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**On the hunt**

Families are invited to compete in a fun scavenger hunt 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at the William P. Faust Public Library.

The scavenger hunt will begin and end at the library at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford. All families need is a keen eye, a digital or phone camera and their car. With a guide sheet in hand, they'll search for items around the city. Once found, they need to snap a family picture and continue to search until they've located all of the items on their list.

There is no time limit, but the sooner families return to the library, the sooner they receive a prize. Families can show their team spirit by picking a family color.

Registration can be completed by using the family name and calling (734) 326-6123 or online at [www.westlandlibrary.org](http://www.westlandlibrary.org)

**TICKET CONTEST**  
Detroit Lions vs. St. Louis Rams  
Ford Field Sept. 9th 1p

**Win Lions vs. Rams tickets**

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the Detroit Lions take on the St. Louis Rams Sunday, Sept. 9, at Ford Field. If you want a chance to be in the stands the first game of the regular season, go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) today. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get five extra chances to win if they also enter the contest. The winner will be selected at random Sept. 5.

**Game Night**

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland will hold its monthly game night 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, at the center at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. There will be card playing this month. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

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**It's official**

**Westland reopens Thomas H. Brown Central City Park**



PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Westland Mayor William Wild used oversized scissors to cut a green ribbon to celebrate the reopening of the Thomas H. Brown Central City Park. Joining him were Deputy Mayor Jade Smith (from left), Westland City Council President James Godbout, Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp, Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski, Councilwoman Meriem Kadi, 18th District Court Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli and Councilwoman Christine Cicirelli Bryant.

**By Sue Mason**  
Observer Staff Writer

Since November 2006, city officials have been cautious about using the full name of Central City Park.

That all changed Monday when state, county and city officials gathered at the park to rededicate it and once again call it by its name: Thomas H. Brown Central City Park.

"It was a sad day when we had to put up the fences and internally we

made an effort not to put the name with the park during the remediation, but we never took the name off," said Westland Mayor William Wild.

Brown was Westland's first mayor and was described by those in attendance at Monday's re-dedication and grand opening as a man who gave a lot to his community. His widow, Dee Brown, told the crowd that her late husband was "looking down" and smiling.

"I remember he was the

first mayor in 1966 and he cared for everyone," she said. "He was a wonderful person and I'm sure he's proud of what you have done here."

Embroiled in controversy over lead contamination and closed to the public for almost six years, the city officially reopened a scaled-down park - 12 acres along the east side of the property that have been cleaned up. Geotextile fabric and a 10-15-inch layer of new soil has been installed and hydroseeded. A new

half mile walking path has been built around the perimeter and a 200-space parking lot added along Carlson.

Future plans call for the installation of soccer fields, pavilions, a concession area with family-style restrooms and a plaza area that will host activities like the Westland Farmers Market and concerts in the park.

"What a great day this is, this is awesome," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski who served as

emcee for the ceremony. "The mayor and council had a vision and now we have a beautiful park and more to come."

The move from remediation to restoration allows the city to tie together the new park with Tattan Park to the north, home of the popular Play Planet and H2O Zone. The Lions Club pavilion also will be restored, according to the mayor.

"Now we can focus on the finishing touches,"

Please see **PARK, A2**

**School tax increase won't be on November ballot**

**By Sue Mason**  
Observer Staff Writer

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy is "very disappointed" that county residents will not get to vote on a county-wide 2-mill tax increase to fund school operations after the proposal failed to gain enough support from local school boards.

The Livonia school board voted 4-3 Monday against the request. It was the last school board to vote on a motion requesting Wayne RESA put the proposal on the ballot.

"I'm extremely disappointed that Livonia did not pass the proposal," said Baracy. "If Wayne RESA had gotten to put the ballot issue to a vote, there was the potential to give Wayne-Westland \$4.8 million in new revenue. But despite our disappointment, we respect their decision."

School boards representing at least 50 percent of the K-12 students in the county had to request by Tuesday that Wayne RESA place the proposal on the November ballot. The proposal was supported by just 44.3 percent, 5.7 percent short of the minimum requirement.

Tuesday was the deadline for getting the proposal on the November ballot. Wayne RESA Superintendent Christopher Wigent said Livonia's vote would have made the difference. But, he said, it's not fair to blame the Livonia board for the proposal not going before voters.

"All the districts decided it," he said, adding Livonia just happened to vote on it last. "Had it not been Livonia (voting last), it would have been another district."

Wigent said the boards

Please see **SCHOOLS, A2**

**Clerk prepares for Sept. 5 special election**

**By LeAnne Rogers**  
Observer Staff Writer

With the primary election wrapped up, Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof can turn her attention to the upcoming special election to temporarily fill the 11th U.S. House seat vacated by Thaddeus McCotter.

"The special election will cost Westland over

\$60,000. Wayne County will pay for the ballots, which is a substantial amount, but we will pay for the rest," Schoof said.

While four staff members are facing criminal charges, McCotter himself wasn't found culpable in the voting fraud that kept him from seeking re-election. The Livonia Republican's subsequent resignation triggered the special election

to determine who will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot to fill the seat until the end of the year.

The sole Democrat on the Sept. 5 ballot is David Curson. On the Republican side, Kerry Bentivolio, Nancy Cassis, Kenneth Crider, Carolyn Kavanagh and Steve King are seeking the nomination to fill the

Please see **ELECTION, A2**

**W-W's board sets goals for superintendent**

**By Sue Mason**  
Observer Staff Writer

After five hours of meeting over two different days, the Wayne-Westland school board has reached a consensus on the two goals it wants school Superintendent Greg Baracy to focus on during 2012-13 — improving student achievement and developing a customer service plan for the district.

The board members,

working with Scott Morrell of the Michigan Association of School Boards, were able to reach an agreement on Baracy's goals, but will need to meet again to finish work on their goals as a board.

"You need to start being clear with Greg what your expectations are," Morrell told the board. "What I see as success, what (board President) Carol (Middel) sees as success may

not be what all eight of you see as success."

Baracy said he wants to improve student achievement and show growth. While it would be nice to have a magic wand to make that happen, he told the board he will work diligently and take it to the buildings to "make sure we have skilled instruction in the classroom."

"We have to be intent

Please see **GOALS, A2**

**PARK**

Continued from page A1

Wild said. "This is just the beginning, now we have 12 acres that we can do something with."

Wild praised residents, especially those living across Carlson from the park "who were on the front line."

"It's incredible how patient residents were," he said. "The residents trusted us and were patient with us."

Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp who took on the park issue at the direction of County Executive Robert Ficano, said the park was "a very challenging situation" when it hit the front pages of newspapers in 2006.

"This has been the vision of the mayor, his staff and the council," said Helmkamp. "They have been great part-

ners to work with over the years. This required a lot of cooperation and patience. It has taken a lot of vision and elbow grease, but at the end of the day the do, ra, me were all in place."

Westland Council President James Godbout said the reopening of the park is a "great day" for the community and has been "a long time in coming."

"It's taken a lot of effort, unfortunately, Mother Nature hasn't helped us grow grass," he said. "This is the first step in bringing back quality recreation to this area."

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-12th District, also was recognized in getting the park cleaned up and reopened.

"I'm very proud to be connected with this park," she said. "When I came on the commission four years ago, I told my people my goal was to



PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Wayne-Westland Soccer League players David Hamilton and Blake Hallisy, both age 8, take a run down the park's new walking path following the rededication ceremony.

open this park."

Adding to the accolades was State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who said he can't wait to see kids playing there.

"We've missed that for far too many years," he said. "I think it is going to be the center of attention and an attraction for this city. It's something I wanted to see for a long time."

Wild also cut a green ribbon to reopen the park and invited guests, which include Wayne Mayor Al Hadius, Skip Monit and John Rhaesa of the Wayne City Council and Wayne-Westland parks director Nathan Adams, to be the first to walk the path.

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**SCHOOLS**

Continued from page A1

for each of the 34 school districts in the county had to consider their financial, political and tax situations. It was a "community-by-community" decision, and he respected the local decision-making process.

Gregory Oke, vice president of the Livonia board, on Monday called the proposal "flawed," saying the school district would get back just 71 cents of every \$1 in tax its residents would pay over the next five years.

"I just don't think this is the best answer (to school funding problems)," Oke said. "I'd rather hold out for something better."

Under the proposal, Wayne County RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) would have collected the tax and then redistributed it to districts in Wayne County based on the number of students each had enrolled. Livonia school district residents would have paid about \$8.7 million and gotten an estimated \$6.1 million back annually, Livonia Superintendent Randy Liepa said.

Wayne-Westland would have been a receiver district, taking in more money than taxes collected. It's estimated the tax would have raised more than \$4.2 million and the district based on its enrollment would have received \$4.8 million.

"It was the only hope we have for us to get additional revenue during this crisis in financing," said Baracy. "Now there is no chance for districts in Wayne County that are in financial difficulties to get money."

Proposal A, which gave control of K-12 school funding to the state and was approved by Michigan voters in 1994, does not allow individual districts to request tax increases for school operations, but it does allow intermediate school districts to do so on a district-wide basis, if school boards representing at least 50 percent of students request it. Intermediate school districts cannot act on their own authority in placing a proposal before voters.

Livonia school board Trustees Eileen McDonnell and Randy Roulier and Secretary Mark Johnson also voted against requesting Wayne RESA place the proposal before voters.

"From a pure investment standpoint, it doesn't make sense to me," Johnson said. "I'm losing money on it. I don't want to burden the residents of this community anymore than they already are."

The new tax would have cost the owner of a \$130,000 home \$130 a year for five years.

But Trustee Colleen Burton said there's no indication that Proposal A will be changed anytime soon, allowing local districts to go to their voters for more operating revenue. Livonia Public Schools has lost \$40 million over the past decade and continues to operate with a deficit budget in order to maintain programming, Liepa said.

Burton said while she doesn't like sending 29 cents to other districts either, it's "one of the only options we have in front of us right now." She said it made her feel better knowing the money would be going to districts next-door to Livonia.

Livonia already is a donor district with just 85 cents of every \$1 taxpayers pay coming back from the state, she said. "I don't see it (71 cents of every \$1) as that far off from our current tax system."

Burton, board President Patrice Mang and Trustee Dianne Laura voted for asking Wayne RESA to put the proposal before voters.

Laura said she struggled with the pros and cons of the proposal, but wanted voters to decide. She said the board wasn't voting on the proposal itself, but asking Wayne RESA to place it on the ballot for voters to decide.

"I can't justify taking that opportunity away from all those voters," she said.

Two years ago, a similar measure also failed to gain at least 50 percent support from local boards, Wigent said.

Staff Writer Karen Smith contributed to this story.

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**GOALS**

Continued from page A1

on doing that every day, we have to work with the staff so we have that skillful instruction in the classroom," he said. "Our goal is to make sure that every student achieves."

"Research shows that if you engage students in the classroom they will make every effort to get to class," he said. "It goes back to having skillful teachers in the classroom. That's where the rubber meets the road."

The board spent a considerable amount of time in determining what kind of data it would need to measure growth in student achievement. As part of his review last year, Baracy provided information on state tests — the MEAP and high school MME — as well as

ACT which should academic achievement in most areas.

"Are we providing the services? We're setting a goal, but as a goal is it what we're already doing," said Trustee Andrea Clawson. "We need to look at how we will measure student achievement."

Clawson expressed interest in wanting more data that would show student achievement at grade levels, and Paul Sallah, the deputy superintendent for instruction, said that while local assessments are used regularly in the district, her request would represent generating thousands of reports. He added that Michigan is in the process of moving to Common Core State Standards that set clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare students for success in college and work and the

district has yet to receive information on those assessment.

"We're in the midst of a major transition, the staff is looking at a major shift in how they teach," he said.

"I'm concerned that if we pick one subject at one grade level, we're not getting a snapshot of the district," said board Secretary Cindy Schofield.

In the end the board agreed to have Baracy continue to provide the board with reports on students achievement using data culled from the state's MEAP and MME tests as well as ACT scores and to add local assessment data as it becomes available.

"Not all our students will achieve 100 percent, but we're going to go for that," Baracy told the board. "Our message is that we are making improvement in more

areas than we didn't improve in. MEAP still is valid, reliable data."

The board also is asking Baracy to come up with a comprehensive and dynamic customer service plan that will change the way the district does business and delivers its product to improve students achievement.

Asked by Middel to do a survey of districts in Wayne County with customer service plans, Baracy said the likelihood is that other districts "have probably done nothing."

"If we're going to compete educationally, we have to get our stuff together," he said. "Parents now have choices, they don't just have to come to us. We need to go deeper and take the time to develop this plan."

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**Garden City and Surrounding Area Families Invited to Host Exchange Students**  
What better way to learn about another country than to host a student from Italy, France, Sweden, Germany, Brazil or even Australia? These students are here to attend local high schools and integrate themselves into your family and community for the next 10 months.  
Hannah is 15 and comes from Germany. Her Mom is a teacher and Dad is an Engineer in the Ruhr area. Hannah has a 22 yr. old sister. Hannah loves sports. She enjoys a sport called Korfball, basketball, tennis, snowboarding. She also takes guitar lessons each week. Her favorite subjects in school are P.E and English. Her teachers describe her as being motivated, reliable and open-minded.  
Iida is 17 and comes from Finland where she lives with her parents and 7yr old sister. Iida loves to swim and has been competing for 8 years. She also enjoys art and crafts and reading. Her favorite subjects in school are History, Psychology and Finnish. Iida attends Lutheran Church regularly and enjoys Church activities. Her parents describe her as being a kind and adaptable girl who they feel will make the most of this great opportunity to be an Exchange Student.  
Jordan is 17 and comes from New Zealand. Her Mom is a Homemaker and her Dad owns a business. She has 7 brothers and 7 sisters! Her entire family lives in a warehouse that has been converted into a large home. Jordan is a Christian. Her interests include writing, reading, cooking, film study, drama and fashion. She would like to study English or Drama in College. Jordan is interested in being a Social Worker later in life.  
Henry is 17 and comes from Finland. His Mom is a Financial Assistant and his Dad is an Inspector. Henry does not have any brothers or sisters and would like to have some in the USA. He considers himself to be a polite, social and humorous guy. He is a B+ enjoys going to school and his favorite subjects are Psychology, History and Languages. Henry is very sporty and is currently practicing kickboxing and martial arts. He has played tennis and basketball and goes to the gym frequently.  
For more information on these and many other students call Heidi - 734-788-6159.  
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**ELECTION**

Continued from page A1

balance of the term.

In November, Westland voters will choose a candidate to fill the partial 11th District term, but not the full term. A Milford resident, Bentivolio will be the Republican nominee for the full two-year term facing Democrat Dr. Sayed Taj of Canton.

Instead due to the redistricting, Westland will be in the 13th Congressional District going forward. That means voters will

choose between veteran Democratic U.S. Rep. John Conyers of Detroit and Republican Harry Sawicki of Dearborn.

Normally, voting equipment is sealed for 30 days after an election.

"The special election is within 30 days, so the state has to see if they will allow the equipment to be unsealed," Schoof said. "They've done it before."

With the short notice for the special election, the deadline to register to vote was Aug. 6.

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# Museum exhibit shows off Michigan from A to Z

By Sue Buck  
Observer Staff Writer

The new exhibit at the Garden City Historical Museum is all about Michigan from the letter A to the letter Z. It features items that begin with every letter of the alphabet.

Kim Marquette, a volunteer at the Straight Farmhouse in Garden City spent months researching products and services which got their start in Michigan. Many continue today.

"One of the articles we read said that if every family spent \$10 in Michigan a week, that would put \$36 million back into the economy," said Marquette, a Garden City resident.

"We kept seeing Michigan products in different stores and we decided to do something fun."

"I did a lot of research looking at facts. I had to decide how to take a fact and transform it into something that somebody would enjoy coming to take a look at," she said.

The exhibit mixes history and fun and helps to instill hometown pride. Several rooms along one hallway contain the Michigan items.

"We highlighted Little Caesar's which started in Garden City," Marquette said. "The Ilitches signed a pizza box for us. The message reads: 'Garden City will always be in our hearts.'"

The Ilitches' archivist also gave the museum some articles to display like the first flier from the store on Cherry Hill.

"With every pizza, you got a pail and an ashtray," Marquette said.

Those were days when customers received free prizes. The exhibit includes Kellogg's first giveaway, a magic book with flipping pages.

"They put a prize in the cereal in 1909," she said. In 1946, moms who



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kim Marquette, a Garden City resident and volunteer, created the Michigan A to Z exhibit now open at the Garden City Historical Museum located at the Straight Farmhouse.

bought Gerber baby food could save their coupons and send in for a baby spoon.

"Every mother knows the sketch of the Gerber baby," she said, adding that the artist didn't sketch baby Sally Gerber but the baby who lived next door.

Marquette also has savings stamps books. Customers received stamps for their purchases at gas stations which they could redeem for a product in a catalog.

Of course, there's Sanders which opened its first store in downtown Detroit in 1875, and there's Fayo and its red pop song.

"Remember when you were a kid? Well, part of you still is," is a familiar verse to baby boomers.

Towne Club pop first sold its soda in the mid-1960s in its own retail outlets in Detroit, known as "pop centers." It was an affordable alternative to bigger brands such as Coca-Cola and Pepsi, and often sold well in Detroit's poorer neighborhoods.

