



## Alternate elector

Everyone knows about those electoral votes — 17 in Michigan — that are cast for presidential candidates. Now, Westland resident Henry Johnson has been nominated to be an alternate elector for the upcoming presidential election.

"On a specific day after the election, the electors gather at the state capital. If (President Barack) Obama wins, then he gets the 17 votes," said Johnson. "There is a ceremony for casting the vote. If the elector isn't able, then I will cast the ballot."

President of the Norway Community Citizens Council, Johnson would be alternate for Inkster Mayor Hilliard Hampton. Both men were nominated by U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Detroit, as a thank you for their efforts on his recent election campaign.

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## Opponents get OK to launch recall of mayor

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

A petition to recall Westland Mayor William Wild has been approved, adding to earlier approved efforts to remove five City Council members from office.

The petition submitted by resident Burke Rock cites Wild's May 16 recommendation to enter an inter-local agreement

between Westland and the City of Wayne for sharing or consolidation of recreation services which resulted in the closing of the Bailey Recreation Center on July 1.

An earlier petition, citing Wild's appointment of two married couples to the Tax Increment Finance Authority, had been rejected due to unclear language.

"The language was not

approved for clarity, so we submitted another one with different language," said Rock, a long-standing critic of Wild.

Wild didn't attend the Wayne County Election Commission meeting at which the petitions were approved.

"I spent the day working in my office. It doesn't seem like anything I do or say with this resident (Rock) matters," said Wild, who at one point announced that

he would no longer respond to Rock's questions or comments.

The merger of the parks and recreation departments is exactly the type of cooperative effort between communities that is being sought by Gov. Rick Snyder.

"The lieutenant governor (Brian Calley) was just here and lauded us for the fire depart-

Please see RECALL, A2

## Used book sale

The Friends of the Westland Library will hold a used book sale Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 6-8, at the library at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road. Hours will be noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday which will \$4 bag day — bring your own bag.

There will be a special sale of hard cover fiction books — buy one for \$1, get one free — and audio books on cassette — the whole book — for 25 cents. Other prices are \$2 for coffee table books, \$1 for hardcover nonfiction, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records and 10 cents for magazines.

A preview sale for Friends members will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5. People can become a Friend at the preview sale.

Bring your own bags when you shop at the book sale, or buy one of the Friends' cool green bags for \$2. The book sale provides funding for all the library programs provided by the Friends of the Westland Library.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Celebrating being honored as Biggby Coffee store of the year are employees Cassie Sanders of Westland (left), Alaina McDaniel of Dearborn Heights, Danielle Peel of Westland, Westland store owner Mo Elfakir of Canton, April Smith of Westland, Jess Murphy of Plymouth and Becca Tanner of Westland.

## Westland's Biggby brings home Big 'B' Cup Award

The Biggby Coffee Big "B" Cup Award — sort of a coffee version of the Stanley Cup — is on display with other awards at the Westland Biggby Coffee.

Owner and operator Mohammad Elfakir and his crew took

home the 2012 Store of the Year along with the Big "B" Cup Award at the recent Biggby Coffee annual franchise meeting.

"It is an incredible honor to be named Store of the Year

and be recognized by Biggby and our customers in particular," Elfakir said. "Without our customers, we would not be where we are today, and I can-

Please see BIGGBY, A2

## Low turnout expected for special election

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Not many Westland voters are expected to make to the polls Wednesday to select candidates who will move forward in November to fill a temporary vacancy in the 11th Congressional District.

"Absentee ballots have been slow. We sent out 3,500 — we send out the same amount each election using the permanent absentee voter list," said Westland Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof. "We've received less than 2,000 back. There is not a whole lot of interest in the election. It might pick up."

Schoof is predicting a voter turnout of less than 10 percent for the special election Wednesday.

The Republican candidates seeking replace U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, who resigned in July amid controversy, are Kerry Bentivolio of Milford, Nancy Cassis of Novi and Ken Crider, Carolyn Kavanagh and Steve King, all of Livonia, who are running for the Republican nomination.

The winner would presumably face David Curson of Belleville, who is running unopposed on the Democratic ticket, in the Nov. 6 general election. The winner would be sworn

Please see ELECTION, A2

### INDEX

Community Life..... B5  
Crossword Puzzle ..... C3  
Education ..... Ax  
Health ..... B10  
Homes ..... C2  
Jobs ..... C1  
Obituaries..... B10  
Services ..... C2  
Sports ..... B1  
Wheels ..... C3

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## Westland man faces trial in sexual assault case

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

A Westland man has been ordered bound over for trial on charges that he sexually molested an 11-year-old autistic girl.

Joseph Petri, 27, waived his preliminary examination Thursday before 18th District Court Judge Sandra Cicerelli. He is charged with two counts of second-

degree criminal sexual conduct.

The girl's mother had contacted police to report the July 26 incident which was alleged to have occurred in the Westland apartment Petri shares with his wife and two young children.

The mother told police that she had become acquainted with Petri and his wife earlier

in the year while attending community college. Since then, the mother said the families had visited each other's home several times.

On this particular date, the mother said she had dropped her daughter off at the Petri's apartment for a visit. When her daughter later shared details of the visit, the mother contacted police.

The girl told police she had gone to bed in Petri's bedroom about midnight. Petri came into the bedroom and showed her photos of himself and his wife as children, the girl told police.

Subsequently, it is charged that Petri got into bed with the girl while fully clothed, pressed against her, then began kissing and fondling her, hav-

ing pulled down her pants. The girl also told police Petri showed her what were apparently a pair of dildos that he described as "fat sticks."

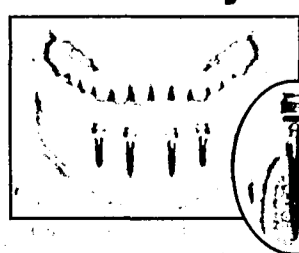
Petri remains free on \$10,000/10 percent bond. His Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment is set for Sept. 13.

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# Wayne, Westland treat parks to eliminate mosquitoes

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

There should be fewer mosquitoes in Westland and Wayne thanks to a fogging of city parks in response to the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus epidemic which has claimed five lives.

Just in time for the Labor Day weekend, the Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department's combined 40 parks, along with the Westland Municipal Golf Course, were fogged for mosquitoes.

On Wednesday, contracted pest management officials treated the 19 parks located in Westland and the Westland Municipal Golf Course with Biomist 4+4. The product was applied from a truck-mounted ultra-low volume sprayer. The treatment is effective for approximately two weeks. The application rate is one-three ounces per acre.

The 19 parks located in the City of Wayne were also treated by Advanced Pest Management with the Biomist 4+4 technology on Friday.

"We did spray once a few years ago when West Nile was coming up — we had an event coming up," said Mayor William Wild. "This is the first time we did all of our parks."

The mosquito fogging cost each city \$1,000. "It will be a little comfort for Labor Day, then we hope there will be some cooler weather," Wild said.

In addition to the parks and golf course, Westland's Department of Public Service is doing the second round of their

Mosquito Abatement Program by treating more than 11,000 storm drains with Vectolex Water Soluble Pouches.

"The City of Westland is committed to the health and safety of our residents," said Wild. "Labor Day weekend is a time for families to enjoy the last weekend of summer and we want the residents to visit our golf course and parks to enjoy the great amenities."

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## ELECTION

Continued from page A1

in after the election and serve through the end of the year.

Filling the short-term vacancy will be the end of Westland residents voting in the 11th Congressional District.

Due to redistricting, Westland will become part of the 13th Congressional District at the start of 2013.

That means on Nov. 6, Westland voters will help select McCotter's replacement but also vote for their choice to serve as the new 13th District representative.

For their U.S. representative in the 13th, voters will have a choice between current 14th District U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Detroit, and Republican Mark Sawicki of Dearborn.

The special election is expected to cost about \$650,000 district-wide and \$60,000 in Westland.

"That includes Wayne County paying for the ballots — that's taxpayer money, too," said Schoof. "For a federal election, we can't consolidate precincts — it's against the law."

The polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

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# Westland to get new police chief

Westland will soon have a new police chief.

Current Chief Greg Angelosano will be retiring effective Friday along with Deputy Police Chief Dan Karrick. Both are retiring under a program that allowed city staff to purchase generic time for an early

retirement.

Since Karrick was the only person on the promotional list to fill the chief position, that means the new chief won't be selected until after a promotional examination is completed. Deputy Chief Michael Matich and Lt. Jeff Jedrusik are eli-

gible to test for the chief's position.

"I'm not sure if I will appoint an interim chief," said Mayor William Wild, adding it would take about six weeks to complete the promotional testing.

Canine Officer Grant Allen also retired last week.

## RECALL

Continued from page A1

ment merger," said Wild. "That agreement saves us \$900,000 a year. We went from 19 parks to 40 parks and a much nicer community center."

The merger agreement was approved by the council unanimously, Wild said, as was the budget.

"I stand behind the decision, we need to take a longer view," said Wild. "This doesn't mean it (the Wayne Community Center) has to be our long-term recreation facili-

ty. Short-term, we're saving money. Our Parks and Recreation director and the deputy director were retiring."

Rock and other recall supporters plan to kick off their efforts to gather more 5,600 signatures Wednesday — the date of the special election to replace former U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter.

"We will be collecting signatures simultaneously at a lot of different places," said Rock.

Along with Wild, the recall effort also targets Council President James Godbout, council members Adam Hammons, Meriam Kadi, Michael

Kehrer and Dewey Reeves.

That petition cites council approval of a TIFA plan amendment that includes construction of a new city hall, possibly behind the William P. Faust Public Library.

Wild had no plans to appeal the recall petition approval.

"At this point, it's up to them to get signatures. At the end of the day, it's up to resident, if they don't agree with my decisions," said Wild, noting he will be up for re-election in 2013.

It's not the first time a recall petition has been

filed against him, Wild said, and there was one successful past recall of council members.

"It was a horrible black eye for the community and it took a long time to get over it," said Wild. "We've been making a lot of progress. It's unfortunate to have a recall (effort). It's a step back for our community."

The recall supporters will have 90 days to gather sufficient valid signatures on the petitions once the first signatures are obtained.

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## BIGGBY

Continued from page A1

not thank them enough for taking the time to vote for us and for the incredibly nice things they had to stay about my store and my staff."

The Biggby Store of the Year Award is based on customer nominations, in which one Biggby location from every market is selected as a finalist. Based on customer's reviews of the store, along with the total number of votes, Biggby of Westland was not only recognized for Wayne County but also as the overall winner of the award, named in honor of Biggby co-founder and vice president Mary Roszel.

The Big "B" Cup Award, one of the most sought-after awards, was also presented to Elfakir and his store, which will celebrate its fifth anniversary in October. Selected for best embodying the Biggby Coffee core values and operating philosophies, Elfakir and

his store join this list of recipients, made up of some of the most successful stores in the system.

