



**HOLIDAY
 MOVIE
 PREVIEW**



**Westland
 Dems**

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

**Special
 Olympics**

Bowlers are needed for a fund-raiser to benefit the Special Olympics. The event is Sunday, Nov. 6, at Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Ave. The cost is \$10 per person and \$3 for Special Olympics athletes for three games of no-tap nine-pin bowling. There will be optional jackpots, mystery and lucky spot strikes. Registration begins at 10 a.m. with bowling at 11 a.m. To pre-register, call Glenda at (313) 561-3484.

**Beatles
 tribute**

The Beatles tribute band Toppermost will perform a concert Saturday, Nov. 12 to benefit the Westland Veterans Association. Tickets are \$10 per person or reserved tables for eight available at \$100. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the concert at 8 p.m. at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road. For more information and tickets, call (734) 335-7943.

**Johnson
 appointed**

The Westland council has confirmed the reappointment of Bob Johnson to the Westland Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a three-year term to expire Oct. 20, 2014. Johnson has been a Westland resident for more than 40 years. He and his wife Susan of 18 years have raised their children here. Johnson has been an active member of the community as he has served on the Westland Cable Commission, the Relay for Life Committee and the Westland Summer Festival Committee.

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Garden City asks Westland to consider offering library services if millage fails

By LeAnne Rogers
 Observer Staff Writer

Just weeks before Garden City voters will consider approving a dedicated library millage, Westland is being asked to consider a contract to provide library services should the Nov. 8 proposal be rejected.

"I'd been talking with Garden City. When we talked about the (district) courts (consolidation study), we would talk about other things," said Westland Mayor William Wild. "They asked

me to make a proposal for library services. I said they knew what they could afford better than me. I asked them to figure out what they could afford to pay and make a proposal."

Once the proposal was received, Wild said he forwarded it to Westland's William P. Faust Library Board President Mark Neal. The library board has scheduled a special meeting for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27 to discuss the proposal, which was also made to the City of Wayne.

"I'm leaning toward going to the meeting myself. Wayne is moving forward. If we're interested, we should let them know," said Wild. "We would need to work out the details. Even if there is some disparity between Garden City and Westland (in terms of funding), this could be the first step toward a district library. That would spread the costs evenly and give the library a more sustainable revenue stream for the future."

Please see **LIBRARY, A2**



Stephanie Dickinson of the Children's Programs at the William P. Faust Public Library, leads youngsters in a dance during the weekly Toddler Tales program. Garden City officials have asked Westland to consider a contract for library services if Garden City's millage proposal goes down Nov. 8.

Halloween havoc



Westland Jaycees Jason Anthony (left) and Jeff Phelps get into the spirit of the group's annual Haunted House which is open Friday and Saturday, Oct. 28-29.

Jaycee house still up for some scaring

By LeAnne Rogers
 Observer Staff Writer

If you're looking for a good Halloween scare, there are still two nights to enjoy the horrors of the annual Westland Jaycees Haunted House. Besides some of the expected gory scares, Jaycee Jason Anthony said the Haunted House has a room that goes after what seems to a common fear a lot of people — creepy clowns.

Reactions to the Haunted House vary. "We get four-year-olds who come through laughing while their parents are covering in a corner," said Anthony, who is in charge of the Haunted

House. "We get other kids who are shivering when they get to the (entrance) door. We had one girl in line — she had paid her money but said she just couldn't go in."

Strangely for someone who spends their October weekends at a Haunted House, Anthony said he understands the aversion to the scary attraction.

"I hate haunted houses. Personally, I wouldn't go through it," said Anthony, who revels in anecdotes about terrified customers — there is a wall of shame tally on the side of the ticket booth.

The Jaycees Haunted House has been inside four trailers with catwalks for about 10 years,

so everything is indoors. Open 7-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday through Oct. 29, Anthony said the Jaycees work to make some change or addition to the Haunted House each weekend hoping for repeat business.

One addition to this year's version of the Haunted House is a jail — dark and creepy. Anthony is working on another addition, what he calls the Dexter room taken from television series about a serial killer. The butcher room — yes, it's just what it sounds like — actually drew a random volunteer.

"We had a guy who volunteered. He put a black

Please see **HAUNTED, A2**

Milestone birthday for Westland woman

By LeAnne Rogers
 Observer Staff Writer

Bessie Shannon was the guest of honor at a birthday party celebrating her 100th birthday Saturday — a birthday the Westland resident never expected to see. "When my husband died at 83, I said that I won't be long behind. We were both healthy until a couple of months before he passed away," said Shannon, who has lived at American House for nearly four years. "The Lord took care of me and helped me through everything. I've had a lot of falls."

Born in Illinois, Shannon moved to Michigan at 11 with her widowed mother, brother and sister to join an older sister who was married and already living in the area.

Employed 14 years by Michigan Bell, first as a switchboard operator and later as a clerical worker, Shannon was 27 when she met her future husband Larry at church. Married 56 years before Larry died, the couple has two sons, Richard and David.

An Army corporal during World War II, Larry

Shannon ran a canteen for the Ford Motor Co. and also farmed a five-acre parcel when the family lived in Canton.

"I was expecting my youngest son when we lived in Canton. My husband farmed just for the family," Shannon said.

With a husband and two boys, Shannon said she considers the washing machine the greatest invention ever — at the time she was trading up from a washboard to a ringer washing machine.

The Shannon family loved to camp and travel, something Bessie and Larry continued over the years traveling by motor home.

"We traveled to all but three or four states. We didn't make it to Hawaii, Oregon and Washington," said Shannon, whose favorite state was Arizona.

Following Larry Shannon's retirement, the couple moved to Evart and divided their time between there and Texas. Shannon moved back the Detroit area after her husband died.

Over the years, Shannon carved and painted along with other crafts,

Please see **BIRTHDAY, A2**



Bessie Shannon turned 100 Oct. 22 and celebrated with a party attended by family and friends.

INDEX

Community Life	B5
Crossword Puzzle	C3
Education	A4
Health	B9
Homes	C2
Jobs	C1
Obituaries	B8
Services	C2
Sports	B1
Wheels	C3

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BIRTHDAY

Continued from page A1

but said she no longer does those hobbies.

"I read my Bible and pray. I sing hymns to myself — I can't sing (aloud) — but I sing the hymns in my mind," she said.

At 100, Shannon doesn't offer a prescription for longevity.

"I exercise each morning, otherwise I couldn't get out of bed. If I miss a day, I really feel weak. I do it on my own," she said. "I feel good — I don't have any pain."

Shannon stretches her fingers, hands, legs and feet to get moving in the morning. Her son David moved back to the area to help care for his mother and visits her at American House each day. Older son Richard lives in Virginia, but will join other family members — Shannon has three grand-

sons and five great-grandsons — and friends at her birthday party.

Describing Shannon as a remarkable woman, great-nephew Phil Snell noted her devotion to the Detroit Tigers. "She follows the Tigers close enough to tell Jim Leyland a thing or two about how to run the ball club, pretty funny really," Snell said, adding Shannon was also known for her cooking. "Her brownies are legendary within the family."

The day before her birthday, Shannon said, "A lot of times I think of things, but I guess I wouldn't do anything different."

Looking back over her life, Shannon said, "A lot of times I think of things, but I guess I wouldn't do anything different."

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LIBRARY

Continued from page A1

The proposal would provide over \$230,000 in funding annually.

The letter from Garden City Manager Darwin McClary proposes Garden City would pay Westland .3-mill, which would equal \$171,050 in 2011. That funding level maintains Garden City's eligibility for state library aid, which along with the library's penal fines, would total \$32,677 during the current fiscal year and also be paid to Westland.

Under the agreement, Garden City would also pay estimated additional revenue of \$26,500 generated annually from miscellaneous fees and charges generated from library services.

Garden City Mayor Randy Walker acknowledged that the Garden City library proposal to Westland is a deliberate

attempt to sway the Nov. 8 millage.

It would provide another option, he said, one that he considers more affordable.

Garden City voters are being asked to approve 1 mill to be levied for 10 years as dedicated library funding. Based on current property values, it would cost the average homeowner about \$50 annually and generate \$600,000.

Under state law, the Garden City council has the authority to levy up to 1 mill for library services but has not used this option. The council has also not taken an official position on the millage question which came from the Garden City Library Board and the Friends of the Garden City Library. Since the library building was sold several years ago, the Garden City Library has been housed in the Maplewood Community Center.

For Walker, it is an issue of the city making cuts in services including short-

ened hours at City Hall and providing funding for the library which he characterized as non-essential.

The Garden City Library had been set to close July 1 when council decided to use fund balance to keep the library open until the of the year after the election.

Garden City residents are able to use other libraries such as Westland under reciprocal agreements. If Garden City has no library, that reciprocity ends.

The Westland Library Board adopted a policy to charge \$100 for non-resident library cards when the Garden City Library was slated to close.

There are 4,583 Garden City residents with cards activated at the Westland library but only 2,269 are currently active.

"It looks like a fair proposal, especially in light of how many Garden City residents are already using the library," said Wild.

The Westland library currently has a fund balance but this is the first year the dedicated millage won't cover operational costs, Wild said, due to decreasing property values and higher operating costs.

Like the city, Wild said the library needs to look at ways to add revenue.


"The library would like to do improvements. Our residents pay (library) millage already and looks like it won't cover the costs," said Wild. "The library could ask for more millage or find revenue in other areas. That's how I'm looking at it."

Should the Garden City millage not pass and a library services contract be entered with the Wayne Library, Garden City residents could continue using the geographically closer Westland library but the funding would go to Wayne.

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Skeletons are among the spooky sights at the Westland Jaycees Haunted House.



HAUNTED
Continued from page A1
cloth over his eyes and liquid latex on his face. It looked like his eyes had been gouged out. He worked in the meat locker," said Anthony. "He was looking for some place to volunteer. He drove home that way."
This year, the Jaycees are also getting a hand at the Haunted House from youngsters in the Westland Youth Assistance Program.

"The kids have been great. I was leery of it but they actually stepped up. I've been very impressed with them," said Anthony.
Along with the annual circus and charity poker rooms nights, the Haunted House is on the Jaycees' major fund-raisers.
Located at the rear of the Wayne-Ford Civic League on Wayne Road south of Ford, admission is \$10 per person and \$5 for youngsters 12 and under.
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Friends of the Library member Carol Lewthwaite reads "The Three Little Pigs" to youngsters at the library's fall story time program. The Friends are helping to pay for programs like story time at the library.

Library pushes literacy skills

By Sue Buck
Observer Staff Writer

Early literacy is the foundation of skills that are necessary for future reading success.

"That includes such skills as concepts of print, letter sounds, vocabulary, writing and comprehension," said Lisa Hausman, interim Garden City Library Director.

Parents can help their children develop these skills through shared reading. "Simply sitting together to share different types of books, including picture books, informational books, poetry, memoirs, and fairy tales is one of the most important things adults can do to develop literacy skills in young children," she said.

The shared reading experience can happen in many different ways, and may include:

- Choosing books that

are of interest to the child.

- Sharing a favorite story from the adult's childhood.

- Asking open-ended questions as parent and child read the book together.

- Building on the child's prior knowledge about the content of the book through conversation.

- Having the child predict what they think will happen next in the book.

- Using illustration or photos in the book to ask questions and expand upon the child's responses.

- Encourage the child to read aloud with expression. "When adults are supporting beginning reading skills they should offer plenty of praise," Hausman said. "Reading should be fun. A frustrated child is an early reader who is not going to take the necessary risks to improve their skills. Pos-



Nathan Sullivan is among youngsters taking advantage of a story time at the Garden City Library.

itive praise may include reflecting on good habits.

She said that these habits include: pointing to each word, stopping when something is wrong, using the pictures or illustrations for clues, re-reading to make the story sound right and adding expression.

"If a reader makes a mistake the prompts for accurate reading and self correction.

She asks, "Does it sound right? Does it look right? Does it make sense?"

Finding the right books to excite an early reader is important, too.

She urged families to visit the Garden City Public Library for plenty of choices of children's books that focus on literacy development.

The library is located at the Maplewood Community Center. Use the Balmoral entrance.

The library is open noon to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

Preschool Storytime is offered at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.

Call the library at (734)793-1830 to register.

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Westlanders treated as residents at Wayne Community Center

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Westland residents can take advantage of a couple programs this week at the Wayne Community Center, where they will be treated like residents thanks to the Good Neighbor agreement.

• Visit with your favorite fairy tale princesses, super heroes, witches, ghosts, furry friends and enjoy snacks & crafts at a Royal-ly Spooktaacular Halloween Party Show Wednesday, Oct. 26. There are four time slots — 5:30, 6, 7 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 and children 2 and under are free with a paid adult admission. Call (734) 721-7400 to reserve a spot.

• Member Appreciation Day will be held 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26. This event includes free use of the Wayne Community Center including the Exercise Club, Cardio-Theater, dry/wet saunas, indoor track, and Kids Zone, health snacks, beverages, gifts, and a free fitness class visit.

It is also a great day to check out additional amenities in the community center such as the ice arena, banquet rooms, dance/gymnas-

tics and more.

The Wayne Community Center is located at 4635 Howe, Wayne. For more information on the community center, visit www.ci.wayne.mi.us or call (734) 721-7400.

In March, the Westland and Wayne city councils adopted a Good Neighbor Resolution which allows residents of each city to pay resident rates for using recreational facilities in each city.

Westland Mayor William Wild described the Good Neighbor resolution as an effort to create a more comprehensive, sustainable recreation opportunity for residents of Westland and the City of Wayne.

The communities will cross promote the programs of each recreation department, thus creating a larger target audience for their respective programs, classes, facilities and special events.

"The Good Neighbor resolution is an opportunity for the City of Westland and the City of Wayne to build upon the partnership these cities have enjoyed, while benefiting residents of both communities," Wild said earlier.

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Candidates discuss school chief's influence, their political aspirations

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia school board candidate Eileen McDonnell said Wednesday that Superintendent Randy Liepa has too much influence over current school board members.

The job of school board members, she said, is to vote for what they feel is best for the community, and not necessarily for what the superintendent thinks is best for the community.

School board president Lynda Scheel said Liepa is well-respected by other Michigan superintendents and local officials. "We do go to him for questions and answers, but board members also do their own research," she said. "I do depend on him for answers and communication with the public and school district."