Marquette has also included Domino Sugar and Twin Pines Dairy. At one time, milkmen delivered milk to area families. She has also included the first float in the Thanksgiving Day parade. It

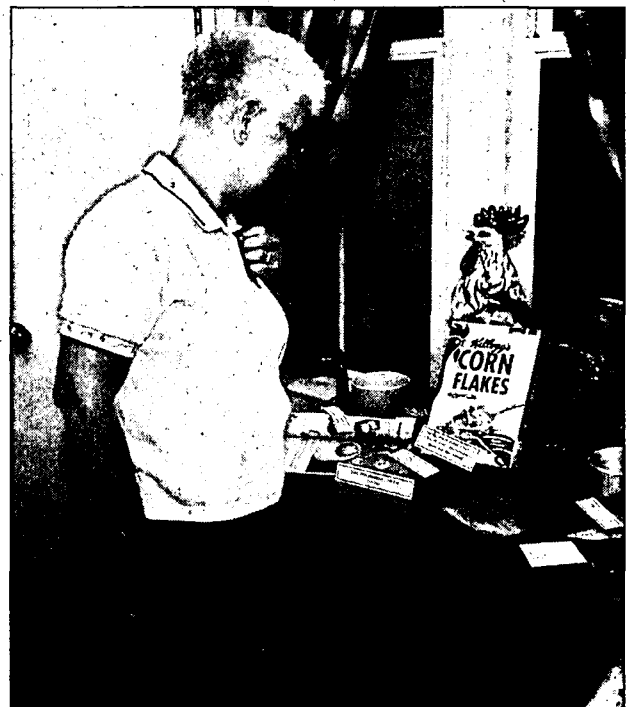
was a Mother Goose float pulled by horses in 1924.

"It's fun to just revisit fun times and childhood memories," Marquette said.

Marquette has also compiled a book which documents what happened in Michigan for every day of the year.

For example, on Aug. 10, 1679, the Griffin was the first sailing ship to reach Michigan. It disappeared a month later.

"Garden City is still a source of pride," she said. "Garden City may be small but we have a college, a hospital, the Honey-moon House."



Beverly Wolff from Garden City looks at cereal boxes at the Michigan A to Z exhibit.

Judy Bedard, a Livonia resident, said that she loves the museum.

"I like all the beautiful displays and it is so educational for us," Bedard said. "I have been coming here since it opened. They have the neighborhood involved. We need to celebrate places like this."

"This is amazing," said Pam Yockey, a Canton Township resident.

The Friends of the Museum held a private party Aug. 10 for its members and local dignitaries. Towne Club and Fayo pop, along with Domino's pizza and Better Made Chips were served at the reception.

Visitors can tour the

museum inside the Straight Farmhouse located on Merriman between Ford and Maplewood. It's open from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays.

They can put a push pin on a Michigan map for whatever city they are from. Garden City residents can push a pin in for the city street they live on on a separate city map.

With her work completed, Marquette can sit back and enjoy the compliments.

"Everybody comes in and says, 'I remember this,'" Marquette said.

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## County holds waste collection in Westland

Looking to dispose of waste you can't put at the curb?

The Wayne County Department of Public Services will hold its next Household Hazardous Waste collection 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012, in the lot behind JC Penney's at Westland Shopping Center in Westland.

The entrance into the collection area will be at Nankin Boulevard from Central City Parkway.

The collection will accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal. Items that will be accepted include household paints, stains, floor-care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, anti-freeze, fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs, old computers and TVs. Pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only) and medical sharps in puncture-proof containers will also be accepted.

All waste must be from residential sources, and proof of Wayne County residency will be required.

For more information, call Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

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## Customer leaves store without paying for beer

### Shoplifting

An employee at the 7-Eleven store located at 2260 Merriman pulled a hold-up alarm about 2 a.m. Aug. 13.

When the police arrived, they learned that it was a retail fraud case and there was robbery.

A man had gone to the cooler and left the store without paying for the case of Budweiser.

The employee believed that this was the same person who stole beer about a week ago.

The man was described as black, about 50 years old, about 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall and weighing about 150 pounds.

### Theft

An female employee at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, returned to her 2000 Chevy Cavalier at 10:30 p.m. Aug. 13 to discover that someone had stolen her catalytic converter, valued at \$300.

She told police she became concerned when she started her car and there was a loud exhaust noise. The car had been parked in the hospital's east lot.

A Garden City man who lives in the 29000 block of Windsor reported that someone stole his wallet that he left inside the center console of his 2002 vehicle Aug. 12. He had left the car unlocked in his driveway.

His wallet contained his driver's license, Social Security card and journeyman's card.

A Garden City man

### GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

who lives in the 30000 block of Pardo reported that someone ransacked his vehicle which was left unlocked in the driveway Aug. 11.

He reported that an unknown suspect stole a \$320 pair of red and silver Oakley Sport sunglasses.

A McDonald's employee who works at the store located at 2205 Middlebelt said that she forgot her purse in the bathroom about 10:30 p.m. Aug. 12 and when she went back to retrieve it, it was gone.

She reported that the purse contained \$40 in cash and 20 Klonopin pills used to control seizures.

The police planned to examine a store video.

A man who left his bicycle unsecured about 1:30 p.m. Aug. 8 said that he was only inside the Speedway gas station at Ford and Henry Riff for about five minutes and when he returned his bike was gone.

### Break-in

A homeowner in the 29000 block of James reported a break-in that occurred sometime before July 23.

He said that he changed the locks after the previous renters left. Stolen was a TV, wooden entertainment set and \$300 worth of kitchen items.

### Property damage

An employee at the

Mateja church supplies store located at 30862 Ford said Aug. 9 that someone broke the sign in front of the business in half.

He said that this is the third time in six months that this has happened.

### Suspended license

A 30-year-old Westland woman was arrested for driving with a suspended license about 4 p.m. Aug. 12 at southbound Merriman at Birchlawn.

The woman also had a warrant out of Canton Township District Court for failing to appear on a case.

Her vehicle was secured at left at the scene.

A 36-year-old Inkster man was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

The patrol officer stopped the car at northbound Middlebelt at Ford at 11 a.m. Aug. 11 because it had an invalid license plate.

The driver said that the plate belonged to the previous owner and explained that he hasn't had the time to get the plate properly registered.

A police officer who stopped a 32-year-old Inkster man driving a 1994 Dodge pickup at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 7 at Middlebelt and Bridge for an improper license plate learned that the man had a suspended license and arrested him. The driver also had outstanding warrants out of Inkster.

By Sue Buck

## Stolen urn containing soldier's ashes found

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

A stolen urn containing a soldier's ashes was found Saturday night near the area from which it was taken and will be returned to its owner this weekend.

The urn, stolen from a white Mustang parked in a driveway on Arcola on July 8, contained the ashes of Brian Backus, a private in the U.S. Army from Harbor Beach, Mich., who was killed in Afghanistan June 18, 2011.

The urn was found on a landscaping wall of a nearby home.

The ashes were given by Backus' family to Mike Oliver, a corporal in the U.S. Army, who was best friends with Backus. The ashes were kept in the glove compartment of Oliver's Mustang while the vehicle was parked in the driveway of the home of Oliver's father, who is also named Mike.

The elder Oliver expects to travel to Ft. Bragg in Kentucky to return the ashes to his son, who said his son was relieved and pleased to get the urn back. "He set up a message on his

Facebook page that read "Thank you, good criminal, for returning the urn," Oliver said.

Oliver appeared Friday at a press conference with Crime Stoppers and the Livonia Police Department to ask for the public's help in getting the urn back. The urn was stolen along with a GPS, iPod and an Army uniform.

Oliver had just visited Brian's relatives and friends in Harbor Beach during the July 4th holiday, then returned to his father's home in Livonia when the theft occurred. His father said his son was devastated by the theft.

On Saturday, another son of Oliver and a friend were walking and saw the urn on the landscaping wall, apparently left at that location some time after the press conference on Friday. Oliver said the urn had faded from the sunlight, but it cleaned right up. The contents were intact, Oliver said.

Oliver said his son keeps a memorial table for Backus and takes the urn everywhere. "Wherever he goes, it goes with him," Oliver said. Oliver expects that his son

will take the urn into the house with him when he comes to visit from now on, but quickly added that the urn will travel with Mike, even in the car.

"Brian stays with him all the time," Oliver said. Officer Daniel McCulley said Tuesday the investigation into the theft of the urn and the electronic equipment is continuing.

Crime Stoppers, which offers an anonymous way for citizens to report crime in their neighborhoods, said in a prepared statement that when family members tell their stories on local news programs, the eyes and ears of the neighborhood, together with the police and the press, help solve the crime and bring some measure of closure to the family.

"All of us at Crime Stoppers are feeling great that we were able to get the urn back to the family," said John Broad, president of Crime Stoppers. "Our special thanks to the media for their help and showing how much they really care for the community."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2591

## Police arrest man found inside vacant housing unit

### Break-in

A homeless man was arrested by Westland Police after he was found inside a vacant quadruple on Lydia Court Aug. 12.

Police officers were dispatched to the home after receiving an anonymous call about a break-in in progress. The suspect was described as a white male wearing a black T-shirt and holding a crescent wrench.

Police found a smeared footprint on the front door of the unit and the glass door wall shattered in the rear of the home. They could hear someone moving around in the unit, but no one responded when they announced their presence.

The entered the unit through the door wall and found the suspect holding a pair of vise grips and disconnecting the copper lines to the hot water tank. There also was a pry bar on the toilet seat.

The man told police he was homeless and was "squatting" in the unit. He said he was trying to fix the toilet so he could stay there for the night. He told police he was at another unit on Lydia Court when someone broke the door wall. He had a cut on his finger that he happened when he was entering the unit.

Police weren't able to determine who owned the property. The suspect was charged for entering without permission, malicious destruction of property, attempted larceny and disorderly person.

### Robbery

Westland Police are looking for a black man

### WESTLAND COP CALLS

about 5 feet 8 inches tall in connection with the armed robbery Aug. 10 of a 7-Eleven Store at 8791 N. Wayne Road.

The clerk told police the suspect entered the store, selected a 12.5-ounce Coke and carried it to the counter by the tip of the bottle. The man appeared to be checking his pockets for money when he pulled out a handgun, pointed at him, and ordered him to open the cash register.

The clerk said the man told him wasn't joking and would count to three and then shoot him. The clerk opened the draw and the man removed \$150 in \$5 and \$10 bills.

The man fled on foot north from the store. Livonia Police K-9 tracked the suspect to the north side of the building where police believe the man may have gotten into a vehicle and left.

### Larceny

An Arbor resident parked his car in the lot of the Red Robin Restaurant around 11 a.m. Aug. 12 and when he returned at 4 p.m., he found someone had stolen the catalytic converter from his vehicle.

Police said the cuts were precise and that it appeared that a power cutter was used to remove the converter.

A resident told police that during the night of Aug. 13 someone cut the exhaust pipe from Ford F-350 pickup truck while it was parked in the driveway of his home on Stephen Court.

### Stolen generator

A resident in the 500 block of Ethan Drive told police he returned home from vacation on Aug. 13 to find that someone had taken his hard wired natural gas operated generator.

### Fraud

On Aug. 13, a resident of Hazelwood Street told police that someone had made four unauthorized purchases totaling \$605.88 at walmart.com using her PNC Visa check card.

The woman said no one had permission to use the card and that she was unsure how the culprit got her information.

She said she discovered the purchases when she noticed that the balance on her account was off.

### Burglary

A digital camera, 36-inch flat screen TV and a laptop computer, were reported taken in a break-in Aug. 10 of an apartment at 6617 Yale.

The tenant told police she had been away from her apartment for a half hour and when she returned she found her door had been kicked open and her electronics were missing.

A resident of the 2100 block of Emerson and her sister returned Aug. 8 from a visit with some family members to find the front door wasn't secured.

She said she checked inside and realized that her Xbox gaming system and games were missing from the living room.

Officers found a smeared footprint on the door as well as old damaged to the door and door jamb.

## Novartis MS Education Link

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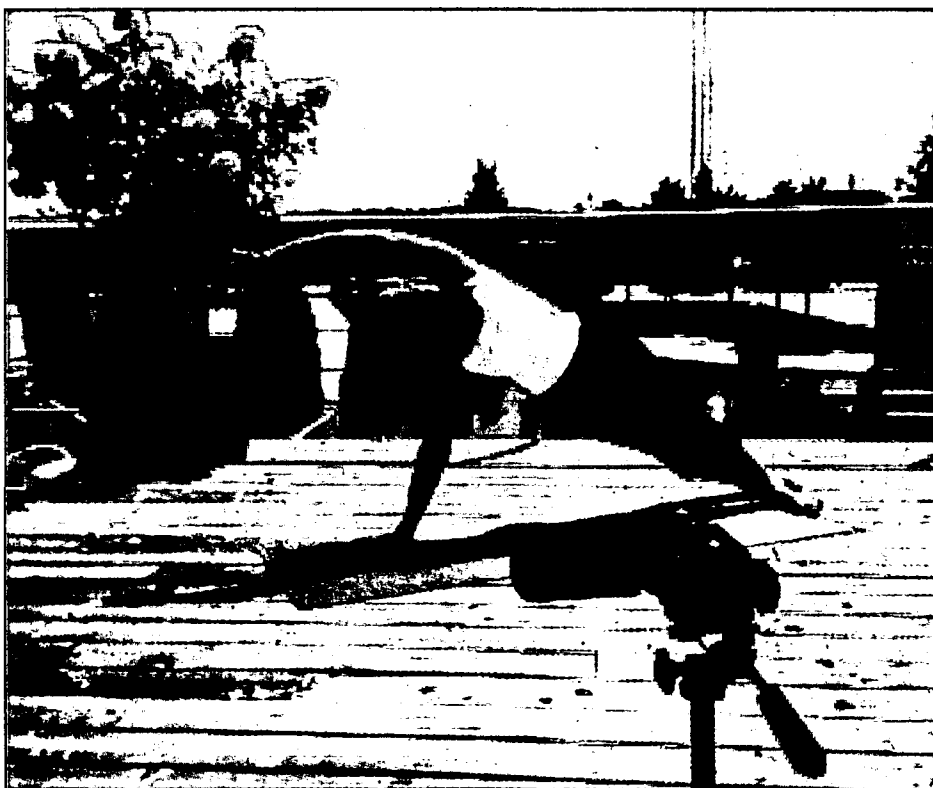
## Online Pilates fits busy lifestyles

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

**Great Pilates:** Great Pilates Now.com is an affordable, convenient solution for those who have trouble getting fitness into their busy lifestyle. With over 120 video sessions, classes are available for the entire family, anywhere and anytime, on any internet device. Some examples are pilates for kids, on campus, beginners, and seniors. There is nothing to buy, no equipment necessary, and no ads. Just a monthly fee of \$19.95. Weight Loss and keeping it off are ongoing issues for almost all of us. We need coaching and encouragement. I created a four level program based on changing patterns of thinking and implementing lifestyle upgrades that keep weight off and increase energy.

**Observer:** How did you come to open your business?

**Great Pilates:** I asked myself, "What kind of lifestyle do I want? Do I want to leave my kids fifty hours a week, while I work at a store? Do I want to go back to school and get a job making slightly more, still away from home most of the time?" I'd picture myself walking into my studio, with clients waiting there, looking into a camera



Judith Farmer, whose online Pilates business, Great Pilates Now, LLC, started in June 2011, films a workout on the boardwalk in Toronto.

and training people around the country. My first idea was to stream live classes. After investigating, I found that would require twice as much capital with less workout availability for clients. So I thought, "Why not create a membership with new classes added weekly?"

**Observer:** What makes your business unique?

**Great Pilates:** It's the first ever streaming video online fitness studio. The Pilates videos are geared toward the individual's situation, not just

their fitness level. For example, there are beginners who are five months pregnant, beginners who are recovering from injury, and beginners with limitations. They all need unique instruction. My four-level weight loss program is absolutely unique with cardio Pilates, meditation videos, and articles with motivation and the latest science on weight loss. All with no equipment or commercials.

**Observer:** How has it changed since you opened?

**Great Pilates:** I added the weight loss program based on ongoing conversations with clients about their weight. Many people are going about dieting based on outdated science. My strong feelings of compassion for these people, certification in wellness coaching, and continued research gave me a good base to put it together. I am receiving venture coaching through Walsh College and the Blackstone LaunchPad program. Our coaches are successful business

### GREAT PILATES NOW, LLC

**Business Name:** Great Pilates Now, LLC  
**Your name:** Judith Farmer, owner  
**Your Hometown:** Canton (originally from Memphis, Mich.)  
**Business opened:** June 2011  
**Number of employees:** 3  
**Hours:** The main feature of my business is that it can be used anywhere and anytime on-line.  
**Your Business Specialty:** Online Pilates workouts and weight loss coaching.  
**Website:** www.great-pilatesnow.com

owners in the Metro area. I am developing my expertise with pregnancy and recovery to become nationally known for this service.

**Observer:** Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?

**Great Pilates:** My nine year old and I were in my office. I had just finished a Skype meeting with my webmaster, Kathleen. Then Christina says, "Mom, when I grow up, I want to have an online business." This was a landmark for me. I can see the influence I've had on my older kids as

well. They are proud to tell their friends about what their mom does.

**Observer:** How has the recent economy affected your business?

**Great Pilates:** It has been a plus. A difficult economy caused me to move my pilates studio out of Michigan and onto the web. Many can't afford the fitness membership they had. The cost and driving time, along with the added demands on those with good jobs make online fitness a smart new choice.

**Observer:** Any advice for other business owners?

**Great Pilates:** Not really. But I can speak to starters: Don't borrow. It makes you become more creative. Stay in a state of feeling everything is well. Everything is. Don't worry about money. It stifles creativity. Think about where you want to be. You'll find yourself there. Read all the best business writers. You're not as smart as you think you are.

**Observer:** What's in store for the future of your business?

**Great Pilates:** I will keep adding value, especially for moms. I'm looking for the right obstetrician/gynecologist to become part of the Great Pilates Now brand as Health Advisor. Add trainers. Secure my webmaster full time and add an assistant for her.

## Top five digital tools for job searches

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist

Let me start by saying, if any of my bosses are reading, I only know about the following sites because of research purposes. Yeah, that's it, research purposes. Anyhow, if you are completely unlike me and in need of a new career, there is no shortage of websites to help you along the way. Many of the most popular job search sites you may have heard of, but smaller, more niche communities may be new to you.

**Careerbuilder** — With more than 20 million visitors on a monthly basis, Careerbuilder is the biggest job search platform in the United States. The free site is reputable as it has been around for more than 15 years and helped users find countless jobs in a variety of industries. Careerbuilder also allows

users to submit their resume for review and even suggests positions based on qualifications and previous searches.

