written across the players' uniforms.

Without the support of the local businesses who sponsor us -Albert's on the Alley owner Steve Valenti has been very supportive the past five years — we wouldn't be able to stay together as a group

like we have," he emphasized. Among the spectators at Thursday night's under-the-lights double-header were players' wives, sons decked out in their GCYAA uniforms, and Hull's mom, Connie, who diligently serves as the team's scorekeeper and positioning coach.

"He came your way last time, Paul," Hull shouted to Donaldson as a Copilot player stepped into the batter's box.

Judging by the way Albert's sprayed line shots across the outfield during its monumental first inning Thursday night, the players' hitting has improved with age.

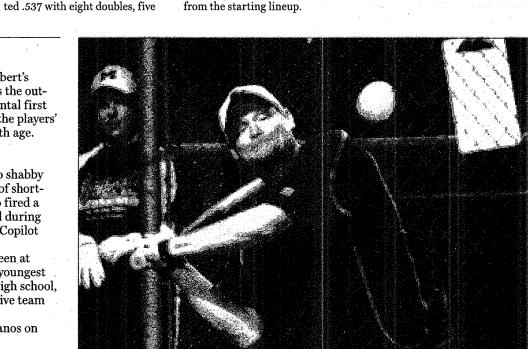
TIGHT 'D'

The defense wasn't too shabby either, particularly that of shortstop Kenny Dehart, who fired a rope across the diamond during the fifth inning to nip a Copilot base runner.

And considering it's been at least a decade since the youngest player graduated from high school, Albert's flashed impressive team speed.

Even the ones with pianos on their backs.

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Mike Salter, a teacher at Garden City High School, takes aim at a floating pitch.



Giving the U12 Phillies a pep talk during a pre-game huddle are coaches Tommy Halewicz, Chase Zebari and Nick

Those players showed how much they like to give back themselves, dumping a bucket of Gatorade over Zebari's head following the Phillies' comefrom-behind 14-7 victory over the Orioles.

"That was a great feeling, unexpected," said Zebari, about the Phillies snapping an eight-game losing skid. "It felt really good because it (the win) broke our losing streak and we got a winning streak going into the playoffs now."

Jordan Neal keyed a big fifth inning to break the contest open. He slapped a single to right that got past the outfielder, scoring Tyler Santoro, Aaron and Jake to make it 7-3.

Capping off the win was a sparkling catch of a foul popup by catcher Brian Oldani.

That was the team's second on-the-field win this year.

But the Phillies' first true victory of the 2011 season was when the then-seniors answered the call from Plymouth varsity baseball coach Bryan Boyd that the Little Leaguers were without a coach.

The man who had originally signed up to lead the team had to back out due to scheduling conflicts.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Zebari, a member of Boyd's ping up his senior year at Plymouth, immediately agreed to fill the void.

He quickly enlisted Hayes and Halewicz (both then seniors at Salem) to help him run the team. Chase's dad, veteran coach Chris Zebari, also is around to lend a hand.

"I want to be a role model and a coach," Chase Zebari said. "I think they can look up to me and see what I did, how hard I worked to be on the varsity baseball team and how I went about it.



Staying in the ready position at shortstop is U2 Phillies player Aaron Kelly, with leftfielder Jordan Neal in the background.

"I feel like I'm mimicking what my varsity coach is doing in games. Telling them what to do. You have to be a student of the game, at any level."

Parents, of course, were relieved that their kids wouldn't be without coaches.

"Probably a parent would have coached," Snyder noted. "But, when there's parents, sometimes you get a parent who might not know a whole lot about the game.

"Yeah, he is giving, he wants to give. So it's a great awesome dad, but that's probably not his expertise sometimes.

QUICK CONNECTION

Right from the start, youngsters such as Aaron responded to guys just six years or so older than them but with a ton of experience in varsity athlet-

Zebari played baseball and hockey at Plymouth while the main prep sports for Hayes and Halewicz were hockey and

kind of kid always wanting to shoot baskets with the older kids in the neighborhood and do that kind of thing," Tom Kelly explained. "So I knew Aaron would respond to having these kids coach him. He's having a lot of fun. It's been a great experience.'

That's how their 18-some-

thing coaches see it, too. "It's been awesome watching the kids grow, especially from a couple months ago when ... they didn't know each other to now," Hayes said. "You can see they're a team and they work together.

"To be a part of that is great and I think for the kids it's got to be cool that three kids that are in high school are helping them out and showing them the ropes."

Helping coach the Phillies is gratifying for Halewicz, both for being able to spend time with his childhood friends and knowing he's making a big impact on the Little Leaguers.

"(But) it's more of a special experience for them (Phillies) because we're kind of serving as role models for the kids," Halewicz said. "Our impact here will help them develop not only as baseball players, but just get them rolling into their teen years, just looking out for them and being there for them."

REC AND ROLL

Zebari, despite worrying about wins and losses like any coach, wouldn't trade being at the Phillies helm for anything and wants to keep on doing that in 2012.

"I really had a good experience in the GCYBSA and I was hoping to pass it on to these kids and I think I have," Zebari said. "I think they've gotten a lot out of the season.'

Above everything else, he's enjoyed seeing his players sample various positions) and at the plate, as well as in teamwork and communication.

Patsy Kelly certainly speaks for a lot of Phillies parents about liking that coaching phi-

"They are really good with the kids and the positions they're interested in playing,' she said. "And in trying to let them play those positions, which is nice. It's a rec team,

Wings' Pavel Datsyuk 348. Kesler, who earned 105 first-place votes on 127 ballots, ended Datsyuk's three-year run on the Selke Award.

"Pavel and Jonathan both had great seasons, and to win it and have those guys as nominees makes it special," said Kesler, a Churchill High grad who played one season at Ohio State before being drafted in the first round (23rd overall)

by the Canucks in 2003.

Kesler, who also won a career-high 57.4 percent of his face-offs, helped the Canucks to the President's Trophy for the league's best record this season.

Vancouver also reached the decisive Game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals before losing 4-0 to the Boston Bruins.

Kesler returned to Michigan right after the awards.

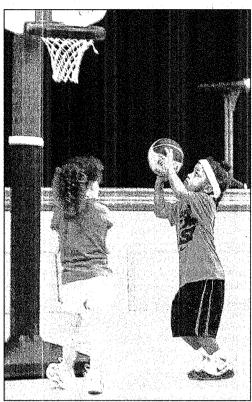
"It's going to be some good rest and get ready for the next season," said the 6-foot-2, 202pound forward, who had 19

points (seven goals, 12 assists) in 25 playoff games.