Nine baristas franchise-wide were also recognized with the My Favorite Barista Award, also based on customer nominations. From the nine finalists, Wayne County's representative was April Smith of the Westland store, who was honored on stage by Biggby CEO and co-founder Bob Fish.

Smith was also nominated for the Barista of the Year Award.

"It was great to be there as a store and hear April's name being called on stage for a finalist in the award," Elfakir said. "She definitely deserves this recognition as she continually brightens the lives of our customers on a daily basis. I'm so honored in general to be recognized by way of these awards, and it feels great to bring some hardware back to our community."

The Westland Biggby store is located on Ford Road just west of Newburgh.

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# W-W's Goci fends off calls for his resignation

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Wayne-Westland school board Vice President John Goci is making it perfectly clear that he is confident he will be cleared of allegations that he lied to federal agents about a loan he had with Tomo Duhanaj, the owner of Bray's Hamburgers in Westland.

Goci is free on bond after being arraigned Aug. 22 on the charge, a five-year felony. Duhanaj was also charged with lying to federal agents. However, federal officials have moved to dismiss charges against him, citing the need for time to obtain evidence against him and investigate other suspects.

"At this time my case is still proceeding, and as I stated before, I look forward with the utmost confidence of being vindicated of the false allegations being made against me," Goci said at last week's school board meeting.

His comments came after two fellow board members — Frederick Weaver and Cindy Schofield — and resident Chris Staley called on him to resign.

Staley expressed "utter disappointment in lack of integrity displayed by a board member," saying that "every human is born with a conscience and, therefore, the ability to know right from wrong. Choosing the right, regardless of the consequences, is the hallmark of integrity."

He also told the board that among its responsibilities is the creation of a "set of sound ethical policies," communicating them to the staff and students and letting them know deviation from any of them will not be tolerated.

"The problem for the leaders that create and implement the policies is that they must then live by them," he said. "You cannot set policies that employees and students need to live by and not live by them yourself."

Saying that the federal charge is "incompatible with the duties of an elected official," Staley called on school board members "to rise to the occasion."

"Examine your values and principles and join with us to call for this board member's

immediate resignation," he said. "The residents, employees and, more importantly, the students deserve to have the leaders of this school district lead."

Weaver said he agreed that Goci's personal life is his own, but when elected and put into public office, "your personal life becomes public and, in part, is up to review and criticism by the public."

"I realized that you have not been convicted yet and I understand that," Weaver added. "While it's maintained that it is separate from this school district, I believe it might become a detriment to this district."

Citing a comment made by a resident at a previous meeting that "board members be held to a higher standard," Schofield said Goci should resign his position so he "can concentrate on his personal issues."

"Board members are the face of a district to its local citizens and through the media to the public at large," she said. "As a result, whether right or wrong, the perceived reputation of a school board member becomes intertwined with

the reputation of the district and it is for this reason that I would like to ... ask Mr. Goci to resign."

The comments came after board President Carol Middel read a statement saying that it was not the policy of the school board "to speculate when an investigation or litigation is under way, particularly one that does not involve the district."

"While human nature is to want to discuss these concerns, we would urge the community not to be drawn into needless speculation or discussion," she said. "Let the justice system work and remember that allegations are not a basis for judgment. If there are questions or concerns regarding the investigation or litigation, they should be directed to the proper authorities."

Goci did get support from Trustee Thomas Buckalew, who said he was troubled to hear the comment that Goci was "not convicted yet with the assumption being that the conviction is something coming down the road."

"That isn't the way our system works," he said. "We have

a legal system that presumes innocence and, until guilt is determined, that innocence needs to be assured."

He added that he also looks "forward to Mr. Goci's vindication."

"I hope that's the case. Until I learn otherwise, that is the assumption I intend to work on," he said.

The federal indictment charges that Goci lied to federal agents, who found paperwork indicating he had obtained a \$30,000 loan from Duhanaj at a more than 45-percent interest rate. A recent unsuccessful congressional candidate, Goci told federal agents that the interest was 15 percent.

In wiretaps placed on Duhanaj's phone, the indictment charges Goci contradicted his statements made to federal agents.

Goci remains free on \$10,000 unsecured bond, while Duhanaj, a Troy resident, remains in federal custody as an illegal alien and faces deportation.

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# Nankin Mills hosts Native American Heritage Day

The Wayne County Parks and the North American Indian Association will host Native American Heritage Day at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8.

This special social gathering includes a traditional drumming circle and dancers in Native American regalia. Native American crafts and food will be available for purchase. All ages are welcome to enjoy in a celebration of Michigan's first people.

Due to limited seating, plan to bring a lawn chair. The is a free out-

door event. The North American Indian Association of Detroit is the oldest urban Indian organization in the United States. The purpose of the organization is to promote self-sufficiency for Native Americans through education assistance, employment and training and awareness of available human services, and to foster and preserve Native American culture.

"The City of Westland appreciates the variety of events that the Wayne County Parks brings to

the residents of our All American City," said Westland Mayor William Wild. "These events are a great way to bring the residents out to our beau-

tiful parks and with most of these events being free of charge, it allows our families to have a good time with no effect on their budget."

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail. Hines Drive will be closed due to Saturday in the Park, however, people can go

around the barricades for Native American Heritage parking.

For more information about this or any other Wayne County Parks

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## Local resident wants to bring business experience to Schoolcraft board

Gretchen Alaniz of Livonia announced she will seek a six-year term on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees in the Nov. 6 election.

"Schoolcraft College will continue to play a significant role in providing the Detroit metro area communities with an excellent and diverse set of educational opportunities at a reasonable cost. Whether you're seeking an associate degree, looking for a head start on a bachelor's degree, or looking for continuing education opportunities, Schoolcraft College has it all," said Alaniz. "The downturn in the economy has identified an ever increasing need for low-cost, flexible education, retraining and continuing education programs. Parents, veterans, the



Alaniz

employed and the unemployed see the benefits of community colleges for lowering the costs for education to increase their hiring and earnings potential."

Alaniz serves on the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, as well as on the Executive, Scholarship, and Governmental Affairs committees. "Representing the Livonia business community has been rewarding and has awakened a desire to further serve the community in the educational area," she said. "College was my first step in building a stable life for my family. My

desire is to help others understand how valuable this first step can be to their future."

After attending Delta College, Alaniz graduated from Central Michigan University in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in management information systems.

Alaniz has worked in the Detroit metro area for the past 25 years with increasing responsibility in governance and compliance roles with internal audit organizations in both the utilities and manufacturing industries.

Alaniz works in the Internal Audit department as a senior manager for TRW Automotive, headquartered in Livonia. TRW is ranked among the world's leading automotive suppliers of safe-

ty products, employing more than 60,000 in 26 countries.

"The trustee position, while an elected position, isn't a 'political' position from my perspective," she said. "As a governance and policy making body for the college, the responsibilities include governing the college by establishing broad policies and objectives, appointing and supporting the chief executive, ensuring the availability of adequate financial resources, and giving an accounting for the college's ability to meet its mission and objectives. My experience in the internal audit profession includes policy development and compliance activities covering corporate, business and technology operations."

Alaniz said current Schoolcraft trustees are respected professionals with valuable life experiences and political and community involvement. "What's missing on the board is a trustee with experience in a multi-cultural global company who can provide a valuable perspective on the needs of employees and companies in today's economy," she said.

Local companies are looking for skilled workers in both blue and white collar jobs, she added. However, with companies now forced to cut their training budgets, employees are taking on more of the cost for their continuing education. And with the current unemployment levels, individuals need to enhance their skills or

retrain for new careers to increase their opportunities to obtain employment and to fill that need of our local employers. "Both these groups need a trustee at Schoolcraft who understands and can speak to these challenges they face," Alaniz said.

"My goal as trustee will be to ensure Schoolcraft College can continue to meet the college's founding mission to provide a transformational learning experience that fits the needs of all individuals in our communities."

Further information is available by e-mailing Alaniz at Gretchen.Alaniz@gmail.com, calling (734) 765-5499 or visiting <https://www.facebook.com/GretchenAlanizSchoolcraftCollegeTrusteeCandidate>.

## Hat trick: W-W wins third Muth Award

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has scored a hat trick, when it comes to student achievement.

For the third time in as many years, one of the district's elementary schools has been awarded the Robert and Patricia Muth Excellence in Leadership Award by the Middle Cities Education Association.

Wildwood Elementary in Westland is the

latest recipient of the award that comes with \$1,500 prize to be used for school improvement. Hoover Elementary in Wayne received the award in 2010 and Walker-Winter Elementary in Canton in 2011.

"We are honored to have one of our schools selected for the Muth Award," said Greg Baracy, Wayne-Westland school superintendent. "The team at Wildwood is a dedicated group, who are committed to their students. The whole com-

munity is proud of their efforts."

"Wildwood Elementary School serves as an excellent example of how effective school improvement efforts can make a real difference in student learning," said Ray Telman, executive director of Middle Cities, who presented the 2012 honor to Wildwood Principal Shannon Blick.

"Thank very much for this opportunity," said Blick. "I can't tell you how proud I am, it was just an incredible process

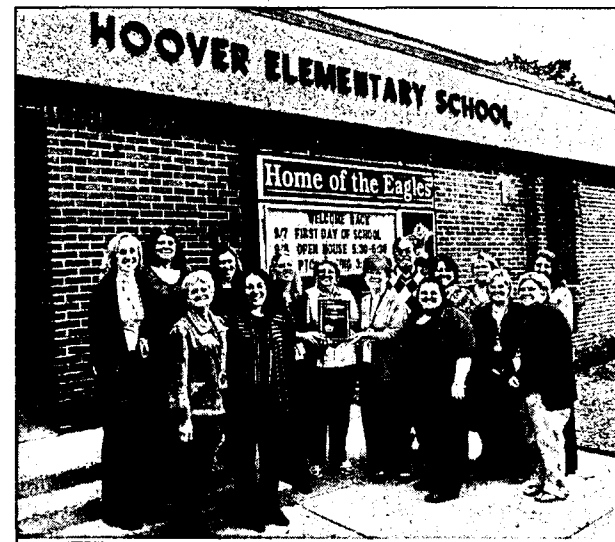
to go through with this team."

Joining her in accepting the award were Julie Rutherford, intervention specialist, second-grade teacher Lisa Sheppard and kindergarten teacher Jennifer Ferris, members of the leadership team who helped developed the plan to improve student learning.

The award honors K-12 schools in Michigan's urban school systems that demonstrate leadership in school improvement, specifically improvements that reflect gains in student achievement.

Schools applying for the award were required to provide information on how teachers, administrators and staff worked together to address school improvement, professional development, student achievement goals and community involvement among other areas. Each of the schools selected for this year's award was successful in preparing a comprehensive award entry that outlined their school improvement efforts and provided the evidence and data necessary to prove that their efforts were successful in helping improve student achievement, Telman said.