Candidate Dianne Laura said she doesn't know if Liepa has too much influence over board members because she isn't currently on the board. "I don't want to sound evasive," she said, "but I think it's a difficult question to answer when you're not part of the group."

McDonnell, Scheel and Laura answered questions about Liepa's influence over board members among other topics during a candidate forum hosted by the Livonia PTSA Council.

They and Lee Yesh are vying for two four-year seats on the board Nov. 8. Yesh was not at the forum.

A springboard?

McDonnell and Laura said they would not seek another elective office while serving on the school board, if elected.

"No, this is good for now, thank you," McDonnell said, generating chuckles from the audience of about

40.

"For now and always," Laura said, adding that ever since she was a youngster, she has wanted to serve on a school board. "I love education. It's been my life," she said.

Laura retired this year as a principal for Crestwood School District; she previously served on the Livonia school board for four and a half years.

But Scheel said it will depend on her personal situation at the time. She ran unsuccessfully for Livonia City Council in 2009 while serving on the school board. "I enjoy serving this community," she said, adding she sits on the city Planning Commission and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. She said she believes a strong school system and a strong city go hand-in-hand.

Laura, 65, is retired, but McDonnell and Scheel said their jobs would not be a conflict of interest while serving on the school board.

McDonnell, 54, is a contract bid administrator for PVS Chemicals Inc. She said the family-owned business encourages its employees to become involved



Scheel



McDonnell



Laura



Yesh

in their communities and she would be allowed the time needed to serve on the board, if elected.

Scheel, 51, is executive assistant to the superintendent for Redford Union School District. She said the job has been beneficial to her as a member of the Livonia school board because it gives her an inside view of the day-to-day operations of a school district.

Yesh, 43, recently accepted a position as an accounting advisor for Dell.

Overpaid?

McDonnell said she thinks the district has too many employees making more than \$100,000. She said the food service workers, bus drivers, custodians and supervisory custodial staff all took 10-percent pay cuts in new contracts approved this year. "I don't believe cabinet members had any pay reduction this year," she said, adding that she doesn't think there was a level of fairness.

Scheel said concessions have been made by all school district employees over the past several years, "more at the top than throughout the district," she said. Concessions come in many forms, she said, including furlough days and increases in contributions to health care. She said the district needs to keep its pay comparable to what others in the area are offering in order to keep and attract the best employees.

Laura said concessions need to be evaluated from the top on down.

Students on board?

McDonnell said she thinks the school board should have student representatives, as proposed by former Franklin High School senior Travis Gonyou in 2009. "It's how they

learn to be good citizens," she said, adding it's a great way for the board to get information about the high schools.

Gonyou withdrew his proposal before graduating, saying at the time that the version the board was moving forward with lacked continuity and would be a disservice to students. He accused board members of stonewalling and dragging their heels.

Laura said having the ideas and concerns of students would be an advantage.

Scheel said there are pros and cons to having student representatives on the school board. "We did look at it," she said. "It doesn't mean it can't be looked at again." She added that there are student representatives on the district communications team.

All three candidates said purchasing electronic textbooks should be looked at and they oppose the use of any vacant Livonia school buildings for general education K-12 charter schools.

Incumbent trustee Randy Roulier is the only candidate on the ballot for one, two-year seat. However, Loyd Romick filed Monday as a write-in candidate in that race.

Neither one participated in the forum.

The forum was broadcast live on cable channel 15 (Bright House Cable Wide Open West) and cable channel 19 (Comcast) and will be re-aired in the weeks up to the election.

The Livonia PTSA Council serves the 24 local PTA/PTSA units in the Livonia Public Schools district. For more information, visit www.livoniaptasacouncil.org.

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4 vie for 2 Livonia school seats

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

cials believe they are giving them.

Dianne Laura thinks there's disrespect and distrust in the community for the Livonia school board.

"I think that is because of a lack of communication," she said.

Eileen McDonnell thinks the Livonia school board needs to show more compassion and give a more immediate response to parents who come before the school board with concerns.

"They come because they want answers," she said.

Lee Yesh agrees the board can improve communication and cut through the "red tape" more quickly for parents with concerns, but he doesn't want to find fault or suggest major changes until he's on the school board.

Laura, McDonnell and Yesh are the challengers against incumbent President Lynda Scheel in a four-way race for two seats on the Livonia school board Nov. 8. The seats are for four years.

Scheel, 51, who works as executive assistant to the superintendent for the Redford Union school district, said she isn't aware of distrust or disrespect in the community, except from a couple of people still upset over the Legacy Initiative.

Laura, 65, a retired teacher and principal for Crestwood school district who previously served on the Livonia school board for four and a half years, said she doesn't know when the distrust and lack of respect started, but it flared up during the Legacy Initiative. She said it is more widespread than just a couple of people.

She said the community feels like it's not getting straight-forward answers, while school offi-

"Everyone's trying their hardest," she said. "I know everyone truly cares — parents, the board, teachers. I think everyone's best interest is the students. I totally believe that."

Laura said the board caused distrust when it voted last October to give Supt. Randy Liepa a \$50,000 raise after cutting programs and services and laying off teachers. Liepa has since given back a portion of the raise.

"I can't say the raise wasn't warranted, but the timing was bad," Laura said.

Like Laura, McDonnell said the timing of the raise was bad. At the time the board approved the raise, school officials were projecting a \$500,000 fund balance at the end of the school year. The raise was 10 percent of that, she said. "That would have been a major issue for me sitting on the board," McDonnell, 54, is a contract bid administrator for PVS Chemicals Inc. who ran unsuccessfully for Livonia school board in 2007.

McDonnell, who regularly attends board meetings, said board members should not take such a "hard approach" with families coming before them with concerns, like the parents of two special-needs students who recently complained about the district not having programs in place for their children at the start of the school year.

According to the Livonia City Clerk's office, Laura voted in 41 of the past 41 elections since June 1999. Scheel voted in 36, McDonnell, 29 and Yesh, nine.

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HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

HAUNTED HALLOWS

Time/Date: Dusk to midnight Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29, and dusk to 10 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, 30, and Monday, Oct. 31

Location: Bova VFW Post, 6440 Hix, south of Warren Road, Westland

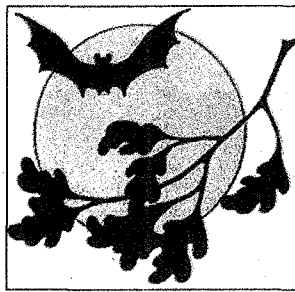
Details: Beware of the Hallows. Enter on a bone-chilling, fear for your life hayride, and if you make it through that, continue on foot, if you dare. Tickets are \$15 per son, all ages. Group rates available, but call in advance.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 772-2443 or haunted_house@bovavfw9885.org.

HAUNTED HOUSE

Time/Date: 7-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29

Location: Behind the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 Wayne Road, south of



If you have a Halloween event you'd like listed in the Observer, e-mail it to Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

Ford, Westland

Details: The Westland Jaycees present the "Crypt of Carnage" that ensures each victim that enters a terrifying experience. Don't miss out on our frightening scares, ghostly monsters, and movie quality props. Come pay your respects to the Witches, Warlocks and Ghouls of

the Westland Jaycees, who will have you screaming with fright. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 years and under. The Crypt of Carnage will be hosting a Friendly Monster event with no scares and the lights on for children age 12 and under 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22. Admission to the friendly monster event will be one canned food item, which will be donated to the Salvation Army. Free Pumpkin to the first 100 children at the Friendly Monster event.

Contact: For more information call (734) 837-8320.

HAUNTED GOLF

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7-11 p.m. Friday, noon-11 p.m. Saturday and noon-10 p.m. Sunday

Location: Ford Road Min-

ature Golf, 29060 Ford, east of Middlebelt, Garden City

Details: Come on in and enjoy a haunting experience and a fun round of mini golf with glow in the dark balls. Cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$6 for children and senior citizens. Lowest score of a foursome wins a free game.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 425-9816.

HAUNTED SCRAPYARD

Time/Date: 6:30-11 p.m. Thursday and Sunday and 6:30 p.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday through Oct. 30

Location: Maxwell's Art and Treasures, 32416 Industrial Dr., north of Ford, Garden City

Details: Maxwell's Art and Treasures is offering a Haunted Scrapyard, with

a special Autumn Festival on Saturday, Oct. 29. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under. Get \$1 off your ticket by printing off a flier on Maxwell's website at www.maxwellsartsandtreasures.com.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 427-5300.

HAUNTED FOREST

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. weekdays and 7 p.m. to midnight Thursday through Monday, Oct. 27-31

Location: Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, west of Newburgh, Westland

Details: Death's quiet whisper will accompany you down a Haunted Path. The trees beckon you, the night air welcomes you, darkness reaches into your soul and brings you onto this lonesome path.

Unsuspecting visitors will greet you along the way and only their sympathetic guidance will lead you out The Haunted Forest of Skateland West. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$12 for children under age 12.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 326-2801.

HAUNTED THEATER

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29

Location: O'Leary Auditorium at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Garden City.

Details: Come prepared to be scared when the ghosts of O'Leary make their appearance known. Suitable for children in fifth-grade and up. Tickets are \$7 each and available the high school. Ticket box opens at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 762-8350.

Wayne County offers flu shots

Along with football, apple cider and leaves changing color, the onset of autumn and cooler weather generally marks the beginning of the flu season.

As a preventive health measure, the Wayne County Department of Public Health offers flu shots for residents at its clinics in Wayne, Taylor and Redford.

"The best way to prevent influenza for individuals of all ages is by getting a flu shot each fall," said Edith Killins, director, Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services. "We want to encourage residents to stay healthy and protect their families and themselves by getting an annual flu vaccination."

The flu season typically runs from November through April but can start as early as October

and end as late as May. Each year, the flu vaccine is specially formulated to protect against the types of flu viruses currently circulating annually worldwide, such as seasonal and H1N1 strains.

The flu is a mild to severe contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can lead to serious complications in some individuals, including people with chronic medical conditions and seniors, and can even result in death.

The cost of the flu vaccine is \$15 for adults and \$10 for qualifying children. Payment is by cash only. Medicaid will also be accepted.

Vaccines are offered for adults and children, six months of age and older, on walk-in days and by appointment. Public Health flu shot clinic locations and hours are:

•Wayne Health Center, 33030 Van Born at Venoy, Wayne. (734) 727-7100.

•Taylor Health Center, 26650 Eureka east of Inkster Road, Taylor. (734) 955-3900.

Hours for Wayne and Taylor -Walk-in Days: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday and Thursday.

Appointment only: 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday.

•Redford Area Health Office, 17421 Telegraph, Detroit. (313) 537-1708.

Appointment only: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information concerning family flu vaccinations at Wayne County's public health clinic locations, call the Wayne County Department of Public Health at (734) 727-7000.

For additional influenza and flu prevention facts, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

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New beer honors Friends anniversary

A new beer brewed in honor of the Friends of the Rouge 25th anniversary is set to be released by Plymouth's Liberty Street Brewing Company.

The beer will be released Sunday, Nov. 6 as part of the Friends of the Rouge's third annual Rouge Brew, a beer tasting led by Rex Halfpeny of the Michigan Beer Guide. The cost is \$35 and includes a souvenir pint glass and snacks provided by Papa Romanos in Plymouth.

Friends of the Rouge is very excited about the release of the new beer, according to Friends spokesperson Sally Petrella. The beer was brewed with Cascade hops grown locally. The planning committee harvested the hops themselves at the home of a local supporter who grows hops as an ornamental.

This is the third year that Liberty Street Brew-

ing Company, located in Plymouth's Old Town area, has hosted the event. Co-owner and brewer Joe Walters remembers his grandfather being involved with rescuing the Rouge River before Friends of the Rouge was even founded.

"I'm a big fan of water conservation," Walters said. "They (Friends) members) came to me in the first place because we produce on the Rouge River. And I just love the cause, personally."

In addition to Rouge Brew, Liberty Street hosted a Rouge Rescue site this year called "Trash 'n Grab" in which volunteers collected 42.5 pounds of garbage.

All proceeds will support Friends of the Rouge, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River. Register online at www.therouge.org. Contact Petrella at (313) 792-9621 or monitoring@therouge.org with any questions.



Friends of the Rouge volunteers show off hops grown and gathered locally that were used in brewing new beer in honor of the group's 25th anniversary. Showing off the hops are grower Dave Harris (standing left), Anne Naszradi, Steve Weis and Sue Thompson. In front is Sally Petrella.

Friends of the Rouge is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge

River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving

the quality of life for the people, plants, and animals of the watershed. The Rouge River covers 466 square miles in three

counties and 42 communities in the metropolitan Detroit area. Additional information is available at www.therouge.org.

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GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER FLOORING REPLACEMENT

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: November 2, 2011
Time: 11:30 a.m. EST
Place: Board of Education Garden City Public Schools 1333 Radcliff Garden City, MI 48135

Attn: Scott Johnson, Executive Director, Business Services

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after October 19, 2011.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ARCHITECTURE, INC., 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION DODGE PLAN ROOM, Livonia, Michigan; or the CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

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

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

Publish: October 23, 2011

Laid off: You owe taxes but not your expertise

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I was just laid off from my job and I have a few questions. I am receiving two separate checks from the company. The first is a severance check. That check will be around \$15,000. In addition to that, the company is also giving me a check for unused vacation time. That check will be a few thousand dollars. Do I have to pay taxes on any of this money? I've been told that since the two checks are not for wages, that I don't have to pay any taxes. Is this true? Also, what do I do if the company calls me and ask me some questions about projects I was working on? Do I have any obligation to assist them?

A: I'm sorry to hear that you have lost your



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

give you any comfort, however, just because you've lost your job doesn't mean that you weren't a good employee or that you didn't do your job. Many companies are forced to lay off good employees because of these difficult economic times. I wish you the best of luck in your new job search.

As to your tax questions. Unfortunately

job. Unfortunately, in today's world that is becoming more and more common. I know that doesn't

whoever told you that the money was not taxable does not know much about taxes. The money that you are receiving from your severance and vacation time is taxable to you as ordinary income. In fact, the company will include these amounts when they issue your W-2 at the end of the year.

The money you are receiving is no different than any other paycheck that you've received during the course of your employment. The employer will withhold payroll withholding taxes and you will have to report this money when you file your 2011 tax return.