Kesler, who came through the U.S. National Team Development Program in Ann Arbor, has logged 484 NHL regular season games in seven seasons with 131 goals and 157 assists. He has 48 playoff appearances with 10 goals and 23 assists and was a member of the Team USA, which captured a silver medal at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games held in Vancouver.

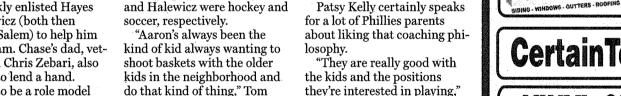
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They've got game

The future Jimmer Fredette's of the world showed off their high-end hoop talents this past week in the Hilbert Junior High School gymnasium, which was the site of the Redford Recreation Department's basketball skills camp for kids between the ages of 3 and 6. The players worked on everything from dribbling to shooting during the daily 45-minute sessions that were run by a group of coaches.



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Hawks take OU's Benson with 48th NBA draft pick

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After being the 48th pick in the NBA Draft, Keith Benson of Farmington Hills now embarks on the next phase of making his basketball dream a reality.

The Oakland University center was the top pick of the Atlanta Hawks in the second round Thursday night at the Prudential Center in Newark,

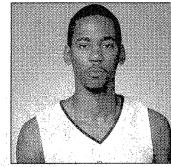
"I'm really excited to be picked by a playoff team and to be the first-ever player drafted from Oakland," Benson said in an OU press release. "It means a lot to me. I'm looking forward to taking the next step in

The 6-foot-11 Benson, who passed on the draft last year and returned to OU for his senior year, is expected to arrive in Atlanta today for the start of a mini-camp Monday.

His next objective will be to prove the Hawks made the right choice and he can indeed play in the NBA. Benson weighs 224 pounds but has a 7-foot-4 wingspan.

"I think I have the frame to put on a lot of weight," Benson told the Atlanta Journal Constitution. "My game will really increase once I put on that weight and some strength. I think I can put on 20 or more pounds."

"Obviously, he needs to get stronger and get into the weight room," Hawks assistant general manager Dave Pendergraft was quoted in the AJC story. "There's upside; we do like his potential. We feel like he has the ability to



Keith Benson

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, June 26, 2011

score the ball now. We don't think it will be that long of a wait (before Benson is NBAready)."

Hawks head coach Larry Drew said he was pleased with the pick and also likes Benson's potential.

"He's a shot-blocker with tremendous length," Drew said in a story on the SB*Nation Atlanta website. "As a team, we hope to improve defensively next season, and what better way to do that than to draft one of the top shot blockers in college basketball."

Benson, the Player of the Year in the Summit League the past two seasons and also the Defensive Player of the Year in 2011, averaged 3.6 blocks per game last season and set the Summit League record with 371 career blocks.

Benson, who worked out for the Pistons on Tuesday but was passed over by the hometown team with the 33rd pick, told the Detroit Free Press he was surprised to be drafted by the Hawks.

"I met with them at the Chicago combine, and they seemed really warm towards me and really interested," Benson said. "I knew that was a possibility. They said

they've been watching me for a while.

'They're a young team that likes to get up and down and they're a playoff team, so I'm really happy to join them."
One TV analyst apparently questioned Benson's drive and motor," which drew a strong reaction from OU coach Greg

"I think they've never coached him and have no clue what they're talking about," Kampe said in the Free Press story. "I coached the guy for five years. I would know about his motor and his toughness.

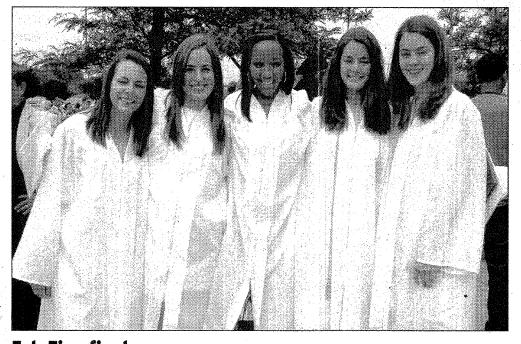
"That motivation has been there. He's been motivated to play in the NBA and has turned himself from a guy that averaged five points a game in high school to an NBA player. Atlanta will find out when they get him how good of a player he is.

"I have all the confidence in the world that he's going to do very well and have a long NBA career. He's going to prove a lot of people that passed on him

While the first from OU, Benson is the third Country Day High School player drafted, following in the footsteps of Chris Webber (1993) and Shane Battier (2001).

Benson helped lead Oakland to three consecutive 20-win seasons, two straight Summit League regular-season and tournament championships and back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances.

Benson is the only league player to surpass 1,500 points, 1,000 rebounds and 300 blocked shots, finishing with 1,903 points and 1,103 rebounds.



Fab Five finale

Canton's exceptional 2011 senior student-athlete quintet of (from left) CarolAnn Sexauer, Melanie Pickert, Kayla Bridges, Sara Schmitt and Kari Schmitt enjoy one last moment together during graduation ceremonies at Eastern Michigan University. At the high school's recent honors night, Sexauer and the Schmitt twins each received awards for top female scholar-athlete. Pickert and Bridges each were named Female Athlete of the Year. All are continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

The Michigan Publinx Seniors Golf Association had its second of 14 tournaments June 2 at the Cherry Creek Club in Shelby Township.

The tournament produced 20 winners from a handicapped field of 93 players (50 years and older) representing 16 communities in southeast Michigan.

Tom Pilon of Plymouth shot the low round of 74 and leads the field in the Briegel Cup standings (low gross score relative to age) and the Low Gross Player of the Year stand-

More information and an application are available at www.mpsga. org or by calling 734-207-7888. The prize winners by flight were:

Flight A (Gross/Net) — First place: (tie) Tom Pilon, Plymouth (74/67); Brian Kuehn, Ann Arbor (76/67); third: (tie) Clifford Davis, Rochester Hills (80/72); Mark Iovan, West Bloomfield (81/72); Charles Mutz. Clarkston (80/72).

Flight B (Gross/Net) — First place:

MEN'S PUBLINX SENIOR GOLF

(tie) Thomas Allen, Bloomfield (81/71); Harry Hicks, Commerce (84/71); third: (tie) Lawrence DeFever, Bloomfield Hills (86/72); Kyu Kim, Bloomfield Hills (82/72); Sal Petrulis, Howell (82/72).