If you are interested in using Careerbuilder.com to search for your next position, you can do so by clicking on the header or footer at hometownlife.com.

**LinkedIn** — One of the largest and most popular social networks is more than just a community to network and read about the workplace. LinkedIn is more and more becoming a place where recruiters research talent and companies post jobs. Users can use LinkedIn to build their digital resume, build connections, apply for jobs and follow companies. LinkedIn is free, but has a variety of enhanced accounts that can be subscribed to starting at \$9.99 per month.

I recently received a free trial of LinkedIn Business Plus and have found the advanced account doesn't offer many beneficial features. And the best feature of all — a widget that shows what people have viewed

your profile — is free anyway.

As far as social networks are concerned, many large companies also have specific Facebook careers pages or Twitter accounts that can be helpful during your search. Facebook has also partnered with a property called BeKnown, which encourages networking online; however, BeKnown is not on par with LinkedIn.

**Military.com** — This niche site is an essential starting point for any current or retired military members or their families who are searching for part-time or full-time work. Military.com has resources and tools to help military members overcome obstacles that civilians don't, like relating military experience to the business world. The site also helps military members write their first resume and prepare for their first business interview.

If you are interested in a military career, a better starting point might be our first site, Careerbuilder.com, which has a plethora of armed forces

positions.

**TheLadders.com** — This site is for leadership positions paying \$100,000 or above. If you are in the market for an executive or vice president position on this site, there's not a lot of advice I can give you. If you get the gig, just remember to send a thank you check to the tech writer who first told you of the site.

Seriously though, the site has separate portals for job seekers and consumers. The Ladders focuses on employment in the following sectors: law, technology, human resources, sales, marketing, finance and more.

**Craigslist.org** — Don't laugh. While Craigslist isn't the best place to pick up dates or make a transaction, it can be

a great resource when looking for a temporary or telecommuting position. Just be wary of work from home scams or other to-good-to-be-true positions.

**Jon Gunnells** is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

### BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

#### Cruise Contest

Family caregivers understand all too well the stress of caring for an aging loved one — and how great it can be to have a break. That's why residents of Michigan are invited to nominate deserving family caregivers — or themselves — for the opportunity to win a free, five-day cruise.

The Home Instead Senior Care® network is sponsoring the cruise for one lucky caregiving hero and guest. Submit your nomination and vote by Sept. 15 at <http://cruise.caregiverstress.com/>.

The five-night, six-day Caregiver Cruise is

scheduled for Feb. 25-March 2, 2013, on the Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas. The cruise will set sail from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with stops in Labadee, Haiti and Falmouth, Jamaica. In addition to the cruise, the winning recipient and guest will receive 40 hours of free care from a Home Instead Senior Care professional CARE-GiverSM for their senior loved one while they are away.

"The stress of caregiving eventually takes its toll on those looking after an aging family member," said President and Chief Operating Officer Jeff Huber of Home Instead, Inc.,

franchisor of the Home Instead Senior Care network. "That's why we are pleased to be sponsoring this tropical get-away for a deserving family caregiver."

For more information about Home Instead Senior Care, go to [www.homeinstead.com](http://www.homeinstead.com).

VOICES & VIEWS:  
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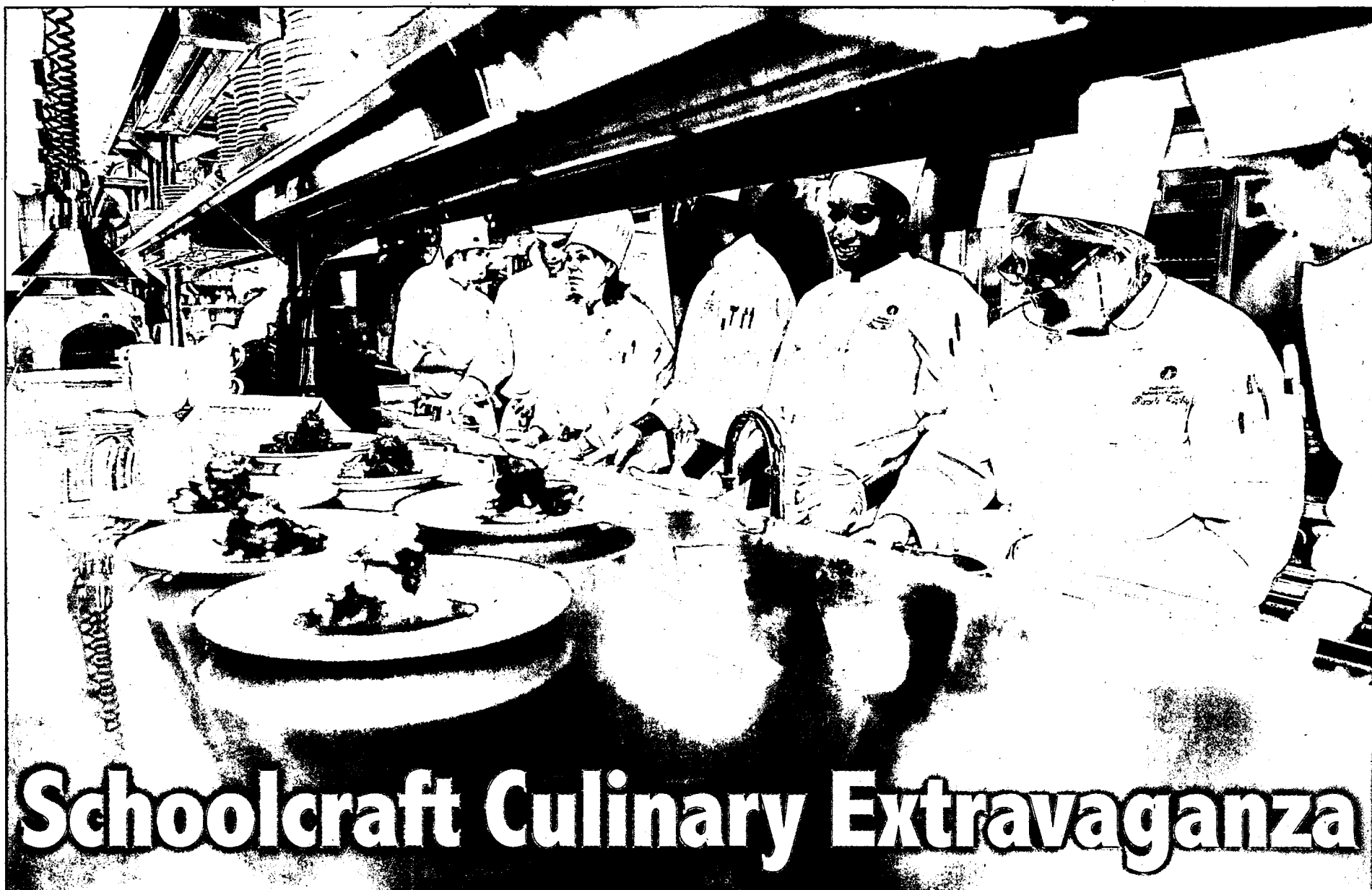
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## Schoolcraft Culinary Extravaganza

Culinary students at Schoolcraft College help prepare entrees for patrons attending Culinary Extravaganza. The award-winning culinary program attracts students of all ages from throughout the state.



Mike Jacobson, sous chef, was staffing the sampling table for Mitchell's Fish Market at last year's culinary extravaganza. Mitchell's of Livonia will return to Culinary 2012.



Wine vendors throughout the state will offer samples at this year's event. In addition, vintner Lee Hershey will share his knowledge of wine at a special tasting seminar scheduled that day.

## Sample fine food, wine, desserts to aid student scholarships

If you enjoy fine food, wine and desserts save this date — Sunday, Sept. 23.

The 21st annual Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza is planned from 2-5 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center on Haggerty Road, just south of Seven Mile Road. Restaurants, pastry shops and area beverage vendors will offer up some of the finest culinary delicacies and products found in any one place.

The event raises money for scholarships and plays a vital role in providing needed support for students pursuing an education at Schoolcraft.

Kristina Mayer, an officer of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors, is chairing the event for the third consecutive year.

Mayer says the generosity of event sponsors is vital to the foundation's fund raising efforts. Mayer, vice president and branch manager of Bank of Ann Arbor's Plymouth Township office, heads a group of more than 20 community and college members working on this year's event. Many more volunteers — including many Schoolcraft students — are helping behind the scenes to deliver the best possible experience for culinary



Culinary extravaganza is known for its wide ranging offering of luscious desserts.

patrons.

Sponsor packages range from \$300 to \$5,000 and are still welcome. All sponsor packages include company name and logo in the event program, on the Schoolcraft electronic sign, in a special Thank You advertisement in the *Observer & Eccentric* Newspapers and complimentary event tickets. Platinum (\$5,000), diamond (\$2,500) and gold (\$1,000) sponsorships also include admission to a pre-event VIP private reception one hour before the public event.

Individual tickets to the event are \$50 per person (\$20 of which is a charitable contribution).

The event highlights the culinary talents of metro area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors. Guests can sample a variety of fine food, wine, beverages and desserts in one afternoon.

This year's event will feature more than 50 food/beverage stations, a silent auction, raffle prizes and seminars on wine-tasting and healthy foods (presented by master chef Jeff Gabriel).

Food and beverage vendors include Sive Restaurant — The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth; Black Star Farms, Suttons Bay; Black Tulip Grille, Wixom; Cadillac Coffee Company, Madison Heights; Coffee Express Company, Plymouth; Dream Cakes, Commerce Township; McCormick/360 Vodka, Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council, Mitchell's Fish Market, Livonia; Old World Olive Press, Plymouth; Something Chocolate, Birmingham; Stevo & Rocky's, Novi; The Sardine Room, Plymouth;

Vintner's Cellar Canton Winery, The Elite Catering Company, Livonia; Wisteria Bakehaus, West Bloomfield

Vine2Wine Custom Winery of Northville and Zumba Mexican Grille, Royal Oak.

Raffle prizes include: \$1,000 cash (grand prize); \$500 cash (second prize) and \$250 cash (third and fourth prize). Dinner for two at the American Harvest Restaurant rounds out the fifth, sixth and seventh raffle prizes. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Winners need not be

### DETAILS:

**What:** The 21st annual Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza

**When:** 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.

**Where:** Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center on Haggerty Road, just south of Seven Mile Road.

**Cost:** Individual tickets to the event are \$50 per person (\$20 of which is a charitable contribution). **Contact:** (734) 462-4518 or visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation).

Luscious desserts are among the many samples offered to those attending the Schoolcraft Culinary Extravaganza.

present to win.

In addition to food, eventgoers can bid on a variety of silent auction items including entertainment and sport packages. All proceeds from the event benefit the Schoolcraft College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization providing scholarships for students, including those in the college's renowned culinary arts program.

To purchase tickets and/or learn more about sponsorships or donate a silent auction item call (734) 462-4518 or visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation).

# Clowns celebrate week by clowning around



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Boo Boo the clown paints the face of Alix Mouradian during the Clown's Around Redford visit at Dairy Dan's in Westland.



Gene Beanie shows she knows how to blow bubbles at the Clowns Around Redford's annual visit to Westland.

So what do you do if you're a clown and it's National Clown Week? Clown around, of course.

That's what members of the Redford-based Clowns Around Town did making stops in Westland and Redford to celebrate.

Members were at Dairy Dan's on Aug. 2 for their annual visit with youngsters who stopped by for ice cream. They showed off their latest balloons and did face painting.

The next day they were at Vicky's Ice Cream in Redford to build their famous 50-foot banana spill and then capped off their celebration with some "Crazy Bowling" at Mayflower Lanes in Redford.

Clowns Around Redford is a non-profit organization of Detroit-area clowns that formed in 1986 to "promote, preserve and improve the profession of clowning." The group currently has more than 50 members who participate in parades like the



Tippy waves to passers-by during the Clowns Around Redford visit at Dairy Dan's.

Detroit Thanksgiving Parade, the Livonia Holiday Parade, the Wyandotte Independence and Christmas parades, the Redford Memorial Day Parade and the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Circus Parade.

The alley also supports various fundraising and awareness campaigns for local charities and

other non-profit organizations.

Membership is open to anyone practicing the art of clowning. The group meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at the corner of Puritan in Redford.

For more information, visit the Clowns Around

Redford website at [www.clownsaroundredford.org](http://www.clownsaroundredford.org).



Dave Mouradian of Garden City wears a palm tree balloon hat the clowns made for him.

## Thirst run/walk raises funds to help two Zambian communities

Imagine having to walk three to five miles each and every day to collect water to sustain living or that your child was not able to attend school because they had to collect the water for the family. Fathom the thought that your child had to carry a five-gallon container full of water this distance.

On Saturday, Sept. 8, the first Thirst For Life 5K Walk/Run will be held at Bicentennial Park in Livonia to benefit Team World Vision. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., and the race begins at 9 a.m. at the park, located at 35400 Seven Mile, east of Newburgh.

One hundred percent of the money raised from the event will be used towards funding water and sanitation projects in the villages of Mayo and Hamandu in Zambia, Africa.

Peter Nielsen, the world renowned fitness expert and host of "Peter Principles" on WXYZ-TV Detroit Channel 7 will be joining more 500 participants for the event. Nielsen will share his principles for living a healthy lifestyle.

A group of people from NorthRidge Church located in Plym-

outh, Michigan decided to organize this 5K Run/Walk event to help raise funds for the projects. Donna Hammar and Tracy Vasiloff, the event organizers, and the small group decided to offer an event that would be able to include the physically fit and maybe the "not so" physically fit who want to help raise funds in a fun way.

The event is for the whole family. Children 12 and under can participate in our one-mile fun run. They can help with the cause as well as earn a medal when they cross the finish line.

"It is fantastic how many people have opened their hearts and have come forth wanting to participate in this effort," said Hammar. "What inspired the idea was that a group of 300 people within the church decide to train and participate in the Chicago Marathon to raise money for these projects in Zambia. We wanted to allow those folks that aren't marathon runners to get in the spirit too."

The church has recently launched a long-term project, a 10-15-year plan working towards self-sufficiency in these communities in Zambia

through a partnership with the World Vision.

In Zambia, Africa, families walk an average of six kilometers to collect water for their families. After traveling this distance, the water they find is typically dirty and disease ridden. While these families are drinking the water because it's all that they have to survive, the water is also killing them. More than 4,200 children die each day from unsanitary water. More than 3.75 million people die each year due to lack of clean water. A financial donation of \$50 dollars can give a child clean water for life.

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children, families, and communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. For more information about World Vision, visit its website at [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).

For more information about the Thirst For Life 5K Run/Walk event, email Tracy Vasiloff at [thirstforlife5k@hotmail.com](mailto:thirstforlife5k@hotmail.com). Registration forms for the event are available online at [www.ThirstForLife5k.org](http://www.ThirstForLife5k.org).

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# Artistic license

## New art event creates buzz

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Painters, potters, jewelry-makers, photographers and other artists visited downtown Plymouth on Saturday to give art lovers an intimate look at their work.

Art About Town, organized by downtown business owners and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, featured some 30 artists, from a variety of media, who set up their easels and workbenches at downtown shops and eateries, allowing the public to watch and ask questions as they drew, painted or shaped clay — and talked about their art.

The event, which evolved from previous downtown art strolls, also included street musicians and chalk reproductions, on the sidewalks, of well-known masterpiece paintings, such as Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and Paul Cezanne's *Apples In A Basket*. Some businesses offered hands-on art projects for kids.

In contrast to last month's Art in the Park, one of the busiest art fairs in the state, with artists from across the country, Art About Town was a low-key, less-crowded event celebrating local art.

"We're actually able to park close in. ... We're not as crowded," said Kate Barkley of Westland, who attended with her fiancé, Scott Barritt, and children Charlie and Jackson Barkley and McKenzie Barritt. Barkley said the event seemed like a good way to soak up some Plymouth atmosphere without the crowds and pressure that come with major events.

"Art makes the world go 'round. Keeps people happy," said potter Leslyn Rank, who was making clay tiles at Hands On Leather on Forest.

Rank, of Westland, has been a member of Plymouth's Village Potters Guild for about two years and has been making tiles for about a year. At a bench in a corner at Hands On Leather — own-



Bethany Grysko, of D and M Art Studio in Canton, renders a chalk version of "Apples In A Basket" by Cezanne, in front of Dearborn Jewelers on Ann Arbor Trail.



Flautist Lauren Erickson and student Hannah Lang play in front of the Chamber of Commerce office on Ann Arbor Trail.

er Nancy Ball is a long-time friend — she pounded white clay into plaster molds that she had previously carved to make decorative tiles depicting owls and giraffes. A display of her tiles — many with animal themes — was nearby.

Rank has a degree in graphic design but said she likes the utilitarian nature of pottery.

"People can touch the stuff, use it in their everyday lives, drink coffee out of a cup I make," she said.

Next to Rank, Ball's husband Mike, a syndicated humor colum-

nist and musician, entertained browsers with a song, accompanying himself on guitar, and talked about his columns and books, which were offered for sale.

"We didn't know what to expect, but I like it," Nancy Ball said of Art About Town. With many people typically on trips or busy with back-to-school shopping in August, she said, the event lived up to what could have been a sleepy retail Saturday.

"I'm quite pleased," said Colleen Cannon, the owner of TranquiliTea, the tea shop on Ann Arbor

Trail. Cannon, who displayed some of her own pottery — dishes, platters and wall sconces — at the store and also hosted a tea tasting, said the event had brought people in. "Everything's worked out really well."

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2405

### AROUND WESTLAND

#### No coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will not be hosting his monthly coffee hours in the month of August. Coffee hours will resume in September. Constituents who would like to address an issue with the Senator can contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, by phone at (866) 262-7306, or email at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

#### Preschool signup

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is currently enrolling for classes which begin in September. Enroll during the month of August and get half off the enrollment fee, a \$25 value!

A Christian preschool, it offers classes for three- to four-year-old children, a theme-based curriculum taught by certified teachers and all the basic preschool academic skills, as well as a low child-teacher ratio, indoor gym and outdoor playground.