According to Telman, the judges were "very impressed" by Wildwood and cited four things: its strong professional learning community creat-



The staff of Wayne-Westland's Hoover Elementary School in Wayne - Lisa Rotenheber, Diane Deluca-Smith, Linda Goodin, Andrea D'Amico, Maureen Twomey, Amy Morse, Cheryl Rujan, Katherine Brake, Principal Jennifer Chambers, Kim Renas, Rachel Dean, Pamela Cusumano, Kimberly Lepish, Donna Carol and Rachel Slovinac - show of the Muth Award the school received for excellence in leadership in school improvement.

ed by the principal and the staff, the focus on the overall goals of the school in making decisions, the use of data to inform decision making and the high quality imbedded professional development.

"This requires not only a great amount of work through the course of the school year, day in and day out, by a dedicated staff and a dedicated administrator, it also requires a lengthy application process," said Paul Sallah, deputy superintendent for instruction. "It was 50 pages of data and research and there was obviously a considerable amount of time spent

in sharing what Wildwood does."

This is the second year that Telman has gone to the winning school districts to present the award.

"I'd like to be back here next year," he said.

School board President Carol Middel told Telman she hopes there is "a well-worn path" to the district for him.

"I'm very honored to be in your presence," she told the Wildwood staff. "You are hardworking people and people see how hard you work. Your efforts are appreciated."

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# Six vie in primary for McCotter's unexpired term

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

In case you didn't know, Westland and Garden City are having an election Wednesday.

Most of the candidates are spending their own money. Many are political newcomers who want to serve in U.S. Congress. Some are taking their first plunge into a political campaign.

Five candidates are running for the Republican nomination and one candidate for the Democratic nomination in a special primary election Wednesday in the current 11th Congressional District to fill the unexpired term of Thaddeus McCotter, who resigned July 6. The district serves Redford and the township will have to cover its share of holding the election, estimated to be over \$30,000.

The special election, which is expected to cost a total of \$650,000, was scheduled by Gov. Rick Snyder's office to fill the vacated seat.

Kerry Bentivolio of Milford, Nancy Cassis of Novi and Ken Crider, Carolyn Kavanagh and Steve King, all of Livonia, are running for the Republican nomination, with the winner to face David Curson of Belleville, who is running unopposed on the Democratic ticket, in the Nov. 6 general election.

Kavanagh, Crider and Curson have never run for political office before, though Crider was recently elected a precinct delegate in Livonia.

Wednesday's special election will occur in the old 11th Congressional District. In the newly reconfigured 11th District, Bentivolio, who won the Republican primary Aug. 7, will face Syed Taj, who was victorious in the Democratic primary, in the Nov. 6 general election.

## Kerry Bentivolio

Bentivolio, 61, a veteran of the Iraqi and Vietnam wars, a former school-



Bentivolio

teacher and currently a reindeer farmer, ran for the unexpired seat because he was already

running for Congress and because he believes the 11th District deserves representation through the end of the year.

Bentivolio is tired of the "overspending, overborrowing and overregulating" of government and wants to end any more debt increases.

"It will give me a head start," Bentivolio said of the special election. "There will be budget issues, and all kinds of issues. I'm still wrapping my head around it, and I'll have to do a lot of homework."

Bentivolio has spent the past few weeks contacting supporters and thanking them, he said.

Should Bentivolio win the special primary and special general election in the old 11th District and win the general election in the new 11th District, it will help him better represent the district, according to campaign manager Robert Dindoffer. "He will get a couple of months of seniority, which will help him get better committees," Dindoffer said.

## Nancy Cassis

Cassis, 68, a former state senator, decided last week that she is not "actively



Cassis

campaigning" for the special election. She emailed reporters with a statement, but stopped short of endorsing Bentivolio.

"Much has been made of my comments from earlier this summer on *Off the Record* in which I stated that if I did not win the 11th District primary I would withdraw from the special election," Cassis said. "I would like to clarify that, at that time, I made the remark in the context of only two filed candidates and for one to withdraw would save taxpayers the \$650,000 expense of a special election. That all changed when three more people from Livonia filed to run. Thus my name is on the ballot along with four other Republicans and one Democrat.

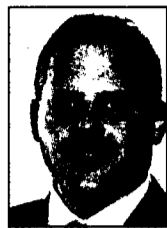
"The voters will go to the polls, see the names that are on the ballot, and our democratic process will work itself out as it has

done for over 200 years in our great nation.

"It is time to lay our differences aside and work to get our Republican ticket elected in November starting with Mitt Romney."

## Ken Crider

Crider, 47, a superintendent of heating and air conditioning at Kelley Bros., a Livonia company, is running because he believes voters should



Crider

have more than one option on the ballot. Crider decided to run after Bentivolio was the only candidate who filed.

"We have a lot of the same views," Crider said of Bentivolio. "But he takes his views too far."

Crider describes himself as a "Christian conservative Republican." He acknowledges that Bentivolio is the candidate to beat in the race and knows it will be a challenge in his first campaign and election. "The best thing about it is that I have no baggage," Crider said.

He said his campaign is a grass-roots campaign. He has spent money on campaign signs and wrist bands, Crider said.

Crider said he is opposed to abortion. He said he was raised by adoptive parents. "My biological mother was homeless," he said. "If she had the choice to abort me, I wouldn't be here."

Crider also has participated in protests in Washington, D.C., with his wife Penny. "We weren't happy with the health care bill," he said. "I understand that we need some change. But I'm a free market person and I don't want the government involved."

Crider said his campaign consists of four people going door to door, making phone calls and placing campaign signs.

## Carolyn Kavanagh

Kavanagh, 33, a restaurant and wine consultant, is the daughter of 16th District Judge Sean Kavanagh. She ran because she enjoys public service. She volunteered to assist in Haiti after the earthquake



Kavanagh

and in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina struck there several years ago.

"Politics is a natural progression for me to represent my community on a larger scale," she said. "The opportunity here is really unique. It is a month-long campaign versus a six-month campaign."

Kavanagh has assisted with previous local campaigns. She's raised some money for her race from friends and family, and has put up campaign signs along major roads in the 11th District.

Her demographic, a younger female in Congress, isn't prominent in Washington, so she'd like to represent her generation in Congress, she said.

Kavanagh expects Congress will work on budget issues and vote on income taxes. She would vote to maintain tax cuts, she said. "This will be a lame-duck session," she said. "The community needs to be represented on every single vote."

Reactions are positive from the community about her campaign run, Kavanagh said. "Everyone is shocked that this seat is available, but I hear from a lot of people who say to me, 'That's great; we need a younger person,'" she said.

## Steve King

King, 57, a musician and certified teacher, is running because he sees the opportunity to serve the



King

public, even if it is only for a few weeks. King doesn't know if any votes will take

place in Washington the final weeks of the year. He said he would keep employees who remain after the criminal charges were filed against four former McCotter staffers. "I would reach out to residents who have not been able to get help over the past few years," he said. "I would help them. You aren't going to be able to go and change Washington."

King, a former Livonia school board member, decided to run as a Republican because he considers himself a "moderate Republican." When asked why he ran as a Democrat for state representative against Republican John Walsh in 2008, King said: "I wanted to beat him. That goes on all the time."

King is running because he doesn't think Bentivolio will serve the district well. "He might be a great guy or a nice person, but that doesn't set you up to be a legislator," King said.

King said he has met many residents of the 11th District during his summer concerts with his band, Steve King & the Dittilies. He is also maintaining an online presence through Facebook.

## David Curson

Curson, 63, served in the U.S. Marines, then worked at Ford Motor Co.'s Rawsonville plant. A



Curson

tool-and-die maker, Curson, the lone Democrat on the ballot, was also active with the

UAW and worked on a task force with Ron Gettelfinger on the government loans to Chrysler and GM.

Curson said he was outraged when McCotter's petitions were duplicated and then McCotter resigned, leaving the 11th District without representation. "It was just foolish," Curson said. "For him to abandon the citizens of the 11th District, I was outraged because there will be important legislation going on. With all of the health care debate and legislation, I felt it was our duty to have representation."

Curson said his experience in the UAW in negotiating disputes between workers and management trained him well for Congress. "When there were problems or issues, I'd sit down with someone across the table," he said. "We want a win-win for both sides. That's the way government used to work, but now, it's just obnoxious."

Curson expects the jobs bill to be up for a vote before the end of the year. "It affects the economy at all levels," he said. "I would work to get support to get that passed." Curson said he also would work on veteran and health care issues.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591

## ACHIEVERS

Christie Mouzourakis of Garden City was awarded a bachelor of fine arts degree in graphic design during commencement ceremonies Lawrence Technological University's 80th Commencement Exercises, in May.

Lawrence Tech's class of 2012 included some 900 graduates.

Bethany Thrun of Gar-

den City recorded perfect grades and was named to the President's List at Saginaw Valley State University for the winter 2012 semester. To be eligible for the President's List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours and earn a 4.0 semester grade point average.


Westland residents Bethany J. Dudley, Ken-

dall C. Gilbert, Calynn I. Lustig and Michael A. Moore were among almost 4,000 students who earned degrees from Grand Valley State University during the last academic year.

Dudley received her bachelor of social work degree, Gilbert a bachelor of arts degree and Lustig and Moore, bachelor of science degrees.

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2 Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 07/20/2012. See branch for details.

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Library staffers "geek" the Garden City fire truck which was on hand for youngsters to see during the summer reading program finale party.

## Library wraps up summer reading program

There was a lot of laughing, dancing and singing at the Garden City Library's summer reading finale party, headlined by family musician Jim Gill.

"We are honored to have Jim Gill performing for us this year," said Stephanie Charlefour, youth and teen librarian. "It capped off a fantastic summer of programs, reading and celebration."

The concert was followed by the party where participants redeemed tickets they earned for prizes - everything from water guns to rings and bracelets.

"Everyone who attended seemed thrilled with their prizes," said Charlefour.

Summer reading is meant to be fun but also serves the purpose of maintaining the bridge between grades, according to Charlefour. By reading all summer long, students will have an easier time going back to school than their counterparts that did not read all summer.

"I was so pleased with how everything went and



Zack and Kyle Parks listen to Jim Gill who performed at the Garden City Library's summer reading program's finale party.

we received much praise from those in attendance" said Lawrence Marble, library director.

The library staff has a special thank you for the sponsors who supported the summer reading program:

John Santeiu and Sons Funeral Home, Garden City Medical Center, Gordon Chevrolet, Cherry Hill Dental, Urgent Care One, Dr. Kundan Sata, the Rotary Club, Friends of the Garden City Library, Hayden's

of Canton, American Pie, Gamerz U.S.A., Detroit Zoo, Imagine Theater, Jungle Java, Dairy Queen, Riverside Skating and The Skating Station.