As for your ongoing obligation to the company, quite simply, you

have no obligation. When they discharged you, your obligations to the company ceased. The one exception to this statement is if you signed some sort of separation agreement with your severance package. Many separation agreements include language that would require you to assist the company in one way or the other. Companies routinely put these provisions into severance agreements as part of the overall package. Therefore, if you did sign a severance agreement, review the document to see what your ongoing obligations are. However, if you did not sign a severance agreement or a separation agreement, you have no obligation to

the company. I've seen the following scenario many times. Someone is let go from a company and weeks later the company calls to seek information on one thing or the other. My general rule is that since you no longer work for the company there is no reason to provide them with free information. In many cases I've recommended that if the company needs information, they should pay you as a consultant. Whether it's on a per diem rate or some other fee arrangement, you should not work for free. Sometimes companies will pull the loyalty trick out of the hat and use that to guilt ex-employees into providing assistance. This is an effective tac-

tic, however, it's not one that you should fall for. The bottom line is if the company is seeking your expertise, they should pay for it. Of course if it's a yes-or-no type question, that may be a different issue. Yes, you should act professionally, but always remember in our system, people are compensated for their labor. I don't see companies or corporations working for free and neither should you. Good luck!

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

QUILT SHOW

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Westland Christian Union Church, 1046 Wayne Road, north of Cherry Hill, Westland

Details: Ladies United Voice will host its seventh annual Quilt Show at the church. The event will include many quilts (old and new) on display, craft and antique vendors, door prizes, \$1 fat quarters, a Make-and-Take project, a bake sale and lunch. A \$3 donation is requested for admission.

Contact: For more information, call chairperson Mary Surbrook at (734) 748-839 and leave a message.

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 4-7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 30
Location: Garden City

Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City

Details: Garden City Presbyterian Church is holding its Fall Harvest Festival, featuring Trunk-or-Treat, a chili cook-off, costume contest, kids' tattoos and face painting, pumpkin carving, kiddie hayride and the Fall Festival Carolers. The event is appropriate for all ages, nothing spooky. There also will be hot dogs, hot apple cider, hot chocolate, chili and more.

Contact: For information, call (734) 421-7620.

GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19

Location: Monaghan Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: The Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan will sponsor a seminar as part of its 15th Anniversary celebration. The guest speaker is a native of Ireland, Nuala Farrell Griffin. The seminar will begin at 8 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast. The program will begin at 9:15 a.m. and run until 5 p.m., with a break for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m. There will also be vendors throughout the day and door prizes. The cost for the entire day is \$35 before Nov. 12, and \$45 thereafter.

Contact: Information

and registration forms are available online at www.rootsweb.com/mi/gsm.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12

Location: St. Gerald Catholic Church, 21300 Farmington Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile, Farmington

Details: Widowed Friends, a "peer" group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, presents, "Coping with the Holidays." The program will include a guest speaker, social and small group interaction and a memorial/healing service. If your loss recent or distant, you are younger or older, come share this journey of new growth. The cost is \$20 per person, includes a box lunch and refreshments. Registrations must be received by Nov. 6.

Contact: For more information, call Carol (313) 562-3080 or Joan (248) 478-1084 or visit the website at www.widowedfriends.org for the registration form.

TRAIN SHOW

Time/Date: noon to 4 p.m. Sunday Nov. 27

Location: Parish Hall of St. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriam, Westland.

Details: St. Simon and Jude Church' Ushers Club is holding Railroadiana Train Show. Buy, sell or swap toys

and trains. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10. Dealer set-up is 9 a.m. on the day of the show. Admission to the show is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available. Parking is free. Contact: To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327.

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. first and third Tuesday of the month

Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, 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 charge.

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

YOGA CLASSES

Time/Date: 5:15-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2 through Dec. 7

Location: Classrooms 1 and 2 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering Therapeutic Yoga classes that blend restorative yoga (supported

postures), and gentle yoga, with chair and floor poses. The class is for those who may need something gentle yet effective for bringing the body into balance and reducing stress. Meditation and breathing techniques are included. Therapeutic Yoga offers you tools to help on the journey toward better health and wellness. There is a fee of \$45 for the six-week session. Space is limited, class fills quickly.

Contact: To register, call (734) 655-1162 or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

FREE WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 1 to Dec. 6

Location: Garden City Hospital Westland Specialty Center, located at 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland

Details: The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKF) is hosting a free health workshop in Westland to help individuals manage long-term health conditions. The Personal Action Toward Health (PATH) workshop provides information and skills to adults with chronic health conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, bronchitis, asthma, and depression. Workshops are conducted by trained

leaders who hold informal, small group discussions and provide easy-to-understand course materials. Facilitators discuss ways to reduce pain and stress, cope with fatigue, use medications wisely, and benefit from physical activity. Participants also learn about self-help devices that can enhance daily activities. Registration for PATH is required and space is limited.

Contact: To register or learn more about this program, call the Garden City Hospital Community Health at (734) 458-4330. For other PATH classes at nearby locations, contact the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan at (734) 222-9800 or www.nkfm.org.

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/Date: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27

Location: The Auditorium of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: St. Mary Mercy Hospital and the American Red Cross are partnering in a blood drive campaign. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

Contact: For directions or more information, visit www.stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

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Cypher Research is an opinion market research firm in Canton, MI. Our studies allow our clients an opportunity to gain insight from the consumer and allow consumers the chance to share their thoughts and opinions about products and services. It is an opportunity to speak directly to the manufacturer about items you use or consume every day. For more information about our company you can visit our website at www.cypherresearch.com

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AROUND WESTLAND

Back to the '60s

St. Damian Parish is holding its Fall Family '60s Mingle 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, at the church, 30055 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Westland.

Dinner will be at 6 p.m. Catered by Halina's, it'll feature city chicken, pork chops, mostaccioli, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, bread, butter, lemonade, coffee, or tea and dessert. There also will be a cash bar and 50/50 raffle.

The Show and Family Fun will be 7-9 p.m. with the Whatabouts, a '60s girl group that sings, dances and entertains with the big girl group songs of the '60s. The also will be a Hula Hoop contest, and there will prizes for the best '60s styles (encouraged but not required!).

Advance tickets are required. They cost \$15 for adults and \$6 for children age 11 and under. They're available at the available at the Parish Office weekdays and after all Masses until sold out. Call (734) 421-6130 for ticket information.

Medicare enrollment

Seniors can bring their Medicare cards and prescriptions to the Westland Friendship Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, for the Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Changes event, sponsored by the Senior

Alliance and the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program.

MMAAP counselors will be available to enroll attendees in the Medicare Part D plan, apply for Medicare Savings Program for Medicare Part B, apply for Extra Help Program for Medicare Part D and answer all Medicare questions.

The event will also feature a flu clinic, thanks to collaboration with CVS Pharmacy.

For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center also has pinocle and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinocle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

Farmers Market

Westland Farmer's Market is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Westland City Hall parking lot at 36601 Ford Road, through Oct. 25. Stop by and enjoy a wide array of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, jams, flowers, crafts and many other great items.

For more information, call Robert Kosowski at (734)722-7620.

E-waste recycling

Do you have a collection of old electronic devices in your home that you want to get rid of but don't want to put in the trash because of environmental concerns?

Wayne County's Department of Public Services can help you solve this problem. Wayne County along with Vintage Tech Recyclers Inc. and local communities has scheduled several Electronic Waste (e-waste) collections where residents can drop off their old electronic waste free of charge.

Items that will be accepted for recycling include computers, TV's,

CRT monitors, LCD monitors, keyboards and mice, laptops, printers, fax machines, copiers, VCR's, DVD players, CD players, microwaves, stereos, speakers, computer parts, telephones, cell phones, game consoles, miscellaneous cables, mp3 players, etc. No other household appliances will be accepted.

A collection is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Wayne County Community College District Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville.

The E-waste collections are open to Wayne County residents and small businesses with 10 or fewer employees. For more information, contact Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

Free workshop

Westland residents at risk of losing their homes can attend a free Loan Modification and Short Sale Workshop held 6-7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey east of Venoy.

Annette Compo of WJR Real Estate 411 and Linda Miller, an MSHDA-certified foreclosure counselor with National Faith Homebuyers, will be on hand to meet with residents one-on-one to do an overview of the foreclosure process and present them with various options for their situation.

The city of Westland is working with developers to assist residents that lose their home to foreclosure to try to remain in the same neighborhood.

To register for the workshop, call (313) 378-5418 or send an e-mail to lindamiller@national-faith.org.

Fall Harvest Festival

Garden City Presbyterian Church will hold its Fall Harvest Festival 4-7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 30, at the church at 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City.

The event will feature Trunk-or-Treat, a chili cook-off, costume contest, kids' tattoos and face painting, pumpkin carving, kiddie hayride and the Fall Festival Carolers. The event is appropriate for all ages, nothing spooky. There also will be hot dogs, hot apple cider, hot chocolate, chili and more.

For information, call (734) 421-7620.

Craft-Vendor Show

Garden City High School will be hosting a craft and vendor show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12. There will be more than 85 tables of home vendors such as Pampered Chef, Avon and Creative Memories, as well as a great variety of home made arts and crafts.

There also will be door prize raffles, 50/50 drawings, a Bake Sale, and Concessions available throughout the show. Admission is \$1 and includes a free raffle ticket.

Garden City High School is at 6500 Middlebelt between Ford and Warren. For more information or for table availability, e-mail Sheryll at vendorshow@gmail.com or call 73 367-0898 and leave a message.

Garden City Kiwanis

The Garden City Kiwanis Club of is recruiting new members to help provide assistance to the disadvantaged res-

idents of our community — especially children — who are having a difficult time during this economic recession. Founded in 1948, the Kiwanis Club of Garden City provides many community service projects each year including a "Baby Shower" for the Garden City Family Resource Center, a continuing Food Pantry drive, the Trauma Doll Project for hospitalized children, and the Third Grade Dictionary Project.

The club meets at noon on Thursdays at Aman-tea's Restaurant on Warren Road at Venoy in Garden City.

Anyone who is interested in attending one of the luncheons or with questions about the club's community involvement can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101.

Garden City Rotary

The Garden City Rotary Club is on the hunt for new members.

The local club was chartered in 1940 as part of the worldwide Rotary International organization and is guided by the Rotary motto "Service Above Self." Charitable involvement covers the spectrum from local activities, such as college scholarships, literacy training, coats for needy elementary children, to projects including school construction and orphanage support in Latin America, as well as pure water, polio vaccination, and other international humanitarian efforts.

Rotary offers a wonderful opportunity for people to provide service for others on many different levels and to the extent they feel comfortable doing so. At the same time, it offers the availability for weekly contact

and socialization with other, like-minded, nice people.

The club meets at noon on Thursdays at Aman-tea's Restaurant on Warren Road just east of Venoy in Garden City. Individuals interested in more information about the club can call Steve Kelly at (734) 748-1345.

Shop online

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

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

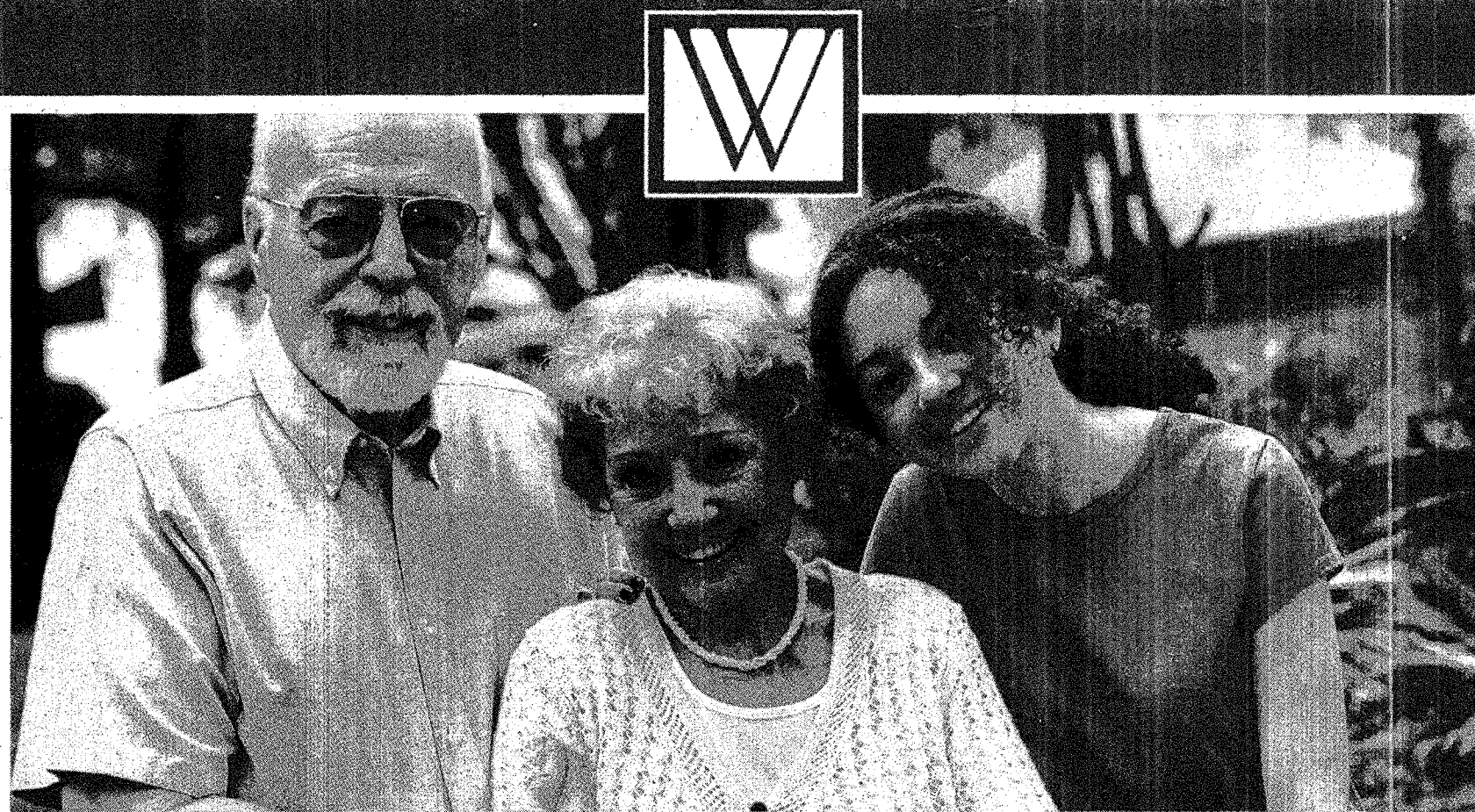
Recycle for cash

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

Community Chat

Join Kerry Partin every Thursday night at 9 p.m. for GC Community Chat at http://talkshoe.com/tc/82757, a talk show dedicated to the residents and businesses of Garden City and the surrounding area.