Flight C (Gross/Net) — First place: Everett Winters, Royal Oak (82/64); second: Curt Wagner, White Lake (85/66); third: Ronald Williams, Auburn Hills (83/67); fourth: (tie) Darryl Lewis, Detroit (86/68); Glenn Patterson, Shelby (84/68).

Flight D (Gross/Net) — First place: Richard Irwin, Plymouth (88/66); second: Ron Bisby, St. Clair Shores (93/68); third: Rick Bye, Washington (91/70); fourth: (tie) Douglas Groves, Redford (103/71); Mark Lifter, Farmington (96/71).

The MPSGA's first tournaments was May 14 at the Fieldstone Golf Club in Auburn Hills. The prize winners by flight were:

Flight A (Gross/Net) - First place: Tom Pilon, Plymouth (77/69); second: Mark Iovan, West Bloomfield (79/70); third: (tie) Jim Mlynarczyk, Northville (78/71); Mike Phillips, Bloomfield Hills (77/71); fifth: Don Ward, Sterling Heights (79/72).

Flight B (Gross/Net) - First place: Brian Kuehn, Ann Arbor (80/70); second: (tie) Wayne Bisby, Shelby (87/74); Bill Davis, Davison (85/74); Jack Galsterer, Grosse Pointe Woods (89/74); Paul Kenzie, Plymouth (89/74).

Flight C (Gross/Net) — First place: Dennis Frantz, Wixom (81/63); second: (tie) Chuck Finney, South Lyon (84/69); Glenn Patterson, Shelby (87/69); Allen Rubiner, Huntington Woods (85/69); Mark Smith, Rochester Hills (85/69).

Flight D (Gross/Net) — First place: Martin Dunn, Macomb (85/64); second: George Schulte, West Bloomfield (91/70); third: Raymond Donnelly, Troy (95/71); fourth: Peter Baldori, Howell (107/73); fifth: (tie) Jim Felton, Westland (97/75); Tom Kurczewski, Shelby (108/75).

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COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, June 26, 2011

hometownlife (iii) com

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Paul's Players

New theater troupe will stage shows, camps

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Pat Hutchison rolled out the area's newest community theater troupe, Paul's Players, with a summer camp for middle school students last week in Livonia.

But make no mistake about it, Paul's Players is an adult troupe. It will present its first show, Remember When... based on a collection of letters and songs from World War II, in November, just in time for Veterans Day.

The theater, and its annual summer camps for students, are based at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia, where Hutchison is music director.

"I've always wanted to start a theater group. When I checked places to rent, it was a bite of money off the top," said Hutchison, a Northville resident. "Because of St. Paul's I have a chance to do it."

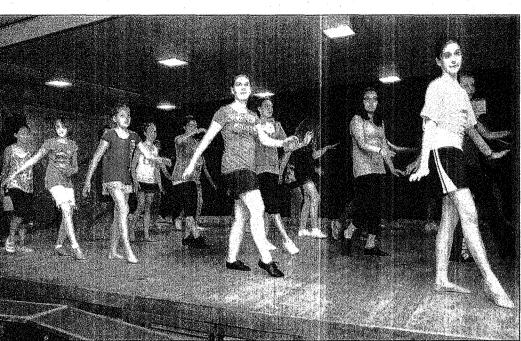
The church gives Paul's Players space for rehearsals, training and productions rent-free. Some of the youngsters involved in the first summer camp last week are members of the church, but the material they rehearsed

— Broadway songs — was secular. The camp drew singers from Livonia Youth Choir and residents from as far away as Brighton. Children from Muskegon and Kalamazoo vacationed with their local grandparents while participating in the all-day classes.



Pat Hutchison started Paul's Players, a new theater troupe in Livonia.

"I love working with kids. But then I have all these people (former students) in the area and I thought it would be nice to have something for them," said Hutchison, explaining why the troupe is for adults and the camp is for kids. "I probably would have started with the adults, but (St. Paul's) asked me to start with the kids instead."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

Students practice a dance number from "Hairspray" during a theater camp at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

UP AND RUNNING

Hutchison asked friends and alumni — she dubbed them "Paul's Pals" — to donate seed money for the group. It also received some anonymous donations.

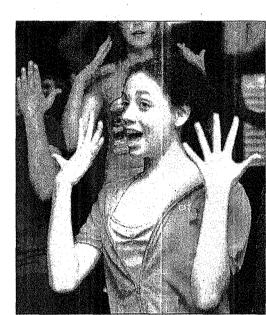
With a grown daughter active in theater on the west side of the state, Hutchison also had access to several original scripts for free, including *Remember When*... and a version of *Scrooge*.

Members of the church served food to the summer theater students last week and built a set for the camp's final production.

"I've had tons of free help."

IN THE WORKS

Hutchison hopes to plan three shows annually for the adult troupe. She'll also consider revue material and small cast scripts that require less group rehearsal time for busy adults who are interested in theater but can't devote extensive time at practices.



Allison Range practices "Good Morning Baltimore" from "Hairspray."

AND NOT THE WOW!

"I think the basic thing is the program is going to be multi-generational," she said, describing what sets Paul's Players apart from other community theater troupes. "I think the (middle school)

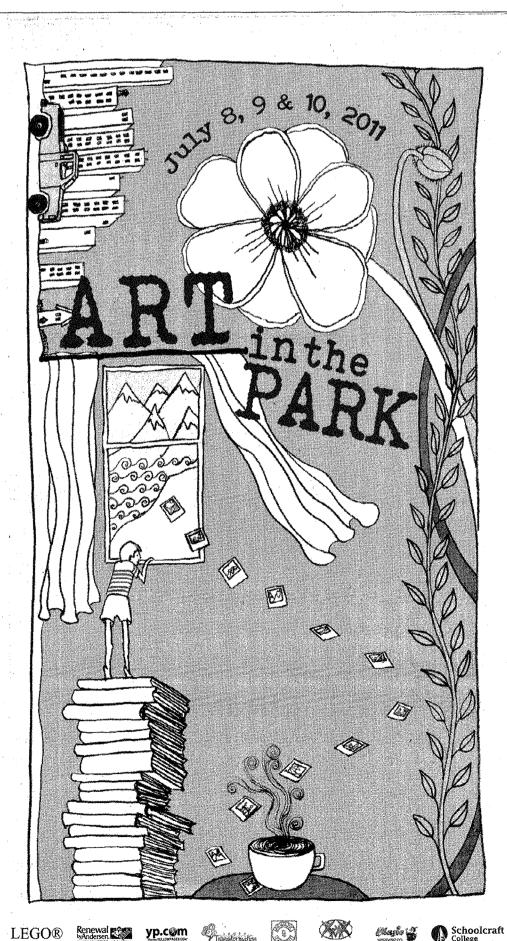
FEELING THE OW!

camp will be an annual program because the kids really love it.
And then I'd like to add a summer thing for high school students.
We also have a lot of college kids who would like to do something.

to do something.
"We'll be feeling it out during

the next year."
In addition
to teaching
at Churchill,
Hutchison also
directed plays
and musicals
at Bentley,
Stevenson and
Franklin high
schools.