"I also want to send out a thank you to the Garden City Fire Department, which stopped by to show the fire truck to the children" Marble added. "Here at the library, we geek Summer Reading, and our proud fire fighters who protect our community."

## GARDEN CLIPPINGS

### Mom 2Mom Sale

Garden City High School is having a Mom2Mom Sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6.

The price is \$25 for an 8-foot table, including space for a standard size clothes rack you provide or small shelf. The seller keeps all the profits from everything sold at their table. A large item area will also be available for items that do not fit on or under the seller's table - high chairs, strollers, exercisers, swings, etc. There will also be a pre-sale for those who reserve a table. More than 65 tables will be available. Set-up will be Friday evening.

Admission to the sale is \$1. A concession stand will be open throughout the sale and there also will be a bake sale. All profits from this sale will go to the GCHS PTSA.

For more information, or to reserve a table, call (734) 367-0898. Email Sheryll at Gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com for a table agreement. No Vendors please.

Garden City High School is at 6500 Middlebelt Road north of Ford.

### Zumba classes

Zumba classes are returning to Merriman Road Baptist Church in September - Come on Back!

The Girlfriends of Grace Women's Ministry will provide an eight-week session Thursday, Sept. 13, through Thursday, Nov. 1. Check-in/registration begins at 7:30 p.m., the Zumba session begins at 8 p.m. and lasts for approximately one hour.

Attendees must be 18 years or older. Wear comfortable workout wear. A sweat towel and a bottle of drinking water is also recommended. A donation will be taken at the door for every class to cover the cost of the certified Zumba instructor. Each attendee will be required to sign a liability waiver releasing the church and the class instructor from any and all liabilities related to the attendee's participation in the exercise class.

Enter the building through the gym doors on the north side of the building. To save a spot arrive at 7:30 p.m.

### District hours

Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb, D-District 9, has announced her office hours beginning this September in the communities of Garden City, Dearborn Heights and Redford Township.

Commissioner Webb's office hours during this period will be as follows:

• The second Monday of each month in Garden City at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, at 10 a.m.

• The third Monday of each month in Dearborn Heights at the Berwyn Senior Center, 26155 Richardson Road, at 10 a.m. Office hours at the Eton Center, 4900 Pardee, are by appointment only. Call to schedule a meeting.

• The fourth Monday of each month in Redford Township at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, at 10 a.m.

The hours are scheduled to provide constituents the opportunity to discuss important issues and express concerns in a comfortable setting with Webb.

For residents who are unable to attend daytime office hours, Webb will host evening hours by appointment only. Call (313) 224-0930 to reserve an evening hour meeting.

### Outdoor Flea Market

An outdoor flea market is being held the 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the second and third Saturday of the month through September at the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, north of Ford Road.

The cost is \$15 for a 10-by-10-foot space, payable the day of the flea market. No advance reservations are accepted. The flea market is held outside at the Straight Farm House and is cancelled during inclement weather. Upcoming market dates are Sept. 8 and 15.

Call Diane, the manager of the Garden City Craftique Mall, at (734) 765-7999 for more information.

### Challenge Grant

The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum have received financial commitments again this year from several individuals who will match up to \$10,000 in donations to the organization.

The deadline to submit pledges for the dollar-to-dollar matching grant is Oct. 31. If you donate \$25, the total donation to the Friends is \$50. FGCHM is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and does not receive financial support from the City of Garden City for its operation and maintenance. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

This is the third and final year of a three-year matching grant campaign to help preserve the Garden City Historical Museum. Donations can be made payable to FGCHM and sent to the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.



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# Navy Band's Wind Ensemble presents free concert

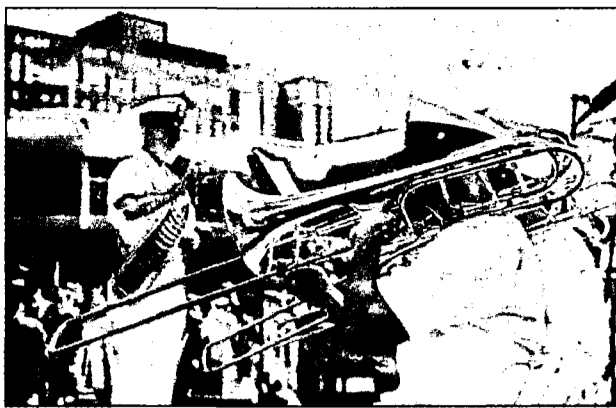
The Wind Ensemble of the Navy Band Great Lakes, joined by members of the Marine Corps Band New Orleans, will present a free patriotic concert at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9, on the steps of Livonia City Hall.

(Please note: The starting time of 6 p.m. is accurate; it was listed as a different time in the City Newsletter.)

The concert will commemorate the 200th anniversary of both the War of 1812 and *The Star Spangled Banner*. The show is among the area events to mark Detroit Navy Week 2012.

No tickets are required for this free concert, which will be held on the south-facing side of Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive. Visitors are asked to bring a lawn chair or a blanket for seating on the lawn.

"Pride in Service" has been the theme for Navy Band Great Lakes for



Dubbed "America's Band" by President Woodrow Wilson, Navy Band Great Lakes annually entertains more than 60 million people as the U.S. Navy's "Ambassadors to the Midwest."

more than 100 years. From 1911, when the first bugler reported for duty, to 1917 when the bandmaster was John Philip Sousa, to today's Bandmaster, Navy Lt. Patrick K. Sweeten, the music of Navy Band Great Lakes represents the pride and professionalism that is synonymous with the U.S. Navy.

Navy Band Great Lakes

performs more than 600 times each year throughout a 12-state area of the United States. Dubbed "America's Band" by President Woodrow Wilson, Navy Band Great Lakes annually entertains more than 60 million people as the U.S. Navy's "Ambassadors to the Midwest." Navy Band Great Lakes is homeported at Naval Station



Lt. Patrick Sweeten conducts the Navy Band Great Lakes.

Great Lakes near North Chicago.

Marine Corps Band New Orleans was established Oct. 1, 1978, and is under the control of Marine Corps Forces Reserve. The band is comprised of active duty Marines stationed at the Naval Support Activity Base in New Orleans and each year travels throughout the United States performing more than 250 concerts, parades and ceremonies, entertaining more than 6 million people. The band

supports all units of the Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing, Fourth Marine Division, Marine Logistics Group and Marine Corps Mobilization Command.

No rain date is available for the concert.

Navy Week in Detroit (Sept. 4-10) will feature numerous events, including the opportunity for residents to get an up-close look at the tall ship Niagara, a replica of the ship sailed by Capt. Oliver Hazard Perry during the Battle of Lake Erie,

and two modern U.S. Navy ships, the USS De Wert and the USS Hurricane.

For more information on Navy Band Great Lakes, log on to <http://www1.netc.navy.mil/nstc/NAVYBAND/index.html>. More information on Marine Corps Band New Orleans can be found at <http://www.marines.mil/unit/marforres/MFRHQ/Band/Default.aspx#MFRBanner>.

For more details, contact the Mayor's office at (734) 466-2201.

# Foundations holds third annual Veterans' Summit

Attorneys and advocates may earn required continuing education credits at the Canton Community Foundation's third Annual Veterans' Summit Sept. 12.

Since its first summit in 2010, the Canton foundation has provided continuing education for more than 110 attorneys and advocates.

The training is part of the annual two-day Veterans' Summit. The first day, Sept. 12, is devoted to continuing education training and the second day, Sept. 13, is entirely for veterans and their families to learn about potential VA benefits.

Events on both days will be at the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, 39000

Schoolcraft, Livonia.

Attorneys, advocates, veteran service offices and Michigan county counselors who want updated information about VA benefits are invited to the Sept. 12 program from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Attorneys and Veterans Affairs Accredited Claims Agents are required to be certified through Veterans Affairs to legally represent veterans who seek benefits. Certification requires continuing education credits every three years. CLE credits are provided through the State Bar of Texas.

Attendance at the Sept. 12 program provides attorneys and advocates with the required three credit hours of continuing education, including a half credit for ethics training.

The foundation is the only organization in Michigan that provides training. The VA does not provide training for attorneys and advocates or for veterans seeking benefits.

During the afternoon session, attorneys and advocates will learn about the benefits claim process, including types of claims, ways to prove a claim, veteran status and discharge status. Also on tap is discussion about the appeal process, followed by an ethics review.

Legal education for advocates and attorneys at the summit is supported with a grant from the Dewitt C. Holbrook Charitable Trust. This is the third year the Canton Community Foundation has received a grant from

the trust, which supports legal education in Wayne County.

"The grant recognizes the valuable resource this CCF program is to the veterans' community in Wayne County and the surrounding communities," said CCF board member and attorney Jim Fausone, a partner with Fausone Bohn LLP and Legal Help for Veterans PLLC in Northville and Westland city attorney.

The importance of training attorneys and advocates to work for veterans is significant because Michigan is home to more than 704,000 veterans, making it the 11th largest population of veterans in the country.

Yet Michigan ranks poorly at 53rd of 53 in the geograph-

ic distribution of VA expenditures in the country. If Michigan's share of the pie increased to even the national media of \$4,703, the state could bring in an additional \$1.03 billion in benefits for veterans, boosting the southeast Michigan economy, said Joan Noricks, Canton foundation president.

The fee for the event and CLE is \$150 for those who are an attorney or Veterans Affairs Accredited Claims Agent. Attendance is complimentary for those who are a veteran services officer of Michigan county counselor.

Registration is required at [www.cantonfoundation.org](http://www.cantonfoundation.org) or by calling the Canton Community Foundation at (734) 495-1200.


## Waltonwood Senior Living

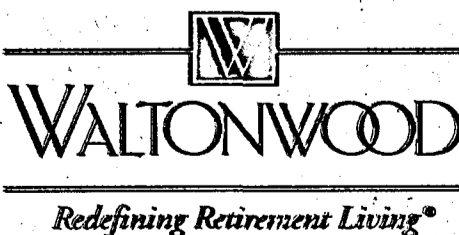
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# Drive aims to ease diaper deficit

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Calling it "a labor of love," area volunteer Marybeth Levine has distributed nearly 1.4 million diapers to social service agencies and non-profits across southeast Michigan since she founded the Detroit Area Diaper Bank in 2009.

An impassioned advocate for struggling families, Levine needs help of her own as she launches her campaign to collect 200,000 diapers by Thanksgiving to restock supplies and help children and incontinent adults.

"The demand never decreases," she said. "It's always up."

Though the diaper bank already helps over 60

agencies serving Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Redford, Livonia, Garden City, Farmington and numerous other communities, Levine has a waiting list of other groups needing help.

Yet, she never seems to tire of helping people, such as struggling, single mothers who burst into tears when they realize the diapers they can't afford will be provided by an agency Levine assists.

"That gets me going," said Levine, who, with husband Steven, has three elementary-age boys.