Listeners can call-in live at (724)444-7444 and enter the call ID 82757, or they can join in a live chat room at http://talkshoe.com/tc/82757 where they can just listen to the show or also type their questions and comments.



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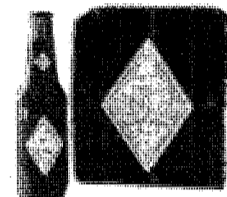
\$8.49



Xingu

6pk bottles

\$9.99



Heineken

12pk cans

\$14.99



Miller Lite

12pk bottles

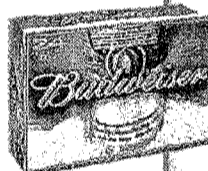
\$9.99



Bud, Bud Light, Select

24pk can

\$15.99



Keg Beers

\$5.00 over cost

Deli Trays

\$23.99 & up



Round 3ft Subs

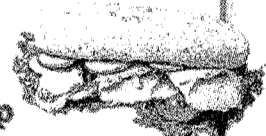
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Crowd Pleaser or Italian

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Bucket of Homemade Chili

2.5lb

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Bucket of Vegetable Pasta

Salad

2lb

\$4.99

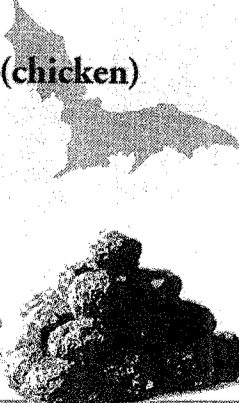
Bat Wings (chicken)

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Meatballs

assorted

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Holiday's Own

Southern Fried Chicken

100pc \$91.99

75pc \$68.99

24pc \$22.99



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\$4.99 lb

Chicken Legs

8pc bucket

\$7.99 ea



Holiday's Own

Seasoned Potato Wedges

\$2.99 lb

Rotisserie Chicken

assorted varieties

\$6.99 ea

Hickory Smoked BBQ Ribs

\$6.99 lb

Gourmet Caramel Apples

Hand dipped jumbo Granny Smith apples in a sweet caramel. These are made plain, dipped in chocolate or dipped in chocolate and then peanuts. All apples are packaged in a decorative box and finished with a seasonal ribbon.

Starting at

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Monster Cookies

Your favorite Lofthouse cookies made into super spooky characters of buttercream. A kid favorite.

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Layers of crushed oreos and Chocolate pudding topped with Gummi Worms. Perfect for Halloween parties. Serves 1-2

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Our homemade apple pie filling baked to a golden brown perfection. A true Fall tradition.

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Perfect for school parties. Available in yellow or chocolate with Scary and festive Halloween toppers.

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Fresh USDA Ground Beef

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Hawaiian Punch

Gallon

2/\$4.00



Leelanau Cellars Witch's Brew

750ml

2/\$11.99



7up

12pk cans asst var

3/\$12.00



Pepsi Cola

2 liters

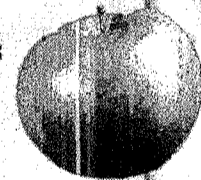
4/\$5.00



Extra Fancy

Honey Crisp Apples

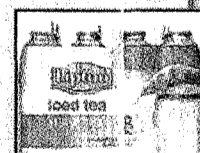
\$1.99 lb



Lipton Iced Tea

12pk 16.9oz bottles

\$4.99



Spartan Drinking Water

24pk 16.9oz

\$2.99

FamilyPak Ice Cream

4qt bucket

\$4.99

Michigan Apple Cider

Gallon

\$2.99

Carving Pumpkins

available



Playoff-bound Chargers roll

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill got two for the price of one in Friday's convincing 56-13 football win over host Livonia Stevenson.

The Chargers earned their required sixth victory of the season to earn a spot in the state playoffs and earned their first city championship for 15th-year coach John Filiatraut.

Churchill (6-3) did it with 464 yards in total offense while using a balanced attack.

"To be honest with you, I'm far more happy about winning a city title than I am about getting in the playoffs," said Filiatraut, who earned his first postseason spot since 2007. "I'm excited that our season is not over. I've been head coach here for 15 years and this first city title we've won and I'm just really proud our kids to have earned that. And I'm really excited about tonight."

Churchill's offensive line of Michael Hogan, Ryan Baker, Zachary Trussler, Riley Moynihan, Nicholas Engels and Charles Yost deserve much of the credit as the Chargers rushed for 243 yards and passed for 157.

"They played great tonight," Filiatraut said. "We're not very big, but we've been getting better. And tonight we did a good job of just keeping the ball moving forward off the run and the pass. We kept them off balance and that helps, too. When you can't run the ball you can't do some things, but we were able to run the ball tonight. Hats off to the offensive line."

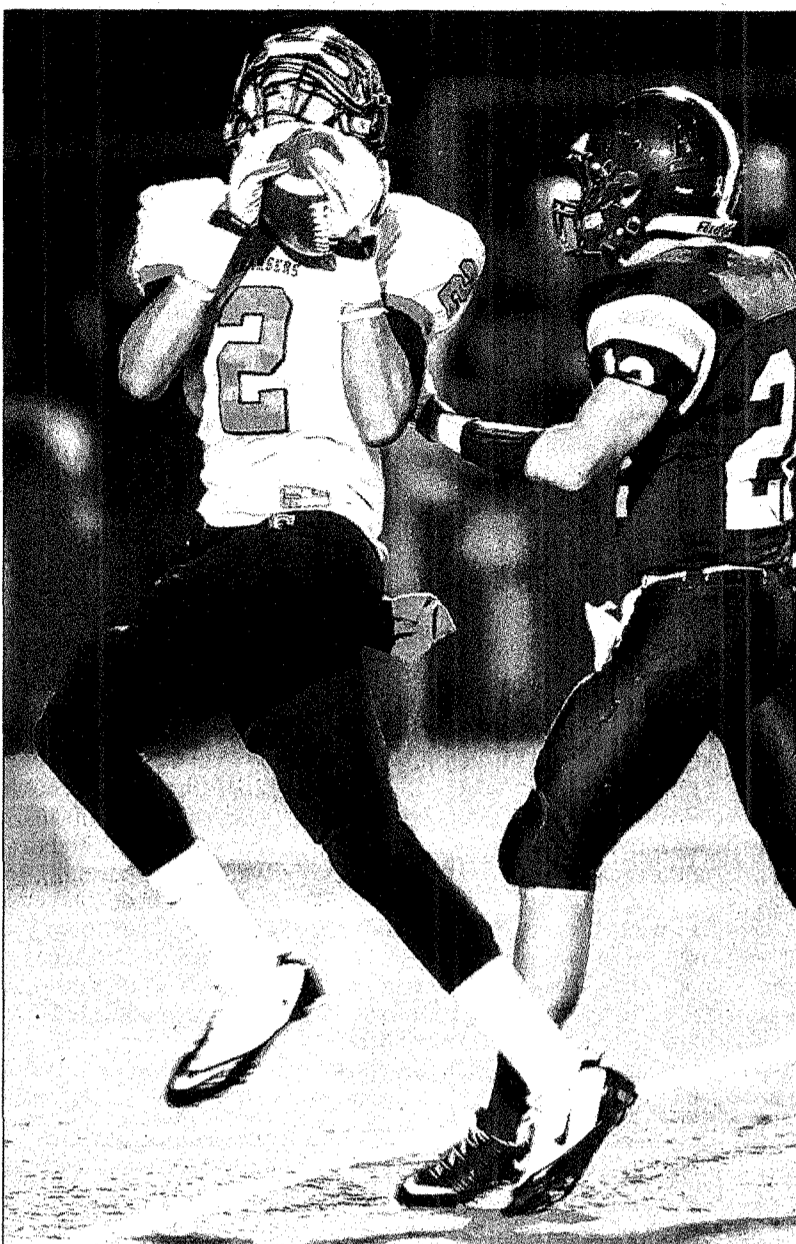
Churchill led 14-7 after one quarter as junior quarterback Seth Suida hit Tyler Keeter on a 21-yard scoring pass followed by a 43-yard bomb to 6-foot-3, 175-pound senior wideout Jaylin Freeman.

Stevenson countered with a 20-yard scoring pass from junior QB Joe Mims to Tony Wilson after Matt Miller recovered a Churchill fumble at his own 47.

But Churchill came back with two more second-quarter scores — Romello Brown on a 13-yard run followed by Robert Foster, Jr.'s 54-yard interception return.

Stevenson got down to the Churchill 23 with less than a minute remaining in the half, but came up empty on fourth-

Please see CHARGERS, B2



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK | PHOTO

Churchill senior wide receiver Jaylin Freeman (2) gets behind Stevenson defender Tony Wilson for a TD in Friday's 56-13 win.

Pioneer man Johnson's 274 yards clips Pats, 20-0

Ann Arbor Pioneer's Drake Johnson showed why he's considered one of the top running backs in the state.

The senior rushed for 274 yards on 29 carries and scored all three touchdowns Friday night as the host Pioneers downed Livonia Franklin, 20-0.

Johnson, who just fell short of 2,220 yards for the season, broke a scoreless tie in the third period on a 62-yard run.

He added TD runs of 52 and 46 yards in the final period as playoff-bound Pioneer improved to 7-2 overall.

"Our whole defense played great," said Franklin coach Chris Kelbert, whose team finished 4-5 overall. "They shut him (Johnson) down except those three big plays."

Johnson rushed for all but 35 of Pioneer's yards.

"He (Johnson) is not the fastest, but he's so powerful," said Kelbert, who praised the play of defensive end Deion Grubbs. "We beat on him pretty good and gave him some good shot, but he never tired."

The Patriots had only 169 total yards with 96 yards coming on the ground. Quarterback Justin Forrester was 5-of-14 passing for 73 yards, including a pair of late interceptions.

"We played well," Kelbert said. "We played better than the score showed, but not good enough."

Glenn stumbles

Westland John Glenn's bid for

Please see WRAP, B2

BOYS SOCCER

U-D Jesuit spoils Churchill bid, 1-0

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The Livonia Churchill boys soccer team did everything but score a goal in Friday's Division 1 district final.

The Chargers, however, came up empty in its bid to move on to the regional as University of Detroit Jesuit pulled out a 1-0 victory.

Jack Cunningham's goal with 15 minutes remaining in the first half proved to be the difference.

The goal came after Churchill sophomore goalkeeper Colton Robison got tangled up with his own defender.

"They put it over the top between our keeper and defender and no one communicated," said Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs, whose team bowed out at 11-7-3 overall. "It's too bad because it

was their (U-D's) only real opportunity.

"It's kind of how our season went. We couldn't finish and they took advantage of our only mistakes."

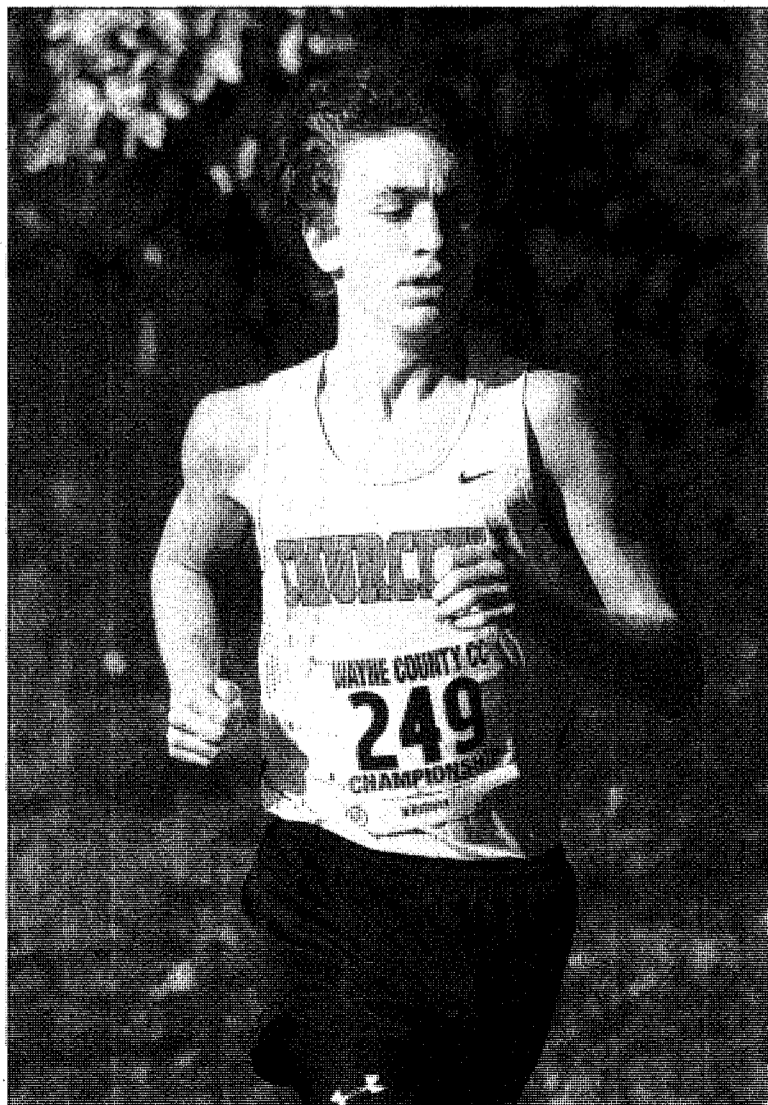
The Cubs, coached by former Livonia Bentley grad Kevin Tuite, improved to 6-10-2 overall and now advance into Wednesday's Division 1 regional semifinal at Saline to face the winner of the Saline district. (Game time is 5 p.m.)

U-D Jesuit was coming off a 2-1 win in the district semifinals against Livonia Franklin, while Churchill advanced on Wednesday with a 3-0 triumph over Grosse Pointe South.

"It was a sad way to end the game and a sad way to end the season," Friedrichs said.

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On the trail



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Churchill's Ryan Wise finished ninth overall in Thursday's KLA Kensington Conference boys cross country meet held at Huron Meadows. See the story and results on page B2.