She will hold auditions at the end of summer for *Remember When...* To learn more about joining Paul's Players, call her at St. Paul's at (734) 422-1470.



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Ban on phosphates proves costly

e returned from South Dakota with two boxes of dishwasher detergent and were sure that we wouldn't have any more cloudy glasses coming out of the dishwasher. Because of the ban on phos-

A gentle-

man sent me

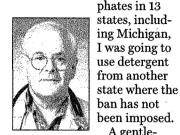
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also would have the phos-

phates removed. For three

weeks I didn't believe him

Dakota was doing a great

because the stuff from South

job. Then suddenly it started

happening again. The glasses

were coming out cloudy and

even the plates were showing

signs of something. So again

we started using a spoonful of

LemiShine mixed in with the

In the past few months I

ries from consumers who are

befuddled by this problem and

some of the stories are showing

great cost involved. People are

buying new hot water heaters

which don't solve the problem.

One guy had the anode rod

removed from his hot water

heater and paid a plumber

to do so. A lady purchased a

whole new water softening

conditioner for her home to

find her glasses still came out

cloudy. People are purchasing

new dishwashers when they

don't need to and some sales-

people are not saying a word

them. They would just rather

This ban on phosphates

began last July and it will

cause millions of dollars to be spent by homeowners who

don't know anything about it.

sell the product.

to the buying public to educate

have received many inqui-

powdered detergent.

The seemingly magic product which takes care of the cloudy glasses is called LemiShine and is available at several stores in our area. At the risk of making this article a free commercial, you can find them at www.LemiShine.com and they have a list of the retailers. I have to tell you about this product because I've tried Kool-Aid, lemon juice, lime juice, Tang and none of these have worked. My wife, Valorie, used the LemiShine and everything came out shiny once again.

The rest of this column is dedicated to you as it always is. I'm posing 10 questions that can lead to some effort on your part, but the answers can keep some heavy duty dollars in your pocket. 1. Have you cleaned the condenser underneath your refrigerator lately?

2. Is the air conditioning condenser outside clean and free of tree pollen?

3. Is the furnace humidifier clean and ready for next heating season?

4. Have you checked to see if the refrigerator door seals are leaking air?

5. Is the dryer vent line nice and clean and free of lint or birds nests?

6. Have you cleaned out the garbage disposer using ice

7. How's the filter on your furnace? Recently changed I hope!

8. Have you replaced the old washer hoses to the new metal braided kind?

9. Have you given your washing machine a vinegar

10. Have you checked out the appliance service plans through your utility company?

If you need an answer to a specific question, you can send me an e-mail at the address provided below. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

Raffle boosts breast cancer research

English Gardens stores will raffle several prizes, including a pink spa valued at \$7,495, during its "Pink Day" celebration 6-9 p.m. Thursday, July 14. All raffle proceeds will benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer

In addition to the Elemental Geos Spa by Dimension Spa, grand prizes are a \$1,000 English Gardens shopping spree and lunch for two with

WXYZ TV 7's Erin Nicole and English Gardens' Rick Vespa, hosts of English Gardens Home Gardener, airing locally on WXYZ TV 7.

All seven English Gardens stores are selling raffle tickets for \$1. Each customer who buys a raffle ticket will receive a coupon for 20 percent off regularly priced products on Pink Day. Tickets will be sold through July 14. Spirit Awards also will be given

to the associate and the customer who best display the Pink Day spirit. Representatives from The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute will be on hand at each store for a short presentation. Refreshments will be served.

Local English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, at Jackson in Ann Arbor, 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive in Dearborn Heights and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield.

GARDEN & NATURE

ENGLISH GARDENS

 Learn how to bring color and texture to your garden at a free presentation on perennial gardening, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 29 and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 2. · Get tips on creating a container water garden, 10 a.m. Saturday, July 9.

· Find out how to keep the summer garden looking its best at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 16.

· Learn about the four main categories of hydrangeas at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 23.

· What kinds of plants do best in the shade? Get basic informa-tion on planning, planting and maintaining flowers in the shade at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 27 and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 30. Local English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive, in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, at Maple, in West Bloomfield;

REDFORD GARDENS

. (248) 851-7506.

Redford Township Beautification

Commission will present its garden walk 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., July 9. Tickets are \$5, available at the Redford District Library; the Clerk's office in the Township Hall: Leisure Services at the Redford Community Center; the Chamber of Commerce, 26050 Five Mile; Township Hardware, 25880 Five Mile; and at each of the gardens. For information on each garden

go www.redfordtwp.com. The, ticket includes a map of the garden locations. Participants can visit the gardens in any order and at their own pace. A total of nine gardens will feature a

variety of container gardens, perennials, raised beds, vegetable gardens, garden ponds with waterfall, and basically good upscale gardening.

NOTHVILLE WALK

(248) 348-3263.

Country Garden Club of Northville presents its 18th. Annual Garden Walk, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 13. Tickets are \$10, available at Gardenviews, 117 E. Main, Northville. On walk day, tickets also will be available at Mill Race Village;

Health, family services groups get grants

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle awarded grants for 2011 to Starfish Family Services and the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation.

Starfish Family Services received \$4,000 for a one-time parenting program this fall that will feature Bob Sornson, an early childhood expert. While parents learn about developing potential, language and literacy, their children will attend an enriched childcare program. Parents also will receive a copy of Sornson's book, Meeting the Challenge.

Starfish expects the program will draw approximately 75

Anyone interested in grant application guidelines for 2012 can e-mail Marion Rozum at rozy@att.net.

mothers, all from Canton and Plymouth.

Oakwood Healthcare Foundation will use the \$1,500 grant it received for eight for eight educational workshops at various community over the next year, beginning next month. The workshops include "Boost Nutrition on a Budget" and "Diabetes Prevention and Management." The nutrition

workshop aims to increase women's understanding of health and nutrition. The diabetes session will explain how diabetes affects different body systems. It also will offer prevention advice and self-management strategies to reduce complications of the disease.