## Safety net

Levine started her volunteer work to help agencies meet a need not covered by safety-net pro-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marybeth Levine continues to collect diapers as part of her efforts to help the Detroit Area Diaper Bank provide diapers for families who can't afford them.

grams such as WIC (Women, Infants & Children), food stamps and Medicare.

Her website, [www.detroitareadiaperbank.org](http://www.detroitareadiaperbank.org), keeps a running tally of donated diapers but, just as importantly, it offers myriad ways people and businesses can help by donating diapers or money, setting up diaper drop-off locations or organizing diaper drives. Partial containers of diapers are accepted.

One of the diaper bank's biggest supporters, the Canton Public Library, plans to help again by parking a donated truck outside the library 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 14-15 for its annual Stuff the Truck diaper drive.

Library Director Eva Davis hopes to collect a record-shattering 40,000 diapers this season.

"We have had such a great response every year that we have done the diaper drive, and it has grown steadily," she said. "I'm willing to bet we're going to make (our goal)."

Library patrons include children, seniors and disabled people, many of whom Davis said "are acutely aware of how much these diaper supplies cost and how great the need is," especially during tough economic times.

Levine has doubled the diaper bank's distribution tally since last fall's campaign, when the *Observer* reported that 639,000 diapers had been donated to nonprofits, charities and social service agencies. The latest total of nearly 1.4 million diapers has helped organizations such as Starfish Family Services, which serves much of Wayne County; the Westland-based Wayne County Family Center; The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps; the Redford Pregnancy Counseling Center; and the regional Senior Alliance, among many others.

"Marybeth and the Detroit Area Diaper Bank have provided over 30,000 diapers to us since they started," Pau-

la Brown, Starfish chief development officer, said. "That's 30,000 wet bottoms that would not have been covered without her."

## Need for help

Diaper bank recipients say many struggling families face decisions whether to buy food or diapers, and often they don't have the facilities to wash cloth diapers and reuse them.

"I don't know what we would do without Marybeth," Brown said. "This lets us focus on other problems such as getting resources to help stabilize families. One of our goals is making sure young students arrive at school ready to succeed."

Levine has said parents who can't afford diapers can't leave a child at day care to go to work or school. Some children with disabilities never outgrow the need for diapers, she said, and seniors who can't afford incontinence supplies are pushed closer to becoming homebound or in a nursing home.

Levine initiates a fall campaign to help the diaper bank's recipients survive a holiday season when demand for supplies grows and donations can slow down. She has repeatedly acknowledged the help she receives from supporters such as Canton-based Extra Storage Space and MSA Delivery Service — companies where she stores diapers and receives shipments.

Levine relies on diaper drives from schools, community organizations, places of worship and other entities to help the diaper bank, which she said will be needed as long there's no other safety net.

"The diapers go out just as quickly as they come in," she said.

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# Pastor pleased with turnout for Hope 4 Western Wayne

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Dan McGhee remembers the day he and Ian Mulvaney stood behind the former Patchin School in Westland and looked at the field.

The pastor of Harvest Bible Church, McGhee told Mulvaney that "if God gives us this property, I can't see us not doing what we saw in Battle Creek."

The church was able to purchase the building and property from the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and McGhee and Mulvaney were able to recreate Battle Creek's one-day event that offered residents of western Wayne County and beyond a plethora of services free of charge.

"The wheels started turning and that was the genesis of Hope 4 Western Wayne County," said the Canton resident.

### Prayers answered

People from throughout Wayne County and some from Oakland County attended Hope 4 Western Wayne County Aug. 18. McGhee believes that social media helped "get the word out beyond far beyond what we expected."

"I'm very pleased with what is happening here today, we didn't have any idea as to what to expect," McGhee said. "We put out invitations and waited to see who would come. We trusted God to bring people here."

"Our prayers were definitely answered here today and our hopes and prayers are to use the whole field not half next year," added Ian Mulvaney.

White canopies dotted the church field, where free services were offered. The event provided families with free bags of groceries, family portraits, medical and dental checkups and a hot dog lunch. The Westland Fire Department had its mobile smoke house on



Mary Williams of Inkster prays with Harvest Bible Church member Bethany Moses of Garden City.



Pastor Dan McGhee of Harvest Bible Church in Westland couldn't help but smile at the number of people who turned out for Hope 4 Western Wayne, a free community event.

was the kids play area. Kaden also was scheduled to get his haircut, and the family was waiting to have their picture taken.

"It was something to do to get the kids out of the house," said Danielle Ribitsch. "I think something like this is good for the community, it keeps people together."

Catrina McCulloh of Westland heard about the event from her aunt who's involved with Common Ground. Like the Ribitsch family, she, too, took advantage of the family portrait - "I can never can get them to sit down and do it."

"I'm very thankful for it, this is a great kids' event," she said. "It's very well organized. The kids love it."

There comments were music to McGhee's ears who was thankful for the all the groups, including 30 churches, that joined in to make Hope 4 Western Wayne a success.

"It's really exciting to have all these folks here," he said. "It's a real joy for us to help the community like this."

smason@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-6751



Rick Marshal of Westland helps hand out many of the 4,000 bags of food provided during the day. Ivy Cook of Lincoln Park also helped.



Daniel Ribitsch of Garden City watches as his four-year-old Brianna considers going in the Bounce House at Hope 4 Western Wayne.

site to help teach fire safety. There also was a children's area with games and inflatables.

Common Ground, a women's ministry of Connections Church in Canton, was there to give out sacks filled with school supplies.

"Our mission is take the love of God from the pew to the pavement and meet people right where they're at," said Tami Frailey. "We have an opportunity to do that with this."

The group held an event and women from 32 different churches gathered more than \$4,000 in school supplies in one night, using them to make up 943 bags

to give out.

"A man who was doing the groceries went and got the rest of the stuff so we could give out 1,000 bags," said Frailey.

Close to 300 volunteers from businesses, churches and services organizations helped with the event. It was scheduled to open at 10 a.m., but according to Melissa Mulvaney, the line started forming at 8 a.m.

"When they come in they're free to go wherever they want, the last place they enter is the prayer tent," said Mulvaney who worked on the project with her husband.

Paul Citkowski of Canton

heard about the event in the newspaper. A parishioner at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, he decided to come and help out.

"I'm very impressed with what they're doing here," he said.

"We're doing guest services and security," added Barry Brice of Canton. "We reach out to them, if

they look lost, and make them smile. Our principle is that everyone is a guest of honor today."

### Visitors

Among the guests were Daniel and Danielle Ribitsch of Garden City and their children Brianna, 4, and Kaden, 7. Among their stops

## CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING  
SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on October 17, 2012 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

Publish: September 2, 2012

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### AUCTION TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 - 10:00 AM

- Unit No: 102 Michael Jordan, Misc items,
- Unit No: 108 Vicki Abbott, Air compressor, table saw, furniture, misc. items
- Unit No: 302 Tennill Heard, Tires, wheels, camping items, golf clubs, misc items
- Unit No: 626 Kelly Jennison, Furniture, bedding, room fans
- Unit No: 822 Merial Olweegn, Car parts, furniture, kitchen items, bicycles

Publish: August 26, 30 and Sept. 2 & 6, 2012

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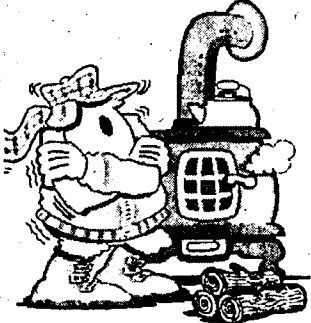
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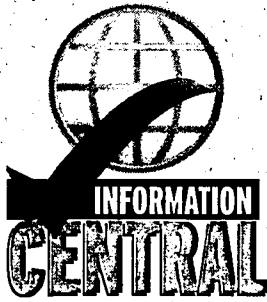
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# Canine companions: More than pets

If you missed National Dog Day on Aug. 26 it still is the perfect time to celebrate our canine friends and consider the many ways that dogs are wonderful companions and helpers. Dogs provide a variety of services from working with law enforcement officers and firefighters, detecting bombs, sniffing out drugs, finding disaster victims, to serving the disabled and providing joy and companionship.

There are many types of Assistance Dogs, who are specifically trained to assist an individual with a disability, and have a legal right to do so. Assistance Dogs include guide dogs for the blind, hearing or signal dogs and service dogs that can provide assistance for individuals with other impairments.

While Service or Assistance Dogs are specifically trained to provide tasks related to assisting humans, Therapy Dogs are trained to provide love, affection and comfort and commonly visit hospitals, nursing homes, retirement homes, schools and libraries.



In order to become a Therapy dog, a dog must be a year old and have the proper temperament (friendly, gentle, obedient, and calm). Otherwise, a Therapy Dog can be any age or breed.

Children at the Westland library can look forward to "My Book Buddy" sessions in September. Buddy, a black lab mix and certified therapy dog, will be available to listen as children read to him. Reading to a dog provides children with a willing listener that won't judge their reading ability or correct them, if they make mistakes. Because of this, reading can become more enjoyable for children who would otherwise be discouraged.

Check out these and other titles about dogs

from the library:

- *The Right Dog for the Job: Ira's Path from Service Dog to Guide Dog* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent.

- *Partners in Independence: A Success Story of Dogs and the Disabled* by Ed Eames and Toni Eames.

- *Understanding Dogs: Living and Working with Canine Companions* by Clinton Sanders.

- *Dog's Best Friend: Annals of the Dog-Human Relationship* by Mark Derr.

- *Therapy Dogs: Training Your Dog to Help Others* by Kathy Diamond Davis.

Give us a call at (734) 326-6123, check the online catalog at [catalog.westland.lib.mi.us/](http://catalog.westland.lib.mi.us/) or stop by the library to learn more and find out when Buddy will be visiting.

### Highlighted Activities

Friends of the Library Book Sale: 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5, Preview Sale for Friends members, noon-6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat-

urday, Sept. 8

Get books for great prices! All proceeds go to the Friends of the Library who support the mission of the library.

*English as a Second Language (ESL) Class*  
Registration: 10-11:30 a.m. Sept. 7

Register for a nine-week ESL (English as a Second Language) Class conducted by Diane and Richard Goers. Classes run 10-11:30 a.m. Fridays from Sept. 14 through Nov. 9. Students with children are welcome!

*Debt Management for You*: 7 p.m. Sept. 12

A representative from GreenPath debt solutions, one of the largest and most trusted non-profit credit counseling agencies in the nation, will

be at the library to provide you with information about free debt counseling available to help get you back on financial track again. Sign up online, call (734) 326-6123 or visit the library to sign up for this program that may change your life.

*Job Seekers Lab*: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign up required.

Computer classes are offered all year long. Contact the library to find out more. The library offers One-on-one computer classes. Call (734) 326-6123.

Information Central was compiled by Tara Scott. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org).