Churchill girls run 2nd in conference

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Northville's showing in the KLA Kensington Conference girls cross country meet was nothing short of dominating.

The Mustangs, scoring 27 points, placed six of their top seven runners in the top 10 to repeat as champion Thursday afternoon at cold and blustery Huron Meadows Metropark in Brighton.

Livonia Churchill was runner-up with 68 followed by Salem (105), Novi (123), Livonia Stevenson (154), South Lyon (158), Plymouth (181), Canton (183), Livonia Franklin (249), South Lyon East (278), Westland John Glenn (333) and Wayne Memorial (400).

Novi's Jackie Mullins emerged the individual winner as the junior covered the 5,000-meter course in 18 minutes, 48.33 seconds.

Churchill's Kerigan Riley, also a junior, was second in 18:55.43.

Then, it was the Northville show as the Mustangs took six

of the next seven places led by sophomore Rachel Coleman (18:55.74), sophomore Erin Zimmer (18:56.11) and junior Erin Dunne (19:01.82).

Plymouth's Mariana DiBiasi placed sixth in 19:08.88 followed by Northville sophomores Alison Robinson (19:12.84) and Taleen Shahrigan (19:19.77), along with senior Gina McNamara (10:22.29).

Livonia Stevenson freshman Lindsey Gallagher rounded out the top 10 (19:25.92).

"Our performance was right on track," Northville coach Nancy Smith said. "Our goal was to bring our pack closer together and not separate — and we ran it to a 'T,' because we went (places) three, four, five, seven, eight and nine. We ran tactically as far as what we wanted to do going into next week (the regional)."

"We had two girls in the 18s, which would be P.R.'s for the season, but not for their careers. I think everybody improved from our previous two meets."

In addition to Riley, Churchill placed five others in the top 25 led by junior Sydney Ander-



Kerigan Riley

Please see RUN, B2

MU women cruise, 4-0

Using a four-goal outburst in the second half, the Madonna University women's soccer team rolled to a 4-0 non-conference victory Wednesday over Rochester College inside Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

The win — MU's second of the season over Rochester — moved the Crusaders to the .500 mark at 6-6-1 overall.

Senior Chelsea Gregg (Livonia Clarenceville) made five saves for her fifth shutout of the season.

After a scoreless first half, senior Nicole Rodriguez got the Crusaders on the board in the 52nd minute, finishing off a pass from freshman Kaitlyn Krysiak for what proved to be the game-winner.

The lead grew to 2-0 just over four minutes later when Krysiak scored an unassisted tally for her sixth goal of the season.

MU added its third score in the 62nd minute, when senior Diana Brda (Livonia Franklin) tallied her third of the year.

Sophomore Lilliana Serratos then scored in the 73rd minute, finishing off a pass from Brda for her second of the season.

The loss drops Rochester to 7-10-1 overall.

MU men fall to Marygrove

Junior Joe Carver staked the Madonna University men's soccer team to a 2-0 halftime advantage, but four second-half goals by Marygrove College were too much as the Crusaders fell in non-conference match, 4-3.

In addition to Carver's two scores, senior Drew Kidder added his first goal of the season.

Junior Adrian Motta (Livonia Churchill) made four saves in his first half of action, while freshman Scott Poole allowed all four goals while making two saves to suffer the loss.

Carver got MU (5-8-2) on the board in the 22nd minute on an unassisted tally before making it 2-0 at intermission.

Marygrove (4-11-1) started its comeback in the 56th minute on a goal by Jad El-Zein and just 41 seconds later Jordan Berry scored to tie the match at 2-2.

El-Zein gave the Mustangs the lead in the 70th minute before Berry added what would prove to be the match-winner in the 73rd minute.

Kidder got MU back to within a single score in the 76th minute, but MU could not put the equalizer across.

Trojans win

Angela McAlpine paced Livonia Clarenceville's attack Thursday in a 25-23, 25-20, 25-13 victory at home over Southfield Christian.

McAlpine finished with 11 kills and three ace serves.

Other Clarenceville contributors included Ayanna Buckley (seven kills, five blocks); Ashley Murphy (six kills); Tonya Vernier (five kills); Sadie Zachos (six digs); and Lauren Katz (three aces).

Trojans reunited



Livonia Clarenceville's 2001 Division 5 state runner-up team got together Oct. 15 for a 10-year reunion. A total of 26 players, coaches and administrators gathered for the game played between the host Trojans and Melvindale Academy of Business & Technology.

DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK | PHOTO

PCA ousts Lutheran Westland in Division 4 district semi, 7-2

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

All good things must come to an end.

The script, however, didn't have a fairy tale ending for outgoing Lutheran High Westland boys soccer Rich Block.

"I would have liked to go out on a better note," chuckled Block, whose team fell 7-2 Wednesday to host Plymouth Christian Academy in the Division 4 district semifinals. "We played good for a half."

It was cold. It was windy. And it was raining sideways in Block's farewell after 21 seasons as the Warriors coach.

PCA, under interim coach Nathan Yates, improved to 13-7-1 overall with the victory and moved into Friday's district final at home to face top-ranked Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (20-2), which advanced Wednesday with a 2-1 win over Ann Arbor Greenhills. Inter-City has beaten PCA twice this season, 8-0 and 2-1.

The Eagles broke open a close match with five second-half goals after leading 2-1 at intermission against the Warriors.

Dan Ross got it started for PCA with a goal

in the fourth minute off a feed from Chris Scagnetti, but Lutheran Westland's Nick Andrzejewski tied it in the 25th minute when he drove down the right flank and floated a beautifully placed ball into the upper left corner past PCA keeper Phillip Jayme Putney.

With only 1:29 left in the half, Ross drilled a shot off the crossbar that was deflected by Warriors' keeper Taurrek Fikes. The rebound went right to the foot of Alexander Chapman, who made no mistake to make it 2-1.

In the second half, freshman Lucas Albrecht scored three consecutive times with Jacob Bailey and Ross completing the PCA scoring. (Ross now has 15 goals and 13 assists on the year.)

"Lucas Albrecht is a fantastic player," Yates said. "The exciting thing is seeing his talent at the freshman level, and being one of the leading scorers on the team and being able to go with the conditions we had today, and being able to knock in three goals consecutively - is just very impressive. It's exciting what Lucas has to offer the rest of the season and his career."

The Warriors, meanwhile, got a penalty

kick goal from Mitchell Boehm with 11:55 remaining.

"We had the wind going with us the second half and made some adjustments," said Yates, who was coaching his fourth game with Eagles after replacing Larry Machonga. "One of their best players, Mitch (Boehm), was playing a center-mid position. So they were pushing the ball up in our end. It ended up being a huge gap between our midfielders and forwards that they were filling with their players. So I had to make some adjustments with my positioning of my forwards and midfielders. We kind of took back over the middle of the field and it kind of changed the flow of the game."

Despite going out with a 7-12 record, Block said it was a satisfying year and a rewarding career.

In his 21 seasons, Block compiled a 228-148-34 overall record, including a trip to the 2003 Division 4 state finals.

"They've all worked hard," he said. "I've never had a kid that didn't. I'm going to miss the boys. That's what I'm going to miss the most."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday, Oct. 25
Luth. Westland Quad, 2 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 27
C'ville at Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 29
Bedford Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY (MHSAA Regionals)
Friday, Oct. 28
D-1 at Huron Meadows, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 29
D-4 at Willow Metro, 10 a.m.
D-3 at Lake Erie Metro, 10 a.m.
D-1 at Willow Metro, 10:45 a.m.
GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING
Friday, Oct. 28
(KLA Division Meets)
Central at S.L. East, 4:30 p.m.
South at Glenn, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 29
(KLA Division Meets)
South finals at Glenn, noon.
Central finals at S.L. East, noon.
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday, Oct. 25
Schoolcraft at Flint Mott, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 26
Aquinas at Madonna, 7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 28
Madonna at Davenport, 7 p.m.
Schoolcraft at MCCA Tourney at Kalamazoo Valley CC, TBA.
Saturday, Oct. 29
Schoolcraft at MCCA Tourney at Kalamazoo Valley CC, TBA.
(Aquinas/Cornerstone Classic)
Madonna vs. St. Francis, 1 p.m.
MU vs. Spring Arbor, 3 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Saturday, Oct. 29

Schoolcraft at NJCAA Region 12 at Owens (Ohio), 2 p.m.
Madonna at Siena Hts., 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 30
NJCAA Region XII final at Owens (Ohio), 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Saturday, Oct. 29
Schoolcraft at NJCAA Region 12 semifinals at Delta, noon.
MU at Siena Hts., 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 20
NJCAA Region 12 final at Delta, noon.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Oct. 29
Madonna at U-D, 7 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Oct. 29
Madonna at U-D, 4:30 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

BOYS SOCCER

District finalists Chargers, Stevenson make the cut

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The Livonia Churchill boys soccer team resembles a M.A.S.H. unit, but the depleted Chargers' roster is still finding ways to win.

Churchill earned a spot in Friday's Division 1 district final with a 3-0 victory Wednesday night over visiting Grosse Pointe South in a steady downpour with winds whipping up to 25 MPH.

The victory put the Chargers, 11-6-3 overall, against University of Detroit Jesuit (5-10-2) in Friday's championship match. (See related story.)

"We've had eight different lineups the last eight games," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said. "We've got guys doing a good job filling in and stepping up."

Churchill went against the elements during the first half and got a goal from Michael Murphy with 11:44 left off an assist from Allen Woodruff.

That proved to be the game-winner.

"We did not win the wind and we had to defend against it," Friedrichs said. "We had to get a goal. We came out hard and physically dominated against the wind. We were able to physically manipulate the game. We played well from the first whistle and kept possession of the ball."

In the second half, Churchill upped its pressure against the Blue Devils (9-7-4) which resulted in a pair of goals.

Karl Tiama made it 2-0 with 31:29 left in the match off an assist from Murphy and Austin Henson completed the scoring with 17:34 on a fine individual effort after taking a feed Vincent Allen.

"Those second and third goals were really nice goals," Friedrichs said.

The only negative was another series of injuries as starting goalkeeper Colton Robison went down with 20 minutes remaining and was replaced by JV call-up James Hague. Junior forward Ryan Kobylarz also exited late in the first half and JV call-up Andrew Smutek, a sophomore forward, had his eye swollen shut.

"It seems like we're getting three (injuries) a game," Friedrichs said. "I can't even pull from the JV team anymore."

STEVENSON 3, FARMINGTON 0: "Mr. October" Chris Leipa continued his scoring binge Thursday with another goal as Livonia Stevenson (13-6-1) rolled past the Oakland Activities Association White Division champion Falcons (13-3-4) in a Division 1 district semifinal match at Farmington Hills Harrison.

Christian Gajor assisted on Liepa's first-half goal, which proved to be the game-winner.

Second-half goals were added by Zack Atwood (from Alex Vrzsok) and Jeff

Thomas (from Atwood). Goalkeeper John Boudreau went the distance to record the shutout.

"I was proud we were able to overcome the (weather) condition and posted a solid victory against a talented team," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said.

Meanwhile, Harrison (11-5-2) rallied to beat Royal Oak in Thursday's other semifinal, 3-2.

The win put Stevenson in the district finals Saturday against the host Hawks.

U-D JESUIT 2, FRANKLIN 1: University of Detroit Jesuit (5-10-2) held off Livonia Franklin (7-11-2) in the other soggy Division 1 district semifinal Wednesday at Churchill.

The Cubs, coached by former Livonia Bentley High player Kevin Tuite, got a pair of first-half goals from Matthew and Jack Cunningham. Franklin's Craig Beebe countered with a penalty kick late in the first half to cut the deficit to 2-1, but the Patriots couldn't convert the equalizer despite having the wind at the backs the entire second half.

"Our passing got better the second half," Franklin coach Vic Rodopoulos said. "We moved three up top and Gabe Edwards took it upon himself. We got in there numerous times - it was just our lack of finishing."

Franklin senior goalkeeper Ryan Tikey made 14 saves in his final match.

"Overall I couldn't be more prouder," Rodopoulos said. "We played hard tonight and all season long. I'm very proud of them."

EDSEL FORD 2, WAYNE 0: In a Division 1 district semifinal Wednesday, host Dearborn Edsel Ford scored twice in the opening 10 minutes to oust Wayne Memorial (4-16).

Zack Huffman stood out in goal for the Zebras, while coach David Daigneau also saluted the efforts of defender Sean Kunde and forward Martin Ballah in the loss.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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



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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 yet.

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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Softball pride



The Michigan Pride, a 14-and-under fastpitch girls softball team, captured its own fall tournament Oct. 16 with a 5-0 record, including a 12-4 win over the Michigan Athletics under the international tiebreaker breaking a 2-all deadlock with 10 runs. Team members include (front row, from left): Jamie Squires, Emma Sikina, Madison Brandenstein, Christina Meyer, Rachel Zerona, Sarah Turner; (back row) head coach Jess Irwin, Ashley Schiffer, Rachel Mattison, Hallee Warren, Mikayla Alexandrou, Megan Nelson, Becky Giacobbi and assistant coach Dennis Mattison.

Madonna spikers top No. 21 Bellevue in 5

The Madonna University women's volleyball team went two-for-two in Friday's opening round of the 2011 BLT Sports-wear Crusader Classic.

The host Crusaders improved to 24-6 overall after topping No. 21-ranked Bellevue University (Neb.), in five sets, 23-25, 23-25, 25-20, 25-20, 18-6, following a 22-25, 25-20, 25-18, 25-13 victory over Malone University (Ohio).

Senior Karie Altman had 20 kills and Megan Fricke added 14 for MU in the win over Bellevue. Setter Evia Prieditis had 56 assist-to-kills, while Fricke and Amanda Obrycki each had 13 digs.

Maureen Wardian and Kali Schancker combined for 37 kills for Bellevue (22-6).

Kills leaders in the win over Malone included Fricke (14), Altman (13) and Taylor Dziewit (10). Prieditis added 48 assists and 11 digs, while Amanda Koszela led the defense with 25 digs.

Malone (19-8) got 12 kills from Megan Fisher.

Lady Ocelots rose to the occasion and found their game to bring in the win."

The Ocelots' attack was paced by Amber Aldrich, who finished with 13 kills.