Oakwood hopes to reach approximately 200 women, 18 and older, in Canton and Plymouth.

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle formed in May 2006 when a group of local women gathered to talk about how they could address unmet needs in the Plymouth-Canton area.

Members of giving circles pool their donations in order to have a greater impact in their communities. Members decide collectively how to spend the money and on what causes.

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle has given grants to First Step, the Girl Scouts, Canton Public LIbrary, Plymouth Council on Aging and Neighborhood Legal Services over the years. It has donated a total \$22,500 to community groups.

Anyone interested in grant application guidelines for 2012 can e-mail Marion Rozum at rozy@att.net.

Learn about the Rouge River while boating

The Friends of the Rouge resents its third annual dinner cruise and river tour **lo**rry in for Hugo S**a**vings aboard the Diamond Belle, ichigan's Bost Pricing & Quality 5:45-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2, leaving from Stroh's River Trampolines From \$659 Place, near Atwater and Joseph Campau, Detroit. Sale Ends 6/30/2011 Registration deadline is

July 16. Orin Gelderloos, a University of Michigan-Dearborn professor, will narrate the tour. The route will take the boat past Zug Island and as far into the Rouge River as the turn-

ing basin at the Ford Rouge

Tickets are \$45 for Friends of the Rouge members and \$50 for non-members. Tickets include a meal (with vegetarian option). A cash bar with snacks will be open throughout the evening.

Space is limited. Make reservations by calling (313) 792-9621. Online payment is also available at www.therouge.org. Click on "events" in the left hand column. Tickets are nonrefundable and the boat will

cruise rain or shine.



Play Sets from \$799

In-House Dialysis | Cardiac Rehab | Respiratory Therapy Secured Memory Care Unit | Short & Long-Term Care Medicare and Medicaid Provider | Private Insurance



" My brother made amazing progress...the minute he got to Four Seasons he started to improve... the care was fabulous."

Gregory Zambo came to Four Seasons following a stroke at age 54. Deborah

Taracuk appreciates the care her brother

Gregory received at Four Seasons. "He was in the hospital for 54 days — intensive care for a long time and then rehab in the hospital. It was difficult for him to move his right arm and leg. With the guidance of Four Seasons physical, therapist Nisha Nagpal, Gregory worked on. strengthening equipment as part of his treatment plan. Today he is walking without assistance. He was in some kind of therapy every day", said Deborah, and especially appreciated the individual attention given to patients.

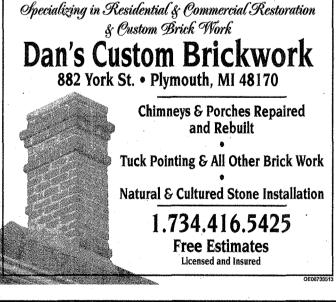
"Everybody knew my brother's name and made a point of checking on his progress," said Deborah. "The care was fabulous."

Drop in for a Visit Anytime! Any Day!

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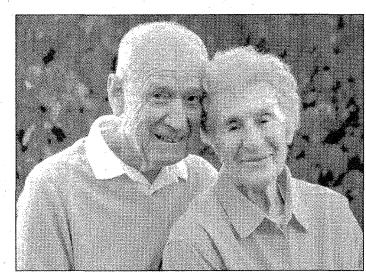








MILESTONES



Kenneth and Dorothy Archer of Plymouth

Former neighbors mark wedding anniversary

Kenneth "Joe" and Dorothy (Smith) Archer observed their 64-year wedding anniversary on June 14.

The former Plymouth residents met as neighbors.

"My family moved next to the Archers when the three Archer boys were in the military, so I met him after he returned home," Dorothy said. "We couldn't avoid each other being neighbors and then he started escorting me home after work.'

The couple married in 1947 at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth.

Joe worked as an industrial engineer for Burroughs before being transferred to California in 1969. Dorothy worked at Bell telephone in downtown Plymouth and became a clinical research nurse while the couple lived in California. Both retired in 1988.

Their children were born and raised in Plymouth and attended both Plymouth public schools and Our Lady of Good Counsel until the family moved west. The family enjoyed golfing and spending summers at Burroughs Farms

The couple's oldest child, Kenneth, Jr., is married to Angelina (Herrara) and works as an accountant with the U.S. government. Daughter Gail is married to John (Barrett) and pens romance/suspense books. They have two adult sons. Her sisters are Mary Jo, who works with horses, and Kelley, an international flight attendant who is married to Scott (Gordon-Somers). They have three sons.

After their children were grown, the Archers moved back to Plymouth. In 1998 they moved to Prescott, Ariz., for a year before settling in Hagerstown, Md., a year later.

"We've traveled to about 30 foreign countries and now spend winters down south. Quilting, reading and genealogy are my hobbies and Joe carves walking sticks and cares for the yard and garden. We also love visiting surrounding historical places," she said. "We have been making yearly visits to Plymouth to see relatives and friends, so we'll postpone our anniversary celebration for later this summer."



Purcell-Goncaives

JUNE 2012 WEDDING

Katlyn Purcell and Luis Henrique Goncalves announce their engagement.
The bride-to-be, daughter

of Tracy and Gail Purcell of Farmington Hills, graduated in 2009 from Michigan State University. She teaches English in Springfield, Ohio.

Her fiancé, son of Celso and Walkiria Goncalves of Midland, graduated in 2008 from Michigan State University. He is a mechanical engineer for Honda of America Manufacturing.

A June 2012 wedding is planned in West Bloomfield.



VanBelle-Samborsky

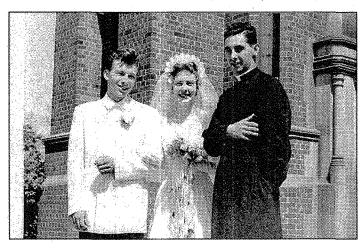
SEPTEMBER WEDDING PLANNED

Kristy Ann VanBelle and Jeremy Jason Samborsky announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Kathleen and Michael VanBelle of Livonia, is a 2002 graduate of Livonia Stevenson. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Madonna University and works as a registered nurse at St. John Providence Hospital.

Her fiancé, son of Grace and Michael Samborsky of Plymouth, is a 2003 graduate of Plymouth Salem. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Lawrence Technological University and works as an electrical engineer for Johnson Controls.

A September 2011 wedding is planned at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth.



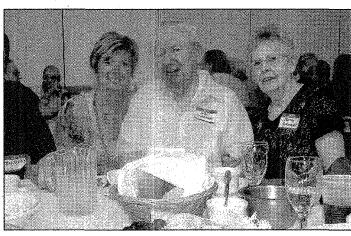
William and Betty Scribner of Livonia on their wedding day.