## Run/walk to benefit Madonna students

The Crusader 5K and Madonna Mile, a 3.1-mile run or one-mile walk benefiting the Student Emergency Relief Fund at Madonna University in Livonia, will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15.

The cost is \$45 for the 5K, \$25 for the walk.

The Student Emergency Relief Fund helps students experiencing a financial emergency while attending classes.

The Crusader 5K will be run on a paved USATF-certified course and

will be timed electronically by Running Fit Timing. Medals will be awarded to the top three 5K finishers in six age groups.

The race starts at Madonna University's Activities Center. Runners and walkers will be routed through the Felician Sisters' properties of the Central Convent, Ladywood High School, the Montessori and back to the University Activities Center.

For more information or to register, visit [www.tinyurl.com/Crusader5k](http://www.tinyurl.com/Crusader5k) or call (734) 432-5426.

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# Group hopes for 100 'Roofs for Woofs'

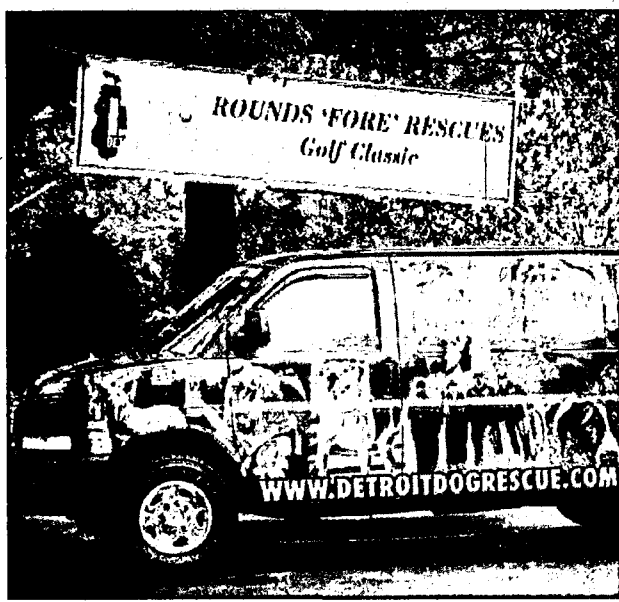
By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Mobilizing to help dogs that are living — and dying — in deplorable conditions, a Canton-based Home Depot store and Detroit Dog Rescue are hoping to marshal a small army of volunteers to build 100 doghouses.

An event dubbed 100 Roofs for Woofs happens 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, outside the Home Depot store at 45900 Michigan Avenue, just west of Canton Center.

"We're excited to have an event for needy dogs," store operations manager Laura Chevrette said.

Kelly McLaughlin, Detroit Dog Rescue's director of programs and development, cited a dire need for housing to protect dogs, often in poor neighborhoods, that are penned in or chained up



Detroit Dog Rescue is teaming up with Home Depot in Canton to try to build 100 doghouses in the "Roofs for Woofs" campaign Sept. 8.

in places with no escape from scorching summer weather and frigid winter conditions.

"We have found dogs that have frozen to death or died from the heat," McLaughlin said.

The first 100 Roofs for Woofs comes as Detroit Dog Rescue launches an effort, In The Dog House, to encourage dog owners to provide proper shelter, though some have difficulty affording housing for outdoor pets.

"Dog houses are expensive," McLaughlin said. "There's a huge demand." Doghouse-building vol-

unteers or those willing to donate to 100 Roofs for Woofs can go to [www.detroitdogrescue.com](http://www.detroitdogrescue.com), call McLaughlin at (313) 458-8014, ext. 308, or send an e-mail to [kellymddr@gmail.com](mailto:kellymddr@gmail.com). Detroit Dog Rescue also has a Facebook page.

DDR is asking for a minimum four-hour commitment for the event. Organizers also advise donors that even \$1 can help save a life, while \$50 can build an entire dog house.

Chevrette said 20 Home Depot associates already have signed up for the

all-ages 100 Roofs for Woofs. Company employees already have been involved in outreach programs to benefit schools, veterans and Canton's Christmas in Action event, which provides home repairs for low-income seniors and the disabled.

Chevrette said 100 Roofs for Woofs is set to happen outside the Home Depot store's garden gates. Though no dogs will be on site, she said, pictures will be available for rescued dogs that need homes.

This marks the first time the doghouse-building event has occurred without being linked to another effort, such as DDR's Pet Pantry Project, which offers free dog-food distribution.

DDR already has 50 pet owners ready to receive 50 of the new doghouses, while the rest will be distributed as colder weather approaches, McLaughlin said.

She said 100 Roofs for Woofs, with a DJ and lunch, promises a fun time for a good cause.

"It's going to be a good time," she said, though most importantly, the effort will help dogs in desperate need of shelter. "The problem is huge."

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Garden City Department of Public Services Director Jack Barnes (left) and DPS employee Sandy Lyngvar treat the basins on a residential street.

## Garden City treats catch basins to fight mosquitoes

The Garden City Department of Public Services has begun treating more than 3000 catch basins in the city in an effort to fight mosquito breeding and to combat the possible spread of the West Nile Virus.

Water soluble packets are being dropped through the grates from street level and the chemicals act as a larvicide to bring a quick end to the breeding cycle.

The chemical is not harmful to the environment nor to wildlife that relies on mosquitoes as a food source.

DPS Director Jack Barnes did a random sampling of catch basins and found that about 50 percent of them were actually dry due to the lack of rain this summer.

"We decided to err

on the side of caution and proceed with treating these catch basins" Barnes said. "While we are not aware of any cases of West Nile Virus in our community, it certainly doesn't hurt to take this proactive step."

The West Nile Virus has claimed five lives in Michigan. All five have been among people older than age 50. The outbreak should peak sometime in September, then drop when cooler temperatures end the mosquito breeding season.

West Nile disease is a mosquito-borne illness. Those at greatest risk are people older than 50, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems, such as kidney disease and cancer patients.

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# Churchill tames Bobcats

## Chargers roll to 44-16 win

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

It was only fitting during the week of the Republican Party convention that there was another big elephant waiting in the room.

Livonia Churchill made quite a statement Thursday night with a resounding 44-16 over Grand Blanc, a team that was ranked one of the top five in the state in preseason.

Churchill rallied from a 16-13 halftime deficit with 31 unanswered points to improve to 2-0 overall.

The Chargers, although outgained 495-345 in total offense, took advantage of eight Grand Blanc turnovers, including six by the Bobcats in the second half.

"It seems to me high school football is all about mistakes and getting rid of them," Churchill coach John Filiatraut said. "The first half we made some mistakes, and it was a good game. The first half luckily we were able to stay in it, to be honest with you. The sec-



Churchill's Jeremy Lewis (18) goes high to make the catch over Grand Blanc's Trevon Avery during Thursday's non-conference encounter.

GARY SHATTER

Please see CHURCHILL, B2

## Spartan effort

### Mims, defense sink Vikings, 41-7

Livonia Stevenson quarterback Joe Mims is off to a hot start and the Spartans' defense did some heavy lifting of its own as the Spartans improved to 2-0 Thursday night with a resounding 41-7 football win at Walled Lake Central.

Mims threw for 233 yards and four touchdowns, including a pair of 10-yard tosses to Devin Kelly, another 10-yarder to C.J. Weiss and a 24-yard pass to Billy Bonanno — all coming in the first half as the Spartans built a 28-7 lead.

The 6-foot, 170-pound

#### PREP FOOTBALL

senior was coming off a sterling effort in a last-second 26-20 season-opening victory over Livonia Franklin, when he completed 15-of-20 passes for 238 yards and two TDs.

"Joe played a very good game," Stevenson second-year coach Matt Fielder said. "We used some play-action stuff and were able to get him out of the pocket."

Mims also executed a fake punt to help set up Stevenson's first TD in the opening quarter.

Weiss also contributed

an 8-yard TD run in the third quarter, while Ross Shaw scored on a 1-yard run for the Spartans in the final quarter.

Stevenson finished with a total 123 yards on the ground, with Mims leading the way with 63 yards on seven carries.

Bonanno, a junior, was the top receiver with three catches for 75 yards. Nick O'Brien went 5-for-5 on extra points.

Meanwhile, Stevenson's defense limited the Vikings (1-1) to a mere 56 yards in total offense

Please see ROUNDUP, B2

## Hartland QB throws for five TDs vs. Glenn

Quarterback Stephen Milarch threw five touchdown passes Thursday night and Hartland's defense held host Westland John to minus-15 yards rushing in a convincing 47-13 football victory.

The Rockets, who slipped to 0-2 overall, trailed 19-0 after one quarter and 40-7 at halftime.

Milarch's favorite target was Bryan Ridley, who had four catches (all TDs) for 172 yards. Ridley caught scoring passes of 60, 37, 56 and 37 yards, while Austin Pierce also had a TD grab.

Milarch was 7-of-8 pass-

ing for 246 yards and one interception (by Devin Spalding).

The Eagles (2-0) also added 173 yards rushing for a total offense of 409.

Glenn junior quarterback Chris Scheffer hit 10-of-22 passes for 122 yards and a pair of TD passes, including a 33-yard strike to Spalding in the second quarter followed by a 52-yard toss to DaMario Jones in the third.

#### Wayne falls, 36-7

Buck West threw touchdown passes of 5 and 7 yards to Joe Growen to

Please see FOOTBALL, B2

## Shaw makes 14 tackles

Former Livonia Clarenceville High star and Penn State University standout Tim Shaw made 14 tackles to go along with an interception that he returned 12 yards in the Tennessee Titans' 10-6 NFL exhibition victory Thursday night over the visiting New Orleans Saints.

Shaw, a special teams captain who is entering his sixth NFL season, recorded five solo stops and nine assists.

## Parent lifts MU women

Ashley Parent tallied her second and third goals of the season on a hot Friday afternoon as the Madonna University women's soccer team defeated Fanshawe (Ontario) for the second time this season, 2-1.

Fanshawe's Marisa Oliveria scored unassisted in the third minute before Parent answered in the 51st minute off an assist from Amanda Ferrick.

The Amherstburg, Ontario, native then notched the game-winner in the 72nd minute from Katlyn Krysiak.

Blaire Schmalenberg made three saves as MU improved to 2-1 overall.

Fanshawe falls to 0-2.

## Owens stops Lady Ocelots

Taylor Avers' goal in the 31st minute proved to be the difference Wednesday as host Owens Technical Community College edge Schoolcraft College 1-0 in a key NJCAA Region XII women's soccer match held in Toledo.

Jill Burkholder assisted on the game-winner and goalkeeper Erika Brinkman made four saves en route to the shutout as the Express improved to 2-0 overall and 2-0 in Region XII.

Goalkeeper Tara Gessler made six saves for the Lady Ocelots (2-1, 0-1).

"We put a lot of pressure against Owens in the second half, but couldn't finish the opportunities that we had," said Schoolcraft coach Deepak Shivraman, whose team held a 14-3 shot advantage during the final 45 minutes.