Canton grad Lauren Macuga (Canton) had a nice night, digging out a team-high 24 balls to go with three aces. Nicole Kempinski (Livonia Churchill) did a stellar job of steering the Ocelots' offense as she dished out 36 assists.

Taylor Kerr (Churchill) picked up 18 digs, while Lauren Meadows and Aldrich added 14 and 13, respectively.

Macomb dropped to 17-13 overall and 8-5 in the conference.

MU decks Cards

Megan Fricke posted a match-high 13 kills, while Karie Altman and Nastija Baranovska added nine apiece as the Madonna University women's volleyball team made quick work Wednesday of visiting Concordia University in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference encounter, 25-11, 25-21, 25-16.

Setter Evia Prieditis chipped in with 41 assist-to-kills, while Amanda Koszela added 18 digs as the Crusaders improved to 22-6 overall and 5-1 in the WHAC.

MU had a total of 12 blocks and hit .312 for the match, while limiting Concordia to a minus-.067 attack percentage.

The Cardinals (13-13, 0-6) got 15 digs from Shannon Pietruszka (Garden City) and seven kills each from Ashley Hart and Ashley Maynard.

Ocelots prevail

The Schoolcraft College women's volleyball team made sure its sophomores' final home match was a memorable one Thursday night.

The Lady Ocelots rallied from an early hole to thump Macomb Community College, 14-25, 25-16, 25-19, 25-18, to improve to 26-10 overall and 9-4 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference.

"The girls got a little pay-back from the last time we met Macomb at their house," Schoolcraft coach Rod Brumfield said. "Now the match was in our house and the

SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA volleyball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association girls volleyball will be from 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays and from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays through November (or until teams fill) at the WYAA Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Registration will be for the following age groups: 9-11, 12-14 and 15-17.

Games and practices will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center.

For more information, call

Keith DeMolay at (734) 722-1251; or (734) 516-9269. You can also call the WYAA Compound at (734) 421-0640.

Outdoors speaker

Detroit Free Press outdoor writer Eric Sharp will be the featured speaker at the Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting at beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile Roads.

Sharp started his newspaper career in 1968 with the Associ-

ated Press and worked for the Miami Herald as an outdoors writer from 1980-1990 before moving on to the Free Press.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790; or visit www.metroweststeelheaders.org.

Coaches wanted

Livonia Ladywood is seeking a girls varsity track and field for the spring 2012 season, along with a girls cross country coach for the fall 2012 season.

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More than a fan club

Star Wars group prides itself on authentic costumes, charity work

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Mike Lica can summon up the Dark Side on a whim.

Most weekends he dons his Imperial Stormtrooper armor and springs into action — greeting fans and posing for photos — at various events throughout Southeastern Michigan.

"It's almost like a second job for us. We've had some great opportunities," said Lica, 43. "I've been on stage with Weird Al Yankovic and Sugarland. We do local comic-cons and fundraisers."

The Garden City man, who is married and has two grown children, is a member of the Great Lakes Garrison, a chapter of the 501st Legion, an international Star Wars-themed organization that focuses on "bad guys" Darth Vader and his crew. It was founded in 1997.

Legion villains, including the Garrison's 94 active members, make their own Imperial costumes and then wear them to various events, including charity fundraisers, private parties, parades, hospital visits, concerts, comic conventions, and athletic meets. The group's mission is to entertain, serve the community and bring Star Wars to life through

authentic-looking costumes.

"We're not really actors. We're more characters," Lica said. "The major stipulation is that we make our own costumes. We don't sell costumes and we don't profit in any way."

Attention to detail

Lica, who runs his own carpet cleaning business, spent six months assembling his Stormtrooper costume, trimming plastic and fitting the body-hugging pieces.

Costumes can cost several hundred to a few thousand dollars, depending on the character and materials.

Eric Alexander, 34, of Livonia, started his Stormtrooper costume in October 2008, after his oldest daughter announced her plans to trick or treat as Princess Leia for Halloween that year. Alexander, who works in office services at a Detroit law firm, figured he would accompany her, but the Stormtrooper garb wasn't finished and approved until April the following year.

"Locally we have armor parties where we get together and work on costumes," Alexander said, adding that members trade tips and help each other with construction. He recalls attending a session in January 2009 where he spent "eight hours straight

trimming plastic."

"It was the first time I sat down and used a dremel," he said.

Alexander also created a costume for an X-Wing Fighter, one of the "good guy" characters in the Star Wars universe. He wears it when he attends Rebel Legion events. He's also a member of the Michigan Base chapter of the Rebels, which often works arm in arm with the Great Lakes Garrison.

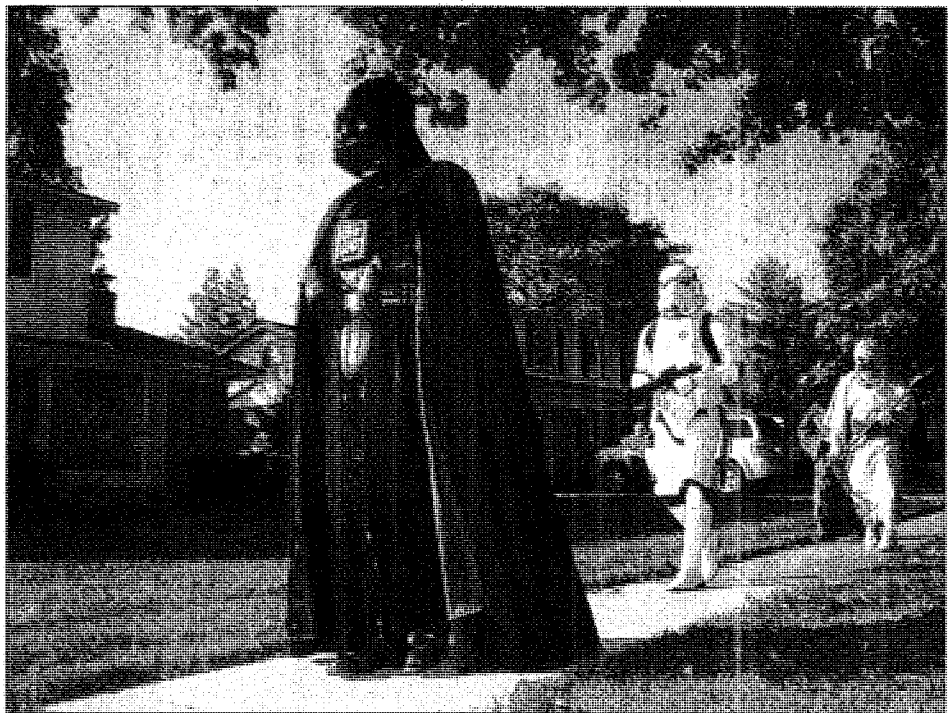
Starting young

Both Alexander and Lica first became interested in Star Wars when they were kids. Alexander was born the same year the film debuted. He remembers watching it when he was five years old.

"I still have all my (Star Wars) toys from when I was a little kid," Lica said. "Most of us in the group still collect toys. We're nerds. We get to be giant action figures when we put the costumes on."

Alexander took a bit of teasing from family members and co-workers when he first told them about his hobby, but when they saw the handmade costume and heard about the group's charity work, "it changed their tune."

His first event was at a comic book store on free comics day, the first



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Halloween? No, it's just members of the Great Lakes Garrison on their way to an appearance at a home in Livonia. That's Darth Vader, (Michael Parent), in the lead followed by a Stormtrooper, (Craig Provine), Tusken Raider (Jerry Russell) and Jawa (Zane Russell).



A Stormtrooper (Craig Provine of Canton) chats with Mason Reiter, a big Star Wars fan, during a visit to the boy's home. Members of Great Lakes Garrison became aware of Mason, who suffers from an extremely rare genetic disease, and offered to brighten his day with a surprise appearance.

Saturday in May. But he also remembers as "special" the time he visited a youngster with cerebral palsy and the boy "lit up" when he saw the Stormtroopers.

"You don't see our faces under our helmets. We're either smiling or crying. They are all special," Alexander said.

All volunteers

The Great Lakes Garrison makes appearances at fundraisers, nonprofit events and in hospitals for free. Recently, a handful of members surprised a Livonia youngster, who suffers from a rare genetic disease, at his home.

At private gatherings, such as birthday parties, the

group suggests that the party hosts make a monetary donation to their charity of their choosing.

"They hand us a check and we turn it in," Lica said. "We have a running tally and since 2010 \$3.4 million was raised. It does have an impact."

Requests for appearances are handled through the Garrison's Web site at www.greatlakesgarrison.com. Potential members can learn more about costume requirements at the site.

"As long as you have a costume and a love of Star Wars you'll fit right in with us," Alexander said. "I've learned a lot of neat things being in the group and met a lot of amazing people."

"We have engineers, volunteer fire fighters, veterinarian technicians. Some people work in computer graphics. Some work in grade schools. The only thing we have in common is Star Wars. It's been a very interesting 2½ years for me and nothing but fun."

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Cemetery, Summit set for Halloween fun

Listen to tantalizing tales of Plymouth's ghosts from Civil War soldiers Calvin Crosby and Charles Westfall during the Plymouth Characters Cemetery Walk beginning at 4 p.m. Oct. 29 in Riverside Cemetery.

The tours run 60-90 minutes and start at the Don Massey Field parking lot, east of the 35th District

Court at 660 Plymouth Road. The head Refreshments, courtesy of Courtyard Grille, will be served after the walk.

Guests are encouraged to wear sensible walking shoes and to bring a flashlight for later tours.

Tickets for the Plymouth Characters Cemetery Walk are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the cemetery. Buy or renew a membership and get up to two free tickets. Buy tickets at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, or at www.plymouthhistory.org. Riverside Cemetery is on Plymouth Road, near the 35th District Court. For more information call the museum at (734) 455-8940.

Costume parade

Canton Leisure Services' 11th annual Trick or Treat Parade will run 4 - 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Youngsters, age 11 and under, will trick or treat in costume to more than a dozen themed sta-



tions and choose one of two paths through the Summit — one a little scary and the other sim-

ply fun. Participants can limit their time standing in line by picking up a "Fast Pass," available beginning Monday, Oct. 24 at the Summit on the Park's front desk. The pass indicates the time they should arrive at the event. The number of passes is limited.

The suggested donation for admission is \$5 per family with proof of Canton residency. The non-resident fee is \$10. For more information call (734) 394-5460 or visit Cantonfun.org.

Smashing pumpkins

Visitors to the Detroit Zoo can watch animals eat special Halloween treats Wednesday, Oct. 26.

The environmental enrichment — in the form of pumpkins, gourds and cornstalks — are hidden throughout the animals' habitats or prepared and placed in a unique manner to stimulate natural behaviors. Many animals push, play with, smash and devour their treats. Here's the enrichment sched-



Youngsters visit the Home Depot station at a previous Trick or Treat Parade in Canton.

ule:

- 10 a.m. — vultures, treat-filled pumpkins
- 10:30 a.m. — gorillas and chimps, spaghetti-filled pumpkins
- 11 a.m. — snow monkeys, Halloween treats
- 11:30 a.m. — rhinos, pumpkins and cornstalks

- Noon — zebras, corn stalks
- 12:30 p.m. — wolverines, piñata, pumpkins and spaghetti
- 1 p.m. — bison, pumpkins and cornstalks
- 1:30 p.m. — polar bears, pumpkins
- 2 p.m. — den bears, Halloween treats
- 2:30 p.m. — anteaters, Hal-

loween treats

The Detroit Zoo is located at 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak. Admission is \$12 for adults, 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens, 62 and older, and \$8 for children, 2-14. Children under 2 are admitted free; (248) 541-5717 or visit www.detroitzoo.org.

Halloween Party

LIVONIA FAMILY YMCA

Admission is FREE
...to anyone brave enough to show up!

Saturday October 29th 6:00-9:00 pm

Families are invited to visit the Livonia Family YMCA to enjoy a Halloween Party! Activities include:

- Haunted Locker Room (minimal charge)
- Costume Contest
- Trick or Treat Inside
- and many more Spooktacular Halloween Activities ...ALL INSIDE!

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- Gymnastics; classes, Livonia Twisters Gymnastics Team
- Fitness; group exercise classes, free work out with a personal trainer
- Youth sports; basketball, volleyball skill clinic, martial arts

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Doctor goes shopping

In my little home office sits a Royal typewriter dated back to the early 1950s. It is the very typewriter my father brought home from the police station in Canada to type out his daily reports. He brought me a book that described how to type using the home rule and when I entered high school, I was pretty quick. That typewriter still works today but it needs a new ribbon and I'm sure it will sit idle for the rest of its years.

Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

For the past 30 years I have been using a computer without knowing too much about the internal workings. I know how to type. I've written two books on a computer. I know how to send and receive e-mails, how to search out information, how to save and do a few of the other simple things. A few weeks ago, my computer started acting like a refrigerator with hiccups. It would freeze up, thaw out, make all sorts of noises and cause a serious stress condition in my life.

How was I going to write my column for this newspaper? Thanks to my darling Valorie, I'm using her com-

puter and I don't dare try to send it to my editor for I'm sure I will hit the wrong button and erase it all. Valorie will be doing the sending for me just like she helped me shop for a new computer.

Names will not be used in this article because it's not meant to be a venue for advertising, but I visited two stores that sold computers and didn't have any inventory of the model I selected. It would take seven-21 days to receive the product I wanted, and that wouldn't do, because I was in a state of panic. I had almost 200 e-mails.

While shopping another store I went strolling into the appliance department. I followed a few people who were looking at refrigerators and listened to their conversations while playing the role of an unsuspecting spy. I was surprised to learn that a sliding basket in the bottom of the freezer section of a side by side is so important. I didn't see too much interest in who makes the product or what country it comes from as long as it looks nice. You can't help but notice the price tags, which made me feel fortunate that I'm not just starting out in life. These things cost more than Henry Ford's first new cars.

While Valorie was paying the cashier for the computer I selected, I took a stroll into the washer and dryer section of the store. I can tell you that these products

have never looked more futuristic. I escaped this store feeling pretty good about my deal, my appliance shopping, and not being identified.

Now the real fun begins because you don't bring home a computer, unplug the old one and just plug in the new one. You have to remove all the stuff from the old one and feed it into the new one and that's not as easy as changing the belt on a clothes dryer. Thanks to my neighbor Allen, who has been to our house five times in the last few weeks trying so hard to fix my old computer. He knows how to do all this work — and wait until you hear how I messed it all up.