60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

William F. and Betty (Reid) Scribner of Livonia marked their 60th wedding anniversary June 21. The couple married in 1951 at St. Alphonsus Church.

William retired from General Motors in 1987. Their children are Barbara Scribner Wojcik of Westland and the late Branda Scribner Medlen. They also have four grandchildren.

The couple planned to celebrate their milestone anniversary at a quiet dinner with family.



William and Betty Scribner of Livonia



2012 WEDDING PLANNED

Amanda Marie DeVitis and Mark Anthony Bonnett, Jr. announce their engagement.

of Westland and the late Dean DeVitis, graduated from Sanford Brown College and works at Mark Werner M.D., P.C. as a medical assistant in West Bloomfield.

A June 2012 wedding is planned at the

DeVitis-Bonnett

The bride-to-be, daughter of Christine DeVitis

Her fiancé, son of Mark Bonnett, Sr. of Dearborn Heights and Denise Carlin of Taylor, attended Crestwood High School and works with precision machines at Delta Research in Livonia.

Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland.

REUNION CALENDAR

Relieville Hidu

Class of 1971 Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo. com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1954

A 57-year reunion luncheon is planned for Oct. 6 at the Stitt American Legion Hall, Post 232 in Dearborn Heights. For more information call Nancy Barlow Gaspar aat (313) 581-6623 or e-mail to Pat Gaston Chiesa at patc629@aol.com.

Class of 1971

The 40th reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are on sale now for \$52 per person for dinner and open bar. Send a check payable to Fordson '71 Reunion to 16124 Golfview, Livonia, MI 48154. For more information go to Facebook, Classmates.com or the Web page at Fordson71Reunion.com.

Dearborn Heights Robichaud Class of 1961

50th class reunion Sept. 24, 2011 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome as Robichaud High School also celebrates its 50th anniversary. Contact Bill Haskin at billsmustangs@msn.com; (734)595-4927 or Nancy at wolonl@aol.com; (248) 529-6461.

Detroit Cody Class of 1961

50th reunion Aug. 27, 2011, at Hellenic Banquet Center, Westland. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail codycomet61@gmail.com. Or call Connie Callear Majeske at (734) 425-7094 or Bernie Lekki Grudzien at (734) 522-3167.

50s and 60s

Free picnic, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21 at Nankin Mills Pavilion, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. Classmates.com will have information and photos from past picnics. Questions? Call Jerry Marszalek at (313) 532-0134 or e-mail to Jmarsares@sbcglobalnet or Phil Varilone at (313) 562-3579 or e-mail to pvarilone@wowway.com

40th reunion, 6:30-11:30 p.m. July 9, at Waterford Lanes/Banquet Hall, 7100 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford, RSVP by May 30 to Karen (Hassa) Leto at (330) 722-5954

Detroit Henry Ford Class of 1971

The 40th reunion, with a "Back to the Bahamas" theme, is scheduled for Aug. 20, at Bahama Breeze Restaurant, 19600 Haggerty, Livonia. The organizers are trying to reach approximately 1,000 graduates from the January and June classes, as well as any other alumni interested in attending the event. Tickets are \$50, Call Barb Blum Douglas at (313) 804-1282, or Marilyn Ogilvy Twa at (616) 802-0305, or e-mail to hfhs1971reunion@yahoo.com.

Detroit Mackenzie June Class of 1961

50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011. For more information e-mail Ivanerian@msn.com or phone

oanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543. Class of 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

Detroit Northwestern Class of 1971

Celebration Weekend is Friday-Sunday, Aug. 19-21 and will include a meet and greet, class legacy dinner dance and a picnic. A fundraiser, "Bringing Back to the 70s" will be held 7 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, June 25 at Bert's, located in the Eastern Market in Detroit. A portion of the proceeds from the events will be donated to Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc., Michigan Chapter. For more information, call (734) 326-1488 or e-mail to dnshs40th71@yahoo.com

Farmington High School Class of 1961

A 50-year reunion of the Farmington High School Class of 1961 is set for 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011 at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel at 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi. The party dinner buffet is \$48.75 per person. There will be a 9-hole golf outing at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 Seven Mile Road in Livonia at 10:30 a.m. the day of the reunion. Contact Phil "Jim" Newberg via e-mail at pruddyducki@sbcglobal.net or call (830) 620-5734; local contact is Louise Giles (248) 224-3369.

Garden City East & West

Classes of 1966-67 A casual, joint reunion is planned for Oct. 8. The organizing committee needs addresses of class members. Call Dale Bowes (Whiting) '66W at (734) 427-7148, Carol Gantt Fenner '67W at (734) 326-8467, Karen Colvard (Domanski) '66E at (734) 427-7012, Cheryl Gibbs '67E at (734) 340-9916/(313) 670-2402, or e-mail Dennis

Russell at russ027@comcast.net. **Garden City High School** Class of 1986

25-year reunion, Saturday, Oct. 15. E-mail Trish First (Patty Buggy) for more information at pm2b2005@ yahoo.com or contact Kristy Hickson (Roberts) on facebook.

Garden City West

30-year reunion, 6:30 p.m.-midnight, Oct. 22, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, Livonia. \$45 per person; \$90 per couple. Payment must be received by Sept. 1. No tickets will be sold at the door. Send a check or money order made payable to GC West Class of 1981, 32511 Windsor, Garden City, MI 48135. Questions? Call Erin (734) 751-2424.

Inkster Cherry Hill All classes

The Cherry Hill High School Alumni Association presents a reunion for all classes, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 30, in the fields behind the school, 28500 Avondale, Inkster. Admission is \$15 per person if received by July 4 and \$25 per person after that date. For complete information, including registration, deadlines and events, go to chhsinkster.com. **Ladywood High School**

Class of 1961

Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandymacg@aol.

com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.

Class of 1961 Holding a 50th class reunion Sept. 16-17. To register, call Donald Bruner, (734) 524-0979 or e-mail dbruner@twmi.rr.com

Class of 1981

30th reunion planned for Aug. 6, at One Under Banquet Facility 35789 Five Mile, Livonia. Visit http:// www.freewebs.com/bentley81 for more details.

Livonia Franklin Class of 1966

45th high school reunion, Oct. 8 at Laurel Park Marriott. Seeking classmates and contact info. E-mail contact info to Larry Ruzsas at Lruzsas187264mi@ comcast.net or call him at (810) 599-3509.