## Knoph an ace

On Aug. 24, Greg Knoph Jr. used a 7-iron to ace the 127-yard, par-3 No. 13 hole during a four-man scramble at Springbrook Golf Club just outside Petoskey.

It was first ace in 20 years.

# Trojans' duo of Bryant, Jatta burn RU

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

Thursday night's "Battle of the Unbeatens" gridiron clash between Redford Union and Livonia Clarenceville was decided by a foot and two legs.

The foot belonged to Clarenceville senior placekicker Ma Sambou Jatta, who drilled a 47-yard field goal, nailed four extra points and boomed three kickoffs into the end zone in the Trojans' 31-13 victory.

The legs belonged to Trojan junior running back Jalen Bryant, who followed the blocking of his undersized, but technically sound offensive line on the way to a 197-yard, three-touchdown night.

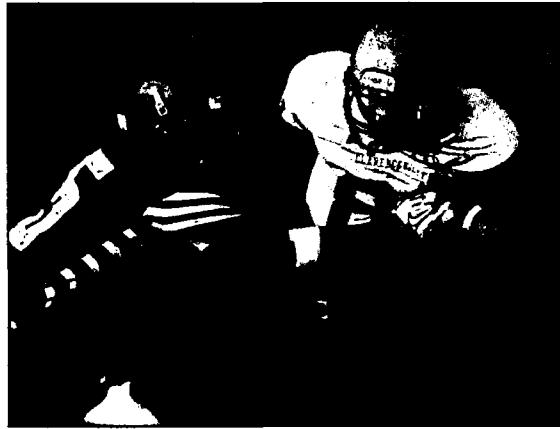
Clarenceville improved its record to 2-0 with the decisive triumph at Kraft Field, while RU slipped to 1-1.

Jatta, a 6-foot-3 first-year player who excels as a sweeper for the Trojans' soccer team, also prevented RU's Tyler Ouellette from scoring on a long kickoff return when he hauled down the speedy Panther at the Clarenceville 7 late in the third quarter.

"I told the soccer coach I wouldn't let (Jatta) get too involved, so he's probably not going to like me after that play," Clarenceville coach Ken Fry jokingly said, referring to Jatta's TD-saving tackle. "He came out for football for the first time in August. He loved it and he can really kick."

Bryant was kicking it into high gear from the get-go, racking huge chunks of yards with slick cut-back moves. In addi-

Please see TROJANS, B3



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Union's Christopher Curry (left) tries to bring down Clarenceville's Carlton Davis during Thursday's matchup.

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## In the spotlight

### Community, college theaters gear up

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Christy Mayhew is on the hunt for a 1948 Hudson. Or any Hudson — maybe even a Cadillac — for that matter.

Jason Wilhoite will need a dog by spring 2013. Luckily, he has a lead on a chihuahua.

And Pat Hutchison must locate a huge quilt over the next few months. In the meantime, she hopes she'll find enough actors to audition for 15 roles.

Such are the challenges that local theater directors and board members face as the new season of plays gets underway.

Mayhew, who handles marketing for Barefoot Productions in Plymouth, wants to station a Hudson outside the theater during the run of *Driving Miss Daisy* in November. She also hopes to find a car dealership interested in sponsoring the show. In return, the name of the business will be written into dialogue in the play.

"When we do *Strangers on a Train* I'll try to connect with Amtrak," Mayhew said. "If someone sponsors a show we can act out commercials at intermission."

Barefoot, known for its cutting-edge material, will mix a few better-known, mainstream shows into its schedule this year, along with some first-time events, including improv and an opera chat.

"Craig (Hane) the artistic director picks the main-

stage shows. He always picks cutting edge, but he also realizes the need to pick some plays that everyone knows."

Ticket-holders shouldn't be surprised if Barefoot takes a non-traditional approach to well-known works. Last year actresses in *The Vagina Monologues* — which returns this year — spoke their memorized parts while sitting in a living room set that suggested a girl's night out. The play has been performed elsewhere on a bare stage with actresses reading the script.

"It was cute because they interacted with each other," Mayhew said. "At the end, one woman in the cast sang a song and all the women held hands. It wasn't like 'I am woman, here me roar' but it was bonding."

Songs will take center stage in the Farmington Players' new season that will include two musicals in addition to a comedy and a drama.

"We don't normally do two musicals," Wilhoite said. "It's a first in a long time."

#### From film to stage

The theater will present *The 1940's Radio Hour* and *Legally Blonde*, which is based on the film with the same title. Wilhoite will direct *Legally Blonde*, which includes at least one canine cast member.

"It's a relatively new musical that has not been on the scene for a long time. They did a good job



Some Kind of Players improv troupe will perform Sept. 8 at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

adapting it to stage. I'm looking forward to have that show be the anchor of our season."

Wilhoite said at one point in its history, the Farmington Players shied away from musicals because it didn't have many singers in its membership.

*Avenue Q*, which it staged during the summer, brought new, young talent to the organization, enabling it to broaden its repertoire.

"We're interested in doing what we do well. If we can't do it well, we don't want to do it."

#### In Livonia

Wilhoite and Allison Soranno Boufford, both Hutchison's former students, sang love songs in concert earlier this year as a part of Paul's Players first season. Hutchison, a former Livonia public school teacher, founded the theater at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

This year, former Livonia music teacher Jerry Smith will perform with friends

in a mid-season concert for Hutchison's organization.

She also plans to produce *The Man Who Came to Dinner* this fall and *Quilters* next spring.

"We're getting an audience every time. We're getting 100 people or more and we're pleased," Hutchison said. "Actually, folks auditioning is our hardest thing. But I'm lucky. I taught so long I have resources."

She relies on contacts at St. Paul's and in Livonia schools to help with productions and has offered internships to high school and college students.

#### Community college

James Hartman and Dennis North never rely entirely on students for their twice-annual productions. Hartman, who heads the drama department at Schoolcraft College, and North, head of Oakland Community College's theater program at the Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, open auditions to all.

"It has worked beautifully," Hartman said.

He'll stage two classical pieces this season, a French farce and his own edited version of *Hamlet*.

North said OCC's theater produced serious dramas last year but will take a lighter approach this season with a comedy and a musical.

"Think of a white trash musical and that is what it is," he said, describing *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* that he'll stage this fall. "It's a very funny piece."



Canton resident Christine Kapusky Moore portrays Eliza Doolittle in the much-loved musical "My Fair Lady" at Spotlight Players. David Andrews of Ypsilanti plays Professor Henry Higgins.

## Busy theater season gets under way

Here's what is coming up at local theaters:

• Barefoot Productions:

Six shows make up the main performance schedule this season. They are *Sleepy Hollow*, Oct. 19-20, 26-27; *Driving Miss Daisy*, Nov. 9-11 and 16-18; *A Christmas Carol*, Dec. 8-9; *Kind Sir*, Feb. 14-17, 22-24, 2013; *The Vagina Monologues*, April 5-7, 2013;

*Strangers on a Train*, May 10-13, 17-19, 2013. Folk-

singer Josh White, Jr., will be in concert Sept. 29. Lecturer Louis Brown talks about Giuseppe Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* Sept. 7. Tickets are \$15. Some Kind of Players, an improv troupe, takes over the Barefoot stage

Please see THEATER, B7

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# Peace: Yoga fans find love, calm at Livonia gathering



Linda Venko of Livonia colors a mandala.

By Sharón Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Colleen Mills says she felt peace and love flow last weekend as yoga enthusiasts stretched and posed their way through a daylong series of workshops at the Livonia Senior Center.

"It was awesome. When you do yoga you connect with peace and love. We had a wonderful day," said Mills, founder of the Livonia-based Citizens for Peace and a student of both yoga and meditation. "Yoga is like giving yourself a huge hug with both arms."

Lynda Herman, president of the Yoga Association of Greater Detroit, suggested the event and asked yoga teachers to volunteer their time. Sharon Brand, an instructor at the Livonia Senior Center — and Mills' yoga teacher — helped turn the day into a fundraiser for Citizens for Peace, splitting the proceeds between Mills' organization and the Yoga Association.

Participants had the opportunity to attend several different yoga classes, color a mandala design, watch a film about Deepak Chopra on the keys to happiness, and meditate with Kathy Bindu Henning, who teaches classes in meditation at Schoolcraft College and the Livonia Senior Center. Mills' husband, George, and his crew of volunteers made and served lunch. Karen Farkas, Brand's yoga teacher, gave a keynote address, encourag-



Instructor Sharon Brand works with yoga students.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Students in Sharon Brand's yoga class stretch.



Freda Dawson and her mandala. She's from Detroit.

ing attendees to take the practice off their mats and into their daily lives. "It was a fabulous day. People loved it," Mills

said, adding that the event drew yoga practitioners of all skill levels. "There were all ages. One lady in my yoga class

brought her daughter and granddaughter."

Mills said yoga "keeps the body fit, flexible and balanced," but also helps focus and reduce stress.

"It turns off the chatter in the brain. We go into an experiential peace zone."

For more information about Citizens for Peace, visit [www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com](http://www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com). For more on the Yoga Association of Greater Detroit, visit [www.yagd.org](http://www.yagd.org). For more on meditation, see [www.livinginthepresentmoment.com](http://www.livinginthepresentmoment.com).



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dan Huckins is the new pastor at Northville's First Church of the Nazarene at 21260 Haggerty Road. Huckins moved to the area from Lima, Ohio, and just recently took over shepherding of the congregation.

## Pastor aims to help his church grow in faith

By Julie Brown  
O&E Staff Writer

Dan Huckins understands the tendency to blame God when things go wrong.

"I think that's pretty normal," said Huckins, 47, the new lead pastor at First Church of the Nazarene in Northville. Even devout worshippers get irritated with God, he says.

"I think it's to stay engaged with God," he said of the answer, not turning your back on God. "Rather than run from God, I think the best course is to run to."

Some of us tend to take credit for our successes and blame God for shortcomings.

"So many of those bad things are just a part of life," often arising from our own and others' choices, he said. "He's not the cause of what's going on. Rather, he's the healer and redeemer of all those things."

Americans often expect affluence, Huckins has found, unlike Christians elsewhere. "They understand that life is not always easy. They're less likely to be blaming God."

Huckins and his family recently arrived from Lima, Ohio, where he served at Lima Community Church, a Nazarene congregation. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Western Illinois University, and only worked briefly in that field.

Graduate school took Huckins to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., for a master of divinity degree and Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., for a doctor of ministry degree. He was given his first small church in Illinois at age 21. This is his 27th year as a pastor.

"God called me to do it. There's no easier way to explain it, quite honestly," said Huckins, who felt an inner voice calling him to the ministry.

He was born and raised in the United Methodist Church, with his dad a United Methodist pastor. The Nazarene church came out of the United Methodist in the early 20th century, he said, and shares a similar historical background.