Allen works on computers for a living and he told me that when I suspected a virus and installed a new anti-virus program, I should have removed the current anti-virus program already running in the computer. Two of these programs in the same computer can adversely affect the operation of a computer. Years ago when I made a mistake fixing an appliance, it didn't cost this much to learn a lesson. Stay tuned.

PS. By the time you read this column I will have answered every e-mail sent to me.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twm1.r.com

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For more information on how you can advertise your Fall Family Fun event, please call 1-800-579-7355

Six tips for a healthier Halloween

Halloween is about more than just a competition to see who brings home the most candy. Instead of focusing on the sugary side of this scare-fest, try working with your kids to build lasting memories that focus on healthier Halloween staples like pumpkins, creative costumes and haunted houses. Below are six strategies from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, to keep your Halloween focused on building lasting memories and away from unhealthy candy binges.

1. Trick or post-dinner treat— Trick or treat after eating a wholesome dinner. Children who are full may be less likely to snack on the treats they accumulate.

2. Pillow cases are for pillows — give the kids smaller treat containers like recycled grocery bags or small, plastic jack o' lanterns so they won't bring home too many sweets. Use your pillow cases to create ghostly costumes instead.

3. Scare 'em with vitamin E — Instead of handing out candy corn, hand out prepackaged servings of carrots or dried fruit that has no added sugar. Both are great sources of vitamins that can help your children stay

healthy.

4. Use your pumpkins— Pumpkins are for more than just pumpkin pie and jack o' lanterns. Use the flesh and seeds from your pumpkins to make delicious, healthy treats as a replacement for candy.

5. Give 'em treasures for treats — Hand out boxes of crayons, stickers, colored pencils, erasers, Halloween tattoos (the removable kind), or rubber spiders.

6. Patrol those sweets — The best way to limit the amount of candy your children eat is to limit the number of treats they can eat. After inspecting

all treats to make sure they're safe, set a limit on how many they can keep. Then remind them to eat in moderation so they last longer. Store the bag in a high but public place so you won't be tempted to snack on the candy either.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation works to address one of the nation's leading public health threats — childhood obesity. The goal of the Alliance is to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity by 2015, and to empower kids to make healthy lifestyle choices. For more information visit HealthierGeneration.org.

Festive tasting offers meatless holiday fare

Learn about and taste vegetarian foods at the 24th Annual Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza, Sunday, Nov. 6, at Metropolitan Adventist School Gymnasium, located on Haggerty just north of Five Mile, in Plymouth.

The event will feature recipes that use a plant base for the main dish on the holiday dinner table. Presenters also will offer ideas on ways to serve the holiday recipes. More than 50 non-meat dishes will be available to see and taste. Creative cooks will be on hand to talk about vegetarian family favorites for special events.

Cookbooks of the sample dishes that are presented will be available for purchase. A CD with 20 years of recipes from the event also will be available.

The festive event demonstrates how great holidays can taste without meat.

Detailed information and ticket order forms are available at www.veggieholiday.com or call the hotline at (248) 446-9176.

Adult tickets are \$14; children, 6-12 pay \$6. The ticket order must include a first, second and third choice of seating times — 11 a.m., 12:45 a.m. or 2:30 p.m. — and the total number of tickets



A colorful plate of asparagus, stuffed squash and a meatless loaf are among the tastings at a previous Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza in Plymouth.

ordered. Make checks payable to Metro SDA School. Send to "Holiday Tasting," 695 N. Ridge Road, Canton, MI 48187-4635.

Delicious holidays start with your cookie recipes

Do you have a favorite holiday cookie? Maybe it's from a prized family recipe that has been passed along from generation to generation. Or a sweet new tradition you whipped up from scratch. Perhaps you've perfected a gluten-free, wheat-free, sugar-free vegetable cookie that actually tastes good. Or you simply like to indulge in sprinkle-decorated decadence.

Whether it's cut out, rolled, or baked in brownie-sized squares, we'd love to get the recipe. Send us the recipe, your name, community and an e-mail address or phone number. Tell us why the cookie is a family favorite or must-have at the holidays. Include a photo of yourself, if you'd like. We'll publish it all in an upcoming issue.

Send to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Photos must be in jpg form attached — not embedded — to the e-mail. Or mail to Dargay at Observer & Eccentric, 615 W. Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 11.

Raffle proceeds help pay tuition

Glenn Kremer of Plymouth won first place — a year's worth of paid tuition — in the recent Catholic Central Dads' Club Tuition Assistance Raffle for Catholic Central High School.

Other winners were Jeff Doyle, who received a half-year of paid tuition, Grayson Arnold, with a quarter year of tuition and Charles Widmaier and Kevin Ford, each winning \$1,000.

Catholic Central Dads' Club raised more than \$45,000 with net proceeds of \$23,300 going to tuition assistance needs at the school. The Rev. Richard Ranalletti, school principal, said the money will help students whose families are financially struggling with tuition costs.

Kremer said he was excited to win and that he had "never won anything before."

Catholic Central High School is a private Roman Catholic school for boys in Novi. The school embodies the educational tradition of the Basilian Fathers and is dedicated to fostering an environment that nurtures the whole person. Catholic Central students are encouraged to think critically, develop student initiative, attain self-discipline, act responsibly, and cultivate a positive self-image.

REUNIONS

Send information on local class reunions to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
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/REUNIONS.

DETROIT MACKENZIE
JUNE CLASS OF 1961
 50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29. For more information e-mail lvnerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (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.

LADYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1961
 Planning a 50th re-

union in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandymac@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.

REDFORD HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1971
 40th reunion, 7 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Livonia Marriott. Cost is \$45 per person and includes strolling dinner and DJ. Cash Bar. Contact Susan (Brock) Pfeiffer at (248) 360-8437 or Susan (Matheson) Plaine at (248) 752-3618 for more information and address to send check. Also listed on Facebook.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1962
 Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19, 2012. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com

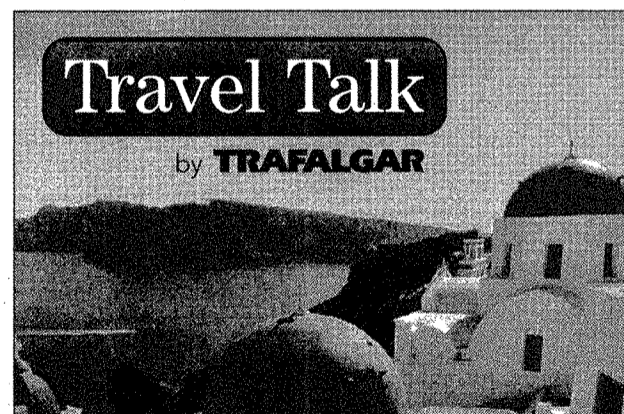
GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

Hosta
 Members of the Metro Detroit Hosta Society will see a photo recap of the 2011 National Hosta Convention at their next meeting, 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham. Jan Everson will present the program. Light refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome. For more information e-mail to Hgold2843@comcast.net. Livonia Garden Club • Angie Wilkie, a club member, Master Gardener and flower show judge, will explain the

basics needed for entering a flower show at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. Visitors are welcome to club meetings.

• The annual Fresh Greens Workshop is set for 9:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. To register, send check for \$24 payable to Livonia Garden Club to Diane Bergendahl, 7841 Oak Knoll Drive, Northville, MI 48168. Participants should bring a box and clippers to the workshop. No refunds after Nov. 1. Questions? Call (248) 486-9676 or e-mail rb@rc.net.



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TIMING IN ARTHRITIS

Most arthritis comes on over time. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis experience a period of increased fatigue and aching in the hands and feet that over weeks worsens. Osteoarthritis of the knee or shoulder may take years before an ache in the joint that comes and goes, becomes continuous.

Other arthritic conditions are identified by their swift appearance. The arthritis most prominent for this characteristic is gout. The usual history is that the individual with gout is sitting or sleeping and on standing up or rolling over in bed, is hit by a intense pain. Another example is the condition polymyalgia rheumatica. A person can go to bed as usual on Wednesday night and awake Thursday morning unable to move because of penetrating stiffness in the shoulders and thighs.

In gout, the quick onset is equaled by its quick end. If there is no doctor available to treat the attack, the pain will resolve in four or five days. Unfortunately, the pain and impairment during that 4-5 day period is so great, most people seek assistance as soon as possible.

Doctors take advantage of the timing of arthritis to identify the joint problem they are dealing with. A person suspected of having an arthritic problem can expect the physician to ask specific questions on when aching began when swelling started, how long the swelling lasted, how long did the pain linger.

The same pattern does not seem to exist for flares. With almost any arthritis, flares have the features of being unexpected, coming in crops and being prolonged for reasons that remain unclear.

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Hurry! Seats are going fast!
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RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

Oct. 23-26

PUMPKIN PATCH

Time/Date: noon-6 p.m. Oct. 23, 10 a.m.-dark, Oct. 24-29 and noon-dark, Oct. 30

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: The church is partnering with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to raise money for N.O.A.H. Project that helps the homeless in Detroit

Contact: (734) 464-0211

SEMINAR

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Oct. 23

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Paul L. Maier, author, historian and fifth vice president of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, will present "How We Got the Bible." The seminar considers the vast assemblage of documents forming the 66 books of the Bible. Topics include "The World's Most Important Book," "Can We Be Confident in the Bible?" "Silencing the Old Testament Critics," "Did the Church Make Jesus Divine?" and "The High Price of an English Bible." Admission is free

Contact: (734) 522-6830; www.christsavior.org

Oct. 27-Nov. 2

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/Date: 1-7 p.m. Oct. 28

Location: Faith Bible Church, 23444 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Call the American Red Cross to make an appointment

Contact: (800) 733-2767

COAT EXCHANGE

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Oct. 29

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia

Details: The coat exchange will take place during the Fall Fun Festival. Participants who need a coat can take one. Coat donations will be accepted in the church office during business hours

Contact: (734) 422-1470

FALL FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m., Oct. 29

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriam, Livonia

Details: Family-oriented event with games, face painting, henna tattoos, bouncies, bake sale, and free cider and doughnuts. Participants may wear their costumes. Rain or shine

Contact: Pastor R. Wright at (313) 682-7491

FUN FEST, BARBECUE

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia

Details: Fall Fun Festival for children through 6th grade. There will be games, treats, fall activities and more. Church members will be in the parking lot to pass out treats as the children "Trunk or Treat" from car to car. The church encourages youngsters wear costumes for the event. Parents or guardians must accompany all children.

Also happening: A barbecue from 4-7 p.m. on Oct. 29 will include North Carolina Pulled Pork Shoulder, Southern Bar-B-Q Chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, red-skinned potatoes and beverages. Proceeds will go to the church's "Feed the Hungry" ministries. Advance tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. At the door, tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children while supplies last.

Contact: (734) 422-1470

HALLELUJAH FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: 10th annual festival includes fun, food, games and fellowship

Contact: (734) 404-2480; www.cantcfc.org

HARVEST SUPPER

Time/Date: 5:30-6:30 p.m. dinner, 5-7 p.m. bake sale, Thursday, Nov. 3

Location: Atonement Lutheran Church, 6961 Mead, Dearborn

Details: Adult admission is \$8. Grade school children pay \$3.50, pre-schoolers pay \$1.50. Tickets may be ordered in advance or purchased at the door. Carry outs must be ordered by Nov. 2

Contact: (313) 421-8036 or (313) 581-2525

TRUNK OR TREAT

Time/Date: 5:15-7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 30

Location: Connection Church, 3855 Sheldon,

Canton

Details: Trick or treat from car trunk to car trunk in the church parking lot; contest for best costume and best decorated car

Contact: (734) 397-1777

Nov. 3-9

LUNCHEON, FASHIONS

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6

Location: Sacred Heart Banquet and Conference Center, 29125 West Six Mile, Livonia

Details: The Ladies of Sacred Heart holds its annual Ladies Luncheon and Fashion Show. Reservations are accepted for tables of eight. Teens and adults only. Gourmet luncheon is catered by Thomas's Catering of Livonia and fashions are provided by The Clothing Cove of Milford. Doors open at noon for basket and auction preview. Tickets are \$30

Contact: (734) 522-3166, or www.shbyzantine.com/#events

Nov. 10-16

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13

Location: Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Daniel Rodriguez, a former police officer from New York City, N.Y. who sang at many memorials after the 9-11 terrorist attack, will perform with the Jesse Lynch Trio. Placido Domingo mentored Rodriguez through the Young Artist Program in Washington D.C. Rodriguez and the trio will give classic song a jazz twist at the Nardin Park show. Tickets are \$20, available from the church office

Contact: (248) 476-8860

SHARE THE BOUNTY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: The evening will include decadent sweets and opportunities to win handmade items and gift baskets. Tickets are \$15. The event raises funds to provide food, clothing and gifts for needy families this Christmas. The church and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are working together on the charitable cause

Contact: (734) 464-0211



Plymale-Hall

Cassie L. Plymale and Brandon Hall announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Tim and Jeanine Plymale of Plymouth. Her fiancé's parents are Tamra Vandenberg of Novi and Charles Hall of Wayne.

A June 2012 wedding is planned in White Lake.

Milestones



Charles and Marietta Ferrell of Livonia

50th wedding anniversary

Charles and Marietta Ferrell of Livonia were married Sept. 16, 1961.

They have three children: Charles M. Ferrell, Michele (Dean) Langley, and Christopher M. Ferrell. Their grandchildren are Chandler and Spencer Langley.

Charles worked at Ford Transmission Plant in Livonia for 39 years and retired in 2002. The couple enjoys mission work, volunteering, and travel, as well as spending winters in Arizona.

They celebrated their 50th anniversary at Alpha Baptist Church in Livonia.



Belch-Szymanski

Sherry Belch and Keith Szymanski announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Vince and Sandi Belch of Canton, is a 2002 graduate of Divine Child High School. She teaches first grade at St. Damian School, in Westland.

Her fiancé, son of Rich and Judy Szymanski of Redford, graduated in 2002 from Catholic Central High School. He is a CPA at Plante & Moran.

A December 2011 wedding is planned at St. Damian Church, in Westland.