For more information, schedule a tour or to enroll, call (734) 728-3559 or send an email to wfmpreschool@yahoo.com4556.

#### Golf outing

The Westland Lions Club will hold its annual golf outing Tuesday, Aug. 21, at the Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 5200 Polo Fields Dr., Ann Arbor.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. for the four-person scramble. There will be a hole-in-one contest and closest to the pin and longest drive contests for both men and women, lunch and beverages at the turn, dinner, featuring filet mignon and chicken marsala, and dessert and door prizes. The cost is \$125 per golfer or \$450 for a foursome. Dinner only is \$30. Sponsorships ranging from \$100 to \$1,200 also are available.

For more information, call Ken Sharp at (734) 595-8305 or George Marvaso at (313) 801-5321. Registration and checks, made payable to the West-

land Lions Club, can be sent to 6581 N. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48185, or faxed registration to (734) 467-7157, Attn: George.

#### Dinner show

Tribute artist and impressionist Chris Aoytte will perform Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tom Jones, Elvis Presley and more at a dinner show Friday, Sept. 21, at Angelo Brothers Banquet Hall, 33550 Ford Road, Westland.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the show at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 per person and include dinner and the show. Dinner includes a tossed salad, pasta, main course, potato, vegetable, cannolis, coffee, tea and pop. A cash bar will be available.

For tickets, contact Kathy at (734) 216-9451 or at www.angelos1958.com.

#### Craft show

Applications are being accepted for St. Damian's annual Fall Arts and Craft Show planned for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the parish, 30055 Joy Road, Westland. Table space is \$25 to \$40, depending on size.

For more information, call the parish at (734) 421-6130 or download an application at www.stdamian.com.

#### Fund-raiser

AmVets Post 171 is holding a Vendor Sale/Garage Sale/Swap Meet/Mom 2 Mom Sale 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at the post, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, Westland.

In addition to the vendors, there will be food available, hourly raffles and entertainment. Indoor spaces (hall) are \$25, with \$10 for table rentals, outdoor (parking spaces) are \$20. Proceeds will be kept by individual vendors.

For more information, contact Kelly Taylor at (734) 890-1055 or by email at taylorskkt@gmail.com or Jennifer Basco at (636) 221-9573 or by email at j\_basco08@yahoo.com.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 248-A-73

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND RESTRICT THE USE OF LAND AND STRUCTURES BY DIVIDING THE CITY OF WESTLAND INTO DISTRICTS AND ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES THEREOF BY ADOPTION OF AN OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP; TO SPECIFY THE DISTRICTS WITHIN WHICH LANDS MAY BE USED FOR BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENCE AND OTHER SPECIFIED PURPOSES; TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS GOVERNING THE LOCATION, ERECTION, CONSTRUCTIONS, RECONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION AND USE OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND LAND WITHIN SUCH DISTRICTS; TO LIMIT THE HEIGHT AND BREADTH OF BUILDINGS, SIGNS AND OTHER STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE THE INTENSITY OF USE OF LOT AREAS AND TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF YARDS AND OTHER OPEN SPACES; TO ESTABLISH SITE DESIGN REGULATIONS AND TO PROVIDE SITE DESIGN REVIEW PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS; TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL LAND USE AND SPECIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT; TO LIMIT CONGESTION IN THE PUBLIC STREETS BY PROVIDING OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE RESTRICTION AND GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF NON-CONFORMING USES OF LAND, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE SIGNS BY ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS UPON THE SIZE, HEIGHT, LOCATION AND NUMBER OF PERMISSIBLE SIGNS AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN SIGNS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND AMENDMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; AND TO REPEAL THE PRIOR ZONING ORDINANCE.

#### THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

**Section 1.** That the zoning map of Ordinance No. 248 of the City of Westland be and the same is hereby amended to show CB1 district classification where CB2 district classification are now shown in the area situated in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, described as:

LOTS 31, 32 AND THE SOUTH 1/2 OF ANN PLACE (50' WIDE) OF IDEAL COMMUNITY LITTLE FARMS SUBDIVISION; BEING A RE-SUB OF ARMSTRONG'S LITTLE FARMS SUBDIVISION OF THE WLY 20 ACRES OF THE S.W. 1/4 OF SECTION 23, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS RECORDED IN LIBER 44 OF PLATS ON PAGE 55, WAYNE COUNTY RECORDS.

**Section 2.** The other classifications in effect in all other areas of the zoning map shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 3. Severability.** The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 4. Repeal.** All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

**Section 5. Publication.** The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

**Section 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication thereof.

ADOPTED: AUGUST 6, 2012  
EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 16, 2012

Publish: August 16, 2012

#### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS CITY OF WESTLAND SPECIAL FEDERAL PRIMARY ELECTION SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

Absent voter ballots are available through the Westland City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan for those persons that are physically unable to attend the polls or are 60 years of age or older. The voter, before the issuance of a ballot, must complete an application for ballot.

There will be ADA compliant equipment for use at every polling place.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, September 1, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the City Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Eileen DeHart, CMC  
Westland City Clerk

Publish: August 16, 2012

OE06782153 3x3

#### LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Livonia Public Schools, located in Livonia, Michigan is accepting sealed bids for fresh made pizza.

Mandatory bid forms and specifications are available at the Livonia Public Schools, Food Service Department, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154. All bids must be submitted on said bid form and signed by the bidder.

Sealed bids will be received until 11:00 A.M. on the 20th day of August, 2012 at the Livonia Public Schools Food Service Department, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Kristen Hennessey. A written recommendation will be provided to the Board of Education on September 10, 2012. No bids will be accepted after August 20 2012, and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board, Wayne RESA Board or the Superintendent of the Livonia Public Schools or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

All bids shall be firm for the entire school year. Prices quoted are to include any delivery charges. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district, with rationale to support such a decision.

All questions regarding this bid may be directed to Kristen Hennessey, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services, (734) 744-2820.

Publish: August 12 and 16, 2012

OE06783891 3x3

OE06784175 - 3x3

## OUR VIEWS

# Fraudulent signatures McCotter owes voters an apology, explanation

State Attorney General Bill Schuette announced charges last week against four members of former U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's staff in connection with fraudulent signatures on McCotter's nominating petitions.

McCotter, who served five terms in Congress before resigning last month, was not charged.

McCotter issued a brief statement via e-mail through a spokesman thanking the attorney general for his work on the investigation, but has not made himself available for interviews.

McCotter owes his former constituents an explanation of why, in Schuette's words, he wasn't "minding the store" and why he left them with a \$650,000 special election bill to fill his unexpired term ending in December.

**By resigning from office July 6, McCotter put his own needs and personal goals ahead of his constituents'. They will be unrepresented in Washington, D.C., until Nov. 6 when a successor will be elected to take over for less than two months.**

leadership.

For some time, we have been hearing complaints from constituents about how staffers have not followed through with the most basic requests, like helping them to get White House tour tickets, and about McCotter's not showing up at candidate forums or holding town hall meetings in the district.

Such indifference and pompousness is inexcusable from a public servant and his office.

By resigning from office July 6, McCotter put his own needs and personal goals ahead of his constituents'. They will be unrepresented in Washington, D.C., until Nov. 6 when a successor will be elected to take over for less than two months. By that time, Congress will have decided and voted on budgets, tax breaks and most major issues for the year.

Constituents understand when politicians resign before the end of their term for personal or family health reasons. But all McCotter said at the time of his resignation was that the investigation into the fraudulent signatures had severed the "necessary harmony" between the needs of his constituency and of his family, requiring him to leave.

McCotter's refusal to finish out his term was a selfish act.

Taxpayers are burdened with the cost for the special primary election in September and will have to pay for the salary of the winner of that race.

It's a sad and sorry end to McCotter's political career, which included a brief run last year for the Republican nomination for U.S. president.

McCotter is an intelligent individual, whom voters and Republican leaders faithfully stood by over the years.

Too bad he didn't afford them the same courtesy in return.



McCotter

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What have you done that's been fun this summer?

We asked this question at Westland Shopping Center.



"The best thing would be today, we're going to see a Tigers game, but then my daughter graduated from high school, was fourth in the state for bowling and MVP for softball at John Glenn High School (Bay City)."

**Amy West**  
Bay City



"My boyfriend is coming home from deployment on Wednesday. That's going to be the highlight of my summer."

**Kayla Assenmacher**  
Dearborn Heights



"I went to New Orleans to eat. I went with my girlfriend for a birthday. We ate, we slept, we got up and ate some more."

**Dionne Hughes**  
Westland



"I went Up North to my grandparents' house, and we went to Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes."

**Amber Anthony**  
Westland

## LETTERS

### Thanks for story

Thank you for the lovely article and picture on our Ruth Malak. She was thrilled (albeit a bit shy) about "being made such a big deal about," but was touched. I really appreciate you and your staff taking the time and effort to brighten her life.

**Jo Agrusa**  
activity director  
American House Westland-Joy

### Taxpayers can't take anymore

In January 2013, our taxes are going to go up if the Bush tax cuts expire and Congress doesn't act to keep them going.

For citizens in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, we now pay for the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Institute of Arts. We also just had our water bills go up. Some families will be faced with water shut-offs because they cannot afford the added burden.

Between the federal, state and local governments, homeowners and taxpayers are getting hit from all directions. When does it end? People who are not homeowners get to vote for money out of our pockets and people who are not taxpayers get to vote as well to take more money out of our pockets. We are outnumbered and there seems no end in sight for how our pockets can be picked by others with government's help.

When do those who are subsidized by government through taxpayer dollars and those with jobs that are paying them enough that these hits don't really affect them going to stop and realize that there is a large segment of the population (young families and seniors) who cannot afford for the rest to keep dipping into their pockets for more money. The money just isn't there and you are pushing them over a cliff.

Maybe the ones who will truly pay those bills you all voted for were busy working their third job and couldn't make it to the polls to protect what little money they have left from the government pick pockets.

Public employees with great pensions are draining the budgets and the taxpayers who may have no retirement at all are paying the tab.

It is time that we stop allowing these property millage requests to be put on the primary ballots. I would like to see a bill from Michigan that mandates all millage and tax increase proposals be on general election ballots only. Let's insist that a minimum percentage of the electorate vote before a millage can be passed. This idea that only 10 percent or less of the population goes to the primary elections and these costs get passed onto the homeowners is wrong. It should be a minimum of whatever is the average turnout of a general election.

**Valerie Earle**  
Livonia

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

**Web:** www.hometownlife.com

**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

**Fax:** (313) 223-3318

**E-mail:** smason@hometownlife.com

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

**Deadline:** Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

### Approve Keystone XL pipeline

As a retired veteran who served in the U.S. Army in both Germany and Vietnam, I want the sense of security knowing that our country is protected in every way possible. Our men and women in uniform here and around the world also deserve knowing that they are being protected and that the policymakers in Washington are doing everything possible to ensure national security. One issue, or threat, that may go unnoticed is America's energy security and our dependence on foreign oil.

On July 11, I visited Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Michigan Energy Forum, part of "America's Energy Forum," a non-partisan nationwide coalition of citizens working together on two goals - energy security and energy policy. I, along with American veterans from 26 other states flew to Washington, D.C. to express the significance of energy policy as it relates to energy security and national security.

First off, when the American military needs to deploy, transport soldiers, engage in training missions, fuel is required. In fact, according to the Department of Defense, they used more than 5 billion gallons of petroleum in 2010 for military operations. Far too many of those energy resources are imported from the Middle East region, a region that does not place our best interest at heart and can at any time disrupt or block the process of importing fuel.

Depending on such an unstable region to provide energy that fuels the American economy, and also our military, weakens our national security position.

We can enlist in a number of possible solutions to lift our dependence on foreign oil. For starters, we should explore the use of all domestic sources - from wind and water, to solar power and natural gas, to offshore oil and shale oil. Furthermore, instead of doing business with unstable Middle Eastern countries, America should expand on its imports

from our trusted friends. Through projects like the Keystone XL pipeline, we could increase the amount of oil that we import from Canada, our current largest source of imported oil. If we don't realize the benefits of this pipeline, Canada will find someone else who wants to buy their oil. That will most likely be China.

Approval of Keystone XL pipeline would be a simple and common sense solution that would improve our national security by lessening our dependence on foreign oil and strengthening our energy trading relationship with Canada.

The added value to veterans is the thousands of jobs that this project would bring. As a commander in the American Legion, I believe this makes the decision to approve the Keystone XL pipeline all the more critical to make it as expeditiously as possible.

**Jim Pardo**  
commander, Post 32 Livonia

### On health care

In 2008, the tea party's incredibly inane rallying cry was, "Keep your hands off my Medicare!" Never mind that the Medicare these patriots were trying to protect is a government program.

Now after the latest Supreme Court decision, with conservative Chief Justice Roberts siding with the four alleged "liberal" members of the court to uphold the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), the new cry from them is that it's the worst piece of legislation imaginable.

We're then offered the wit and wisdom of Donald "Side-show" Trump, the guy who took on the birther mantle and made the unverified claim that he had dispatched gumshoes to Hawaii to investigate.

Whether the president's birth certificate was real, tea party supporters like Michael Savage even made the claim that Roberts' epilepsy was the root cause of his cognitive dissociation in the Obama ruling.

Some of these government haters have even threatened to move to Canada because the U.S. is entirely too socialist. The problem is Canada has what might be described as socialist health care.

It's obvious that when it comes to stupidity, the politicians aren't the only ones we need to focus on.

Maybe the new tea party will some day regain their wits and join the fight to get Medicare, the program they love so much, socialist as it might be, expanded to cover every American the way it works in Canada, however I'm not holding my breath.

**Richard Jankowski**  
Milford

# Roth IRA remains great investment vehicle

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

Where did summer go? It's hard to believe that Labor Day is just around the corner. Before you know it, the elections will be here and we'll be talking about 2013. While we still have time left in 2012, there are some things that you may wish to consider; and now is a great time to do it. The first is a Roth IRA conversion.

Over the years, I've written a lot about Roth IRAs because they are a great investment vehicle.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

They're one of the few investment vehicles that can work for just about everyone, no matter what age or tax bracket. The fact that you can have money grow tax free and not be subject to the 70 plus required minimum distribution rules, is a great benefit.

Most people believe that in order to invest money in a Roth IRA you have

to be working; that is not the case. Anyone can take existing IRA money and convert it into a Roth IRA. The one major exception is if you are over 70 plus you cannot convert your required minimum distribution. However, you can convert anything above and beyond that. Roth IRA conversions must be completed by the end of the year.

Many people are charitable in nature and make contributions on a yearly basis. Typically, people will write a check to their favorite charity. However, as opposed to doing that, one thing to consid-

er is donating appreciated securities.

### Tax advantage

The advantage is you get to write off the contribution based upon the fair market value of the security; but, you also can avoid paying taxes on the gain. For example, if you had a mutual fund that you paid \$1,000 for and now it's worth \$1,500, if you donate the security you'll get the full \$1,500 deduction and you'll avoid paying taxes on the \$500 gain. Even if you don't itemize your deductions, the fact that you are avoiding the tax on

the gain is a valuable consideration. Of course, if you're itemizing, then it's even more of a win. And the charity will not have to pay any taxes when they sell the security.

Also looking ahead, it's not too early for those who have a flexible spending plan through an employer to look for opportunities to use that money before the end of the year. If you don't the money, you lose the money. Now is a good time to evaluate your situation and make sure you have a game plan so you won't lose your money.

Before you know it our

focus will be on the Lions and the Red Wings and the Tigers season will be a thing of the past.

Therefore, while there is still some time, look for opportunities to be a little more efficient with your money. After all, the money you save ends up in your pocket - exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

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

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# Breast cancer survivor 'pays it forward' with Susan Komen 3-Day Walk

By Ken Abramczyk  
Observer Staff Writer

Pala Liske did what she was supposed to do. She had a mammogram.

That's why during a self-examination only five months later, she was stunned to discover a lump on her left breast. Soon she received another mammogram, then in rapid succession, an ultrasound and a needle biopsy on the lump, followed by a lumpectomy.

Liske then received devastating news. The lump turned out to be a Stage 3B malignant tumor, 8 1/2 centimeters large. On Aug. 16, 2004, she had a mastectomy.

That date isn't lost on Liske. On Aug. 17, nearly eight years to the day, "I will be walking," Liske said.

Liske will join approximately 19,000 participants on a three-day, 60-mile journey to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer on the Susan G. Komen 3-Day walk. Walkers raise a minimum of \$2,300 to participate. Last year, the event raised \$4.1 million with 1,500 participants.

The walk begins Friday at Oakland Mall in Troy and continues through Southfield and Farmington in Oakland County, then ends in Livonia.

On Saturday, walkers will take to the streets of Plymouth and Northville before returning to Livonia. On Sunday, participants will walk through Livonia, past Franklin High School and through communities to Dearborn where the closing ceremonies take place at Ford World Headquarters on Sunday.

"I don't want my granddaughter or future grandchildren to experience what people have to go through to beat cancer,"



Pala Liske of Livonia (right) and friend Becky Lockwood walk in last year's Susan G. Komen 3-Day.

Liske said. The 57-year-old Livonia resident wanted to "pay it forward," to walk for those not only afflicted with breast cancer, but those who walked before her and inspired her to raise funds for cancer research.

### 'It was frightening'

Liske said her family has no history of cancer, all the more reason that self-examination is important to women — and men. One man was featured at a recent walk as a breast cancer survivor, Liske said.

Cancer, she says, does not discriminate.

"Self-examinations are important. My case shows how quickly it can form and how quickly it can advance," Liske said. "It was frightening.

I knew what (treatment) was going to be, and you just deal with it. My saving grace is that it didn't spread to my lymph nodes."

Liske then went through chemotherapy through January 2005, then radiation through March 15, 2005, an ending date of treatment she won't forget. For the first couple of years, she returned for checkups once every four months, then visits went to six months and now she returns once a year.