Plymouth High School

Classes of 1951-52 Planned for Aug. 19-21. Just show up for gatherings at 6 p.m. Aug. 19 at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth and 6 p.m. Aug. 20 at the Box Bar Restaurant in downtown Plymouth. Bring a dish to pass and a large bottle of pop for the picnic at noon, Aug. 21 at the #1 pavilion in Plymouth Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail. For more information call Ron Beaver at (734) 397-9357, Bea Gray at (734) 453-6613 or Dick Nelson at (734) 453-0798.

Class of 1953

A reunion is planned for July 22-24 at the home of Lewis Beaver, 1111 Manistee, in Lake City. Just show up for the gathering at 1 p.m. on July 22, with snacks and your beverage of choice. A pig roast will held at the Beavers at a cost of \$20 at noon on July 23. Bring a dish to pass. Gathering on July 24 is optional. The North Crest Motel is located across from the Beavers, telephone (231) 839-2074. Lake City is located on Highway 55, west of Highway 127 and Houghton Lake. For more information call John Mathe at (734) 729-0551, Lewis Beaver at (775) 727-1327 or Charlotte Tate at (734) 697-2799.

Class of 1971

Make reservations for this 40-year reunion by July 9. The event will run from 6 p.m.- 2 a.m., July 23, at The Court House Grille, 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Cost is \$35 per person and includes cold and hot hors d' oeuvres and a late-night snack. For more information e-mail to phsclass1971@gmail.com.

Redford Union Class of 1971

6:30-11:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27, at Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Look for Redford Union Class of 1971 on Facebook or e-mail to RUHS71@yahoo.com

Class of 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on Oct. E-mail Linda (Horning) Tracy at lindatracy100@gmail. com or call her at (231) 882-7268 or e-mail Madeline

Rosary High School Class of 1966

Planning 45th reunion in July of 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail Pam at Taffttoo@aol.com

Rice at paddlinmadeline@gmail.com.



CAMPBELL, VIRGINIA LEE

March 8, 1935 ~ June 12 2011 Age 76. Daughter of James and Emestine Owens, brother of James Owens, Mother of Richard and Robert Campbell, and Grandmother to Liam and Caroline. Ginny spent over 40 years in the Birmingham area, leaving in 1997 to return to Florida to take care of her father. A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 25th at Spiller-Spitler Chapel at Korkoian Funeral Home in Royal Oak, MI. Contributions to American Cancer Society.

GORSKY, GENNIA B. "Jenny"

Age 88, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away June 19, 2011. Arrangements: THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

HAWKER, MARY C.

Died June 24, 2011, age 89. Beloved wife of the late Harry. Dear mother of Craig (Joan) and Gary (Shelley). Grandmother of Nancy, Craig (Sarah), Tim and Brett. Great grandmother of seven. Mary volunteered at the Livonia Senior Center for 25 years. Visitation Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home 17000 Middlebelt (S of 6 Mile) Monday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Services Tuesday 10:30 a.m. Share a memory at: www.mannsfuneralhome.com

KUSTER, DAREL B.

Age 92, of Livonia, MI, passed away June 23, 2011. Arrangements by: THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME Farmington, MI



MILLER, LORRAINE R.

Age 81 of Howell formerly of Redford. Passed away June 8, 2011. Beloved wife of the late William, mother of Kathleen Ice, Carol Miller, Bruce (Karen) Miller and Bill (Cyndy) Miller. Further survived by her adoring grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. Interment at Glen Eden Memorial Park. Online guestbook: www.HarryJWillFuneralHome.com

RIDNOUR, BETTY KATHERINE (Foster)

Age 73, June 17, 2011. Beloved wife of the late William. Loving mother of Teresa Lynn (Jeff) Sedlarik, and Jane Ridner. Very proud Grandmother to Anthony Sedlarik and Alisyn Sedlarik. She will be missed by all that knew her. No memorial plans are made at this time. Condolence may be sent to: sedlarikfamily@att.net

SEXTON-HERTER, (ELLIOTT), JANET

of Howell, formally of Plymouth, MI. succumbed to her battle with Leukemia on Friday, June 17, 2011.

WARD, JUDE

Age 63 June 23, 2011. Loving daughter of Ida Maehler. Dearest sister of Sharlene. Cherished aunt of Greg, Eric, Kevin, and great-aunt of 7 nieces and nephews. Memorial service to be held 3:00pm Tuesday June 28 at the Loyal Order of the Moose Hall, 29137 Ford Road. Arrangements entrusted to the Leonard A. Turowski and Son Funeral Home, Livonia.
www.neely-turowski.com

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages" ... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric

Call 1-800-579-7355

HEALTH

Sunday, June 26, 2011

hometownlife (11) com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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

Health professionals practice skills in new lab at Botsford

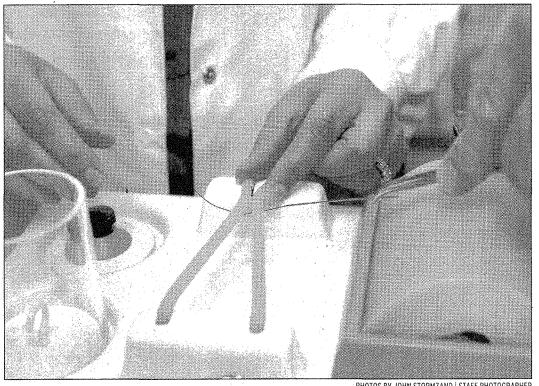
O&E STAFF WRITER

The new Skills Lab at Botsford Hospital in Farmington gives senior medical students a chance to practice healing arts on synthetic skin before they ever touch the real thing.

Resident doctors can perfect life-saving techniques without disturbing any patients.

And other health professionals - nurses, emergency medical technicians, phlebotomists - can refresh their skills with real equipment on simulated body parts.

It's all about practice. "Anybody who is going to be asked to perform a procedure in their job, they really should be down here first to demonstrate the skill set that shows they are capable of doing it," said Dr. Vance Powell, director of medical education at Botsford. "The way we've set it up is every department will have a set of skills that they want their people to know. And then they work with Terri (Maples, RN) to develop the protocols, which means they have to know how the procedure is done. They have to know the risks and benefits and they have to know the potential complications and what to do if they occur and they demonstrate the technique under supervision and then that person will be signed off as competent to do that pro-



Dr. Vance Powell, (left) shows Christine Gabriel, R.N., how to use the suture demonstration equipment in the Skills Lab at Botsford Hospital, Farmington.