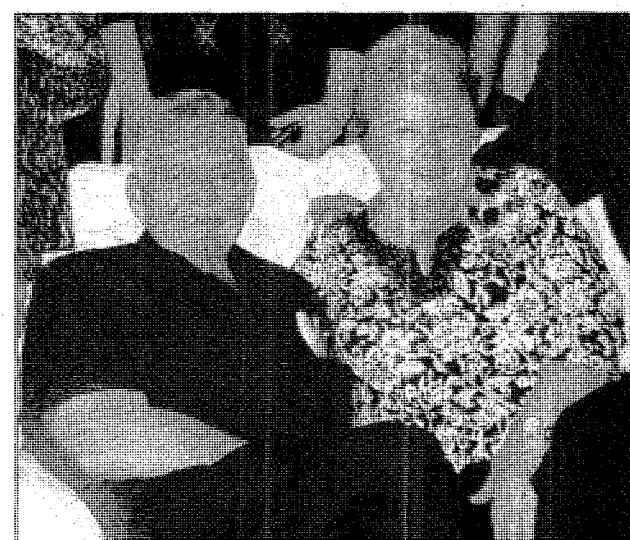


Pete and Doreen Walkuski of Livonia on their wedding day in 1961

50th wedding anniversary

Peter and Doreen Walkuski were married Oct. 14, 1961, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dearborn.

They celebrated their milestone anniversary recently with their children, Linda Millard, Lori and Ken Taube, Lisa and George Platz and Larry and Andrea Walkuski, along with their grandchildren, Lauren Millard, Sara and Amy Taube, George-Stephan, Joseph and Stephanie Platz and Peter, Lukas and Alex Walkuski.



Dick and Jean Hofmann of Plymouth

50th wedding anniversary

Dick and Delores "Jean" (Litchney) Hofmann of Plymouth marked their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 7. The couple married in 1961 at St. Linus Church, in Dearborn Heights.

Their children are the late Michelle Hofmann, Christy (Wayne) Holliday of Plymouth and Nancy (Nino) Cercone of Canton. They also have four grandchildren.

Both Dick and Jean are

retired. They're involved with the Plymouth Knights of Columbus and enjoy gardening, traveling, and spending time with their family.

The couple celebrated their milestone anniversary with friends and family at dinner. They also plan a second honeymoon in Las Vegas, Nev.



Jean and Dick Hofmann on their wedding day in 1961

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Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BORTHWICK, VICTORIA MARY ANN
Age 80, passed away September 21, 2011. Visitation was held at home. A memorial service will be planned at a later date. Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea. www.mitchellfuneral.com

DINGELDEY, PHILIP R. "BUD"
October 19, 2011, age 76. Born on his family's farm in Canton Township in 1935. Beloved husband of Karen. Dear father of Jeff (Amy) McIntosh, Dennis (Judy) Dingeldey, Lori (Dan) Mayer and Kevin (Emily) Dingeldey. Also leaves seven grandchildren. Brother of James, Jake, George, William, Karen, Richard, Diane and Bill. Visitation Sunday 3pm-9pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth where funeral services will be conducted on Monday 11am. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

FENOGLIO, MARY
Age 106, October 19, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Ansel. Loving mother of the late Charles E. Fenoglio. Grandmother of Stephen (Stephanie) Fenoglio, Carol (Robert) Skinner and Melissa Rojas. Great-grandmother of Melanie and Travis Fenoglio and Jakob and Ryan Rojas. Mother-in-law of Diane Fenoglio. Aunt of Gene Becco, Kay Martin and Kathryn Manitz. Memorial service 11 am Monday, October 24th at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 25450 Plymouth Rd., in Redford. Contributions may be made to His Church Anglican, 36163 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, 48150

PACE, CRAIG J.
Passed away in Toledo, Ohio on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at the age of 45. Beloved son of Nancy (Jim) Magyar and the late Dennis Pace. Stepson of Wanda Pace. Dear father of Sidnee. Brother of Mark (Deborah) Pace, Danny Pace and Tony Magyar. Nephew of Carol (William) Burger, Joe Barham and Martha (Lewis) Geiers. Also leaves behind his former wife Gina and numerous cousins. Beloved friend of Kenny and Faye McFarland. Visitation will be held on Friday from noon until the time of the Memorial services at 1pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth

TURBETT, NELLA MARIAN
October 17, 2011, age 78. Beloved wife of 57 years of William. Loving mother of Robert (Vi), Andrew (Tracey) and Gavin (Paula). Devoted grandmother of James, Matthew, William, Alexandria, Katherine, Scott, Margaret and Deirdre. Cherished "My Marian" of Allison (Dan) Palmer. Also survived by her sister Wanda (the late Rene) Boutin and sister-in-law Eleanor Davis. Aunt of Roger Boutin, Michelle Boutin and Raymond Davis. Memorial Gathering Saturday, October 29th 11:00 am to 7:00 pm and Sunday, October 30th 1:00 pm until memorial Service at 3:00 pm at the Dearborn Chapel of the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, 22546 Michigan Ave. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. howepeterson.com

THOMAS, JOHN G.
Age 94 of South Lyon, formerly of Farmington Hills passed away October 20, 2011. He was born in Newcastle Pennsylvania on February 11, 1917 to Griffith and Margaret (Davies) Thomas. John received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from University of Pittsburgh in 1939. He was united in marriage to Ruth H. Manns on July 26, 1941 and they spent 70 loving years together until his death. He proudly served in the Navy during WWII, in the Pacific Theater, and also served during the Korean War. He worked for steel companies as a metallurgist and salesman his entire career. John was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington and the Masonic Lodge #275. An innovative man, he enjoyed making things such as clocks and stained glass. He was an avid bridge player, who also enjoyed electronics and computers. John was very handy and could fix anything around the house. He is survived by his beloved wife Ruth H. Thomas; his children Susan (Donald) Lyons, David (Kathy) Thomas, and Nancy (Scott) Kistler; his grandchildren Michael Lyons, Gethin (Amanda) Thomas, Boo Hee Thomas, and Marged Thomas; and his great granddaughter Zoe Kelly. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Margaret Miller. A memorial service will be held today, October 23, 2011 at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. The Reverend Dr. Sue Ellis Melrose will officiate the service. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170 or First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. Arrangements entrusted to Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. of South Lyon.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

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Family meals contribute to good health

October is National Eat Better, Eat Together Month, an opportunity for families to start new traditions, make time for one another, and eat healthy.

TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the nonprofit weight loss support organization, offers these ideas to make time for family meals and reap healthful rewards:

Enjoy the benefits

- Family dinners promote healthy eating habits and are an ideal time for parents to teach their children about nutrition and to demonstrate healthy practices. Kids who regularly eat with their families tend to consume more fruits and vegetables rather than junk food.

- Time together can open the lines of communication between parents and children and help form stronger, healthier relationships. Family members have a chance to share details about their day, plan, learn about one another, and more. Table talk also allows children to express ideas and learn new vocabulary from adults' conversations.

- Studies show that eating together can contribute to higher academic performance and improved well-being. The stability of family meals and conversation are essential for kids as they develop and learn.

- Food dollars can go further with large, homemade meals, rather than fast food or individual dishes. Cooking one meal and preparing food in advance also saves time in the kitchen.

Prepare meals ahead

To avoid falling into the common excuse that everyone's schedule is too hectic, make meals ahead of time. Weekends are a great opportunity to compile a shopping list, purchase groceries, and prepare weekday meals. If you have extra time, cook double servings and put the extra food in the freezer, to be used as a backup for busy nights.

Put it on the calendar

The calendar fills up

quickly, especially as kids get older. It's important to make family time a priority and set a schedule that will work for everyone. If there is only one day that works for each person, make it a weekly habit and work up to two or three times each week, if you can. Breakfast and lunch count as meals, so don't limit family time to dinner.

Get the children involved

It's important to engage the kids and have them participate. Give them the opportunity to pro-

vide input on what is served or assign tasks — setting the table, washing the produce, pouring beverages, and mixing ingredients. Teenagers could even cook one of the meals.

Make it fun

Want to make meals more interesting? There are many creative ideas that can keep family time exciting.

- Move it outdoors and have a picnic.
- Turn off the television, cell phones, and the computer and have a conversation. Go around the table and talk about the

highs and lows of everyone's day and ask each other questions.

- Plan a theme for different meals — fiesta, dinner and a movie, fondue party, build your own burger or pizza, "favorites meal" (making each family member's preferred dish), and more.

- Take turns planning the meals. One night parents can arrange dinner, and the kids can prepare breakfast another day. This will get everyone involved with meal planning, and it will give family members an opportunity to be creative.

- Dress up the dinner

table, making the occasion seem special. Use candles, table clothes, fancy dishes, or props for a themed dinner.

TOPS Club Inc., is a nonprofit weight-loss support and wellness education organization founded more than 63 years ago. TOPS has nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

Visitors may attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Membership is \$26 per year, along with nominal chapter fees. To find a local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call (800) 932-8677.



St. Mary Mercy Hospital's UPCOMING HEALTH INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS

Center for Joint Replacement Seminar

Guest speaker David Mendelson, MD
Thursday, October 27, 6 p.m.
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.

Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar

Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD
Thursday, November 3, 6 p.m.
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.

Center for Joint Replacement Seminar

Guest speaker Ryan Mollie, DO
Thursday, November 10, 6 p.m.
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.

Stress Free Holidays

Guest speaker Cynthia Rochon, RN, PMHN, MBA
Wednesday, November 16, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.

Women's Health Series: Healthy Living. Healthy Woman.

Speakers from Gynecology and Urogynecology
Thursday, November 17, 6-8 p.m.
Call 734-655-2281 to register or for more information.

Center for Joint Replacement Seminar

Guest speaker Jeffrey Mendelson, MD
Wednesday, November 30, 6 p.m.
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.

REGISTER NOW!

Presentations are free, but registration is required.
Visit stmarymercy.org and click on *Classes & Events*
or call designated number above.

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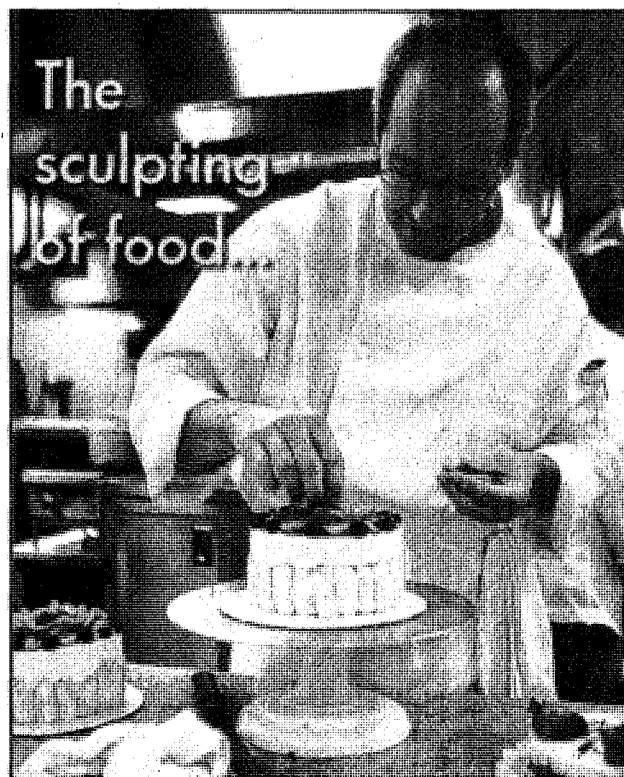
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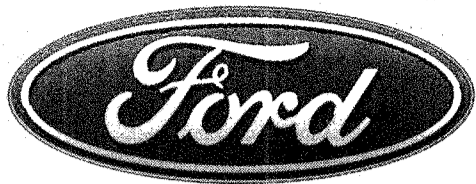
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- SYNC Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System
- AdvanceTrac® Electronic Stability Control System • My Key

2012 ESCAPE XLT FWD



21 city / 28 highway MPG³

\$179
PER MONTH LEASE

For 27 months for current A/Z plan customers* \$1,369 Cash Due at Signing

- 2.5L Duratec I-4 Engine
- 6-speed Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control
- 16" Cast Aluminum Wheels

2012 FUSION SEL FWD MSRP: \$28,985⁵



\$179
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- Moonroof
- Sync Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System
- Blind Spot Information System
- Reverse Sensing System
- Rear View Camera
- Sony Audio System
- Rain Sensing Wipers

23 city / 33 highway MPG³

2012 TAURUS SEL FWD MSRP: \$29,250⁵



18 city / 27 highway MPG³

\$219
PER MONTH LEASE

For 27 months for current A/Z plan customers* \$2,150 Cash Due at Signing

- 3.5 L Duratec V6 engine • MyKey
- Perimeter Anti-theft Alarm
- 6-speed Select Shift Automatic Transmission with Paddle Activation
- Sync with Traffic, Directions and Information

2012 EXPLORER XLT FWD MSRP: \$36,325⁵



Offers Up To 28 MPG³

\$285
PER MONTH LEASE

For 27 months for current A/Z plan customers* \$2,950 Cash Due at Signing

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V6
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- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™ and Curve Control
- Easy Fuel™ Capless Fuel Filler • MyKey
- 18" Painted Aluminum Wheels

2011 EDGE SEL FWD MSRP: \$34,345⁵



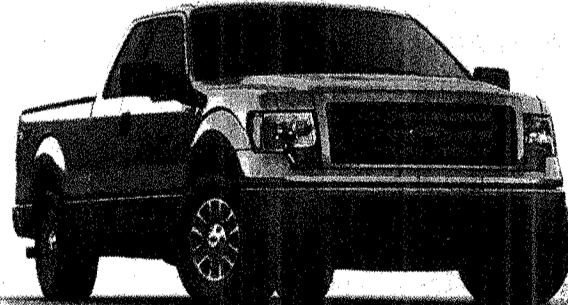
19 city / 27 highway MPG³

\$199
PER MONTH LEASE

For 27 months for current A/Z plan customers* \$2,900 Cash Due at Signing

- 3.5 Ti-VCT V6 Engine
- 6-Speed Automatic Transmission
- Single-Zone Manual Air-Conditioning
- AM/FM Stereo/Single CD-Player with MP3 Capability
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2011 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4X4 THIS VEHICLE COMES FULLY EQUIPPED AND HAS A MSRP OF \$38,025⁵



17 city / 23 highway MPG³

\$159
PER MONTH LEASE

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- Sync, Tow & Chrome package
- 5.0L V8 Engine
- 18" Chrome-Clad Aluminum Wheels
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- Trailer Sway Control



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