Liske said she first encountered walkers in the Susan Komen 3-Day

## SUSAN G. KOMEN 3-DAY

**What:** Three-day, 60-mile walk throughout southern Oakland and western Wayne County. Approximately 19,000 walkers will raise funds for breast cancer research and awareness of the disease.

**When:** Friday through Sunday

**A cheering station will be set up for public participation between 9:45 a.m. and noon Sunday at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road. For information on other cheering stations throughout the route on Friday and Saturday, visit The3Day.org.**

as they walked past her home, both in 2007 and 2008.

"That was emotional for me," Liske said. "We stood outside and cheered for them. They thanked us for standing outside in our yard cheering them, but I never understood that because they were doing all the work."

Liske decided to sign up in 2009 for the walk.

"I wanted to see it from their side," she said. "I never camped before and never slept on the ground like that."

### Cross training

This year Liske trained for 24 weeks. Race officials provide walkers with a training regimen, incorporating days of rest interspersed with walking between 12 and 18 miles on certain days

and cross training. She's had good training even before it began in March, she said.

"I have housework, gardening and grandchildren," Liske said. "Now that's cross training."

Liske walked in the Cleveland walk two weeks ago. Since March 5, Liske has walked 632 miles.

Liske walks with her friend, Becky Lockwood of Greendale, Wis., a suburb of Milwaukee. Lockwood experienced the loss of her husband to esophageal cancer in 2004 when Liske was going through her treatments. Lockwood was a financial supporter of Liske's walks, then decided to join her last year in memory of her husband and now will join Liske for the second year in a

row. "When a cure is found for one (cancer), it will open doors for others," Liske said.

Liske's husband, Tom, also participates. He will be carrying a flag that reads "my wife" at the opening and closing ceremonies this year. Tom also works as a crew volunteer.

"It's a bold event," Liske said. "I'm proud of the event, and I'm proud to be able to do it. I can't imagine not participating and I look forward to the day when a 3-Day will not be necessary. I want to hear that a vaccine or cure will happen in my lifetime, and I want to leave this world knowing I made a difference."

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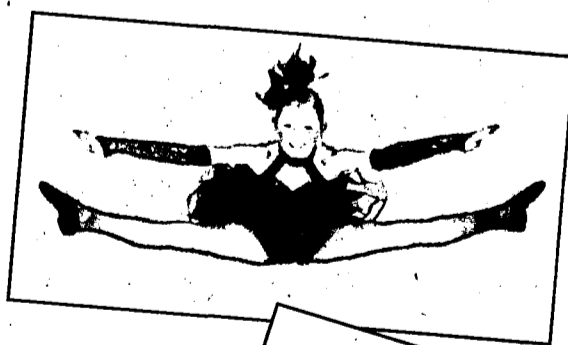
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# SPORTS

BRAD EMONS, EDITOR  
bemons@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-6851

## Chargers reload for 2012

### Brown, Suida lead offense

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Expectations are rising for this year's Livonia Churchill football program and rightfully so.

The Chargers finished 6-4 a year ago and earned their fourth postseason playoff berth in school history under 16th-year coach John Filiatraut.

The 2011 season with a first-round 35-6 loss to MHSAA Division 1 state champion Detroit Cass Tech, but the experience could catapult the Chargers to even greater heights in 2012 thanks to a talented cast of returning players.

"It was great to host a playoff game," Filiatraut said. "I know the kids enjoyed that whole week right up until the game. I think it showed them where are program is at. When you get a chance to play the eventual state champion we got to see right where we were. And I think it keeps us hungry for this year. We'd like to get in and win a game or two this year."

Last year Churchill's offense

rang up a total of 250 points in 10 games, but in three of those games, the Chargers were held to a touchdown or less.

Third-year running back Romello Brown, a 5-foot-11, 235-pound senior, rushed for 1,007 yards and nine touchdowns despite missing three games early in the season due to injury.

Brown suffered a torn Achilles tendon playing pickup basketball during the Christmas holiday, but has recovered nicely and gives Churchill a quality running threat.

"We have some team speed and Romello is a special guy," Filiatraut said. "We're taking it easy with him in camp here, but he looks great. He was fully cleared May 23 and he had Achilles surgery on Jan. 9. I'd say he's 100 percent. He looks good and ready to go. He's shown good burst, making all the cuts, looking really good."

Brown, a first-team All-Observer pick, is not the only player opposing defenses have to

Please see CHARGERS, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Churchill will rely on veterans Hunter Rimatzki (left) and Bobby Foster this season after going 6-4 and making the playoffs last season.

### Ace golfers go distance

A pair of local residents delivered tape measure hole-in-ones this summer.

On July 21, 37-year-old Jeremy Alt of Westland used a driver to ace the 358-yard, No. 4 hole from the blue tee during the Strykers scramble event at Hickory Creek Golf Course in Superior Township.

It was the first ace for Alt, who has been playing for 25 years.

On June 30, not to be outdone was Livonia's Lia Williamson, who used a Big Bertha driver to ace the 255-yard, No. 14 hole at Livonia's Idyl Wyld G.C.

Williamson, who has been playing for five years, shot a 43 for nine holes.

### Glenn mat golf outing

The Westland John Glenn wrestling program will stage its 15th annual golf outing fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Livonia's Idyl Wyld Golf Course.

Included in the \$85 cost is golf, cart, lunch at the turn and steak dinner.

Hole sponsorship and raffle donations are also being accepted.

For more information, e-mail Glenn wrestling coach Bill Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com; or call Judy at (734) 634-4595.

### Cheer clinic

The Livonia Franklin varsity cheerleaders will host a pair of skills clinics for ages 4-13 from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, and Wednesday, Aug. 29, in the school's cheer room.

The fee is \$30 and includes a T-shirt, pizza party and game performance.

Participants will cheer at the home football game 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30.

Registration will be 5:30-6 p.m. Aug. 27.

For more information, send an e-mail to bzybzy@yahoo.com.

### Hoop tryouts

Free tryouts for the Livonia Junior Athletic League Hawks, a sixth-grade girls basketball team, will be 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22, and Thursday, Aug. 23, both at the Livonia Community Recreation Center (Main Gym No. 2).

Tryouts are open to anyone who reside in the Livonia Public School district.

For more information, contact coach Jennifer Sopko at jennifer\_sopko@hotmail.com; or call (248) 854-4207; or coach Doug Freed at um24osu12@hotmail.com; or call (734) 634-5134.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin senior running back Joe McRobb (16) cracked the 1,000-yard mark a year ago for the 4-5 Patriots.

## Pats' backfield carries the load

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Last season was likened to the HBO Documentary "Hard Knocks" for the Livonia Franklin football program.

The Patriots, who had reached the postseason playoffs five of the past six years, slipped to 4-5 overall and missed the MHSAA Division 1 tournament in 2011.

"We went through a lot of off-field stuff last year that we tried to take care of and weed out some of those problems," said Franklin's Chris Kelbert, now in his 12th season as head coach. "It's hard to go week-to-week with the injuries we had and the suspensions we had. We had new lineup playing on the field every single week. We never had the same lineup back-to-back. Consistency is going to be a real key for us."

Although there are plenty of questions to be answered with the 2012 Patriots, Kelbert is confident his team will be able to run the football.

Senior Joe McRobb, a shifty 5-foot-9, 168-pound senior, rushed for 1,079 yards while averaging 6.2 per carry

and scoring nine touchdowns.

The second-team All-Observer pick will also have a capable complement in the backfield with the return of 5-11, 213-pound senior Jimmy Mazaris, who missed the final five games of the 2011 season after tearing his anterior cruciate knee ligament against Westland John Glenn.

Kelbert's optimistic about the Patriots' ground game because of the return of two key linemen, which include 6-2, 250-pound guard Nate Davis and 6-4, 288-pound Chad Pounders, both seniors.

They hope to make up for a key loss when 6-5, 290-pound first-team All-Area tackle Adam Clay (Southern Illinois) graduated.

"Adam was a really good football player, but a guy like Pounders is on a par with Adam," Kelbert said. "Our offensive line is one of the biggest, strongest that we've had. And those two backs are two of the best we've ever had. If they both can stay healthy and the line can stay healthy, that's going to be probably the biggest

Please see PATRIOTS, B3

## Women, men to vie for O&E golf crowns

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

The four majors have come and gone, but the 2012 competitive golf season is far from over.

The annual Observer & Eccentric golf tournaments are right around the corner with the women's event scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 26, at Livonia's Whispering Willows followed by the 36-hole medal play men's event Sunday,

Sept. 2, at Livonia's Fox Creek and Monday, Sept. 3, at Whispering Willows golf courses.

Registration for the women's 18-hole medal play event closes on Sunday, Aug. 19. The entry fee is \$50 (does not include cart) and you must have a U.S. Golf Association handicap index.

Former Michigan state player Shellie Morton shot a 3-under 69 to win the championship flight

title with a nine-stroke advantage over Livonia's Deb Horning, while Arlene Shields of Livonia took the first flight title.

Entries for the men's tourney, limited to the first 120 golfers, close at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24. The entry fee is \$95 (does not include cart). To participate you must have a USGA index handicap (maximum of 20).

This year's men's event also includes a 17-and-under boys junior divi-

sion. The entry fee is \$49.

Prizes will go for both the men's low gross and low net scores in each flight. (Trophies will be awarded to the top junior finishers.)

Andrew Rousos of Novi captured last year's men's championship flight with a two-day total of 77-74-151 edging Livonia's Matt Robinson by a stroke.

Livonia's Sam Williams took the first flight, while Livonian William Himm, a past O&E championship

flight winner, placed first in the 55-and-up senior division.

You can register in person at Whispering Willows, located at 20500 Newburgh, just south of Eight Mile. (Checks should be made payable to T.J.W., Inc.)

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**FAST FACTS**

**School:** Livonia Churchill.  
**Head coach:** John Filiatraut (16th year).  
**League affiliation:** KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).  
**2011 record:** 6-4.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Jaylin Freeman (first-team All-Area); Connor Dwyer (first-team All-Area); Mike Hogan, Derek Jakubowski, Danny Hurst, Nick Engels.  
**Returning starters:** Romello Brown, Sr. RB-OLB (5-10, 235); Seth Suida, Sr. QB (6-1, 170); Charlie Yost, Jr. TE-OLB (6-5, 220); Robert Foster, Sr. SB-CB (5-9, 161); Hunter Rimatzki, Sr. WR-CB (5-10, 160); Zach Trussler, Sr. C (5-9, 187); Riley Moynihan, Sr. RG-DT (6-0, 221); Alex Promo, Jr. LG (6-0, 217); Dwayne Scott, Sr. Safety (5-10, 200); Matt Bosas, Sr. LB (5-9, 186); Mike Tanana, Sr. LB (5-10, 201); Dylan Siefmans, Sr. NG (5-7, 212); Andre Abram, Sr. DB (6-0, 170).  
**Promising newcomers:** Matt Skibinski, Soph. OT (6-5, 235); Armon Perham, Soph. DT (5-8, 243); Jon Ristola, Sr. DL (5-10, 190); Jeremy Lewis, Sr. WR-CB (6-0, 160); Brian Alsobrooks, Soph. K/P (6-0, 181).  
**Filiatraut says:** "We've been practicing well. We have a veteran team and we've really been maximizing our practice time. For this group it's a lot more about repetition than teaching. We have a lot of returners. Our practices look like a veteran team, so we've been pleased."  
**2012 schedule (all 7 p.m. starts):** Aug. 24 (at Walled Lake Northern); Aug. 30 (Grand Blanc); Sept. 7 (Plymouth); Sept. 14 (Wayne); Sept. 21 (at Canton); Sept. 28 (Westland John Glenn); Oct. 5 (Livonia Franklin); Oct. 12 (at KLAAs crossover); Oct. 19 (Livonia Stevenson).



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Seth Suida threw for 1,701 yards and 14 touchdowns a year ago as the Chargers earned a spot in the Division 1 state playoffs.

**CHARGERS**

Continued from page B1

worry about. Senior quarterback Seth Suida, a second-team All-Observer pick, also returns after completing 89-of-158 passes for 1,071 yards and 14 touchdowns (with only three interceptions). Churchill's offense will remain the same with seniors Robert Foster and Hunter Rimatzki getting their fair share of touches along with second-team All-Observer tight

end Charlie Yost, a 6-5, 220-pound junior. "We'll still be in the spread (offense)," Filiatraut said. "Seth is great at distributing the ball. Five kids are going to get it. We've done well offensively the last few years and we should continue to do well." The main question mark offensively is the play of the line as senior center Zach Trussler, senior guard Riley Moynihan and junior Alex Promo lead the returnees. "We're a little inexperienced up front with

a couple of new offensive starters," Filiatraut said. "They have to come together. We're bigger than we've been, which is good." "Somehow we have to replace Jaylin Freeman (35 catches, 650 yards and nine TDs). He really stretched the field and made defenses do some things. He was such a big play person. If we can get some big play potential from a couple of our outside guys, we should be in real good shape." The defense, however,

gave up an average 24.1 points per game in 2011, a stat that needs to be improved upon if the Chargers hope to earn another playoff berth. "We need to play better on first down," said Filiatraut, whose team opens the season Aug. 24 at Walled Lake Northern. "We have some speed to get around, but last year it felt we were second (down) and short a good part of the year. And if we can play better situational on first down and put people behind

the chains a little bit, we should be better." Churchill's defensive leaders include senior Matt Bosas, Yost and Brown — all linebackers — along with senior defensive backs Dwayne Scott, Foster and Andre Abram, the latter of whom has impressed early in camp. Senior linebacker Mike Tanana, who was lost for the season in the second game with an injury against Pinckney, should also give the Chargers a boost.

"I think we got better as the year went on last year," Filiatraut said. "Early in the year, we were not good. We installed a new defense. It took some getting used to and we didn't have our personnel right. But by week three or four, we were much better on defense than we have been. We return a lot of kids. We need to be stiffer up front. We need to be more stout in the run game."

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MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University junior setter Evia Prieditis was an All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference selection last season.

**Potent MU spikers eye NAAs again**

By Brad Emons  
 Observer Staff Writer

The Madonna University women's volleyball program continues to have high expectations and the 2012 season will be no different. The Crusaders finished 30-10 a year ago as head coach Jerry Abraham, who ranks second all-time in the NAIA in wins (970), completed his 25th season. But a third-place regular season finish in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and a loss in the WHAC semifinals to eventual champion Indiana Tech fuels Abraham and his squad going into Tuesday's season opener at home against St. Francis (Ill.). MU hasn't won the WHAC title or gone to the NAIA Nationals since

2008. "It's been a couple years, but don't get me wrong, we've had good seasons the past two years, excellent seasons," said Abraham, who has guided the Crusaders to 12 WHAC crowns and 11 NAIA National Tourney appearances. "But to get to the (NAIA) national tournament is one of goals. "There's a lot of talent, a lot of depth at almost every position. And the good thing about it is that I have 14 solid players — all of which can play. I'm very excited about the group." The Crusaders lost three key players to graduation including third-team NAIA All-America Karie Altman (team-high 456 total kills) along with four-year starter Amanda



Freeman

Koszela (team-high 575 digs) and Megan Fricke (393 kills and 349 digs). All-WHAC selections Nastija Baranovska, 6-foot senior middle hitter from Riga, Latvia, and 5-9 junior setter Evia Prieditis (1,660 total assist-to-kills), from Milford, will lead the way this season. "We have good leadership in Evia (Prieditis), who is one of the best setters around," Abraham said. "The team is well-focused and trained very hard in the offseason. They're training real hard right now, but it's one step at a time." Other returnees include 5-10 sophomore outside hitter Samantha Geile (Fruitport); 5-5 junior defensive specialist Amanda Obrycki (Allen Park Cabrini); 6-3 junior middle hitter Emilie Freeman (Lutheran High Westland); 5-9 senior outside hitter Taylor Dziewit (Almont/St. Clair Community College); 5-6 sopho-

more defensive specialist Roxy Duzey (Sterling Heights); 5-11 sophomore outside hitter Kayla Vogel (Hastings); 5-5 sophomore defensive specialist Cassie Castro (Saline); and 6-0 junior outside hitter Nastija Seremetjeva (Riga, Latvia), the latter whom was limited to seven sets last season after undergoing knee surgery. "We've got good setting, good passing, good hitters," Abraham said. "The chemistry is really good. Sam (Geile) is a sophomore now. We have a little more termination and a little more determination on the outside. I think we have what it takes." Abraham also has four new recruits who could catapult the Crusaders back to the top of the WHAC paced by 6-foot junior middle hitter Stacey Catalano (Utica Eisenhower), who played two seasons at Grand Valley State, along with 5-10 junior outside hitter Ashley Hulbert (Fruitport), who led all NJCAA Division 2 players last year in total kills with 689 at Muskegon CC. Also joining the MU squad are two freshmen — 5-9 outside hitter Breanna Geile (Fruitport) and 6-4 middle hitter Connor Morrish (Flushing), a transfer from McNeese State (La.). "We brought in three transfers, two of whom are freshmen," Abraham said. "I'm hoping that the returning kids, and the experienced kids are blending in, and make it a strong group. I'm confident the improvement is going to happen real soon in the year."

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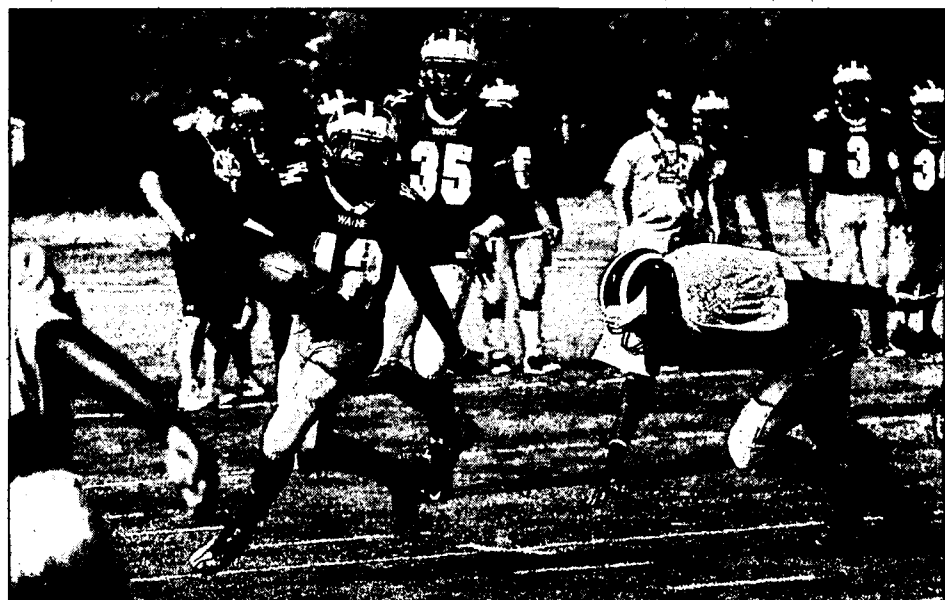
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Wayne Memorial's Dion Byers (12) turns the corner during a drill in a recent preseason practice.