Maples and Christine Gabriel, RN, are in charge of scheduling and coordinating visits to the Lab, which opened Monday, June 20. Botsford is an osteopathic training hospital that sees about 30-35 medical students a month, Powell said.

The Lab training equipment enables health professionals to practice starting IVs, suturing, giving CPR, intubating, giving tracheotomies, placing central lines, performing laparoscopic

surgery and more. Donations from medical staff, and in particular Dr. Raimundo Pastor, a general surgeon at Botsford, paid for the training equipment.

SIMULATED AILMENTS

Powell said he began developing the Skills Lab a few years ago, after hearing about the increasing number of simulation training centers at medical schools.

"I thought that's something we should be doing. I went through a series of seminars and classes on how to set them up. I did a lot of research on it," he said. "I've always been interested in patient safety and education and how you can best train people. My idea was to put something on site to teach, not only the basic skills we do, but also the higher level stuff. I found out that was very expensive. When you get into something like a METI Man, it can be a half million dollar piece of equipment."



Christine Gabriel, R.N., shows the equipment and dummy used for intubation

METI Man is a mannequin that, like the equipment in Botsford's new Skills Lab, allows health care professionals and students to practice skills. But the METI Man simulator can be programmed to present heart attacks, strokes, collapsed lungs and other ailments. The simulator's vital signs change as the health condition changes.

Powell said Botsford developed a partnership with Schoolcraft College's School of Nursing, which runs a training lab with METI Man simulators. The reciprocal arrangement allows students and staff from both institutions to schedule training time in each other's labs.

"There's all kinds of evidence that this enhances the quality of training and the

quality of care and to me that's what it's all about," Powell said. "It's why I've been shepherding this thing for three years. This is the first phase. As we see how this works and as other disciplines come in we'll be adding more and more.

"Everyone says don't go to a teaching hospital because they're going to practice on you. You're safer at a teaching hospital because ... when somebody does something there is a second and third person checking every order. I don't hand a knife to my resident until they can show me they have the skills. Same thing with suturing. If I don't like where they put the knot, I tell them to take it out and put in another one. It's got to be perfect."

Diabetes and **Erectile Dysfunction:** Take Control

Erectile Dysfunction (ED) may be the boomer population! Often times, it's the first symptom that men may notice and the one that leads them to the doctor. If a man is experiencing E.D., it is suggested health conditions such as heart disease.

pertension, and diabetes. Erectile dysfunction is a common complication of diabetes. Up to 85 percent of men who have diabetes may experience E.D. The longer you've had diabetes and the more severe it is, the more likely you are to have trouble with erections. High blood sugar can permanently damage the nerves and

blood vessels responsible for erections Recent advances and treatment methods have changed the way both diabetes and E.D. are now treated. With regard to E.D., some treatments offer a temporary solution; others provide a more resolve the problem. As a urologist specializing in the treatment of E.D., my goal is to provide men they need to find the solution that's most satisfying for them-and their

Schedule Your Free Consultation. Call Today!

John F. Harb, MD Marian Professional Bldg. 14555 Levan • Suite 308 Livonia

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KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's sports section



Blood donors needed

Despite ongoing efforts to call and e-mail blood donors, the local American Red Cross has been unable to meet many blood orders for local hospitals in a timely manner. Because of low supplies, some orders — especially for type O negative — have been

The American Red Cross needs all blood types, particularly O negative, A negative and B negative, which are currently at criti-

O negative is always in high demand because it can be transfused to patients with any blood type, especially in emergency

To schedule an appointment to donate blood, call (800) RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org to find a blood donor drive.

Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860



ASEPTIC NECROSIS

Aseptic necrosis, or its other name, osteonecrosis, is a condition in which bone veakens because of an interference with its local blood supply.

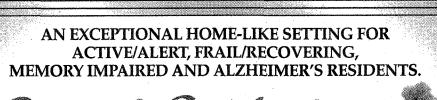
The usual sites of aseptic necrosis are the hip, knee or foot, though any bone can be nvolved. What the person with aseptic necrosis feels is sudden pain in the area affected. Usually the initial pain is sufficiently intense to cause a limp if the hip or knee is involved, though at times, pain may start as an ache and increase in intensity over

Known causes of aseptic necrosis include atherosclerosis, diabetes and cortisone

use. Conditions such as Lupus are associated with aseptic necrosis Often making a diagnosis is difficult. X-rays may not show the pattern of aseptic necrosis and doctors disregard the diagnosis of aseptic necrosis because incidental joint space narrowing may be interpreted as osteoarthritis.

The best way to determine the presence of aseptic necrosis is by MRI. The dark pattern against the grey bone causes the problem to stand out and distinguishes aseptic necrosis from the related condition bone edema. Making a distinction is important as aseptic necrosis may require surgical intervention while bone edema never does.

Physicians cannot give patients recommendations to prevent the occurrence of asentic necrosis. For example, the condition occurs more frequently in elderly people but studies have not shown any lesser incidence in individuals who undertake regular exercise or eat a healthy diet. Doctors know that avoiding steroid use brings down the risk of aseptic necrosis, but no other correlation with medication is known.





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SOCIAL SECURIT

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

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if



an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

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

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

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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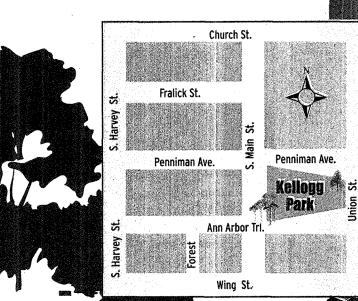
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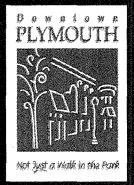
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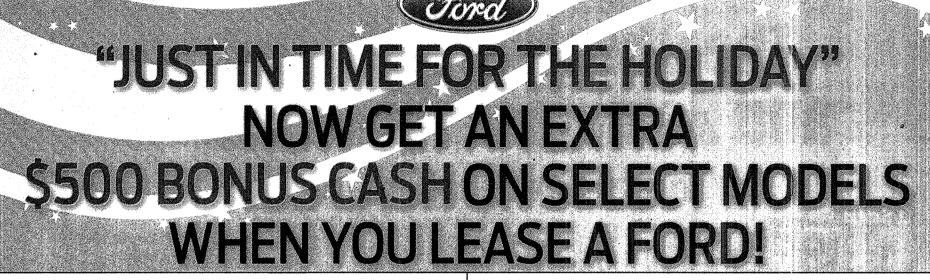
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