Attendance at the two Sunday services at his Northville church adds up to a little over 500.

"My theme is outreach, particularly to those who do not have a church home," Huckins said.

The church has a strong focus on local and foreign missions, with the latter done through the denomination.

Huckins and wife Pam have three children ages 24, 22 and 13. Their oldest son is in North Carolina, the next oldest son in Ohio and their daughter at home with them.

The family's in the process of buying a home in Farmington Hills. Huckins preached his first sermon Aug. 19 on courage, acknowledging with a smile it takes some courage to preach "even after many years of doing it."

He appreciates the warm welcome. "It's been terrific," he said, citing a welcoming reception. Huckins works with three other staff pastors, two part-time pastors and support staff.

He'd like to grow the church beyond attendance in terms of fully devoted followers of Christ. His predecessor, Ron Blake, became a district superintendent with the church in Indiana.

In free time, Huckins enjoys being with his family. "I like to fish, I like to read." He likes sports, exercise, and motorcycles, although he doesn't own one.

The church's location near Eight Mile and Haggerty, with visibility from I-275, helps.

"It is a great location, I've got to say that," the pastor said.

"It's a challenging time for churches in our country. We hope to be part of the solution," Huckins said.

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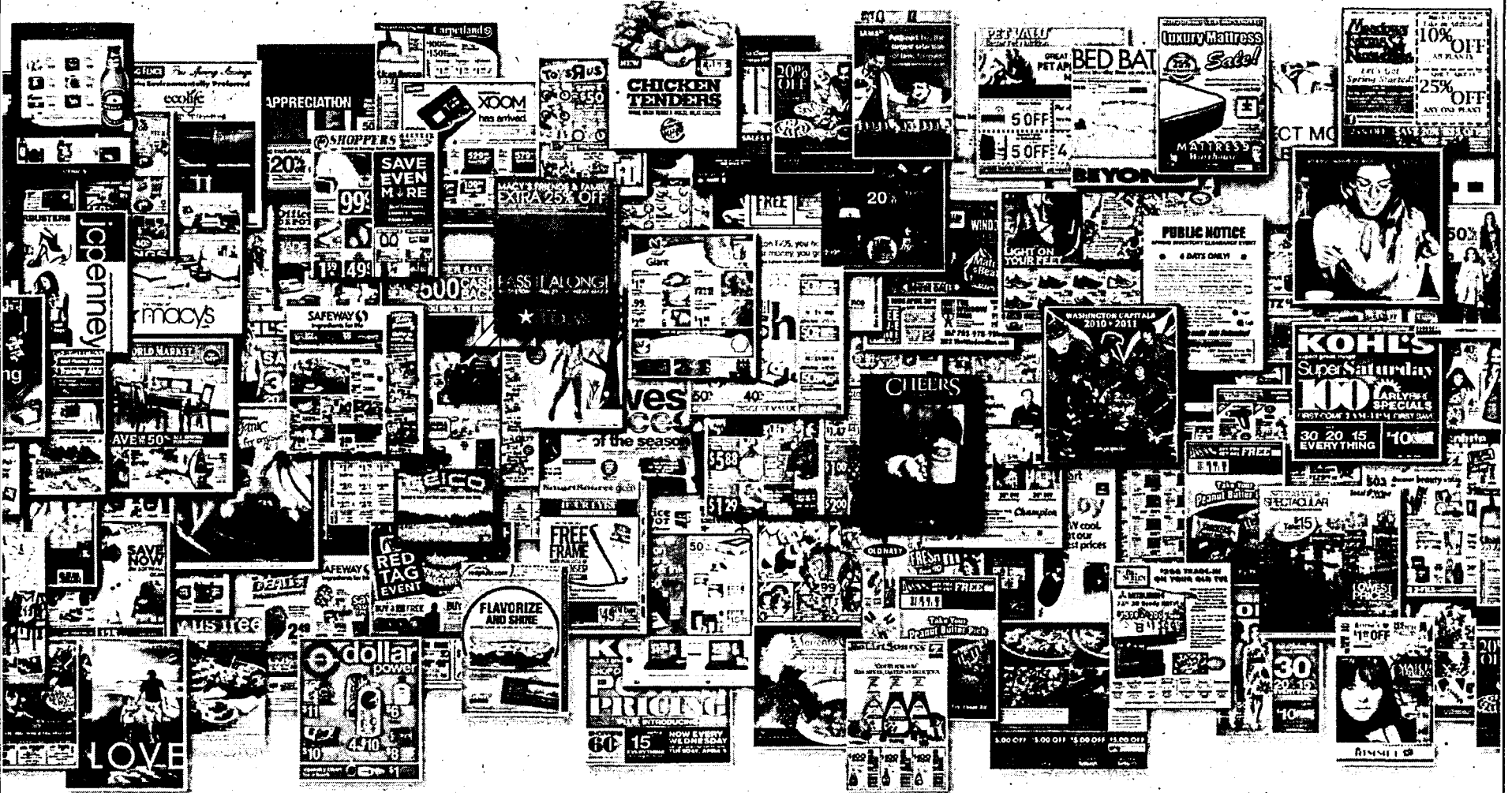
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A physician sees a patient and wants laboratory work including a complete blood count and kidney parameters. The patient says: "I got blood work a week ago, just call up and get the results."  
To the patient it seems simple: the office calls the other doctor, and that doctor's office faxes back the lab's findings. But to the doctor making the request what the patients wants is fraught with problems. Foremost is obtaining the information. The physician has no guarantee that the staff at the other end of the line is competent. Also, some offices act out of paranoia, requiring the patient to Fax a release of information slip, and then waiting to send the requested information until their doctor gives an O.K.  
The time required to gather the information can be enormous. In addition, instead of completing the patient appointment, the physician has the patient waiting, usually impatiently, and the physician must double back to inform the patient of delays in obtaining the results and to explain the test results or why the office must do additional laboratory work that day.  
Nor is the physician helped when a compulsive patient brings to the appointment the accumulated pages of tests, reports, and copies of past office visits to other doctors. The total data is too much to absorb or takes an inordinate amount of time to review.  
What is the answer? It is to bring the patient's past visits, laboratory studies, treatments and imaging to a single repository. That effort is going on today. Physicians are not just putting the patient record on computers, but doing so in a structured manner that will lead to each person's health history residing in a single cloud accessible to any physician treating the patient.



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## Careful: Use caution when applying insect repellents

Using insect repellent to guard against West Nile Virus?

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) says consumers should exercise care when they apply such repellents as DEET, lemon eucalyptus, and picaridin. Excessive use of insect repellents containing DEET can result in adverse health effects, particularly in children if not properly applied.

"The holiday weekend falls during the peak of mosquito season, so it is important that when spending time outside with friends and family, residents exercise caution when applying insect repellents," said Jamie Clover Adams, MDARD Director. "You should always follow the guidelines listed on the bottle, especially when applying repellents on children."

Follow these tips to reduce mosquito bites and mosquito population levels:

- Consider using non-chemical means to prevent biting, such as screens, netting, long sleeves, closed shoes, and pants.

- Practice prevention by eliminating breeding grounds for mosquitoes,

such as standing water near the home.

- Consider using biological controls for small lakes and ponds you own, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, which is available at many stores.

When applying insect repellents on children, follow the guidelines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health:

- Do not use repellents with DEET on infants less than two months old.

- Apply repellent on your hands and then rub it on the child.

- Avoid spraying children's eyes and mouths, and use the repellent sparingly around their ears.

- Never apply repellent to children's hands or their skin under clothing.

- Do not allow young children to apply insect repellent to themselves.

- When a child goes indoors or the repellent is no longer needed, wash the treated skin with soap and water.

- Keep repellents out of reach of children.

Additional precautions to keep in mind regarding applying repellents and eliminating possible breeding grounds for



summer insects:

- Avoid mosquitoes during their prime feeding hours of dusk and dawn.

- Before applying repellent, read all label directions; not all repellents are intended to be applied to the skin.

- Repellents with low concentrations (10 percent or below) are effective and may be preferred in most situations. Start with a low-concentration product and re-apply if necessary.

- If applying repellents over a long period of time, alternate the repellent with one that has another active ingredient.

- Do not use repellents on broken or irritated skin or apply to eyes and mouth.

- Avoid breathing sprays and do not use near food.

Reactions to repellents are rare, but exposure to excessive levels of DEET may cause headaches, restlessness, crying spells, mania, staggering, rapid breathing, convulsions, and possibly coma. MDARD and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also warn consumers to stop using a repellent if they experience any of those symptoms. If the product is swallowed, consumers should contact a poison control center or the hospital emergency room immediately.

To determine if a repellent is registered for use in Michigan, visit [www.michigan.gov/mdard](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard).

## Class benefits parish

Joe Mason, a certified personal fitness trainer, will offer a six-week exercise class beginning Monday, Sept. 17 at St. John Neumann Parish in Canton.

The class will run from 10-11:15 a.m. and costs \$36. A portion of all class fees will be donated to the parish.

The workout is aimed at all skill levels and will begin each week with gentle aerobic movements. The sessions will include strength training, high repetitions with light hand weights, abdominal and back exercises, body stretching and balance work. Each participant will receive handouts with easy-to-follow workout recommendations. To be successful, daily home exercises must be completed.

Students should wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga or exercise mat to class, along with light hand weights and bottled water.

Mason guarantees improvement in sleep patterns, flexibility, endurance, strength and stamina.

In addition to being certified as a personal trainer, Mason is a certified instructor in yoga and indoor cycling. He also is certified in CPR and defibrillator use.

St. John Neumann Parish is located at 44800 Warren Road, Canton. Call (734) 455-5910 with questions or to register.

## LEARN ABOUT P.A.D.

More than eight million Americans suffer from peripheral arterial disease, commonly known as P.A.D., a serious but often unrecognized condition with life-changing consequences. Without timely detection and treatment, P.A.D. can make walking difficult and increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, leg amputation, and even death.

In support of September as P.A.D. Awareness Month, St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia will present a community seminar designed to help identify and reduce the acceleration of P.A.D. among high-risk individuals.

Dr. John Iljas, DO, limb salvage specialist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will speak from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18, in the auditorium at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, about leading medical technology that will help reduce the risks and alleviate P.A.D.

Individuals who are at risk for P.A.D. include anyone over age 50 who has a history of smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

P.A.D. occurs when fatty deposits block or narrow arteries in the legs, reducing blood flow to the lower extremities and other areas of the body. According to recent research, vascular disease such as diabetes and P.A.D. is the leading cause of amputations. Symptoms include painful cramping in the lower body after an activity and sores on legs and feet that won't heal. Sometimes there are no symptoms.

The event on Sept. 18 is free. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required. Limited space is available.

To register for the community seminar and for more information, call (734) 655-2255.



# MORE TO DISCOVER LIVONIA FAMILY YMCA

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