# New direction

## Grizzell steering Wayne gridders

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Lee Grizzell is bringing a new look and clean slate to Wayne Memorial's football program.

Grizzell, who teaches at Wayne, will stay right at home after spending the past 14 seasons as an assistant coach at Dearborn Edsel Ford, including the last six as the Thunderbirds' offensive coordinator.

He inherits a program with a 21-game losing streak dating back to Oct. 2, 2009, but Grizzell, who took over for Kevin Weber, has been pleasantly surprised with his 40-player roster during preseason camp.

"It's a hard-working group of kids, a lot of speed and toughness," Grizzell said. "It's been a big learning curve because of a new offense and new defense, and special teams are all new. It's definitely a lot of fundamentals, learning-type techniques."

Only four starters return on offense, while five are back on defense.

The quarterback job could be a team effort as senior Torrey Cooper returns, while fellow senior Jeff Grant will also be vying for snaps.

Meanwhile, the offensive line will be anchored by returning senior starters Colin Mullins, Shane Rambaldo and Tyler Casteels.

"Offensively will run a multiple formation offense, some option, some play action passing," Grizzell said. "It's still to be determined. We might even use two quarterbacks throughout the season, too. The biggest concern is just making sure all the kids learn the entire offense."

The defense will be led by group of seniors which includes linebackers Cameron Kucharski and Abdullah Myles, defensive end DaQuan Dunlap, cornerback Sam Ekanem, strong safety Stefon Perkins and Casteels at nose guard.

"It's kind of an aggressive, multiple front, multiple backfield defense," Grizzell said. "We're try-



New coach Lee Grizzell hopes to turn around Wayne Memorial's football fortunes in 2012.

ing to get the best 11 on the field offensively, defensively and on special teams. We're moving kids around a little bit, which has been going well. Some kids have been a little disappointed, but they're sacrificing for the team."

Wayne opens its season next Thursday at home against Waterford Mott, which is coming off a 2-7 season. Thee Zebras then play Aug.

30 at Pinckney before embarking on its daunting five-game divisional slate.

"The KLAA South is one of the toughest divisions in the state, so it's going to be a tough schedule," Grizzell said. "But I think we're up for it and looking for our first game against Waterford Mott."

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### FAST FACTS

**School:** Wayne Memorial.  
**Head coach:** Lee Grizzell (first year).  
**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division).  
**2011 record:** 0-9.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Dimitrus Renfroe (second-team All-Area), Kevin Korzetki, Dean Caldwell, Michael Cooper.  
**Returning starters:** Colin Mullins, Sr. LT (6-3, 205); Shane Rambaldo, Sr. C (6-2, 235); Tyler Casteels, Sr. OG-NG (5-9, 225); Torrey Cooper, Sr. QB-FS (5-11, 192); Sam Ekanem, Sr. CB (6-2, 175); Stefon Perkins, Sr. SS (6-1, 209); DaQuan Dunlap, Sr. DE (5-11, 262); Cameron Kucharski, Sr. LB (5-11, 235); Abdullah Myles, Sr. LB (5-11, 232).  
**Promising newcomers:** Jeff Grant, Sr. QB (6-5, 175); Rashad Haley, Sr. RB-SS (5-10, 190); Darrick Craig, Jr. RB-CB (5-5, 155); Sankofa Taylor, Sr. RB-LB (5-9, 205); Chris Swoope, Sr. WR-CB (5-9, 147); Davontae Copper, Jr. RB-CB (5-7, 155); Will Harris, Sr. WR-CB (5-11, 170); Thomas Woodward, Jr. K/P; 6-0, 164); Sam Moody, Jr. OG-LB-TE (5-11, 185); Shakarri Hill, Jr. RB-CB (5-9, 174); Dion Byers, Sr. RB-CB (5-8, 152); Rafael Parks, Jr. WR-FS (6-2, 165); Brian Williams, Jr., WR-FS (6-1, 156); Matt Hartford, Sr. OG-TE-DE (6-1, 267); Jacob Turner, Sr. OT (6-4, 264); Jacob Chiles, Sr. DT (6-0, 267); Cody Olive, Jr. DE (6-0, 215).  
**Grizzell says:** "You like to have more kids, but with the kids we have out there, they're all football players. They're tough kids and working hard, and they're all getting better, so I like our depth. We have some guys that can get it done. The biggest surprise, so far, is the kids' desire to win, succeed, get better and work hard. We've been focusing on the kids' attitude. They've bought in and done a great job so far."  
**2012 schedule (all 7 p.m. starts):** Aug. 23 (Waterford Mott); Au. 30 (Pinckney); Sept. 7 (at Canton); Sept. 14 (Livonia Churchill); Sept. 21 (Livonia Franklin); Sept. 28 (at Plymouth); Oct. 5 (at Westland John Glenn); Oct. 12 (at KLAA crossover); Oct. 19 (Belleville).

### PATRIOTS

Continued from page B1

part of our team is the offense running the ball." Senior Austin Tarhanich, who played in the backfield last season after Mazaris got hurt, takes over at quarterback.

His main targets include senior tight end Kyle Madden, senior wide receiver Brian Johnson and junior running back Jesse McCall.

"We need our quarterback to make good decisions in the passing game and don't create turnovers for us," Kelbert said. "That's one of the things that hurt us last year that we've never taken in the past. We don't turn the ball over much, but last year we had a lot, a lot of turnovers that really hindered our offensive unit as a whole. Just making the easy throws and keep the chains moving."

On the defensive side of the ball, senior JaMarco Willingham (6-2, 244) leads the way at tackle after earning All-Kensington Conference honors.

Johnson, meanwhile, returns at linebacker and McCall will lead the way at linebacker and cornerback.

"Not a lot of experience, but again, like both sides of the ball, we'll have three juniors starting on the defensive line," Kelbert said. "They're big, strong. Last year we were pretty undersized on the defensive line. This year we're going to be inexperienced, but we're going to have some good size there. And our linebackers ... Brian (Johnson) will start there - so he's got experience. The secondary is going to be the real question mark."

How quickly the underclassmen develop could be the key to a successful season and another trip to the playoffs.

"We're very young, a lot of inexperience," said Kelbert, whose team opens its season Aug. 24 at Livonia Stevenson. "It's a hard working group of kids, but we're going to need a lot of game action. The scrimmage (Thursday) is going to be a real



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's JaMarco Willingham will be a mainstay on the line for the Patriots, who are coming off a 4-5 season.

### FAST FACTS

**School:** Livonia Franklin.  
**Head coach:** Chris Kelbert (12th year).  
**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division).  
**2011 record:** 4-5.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Adam Clay (first-team All-Area), Max Shamus, Austin Simmons, Deion Grubbs, Cameron Pogorel, Tommy Smith.  
**Returning starters:** Joe McRobb, Sr. RB (5-9, 168); Jimmy Mazaris, Sr. RB (5-11, 213); Nate Davis, Sr. OG-OT (6-2, 250); Chad Pounders, Sr. OT (6-4, 288); Kyle Madden, Sr. TE (6-2, 195); Brian Johnson, Sr. WR (6-2, 185); Jesse McCall, Jr. RB-LB-CB (5-11, 165); JaMarco Willingham, Sr. DT (6-2, 244).  
**Promising newcomers:** Austin Tarhanich, Sr. QB (6-0, 175); Kevin Nisun, Sr. DB (5-7, 150); Caleb Finamore, Jr. RB-DB (5-11, 150); Tony Vella, Jr. DL (6-0, 285); Allen Steele, Sr. LB (6-0, 180); Juan Gamboa, Jr. DL (6-1, 255); Keith Abraham, Jr. C (5-9, 255); Alejandro Castillo, Jr. P/K (5-11, 158); Alex Karaszkiwicz, Jr. DB (5-11, 145).  
**Kelbert says:** "Roster-wise, it's the smallest we've had in a long time, but we had good JV team. Talent-wise, we're two-deep at certain positions where both kids are equal. One is going to start and one is going to be ready to play. The numbers game might hurt us, but we have talented depth."  
**2012 schedule (all at 7 p.m. starts):** Aug. 24 (at Livonia Stevenson); Aug. 30 (Howell); Sept. 7 (at Westland John Glenn); Sept. 14 (Plymouth); Sept. 21 (at Wayne); Sept. 28 (Canton); Oct. 5 (at Livonia Churchill); Oct. 12 (at KLAA crossover); Oct. 19 (Ann Arbor Pioneer).

test for us to see where we're at because we have so many seniors that didn't play last year and a lot of juniors that are going to be starting. The

lack of experience will really determine our season."

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### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Wednesday, Aug. 22**  
Mercy Inv. at Wixom, 8 a.m.  
Franklin at N'ville Quad, 8 a.m.  
**Thursday, Aug. 23**  
Greenhills Tourney, 8:30 a.m.  
**Saturday, Aug. 25**  
Portage Northern Inv., 8 a.m.  
Ladywood Tourney, 8:30 a.m.  
Mich. Luth. Tourney, 8:30 a.m.  
W.L. Central Inv., 8:30 a.m.  
Airport Tournament, 8:30 a.m.  
**PREP CROSS COUNTRY**  
**Saturday, Aug. 25**  
South Lyon Invitational at Island Lake, 9:30 a.m.  
**GIRLS SWIMMING**  
**Saturday, Aug. 25**  
Mercy Invitational at Livonia Rec. Center, noon.  
**GIRLS GOLF**  
**Thursday, Aug. 16**  
Highest Honor Invitational at Huron Meadows, 8 a.m.  
Chelsea Invitational at Reddeman Farms, 8:30 a.m.  
**Friday, Aug. 17**  
Monroe-Jefferson Inv., 8 a.m.  
**Thursday, Aug. 23**  
Churchill vs. John Glenn at Whispering Willows, 3 p.m.  
**BOYS TENNIS**  
**Saturday, Aug. 18**  
Stevenson Quad, 9 a.m.  
**Tuesday, Aug. 21**  
Farmington at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Aug. 22**  
City Quad at Stevenson, 9 a.m.  
RU at Wayne, noon.

John Glenn at Belleville, 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, Aug. 23**  
RU at Franklin, 10 a.m.  
**Friday, Aug. 24**  
RU at John Glenn, 10 a.m.  
Churchill at Howell Quad, TBA.  
**Saturday, Aug. 25**  
Stevenson Quad, TBA.  
**GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY**  
**Saturday, Aug. 18**  
Saline Invitational, 9 a.m.  
**Monday, Aug. 20**  
Ladywood at Saline, 4:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Aug. 22**  
Ladywood at Regina, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Aug. 24**  
S. Heart at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.  
**COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 21**  
St. Francis (Ill.) at MU, 7 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Aug. 22**  
Spring Arbor at MU, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, Aug. 24**  
**(UM-Dearborn Early Bird)**  
MU vs. Georgetown, 3 p.m.  
MU vs. Daemon, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, Aug. 25**  
**(UM-Dearborn Early Bird)**  
MU vs. St. Xavier, 10:30 a.m.  
MU vs. Point Park, 2:30 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S SOCCER**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 22**  
S'craft at Northwood, 6 p.m.  
**Thursday, Aug. 23**  
MU vs. Ontario, 4 p.m.  
**Friday, Aug. 24**  
MU at Fanshawe, 1 p.m.  
S'craft at Sag. Valley, 5 p.m.

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# Good as gold

## Home in Canton, Olympian Schmitt still on Cloud 9

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

The buzz of being one of the world's best swimmers isn't getting old for Canton's favorite daughter, Allison Schmitt.

Home to celebrate Tuesday — just over a week removed from a five-medal performance at the London Summer Olympics — the 22-year-old Schmitt said all of that gold (and some silver and bronze, too) won't quench her competitive quest anytime soon.

During a press conference at Summit on the Park in Canton, the happy and still-humble U.S. Olympian talked about the 2016 Summer Olympics slated for Rio.

"I'm definitely thinking about Rio," Schmitt said. "I am planning to do four more years, I had a great Olympics this past time, it was a lot of fun, and I want to repeat it. So I am definitely looking forward to Rio."

But before returning to the University of Georgia to continue working toward a degree in psychology and working toward her next Olympic stop, Schmitt is enjoying the fruits of a decade worth of dedication and devotion to her sport.

### Hero's welcome

Part of that is dealing with the celebrity treatment, such as the press conference and subsequent homecoming rally for Schmitt at Heritage Park.

"This is my favorite place to be, it's a very welcoming place," Schmitt said. "I feel comfortable here and I love being here. It's an amazing place to be, and to be able to be here with my family ... with all the fans, supporters and friends that are around this town, it's a great atmo-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Enjoying a light moment during Tuesday's press conference at Canton's Summit on the Park is U.S. Olympic gold-medal winner Allison Schmitt, flanked by parents Gail and Ralph Schmitt.

sphere to be in."

After winning gold three times in London — including a world record in the 400-meter medley relay team and a U.S. and Olympic record in the 200 free (1:53.61 — Schmitt said she only wished she could share her achievements with everybody who helped her since her days with the Plymouth Canton Cruisers. She also won one silver medal and one bronze medal.

"It's something I want to share with everyone," she said, flanked by parents Gail and Ralph Schmitt behind a podium at the Summit's Chestnut Room. "Every person that's helped me get to where I am today, just being able to share my success with other people means a lot to me.

"Last night, some girl

came up to me and started crying. She always wanted to shake my hand. So just being able to touch someone's life like that, it means a lot."

The magnitude of what she and her U.S. teammates were able to do continues to elude her, at times.

"I'm still on Cloud 9, nothing has really sunk in yet," Schmitt said. "The first time it sunk in was my silver medal in the 400 freestyle and I was crying on the podium. "Ever since then, I think it's been surreal. People have come up to me, coaches and staff members on the U.S. team came up to me and said 'Do you need me to pinch you?'"

### She's the same

Schmitt considers her-

self to be the same person she was before the Olympics began in late July.

But she acknowledged things are different.

"I haven't gone one place where people haven't come up to me, congratulated me, asked me if I was Allison," she noted. "So it's kind of cool that people watch the Olympics, people know who I am."

With a grin, the 2008 Canton High School grad joked about always wanting to be famous. "I feel like when people recognize me I know I'm still no movie star, but I'm trying to get there."

Speaking in front of a mammoth American flag draped on the wall behind her, Schmitt talked about what it meant to realize her long-standing Olympic dream — including standing on the podium during the national anthem.

"It's a feeling that I'll never forget," she said. "... I'm speechless now, I really don't know how to explain it. It was an honor, not only representing the U.S. but having the national anthem played for me."

### Worth it

Neither will her family members who were there in London for the amazing run.

"It's special," Ralph Schmitt said. "To think the flags are being raised for her, very special moment in my life, one that I will never forget."

According to Gail Schmitt, the medal ceremonies did not prompt flashbacks to her days of chauffeuring Allison to and from swim practices or feelings of all of that being "worth it."

"I don't think we ever thought to do them in hopes of something, in hopes of a scholarship, or in hopes of an Olympic medal," Gail said. "Those things are great, and they came, but those were things you were doing at the time because that was what everyone was enjoying. If they weren't than we wouldn't be doing it."

"I guess that's why none of that really flashed back, it wasn't like 'Oh, it was all worth it' because I think it was all worth it even if we didn't have all these wonderful results."

Ralph and Gail, he explained, encouraged all five of their kids to compete as student-athletes if that's what they wanted to do — and as long as they gave it their all.

"We both took the kids all around, to all their various sports," Ralph said. "... at times it was very hectic, but we made the commitment that our

kids were allowed to try what they wanted to try.

"Their only requirements were that whatever they started they finished and that they give 100-percent effort. That's all we asked. They did that."

Allison's siblings (Kirsten, Derek, twins Sara and Kari) all were in attendance at the press conference. All were or are outstanding student-athletes in their own right.

### Each one's special

She then said she kind of understands what it must be like to be a parent, having earned five medals that each came with distinctive memories.

"There definitely is a special moment attached to every medal," Schmitt added. "Someone asked me what my favorite medal is and I can't pick one."

"It's like asking my parents which of the five of us is their favorite child. It's hard to describe, a different feeling, a different memory attached to each one."

Soon, however, the medals and accolades from the London Summer Olympics will be put aside. It will be time to embark on the next wave of success.

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**Gabe honoree**

Livonia Stevenson High graduate Dylan Dunn (middle) is this year's recipient of the Gabe Award, which honors a senior athlete who has overcome adversity to find success on-and-off the field. The senior captain, who posted a 3.97 grade-point average, had his final football season cut short prematurely during opening day of pre-season practice when he suffered a season-ending torn anterior cruciate knee ligament. After undergoing surgery on Sept. 16, 2011, Dunn returned to the track team in the spring and plans to play football this fall at Adrian College. Also on hand for the scholarship presentation was Dunn's parents (from left) John and Le Ann Dunn, along with Stevenson varsity football coach Matt Fielder and Gabe Award committee chair Robin Lux. The award is in honor of the late Steve Gabrian.



# Church members put paws together in prayer

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

The Rev. Dale Miller led a worship service Sunday, Aug. 12, with a special assistant at his side.

His miniature pinscher, Chip, was on hand — and on leash — as Miller, the pastor of Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, led a pet blessing.

"He was in all his glory working with the pastor," Miller quipped.

All seven dogs that attended the church's first pet blessing were on good behavior during the brief outdoor service that entailed readings, a prayer for pets and an individual blessing of each canine and their families, along with spectators.

Miller said pet blessings have roots in the Roman Catholic Church and St. Francis of Assisi.

"Other churches have done them, too. It's a recognition of all creation. We're recognizing the goodness of our pets."

Pet blessings generally are held in late September or early October, close to St. Francis of Assisi's feast day on Oct. 4.

"The reason we did this is we're having Vacation Bible School this week and the theme is animal crackers," Miller said. "Part of its mission is learning reverence and respect for all creation." Youngsters this week also get a chance to donate toward an outreach project that deals with plants or animals. The program is loosely connected with Heifer International, an organization that enables supporters to donate goats, pigs, fish and other animals to individuals around the world.

"We thought a wonderful little kick-off to the whole week would be a blessing of animals," Miller said. "We had fun with it."



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jacob Patterson, 10, of Redford plays with Mandy McNeil's 10-week-old puppy, Oberon, at the Nardin Park United Methodist Church pet blessing on Sunday. McNeil lives in Farmington Hills.



Kim Baughman's dog, Bear, wearing a cone because he injured his tail, gets a little attention from the Rev. Dale Miller at Nardin Park United Methodist Church's pet blessing. Baughman is from Farmington Hills.



Two-year-old Teddy, (right) owned by Gloria Knappenberger of Commerce Township, checks out Kim Baughman's dog, Bear.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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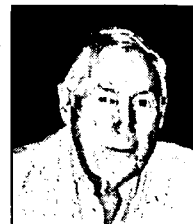


## GIBSON, VIRGINIA M.

August 11, 2012, age 77. Significant other John G. Battaglia. Beloved mother of Richard (Lynn) Gibson and Cheryl Reitz. Grandmother of Erin and Ashley Gibson, Justin, Curtis and Brandon. Sister of Robert B. Baumgartner, Marge (Norman) McGarry, Jean Bland and Linda (George) Hieronymus. Funeral services were conducted today at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home - www.schrader-howell.com

## CASARI, HILDA C.

August 11, 2012 age 86 of Canton. Beloved wife of Herman. Loving mother of Tom (Beth) and Bob (Claudia). Dear "Nana" of Tommy and Sasha. The Funeral Service was held Tuesday at Vermeulen Funeral Home. Interment United Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. To share a memory please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com



## DEMPSEY, JOHN W.

Age 90, of Plymouth, August 11, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Winnifred. Dempsey. Loving father of Gary (Mary) Wencel, Ken Dempsey, Barbara Kaminski and Mary Dempsey Knox. Dearest grandfather of Randy, Keith, Shannon, Amy and great-grandfather of Kristen, John, Addison, Evelyn, Delano and Kurtis. He is also survived by his brothers Earl and Cedric. He was preceded in death by his sister Mary Lou Sullivan. Funeral service was Wednesday, 6:00 PM at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Wednesday, 1:00 - 8:00 PM. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park. www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com

## JONES, CRANSTON FAIRBAIRN (Cran)

Age 91, died at Westminster Towers in Bradenton, Florida, on Friday August 10, 2012. The cause was Alzheimer's Disease. Born July 6, 1921, in Waukesha, Wisconsin, Cran was a graduate of the University of Michigan where he was active in the Chi Psi Fraternity. He served in the army (WWII) where he received the Bronze Star for bravery and liberated the concentration camp Dachau. He later served in the Air Force reserves and after 25 years achieved the rank of Major. He was a successful business owner in the Detroit area for 32 years before retiring to Florida. Cran was a member of the Birmingham Athletic Club, Orchard Lake Country Club, Oakland Hills Country Club and Kirk in the Hills. While in Florida, he served as a Docent at the Ringling Museum for over 10 years and was a Member of EL Conquistador Country Club. Survivors include his loving wife of 52 years, Ann, his children Bradley, Connie, Gregory, Cranston and his seven (7) grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in Michigan on Saturday September 15th at 11:00am Kirk in the Hills Church. Memorial contributions are welcome and should be mailed in lieu of flowers to the Vic Muncy, Junior Tennis Program, 3450 Wild Oak Bay Blvd. #139 Bradenton, FL. 34210 on behalf of Cranston F. Jones.

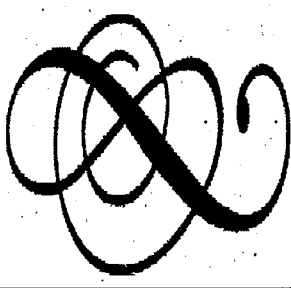
## POLDERDYKE SYLVIA J. (NICHOFF)

82, of Adrian, formerly of Westland, passed away Saturday, August 11, at her home under the care of Hospice of Lenawee. Sylvia was born to John and Mary Nichoff on November 14, 1929 in Detroit, MI. She is survived by her children, Keyth Terry of Texas, Doris "Dorie" (Steve) Bishop of Florida, and Marie Liddon of Farwell, MI; 12 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren. Sylvia is preceded in death by her son Dan Terry. Interment will take place at a later date at Cadillac West Memorial Gardens in Westland. Those wishing to make a donation in Sylvia's name should consider Hospice of Lenawee, envelopes are available at Wagley Funeral Home. Condolences to the family are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com



## ROSE, ERIC WAYNE

September 16, 1984 - August 4, 2012. Age 27, of Westland. Beloved son of Ronald and Christine. Dearest brother of Paul, Marc and Michael Rose. Loving grandson of Wanda (Allen) Rose and the late Caroline (Henry) Ahern. Donations may be made to the family of Eric Rose. Visitations was held on Thursday and Friday at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home. Services were held at Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday. Burial at Michigan Memorial Park, 32163 W Huron River Drive, Flat Rock, MI 48134.



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<p><b>CATHOLIC</b></p> <p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</b></p> <p><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Meridian &amp; Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>WARD CHURCH</b> 4000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48166 www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b></p> <p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 www.christsaviors.org Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, &amp; Creeden 734-522-6830</p>
<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 42901 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1825 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p> <p><b>North Congregational Church</b> 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake &amp; Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Church School Faith - Freedom - Fellowship Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister</p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p> <p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17818 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsivonia.org</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</b> Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>
<p><b>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</b></p> <p><b>OPEN ARMS CHURCH</b> Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Children's Programs Available Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001 Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen &amp; Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Between Farmington &amp; Merriman Across from Joe's Substance 248.471.5282</p>	<p><b>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com</b></p>		

## Live music, improvisation benefit cat rescue

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

Cat got your tongue? It won't if you watch the Glockenspiels perform improv games and scenes Saturday, Aug. 18, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

Even shy audience members won't have trouble contributing ideas when Glockenspiel director Laura Gumina asks for scene suggestions.

"The audience is getting idea prompts. Every member of the audience, because they give us ideas, will get an envelope," she explained. Inside they'll find words for things, places and relationships they can shout out to the improvisers when called on.

"We work together in improv. I tell the audience, we need you when we perform. We all join in. It's interactive."

The Glockenspiels consist of volunteers from Gumina's monthly Tuesday drop-in improv classes, "Improvisation...Alive in the Moment" at Trinity. They'll perform scenes based on audience suggestion at the 2 p.m. show, which also will feature sets by singer-songwriters Robin Monterosso and Kathy Kitzmann.

The performance is a fundraiser for one of the area's newest animal rescues, New Beginnings Animal Foundation (NBAF) led by Amanda Houts of Livonia. Admission is by donation and there will be silent auction items on display. Anyone who brings cat litter or food will be entered into a prize draw



Robin Monterosso will perform Saturday, Aug. 18, at a fundraiser for New Beginnings Animal Foundation in Livonia.



Members of the Tuesday night improv drop-in classes at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia perform as the Glockenspiels.

ing. Gumina, a Plymouth resident, has fostered three of New Beginnings' adoptable cats.

"They need supplies

and they are struggling, like all rescue organizations. So, on their web page, Amanda put out a cry for fundraiser ideas. I got them the musicians

and the Glockenspiels," Gumina said.

### Starting a rescue

Houts had volunteered for other rescues, including Better Life Canine Center, a Livonia dog rescue, before founding NBAF last March.

"I'd always end up with cats. They just come to me," Houts said. "I'd call around to other rescues and try to find a place for them. I exhausted the friends and family who could take in cats. I decided why don't I start this rescue and make it successful, even if it's smaller. It will help out a few cats."

The rescue averages four adoptions a month and its volunteers foster approximately 20-25 adoptable cats. All adoptable cats are spayed or neutered and given all necessary vaccines

### NEW BEGINNINGS ANIMAL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

**What:** Students from the Tuesday night improv drop-in class have formed the Glockenspiels for this one-time show to raise money for New Beginnings Animal Foundation, a local cat rescue. The troupe will perform improv between sets by musicians Robin Monterosso and Kathy Kitzmann. The event also includes a silent auction and audience members who bring cat litter or food will get a chance to win a door prize

**When:** 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

**Where:** Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

**Admission:** By donation

**Contact:** (734) 464-6302



Kathy Kitzmann will sing a few cat songs during her performance Saturday, Aug. 18 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

before they are sent to their new homes.

Houts works in the concierge area at a local hotel and spends her free time rescuing stray, abandoned and homeless cats, in addition to trapping

feral cats, getting them neutered or spayed and returning to the outdoors.

"It's like another full-time job, but it's worth it," said Houts, who has

Please see RESCUE, B7

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# YAHOO!

# Suburban Collection Showplace hosts Michigan's largest Indian event

**By Cal Stone**  
Staff Writer

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend India Day – the largest celebration of Asian Indian culture in the Midwest – held without admission at The Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19.

"It's a great event to see and learn about Indian culture, history and traditions," said Ramesh Gudapuri, India Day chairman for the past six years.

Gudapuri has been living in Novi for almost 10 years and is a board member of the event presenter: India League of America, a non-profit, secular organization formed in 1978 with a mission to champion the interests of Indian American community in Michigan

This one-of-a-kind event salutes India's Independence Day, which was Aug. 15.

The opening ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. with a parade with participants dancing and performing music while dressed in traditional costumes that represent each Indian state. The parade route ends at the main stage where all dignitaries and special invited guests are welcomed with marigold garland and given a red tilak, a customary religious mark worn on the forehead. The opening ceremony concludes with the lighting of the lamp, a Hindu custom to give thanks to the Lord and acknowledge a new event.

"It's a symbolic gesture to God to bless us with success," said Gudapuri. He anticipates guests will include state and local officials, like State Rep. Hugh Crawford and Dave Staudt, Novi's mayor pro tem.

Following the ceremony, the celebration will continue with fun for all ages. More than 300 Indian performers are scheduled throughout the day. From patriotic songs and folk music to classical and Bollywood-inspired dancers, the line-up includes regional dance academies as well as professional entertainers from local groups such as Nadanta, Thirak Kathak, Orissa Society, Detroit Telugu and Gujarati Samaj.

"There will be something for everyone," said Gudapuri.

In addition, attendees also will have the opportunity to enjoy a selection of authentic Indian food provided by a number of local restaurants, including Mirichi Indian Cuisine, Udupi and Royal Sweets. More than 100 vendors will be on-site to display and sell authentic Indian apparel, costumes, arts and crafts, home furnishings and jewelry.

"Our special thanks to Ford Motor Company who has been wholeheartedly supporting India Day since the inception," said Gudapuri.

Other event sponsors include Chrysler Group LLC, Consumers Energy, McDonalds, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA LLC, Mirchi Indian Cuisine, Royal Sweets, Ram Cre-



A traditional Indian dance group performs at last year's India Day in Novi.

ations, HCL Global, Sistar Mortgage, and Global Marble & Granite.

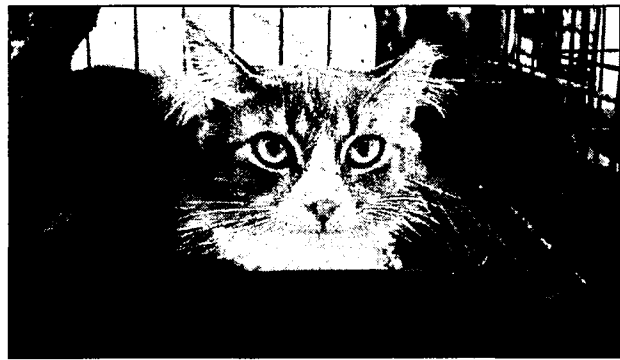
While Gudapuri estimates that there are approximately 50,000 Indians in the metro Detroit area, the event attracts a lot of others as well.

"We're putting forth effort this year

so they can understand and learn about our culture and diversity."

For more information about India Day, visit [www.ilamichigan.org](http://www.ilamichigan.org).

The Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi.



Sylvia is among New Beginnings Animal Foundation's adoptable cats.

## RESCUE

Continued from page B6

three cats and two dogs of her own.

### Animal lover

Gumina adopted a three-legged Pomeranian that was rescued from a puppy mill. She began fostering cats for NBAF after discovering its Facebook page.

"I started following their Facebook page. They'd go to Ohio to deliver a cat, to Flint to get a cat. They'd go to adoption events," said the long-time theater teacher, director and actor.

Like Houts' volunteers, Gumina's improvisers live throughout the Metro area.

She started the drop-in improv classes as a Meetup.com group with nine students in June 2010.

"We now have 200. At our Tuesday night meetings I average between 16 and 20 people," she said. Sessions cost \$10 and meet the third Tuesday of the month, except this month because of the fundraiser.

Gumina also teaches at Palaestra Home School Co-op in Livonia and at a church in Detroit.

"You don't know how

many people have written to me that they joined this class to get out of their shyness. They love it," she described the drop-in sessions. "Some who started with me in June (2010) are still with me and they are good."

She said the art form also teaches trust, give and take, listening, working in a group and working toward a mutual goal.

"It's accepting and non-judgemental. Everyone has a good time," Gumina said. "The audiences here eat it up because it's just friendly fun. We don't swear and we don't reference sex or body parts. We are family friendly."

For more information about Gumina's drop-in improv class at Trinity House Theatre, visit [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com) and search for "Improviation...Alive in the Moment."

For more about New Beginnings Animal Foundation, visit its Facebook page, e-mail to [nbaf@gmail.com](mailto:nbaf@gmail.com) or call (734) 743-1142. The group holds adoptions noon-4 p.m. Saturday and noon-3 p.m. Sunday, the first weekend of the month, at Petco, 35725 Warren Road, Westland.

For more about Trinity House Theatre, visit [trinityhousetheatre.org](http://trinityhousetheatre.org).

## Art

### CITY GALLERY

**Time/Date:** Through Aug. 24

**Location:** Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** "Fire and Ice" exhibit features photos by Royal (Roy) Severs. Severs was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2001. His now-limited mobility, however, has not put a damper on his love for photography. He often uses a vehicle to get him to his subjects, whether on land or water

**Contact:** (248) 473-1800

### DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ART

**Time/Dates:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

**Location:** 5200 Woodward, Detroit

**Family Sundays:** 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

**Exhibits:** Patti Smith: Camera Solo, shows performer Patti Smith's photographs, through Sept. 2; Five Spanish Masterpieces features works by Picasso, Goya, Velazquez, El Greco and Dali, through Aug. 19; Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013

**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

### NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

**Time/Date:** 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Aug. 25

**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville

**Details:** "Thoughts With Thread" exhibit features art quilts, woven tapes, embroidery, paper, baskets, felted wool and figurative work

**Coming up:** "Beyond Borders: Mosaic Exhibit and Auction" runs Sept. 7-22 and features mosaic work by artists from around the world that will be auctioned online at <http://www.BiddingForGood.com/DWB-MSF>. Online bidding runs from 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1 to 9 p.m. Sept. 21. Opening reception is 6-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7 at Northville Art House

**Contact:** (248) 344-0497

## Comedy

### ANDIAMO NOVI

**Time/Date:** 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

**Location:** 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi

**Details:** "Comedy Held Hostage" tour with Chill-

## GET OUT!



Mass Transit plays Thursday, Aug. 16 at Stars in the Park in Farmington Hills.

ian Thomas, Jarred Kreger and Susan Coletti. Tickets are \$10, available at the Andiamo Novi Theatre ab Contact:

### JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, open mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, [www.kickerscomplex.com](http://www.kickerscomplex.com)

### MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

**Time/Date:** Mike Bonner, Aug. 16-18; KT Tatar, Aug. 23-25; Joe Zimmerman, Sept. 6-8; Adam Richmond, Sept. 13-15; Greg Warren, Sept. 20-22; Chris Porter, Sept. 27-29

**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, [www.comedycastle.com](http://www.comedycastle.com)

## Dance

### FAIRLANE BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

**Time/Date:** 7:30-10:30 p.m. every Thursday

**Location:** Lyskawa V.F.W. Hall, 6840 Waverly, east of Telegraph, south of Warren in Dearborn Heights

**Details:** Singles and couples dance to live bands on a hardwood dance floor. Admission is \$7 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Free refreshments

**Contact:** Jean Orleans at (734) 516-0500

### MASTERS OF TAP

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

**Location:** Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit

**Details:** The show caps the three-day 5th Motor City Tap Fest and features its faculty in performance. Dancers include Gregg Russell, Sarah Reich of "So You Think You Can Dance?," Avi Miller and Ofer Ben, Dr. Harold "Stumpy" Cromer, Robert Reed, Karen Callaway and many others. Tickets are \$25-\$35

**Contact:** [www.motortcity-tapfest.com](http://www.motortcity-tapfest.com)

### MOON DUSTERS

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

**Location:** Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

**Details:** Singles and couples; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

**Contact:** Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

### STARS OF RUSSIAN BALLET

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

**Location:** Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor

**Details:** Stars of the Russian Ballet gala performance features dancers from international companies. Tickets are \$48-\$68

available from the Michigan Union Ticket office  
**Contact:** (734) 763-8587

## Film

### COMPUWARE ARENA DRIVE-IN

**Time/Date:** Gates open at 7:30 and movies start at dusk; open nightly through Sept. 2

**Location:** 14900 Beck, Plymouth

**Details:** Listen to the film through a battery-operated FM radio or your car radio. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for ages 4-12 and free for age 3 and under.

Students with ID pay \$7 Sunday-Thursday

**Contact:** (734) 453-8300

### PENN THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 17-18 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19

**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

**Details:** "Snow White and the Huntsman," \$3

**Coming up:** "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted," 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 25-26

**Summer Cinema:** All shows screen at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. "Batteries Not Included," Thursday, Aug. 16; "Wallace & Gromit The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," Thursday, Aug. 23; and "Muppets from Space," Thursday, Aug. 30. Tickets cost \$3

**Contact:** (734) 453-0870; [www.penntheatre.com](http://www.penntheatre.com)



Beth Wood, a singer-songwriter from Oregon, performs Friday, Aug. 17 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

## Senior troupe performs in Canton

There's still time to see The Still Got it Players' performance of *Old Hams* at the Village Theatre in Canton.

The show, about residents in a home for aging performers, continues through Sunday. Curtain is at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, 2 p.m.; and 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19.

The play tells the story of the actors, singers and musicians who to save their home from the tax collector and from the

greedy son of an attorney intent on selling the property and turning it into a shopping mall.

The Still Got it Players is the senior troupe within Spotlight Players, resident community theater group at the Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and students, and \$11 for groups. They're available online at [www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater](http://www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater).

### ANDIAMO NOVI

**Time/Date:** 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

**Location:** 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi

**Details:** "Comedy Held Hostage" tour with Chill-

## It's easy being cheesy

### A grown-up grilled cheese sandwich



Smoky Bacon Cheddar Panini

A classic grilled cheese sandwich is one of the iconic foods of childhood. And while plenty of people still enjoy a basic grilled cheese, many are looking for ways to take their favorite sandwich from the kiddie table to the grownup table.

Of course, your choice of cheese is the key to the perfect sandwich. Different types of cheese will provide unique flavors and textures. Flavored cheese slices lay a tasty foundation for a wide variety of sandwich toppings. And certain cheeses, such as Borden Grilled Cheese Melts, are made specifically for their creamy consistency when melted.

Experimenting with new ingredients can also dress up everybody's favorite sandwich. Create your own signature sandwich with additions such as:

- Fresh or sun dried tomatoes
- Bacon or prosciutto
- Avocado
- Fresh herbs such as sage, basil, oregano or cilantro
- Jalapeño
- Pickles
- Roasted red peppers
- Caramelized onions
- Flavored cheese slices such as Southwest Pepperjack, Smoked Cheddar or Applewood Bacon Cheddar
- Apple or pear slices
- Dijon or honey mustard
- Smoked or mesquite turkey

You can also change things up with different breads. Try pumpernickel, rye, seven-grain, sourdough or English muffin bread.

To find more deliciously cheesy recipes you can feel good about sharing with your family, visit [www.FriendsofElsie.com](http://www.FriendsofElsie.com).

#### Super Apple Ham-n-Cheese

- 2 slices whole grain bread
- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- ½ tablespoon honey mustard
- 1 slice extra sharp cheddar
- 2 large slices deli ham
- ½ apple, peeled and cut in thin slices

Spread one side of each slice of bread with butter. Then spread opposite side of bread with honey mustard. Place one slice of bread butter side down in skillet over medium heat. Layer one slice of cheese, ham and apple. Spread second piece of bread with honey mus-



Super Apple Ham and Cheese



Tangy Citrus Grilled Cheese

tard and place honey mustard side down on top of sandwich. Cook 6 to 7 minutes, flipping to ensure each side is golden brown and cheese is melted.

#### Tangy Citrus Grilled Cheese

- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- 2 slices white or wheat bread
- 2 slices Borden Grilled Cheese Melts
- 1 tablespoon orange marmalade

Spread ½ tablespoon of butter on one side of a slice of bread and place butter side down in a skillet over medium heat. Top with one slice of cheese, then spread with marmalade. Layer second slice of cheese. Spread remaining butter on one side of second slice of bread, and place butter side up on sandwich. Cook 6 to 7 minutes, flipping to ensure each side is golden brown

and cheese is melted.

#### Smoky Bacon Cheddar Turkey Panini Melts

- 1 cup yellow onion, cut into strips
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 8 slices sourdough bread
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 8 slices turkey (about 8 ounces)
- 8 slices smoked cheddar slices
- ½ cup roasted red peppers pieces, drained

Heat oil in small skillet over medium heat; add onions and cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until tender-crisp. Spread mayonnaise evenly onto one side of each bread slice. Layer 2 slices turkey, 2 slices cheese, grilled onions and roasted red peppers evenly on each of 4 bread slices. Close each with top half of sandwich. Spread butter on top and bottom of sandwiches; grill in skillet or clamshell panini grill until cheese melts and bread is toasted.

#### Cheddar-Apple Pie Panini

- 1 slice Borden Applewood Bacon Cheddar Singles Sensations

- 1 slice Granny Smith apple
- Dash of apple pie seasoning
- 2 slices bread of choice
- Butter

Lightly butter panini grill. Slice bread in thick slices; place a slice of Borden Applewood Bacon Cheddar Singles Sensations on one slice of bread, and top with a slice of Granny Smith apple. Top the apple slice with a dash of apple pie seasoning or cinnamon. Finally, place the top slice of bread onto the sandwich, and grill until nicely browned.

#### Grilled Bacon-Cheddar-Sundried Tomato

- 2 slices Applewood Bacon Cheddar
- Sun-dried tomatoes — not oil packed
- 2 slices sourdough or seeded rye bread

A twist on the standard grilled cheese — prepare by buttering sourdough or other artisan bread on one side and grill in fry pan — put cheese and sun dried tomatoes between slices and grill until cheese is melted and bread is browned.

Courtesy of Family Features

### CITY BITES

#### Sharks and burgers

**FARMINGTON HILLS** — Jaws Jumbo Burgers will wrap up its Shark Week Friday, Aug. 17. The restaurant, located at 29216 Orchard Lake Road, is showing movies about sharks this week. For more information call (248) 855-2228.

#### In the pink

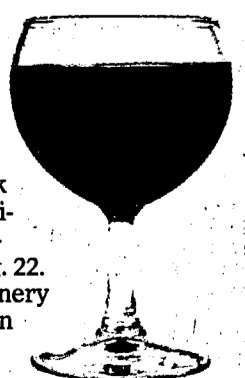
**PLYMOUTH** — Kids, their dolls and escorts can participate in a Victorian-style tea, complete with tea sandwiches and desserts from Jeff Zak Cater-

ing, Aug. 24 at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Tickets are \$30 for one adult and one child and \$18 for each additional person. Buy tickets at the museum or online at [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org), using PayPal. The fun starts at noon and will include storytelling, dressing up a glamour photo, and a make and take craft after the tea. The museum is located at 155 Main. (734) 455-8940.

#### Wine tasting

**LIVONIA** — d.vine fine wines is tak-

ing registration for a tasting with Bob Morus, of Phelps Creek Vineyards and Mt. Defiance Wine Company, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22. This small boutique winery focuses on estate grown Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Cost is \$20 for Wine Club members and \$25 for non-members. Call (734) 432-3800.





Making a prudent decision about buying a house comes down to an honest assessment of what you can afford.

## Buying a home: Prepare by getting your finances in order

For those considering buying a home, the current real estate market presents some unique opportunities. One of the side effects of the economic roller-coaster ride of the past few years is that home prices have gone down and more homes have gone on the market. For buyers, that means more choices and better deals. However, those same tumultuous years also can teach buyers a lesson: Make smart buying decisions and be wise with your finances.

Impulsive buying is never a good idea when it comes to a purchase as significant as a home, but it was something of a trend at the height of the mid-2000s. Now, with banks lending far more cautiously, you need to be absolutely certain that your finances are in order — and healthy — to be able to get the best deal on

your purchase.

There are a number of steps you can take to get ready to buy a home, and you might need to work on them simultaneously. Consider that you'll need to start saving, if you haven't already, but you'll also need to review your credit score and do what you can to either maintain it or work toward healthier credit. Both of these tasks will help make the home-buying process better for you.

Your credit is an important factor in determining the terms under which you can get a mortgage. Broadly speaking, the better your credit is, the more positively you'll be viewed by lenders — and that can lead to better interest rates. And because you'll be paying off your home for years to come, it's important to get the best rate possible.

Start by checking your credit report. You're entitled to one free check of your report, from TransUnion and other credit reporting agencies every year. As much as you need to check your report to find out what shape your credit is in, it's also essential to review it for inaccuracies or fraudulent activity, both of which can have a negative impact on your score.

If your credit health needs some work, start taking action immediately. Paying bills on time, reducing your overall debt and limiting new credit inquiries can all help to build your credit — but be patient, as it can take time for your positive actions to take effect. Nevertheless, the sooner you make the effort, the sooner you'll see results.

Making a prudent decision about buying a house comes

down to an honest assessment of what you can afford. Keep in mind that you might be approved for a loan that's larger than what is practical for you to afford. While it may be tempting to buy a pricier house, the stress of struggling to make payments could diminish your enjoyment of your new home and even put you at financial risk. One rule of thumb is that most borrowers can afford a home loan that runs about 2½ times their annual salary.

Buying a home is a complex process, but one that is ultimately very rewarding when done right. By organizing your finances well in advance, you'll help set yourself up for success. For more information about credit and buying a home, visit [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com).

— Courtesy ARA

## Environmental contamination may play a role

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** I am wondering in a condemnation matter whether evidence of environmental contamination and remediation costs is admissible to reduce the condemnation award?

**A:** There was a recent decision out of Illinois which found that evidence of environmental contamination is no different than evidence of a leaky basement, a cracked foundation or a dilapidated roof. The court reasoned that if the damage and costs of repair would influence a purchaser in determining how much to pay for the land, then such evidence is relevant to fair market value and admissible in a condemnation proceeding. It should be noted that only 12 states have addressed this issue and a slim majority has allowed consideration of contamination and mediation costs in determining fair market value. You are best advised to consult with your real estate lawyer.

**Q:** I have always thought that when you are enforcing a deed restriction, the court will balance the equities, so to speak, in terms of the enforceability of the restriction. What do you think about that?

**A:** While each case is unique to its own facts, in a recent appellate decision out of Rhode Island, the court reasoned that a land owner that deliberately violates restrictive covenants must remove the offending structures without the benefit of the balancing of equities. The court indicated that, ordinarily, if enforcement of a restriction disproportionately harms the defendant with little benefit to the plaintiff, a court may balance the equities, but the benefit of that doctrine is generally reserved for an innocent party that proceeds without knowledge that he or she is encroaching upon another's property rights. If the parties, however, are not innocent, and they construct a home that they knew violated at least some of the restrictions in that particular case, they will be ordered to tear down the premises.



Robert Meisner

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of April 30-May 4, 2012 at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

#### CANTON

248 Charterhouse Dr.....	\$115,000
49761 Courtyard Ln.....	\$165,000
685 Foothill Dr.....	\$85,000
50177 Grant St.....	\$241,000
47231 Hanford Rd.....	\$232,000
8234 Holly Dr.....	\$110,000
43248 Pepperwood St.....	\$184,000
44275 Postmill Ct.....	\$130,000
265 Shana St.....	\$160,000
45825 Spinning Wheel Dr.....	\$200,000
41500 Stafford Ct.....	\$140,000
1244 W Crystal Cir.....	\$215,000

#### GARDEN CITY

32507 Bridge St.....	\$81,000
31027 Florence St.....	\$69,000

#### LIVONIA

16111 Golfview St.....	\$224,000
9910 Henry Ruff Rd.....	\$129,000
14542 Huff St.....	\$130,000
11807 Hunters Park Ct.....	\$238,000
29645 Jacquelyn Dr.....	\$135,000

35646 Joy Rd.....	\$88,000
37563 Kingsbury St.....	\$140,000
18186 Lathers St.....	\$52,000
15605 Mayfield St.....	\$77,000
11431 Merriman Rd.....	\$88,000
11208 Middlebelt Rd.....	\$26,000
31624 Pembroke St.....	\$76,000
29100 Terrence St.....	\$155,000
32825 W Chicago St.....	\$133,000

#### NORTHVILLE

16744 Bradner Rd.....	\$224,000
16726 Country Knoll Dr.....	\$220,000
16185 Pine Valley Dr.....	\$75,000
17745 Rolling Woods Cir.....	\$421,000

#### PLYMOUTH

11827 Amherst Ct.....	\$220,000
1682 Cassidy Place Dr.....	\$139,000
49903 Cooke Ave.....	\$461,000
1530 Nantucket Rd.....	\$150,000
1542 Nantucket Rd.....	\$165,000
9183 Redbud Ave.....	\$178,000
1199 S Sheldon Rd.....	\$27,000
13508 Westbrook Rd.....	\$515,000

#### REDFORD

12920 Brady.....	\$70,000
13542 Brady.....	\$70,000

14162 Breakfast Dr.....	\$153,000
14204 Breakfast Dr.....	\$151,000
14266 Breakfast Dr.....	\$142,000
20492 Centralia.....	\$20,000
26720 Joy Rd.....	\$15,000
26720 Joy Rd.....	\$7,000
19328 Kinloch.....	\$15,000
19319 Lexington.....	\$53,000
18216 Macarthur.....	\$40,000
14207 Marshall Dr.....	\$129,000
25501 Saint Martins Ave.....	\$20,000
18711 Woodworth.....	\$13,000

#### WESTLAND

37269 Amhurst Dr.....	\$80,000
32727 Avondale St.....	\$77,000
31816 Bay Ct.....	\$9,000
8149 Beatrice.....	\$95,000
31132 Beechnut St.....	\$67,000
35805 Canyon Dr.....	\$71,000
32018 Cheboygan Ct.....	\$4,000
111 Daniel Ave.....	\$72,000
35469 Farragut St.....	\$4,000
34665 Hazelwood St.....	\$46,000
32222 Oscoda Ct.....	\$4,000
8208 Parkside Dr.....	\$177,000
33725 Tawas Trl.....	\$95,000

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the weeks of April 16-20, 2012 at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

#### BEVERLY HILLS

32461 Beaconsfield St.....	\$310,000
20301 Elwood St.....	\$148,000
18175 Kinross Ave.....	\$303,000
31975 W Bell Vine Trl.....	\$430,000
32757 White Oaks Trl.....	\$450,000

#### BINGHAM FARMS

30375 Oakview Way.....	\$232,000
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#### BIRMINGHAM

909 Bird Ave.....	\$470,000
928 Chapin Ave.....	\$500,000
672 Chester St.....	\$400,000
2655 E Maple Rd.....	\$28,000
932 Forest Ave.....	\$380,000
1311 Henrietta St.....	\$489,000
852 Henrietta St # 854.....	\$535,000
1893 Maryland Blvd.....	\$176,000
323 N Eton St.....	\$57,000
1818 Yorkshire Rd.....	\$280,000

#### BLOOMFIELD HILLS

2932 Squirrel Rd.....	\$245,000
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#### BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

1938 Cragin Dr.....	\$300,000
674 E Fox Hills Dr.....	\$39,000

1758 S Hill Blvd.....	\$138,000
5770 Snowshoe Cir.....	\$390,000
6080 Snowshoe Cir.....	\$269,000
5156 Woodlands Ln.....	\$250,000

#### FARMINGTON HILLS

22236 Averhill St.....	\$90,000
31625 Belmont St.....	\$141,000
37167 Berkleigh Ct.....	\$285,000
29373 Birchcrest Way.....	\$296,000
34727 Bunker Hill Dr.....	\$145,000
27636 E Echo Vly.....	\$41,000
30342 Essex Dr.....	\$160,000
21884 Flanders St.....	\$130,000
35767 Fredericksburg Rd.....	\$200,000
30831 Hunters Dr #23.....	\$67,000
36172 Old Homestead Dr.....	\$165,000
25931 Power Rd.....	\$235,000
35361 Stratton Hill Ct.....	\$355,000
24089 Susan Dr.....	\$205,000
27716 Westcott Crescent Cir.....	\$92,000

#### FRANKLIN

25875 Romanay Way.....	\$450,000
30656 Woodside Dr.....	\$334,000

#### MILFORD

2886 Lorien Dr.....	\$186,000
653 Sweetbriar.....	\$105,000

#### NOVI

45119 Bartlett Dr.....	\$369,000
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22649 Foxmoor Dr.....	\$255,000
51148 Hallfield St.....	\$45,000
51159 Hallfield St.....	\$45,000
27023 Ladbroke St.....	\$45,000
27039 Victoria Rd.....	\$45,000
28188 Wolcott Dr.....	\$104,000

#### SOUTH LYON

26400 Daria Cir.....	\$305,000
53792 Edgewood Dr.....	\$49,000
58731 Peters Barn Dr.....	\$335,000
336 Princeton Dr.....	\$150,000
24845 Ravine Dr.....	\$2,000
24845 Ravine Dr.....	\$100,000
52860 Willowbrook Dr.....	\$61,000

#### SOUTHFIELD

17620 Gateway Cir.....	\$39,000
29480 Marshall St.....	\$65,000
30123 Rock Creek Dr.....	\$115,000
28117 Selkirk St.....	\$35,000
29041 Tiffany Dr W.....	\$45,000
5000 Town Ctr.....	\$42,000
18824 Webster Ave.....	\$105,000
18405 Westhampton Ave.....	\$23,000
17320 Westhampton Rd.....	\$123,000
20815 Winchester St.....	\$73,000

#### WHITE LAKE

231 Horizon Rd.....	\$98,000
658 Red Bank Dr.....	\$285,000

### REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

#### Real Estate career seminar

Learn about the \$50 Income Guarantee 6:30-7:30 p.m. today at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, in Plymouth. For more information contact Mike Workman at (734) 459-4700 or [mworkman@kw.com](mailto:mworkman@kw.com).

#### Finance seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited, so call (248) 547-3006 or sign up at [www.metro-mi.com](http://www.metro-mi.com). These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.





