

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, B5

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CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

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**Holiday closings**

'Tis the season, and the holidays' affect on municipal services.

In Westland, the Friendship Center is closed through Tuesday, Jan. 1. All other city offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24-25, and Dec. 31 to Jan. 1. The William P. Faust Public Library will be closed an additional day — Wednesday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

The 18th District Court also will be closed an additional day, Friday, Dec. 28, to conduct its annual physical inventory of pending cases. The court will close at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, instead of its usual 5:30 p.m.

In Wayne, buildings, including city hall, the Wayne Community Center, Wayne Public Library and 29th District Court, will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24-25, and Dec. 31 to Jan. 1. The Wayne council also has voted to cancel its regularly scheduled meeting, which would fall Jan. 1.

There will be no trash or recycling pickup Christmas Day or New Year's Day in both communities. It will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

Police and fire services will not be affected.

**Holiday photo contest**

Enter your favorite holiday photo in a contest for a chance to win a \$20 gift card to a department store.

Upload a picture of your house in lights, a visit with Santa or anything related to the holidays. Share the link with friends and see if you come out on top! You and your Facebook friends are allowed one vote per day.

To find the contest, go to our website, Hometownlife.com, and look on the right-hand side in our Don't Miss module. Clicking on the photo of the Christmas presents will take you to the contest page. The voting ends Dec. 30.

Good luck!

**Wayne council OKs plan for fireworks store**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

A former Michigan Avenue restaurant will soon be transformed into a retail fireworks store.

The Wayne City Council has approved a site plan for Black Diamond/Pro Fireworks at 38910 Michigan Avenue on the northwest corner of the intersection with John Hix.

The idea of a fireworks store had been a concern for nearby residents, including councilmen James Hawley and James Henley. Both were among the residents attending the Planning Commission meeting on the business site plan.

"This is our neighborhood, there was a high level of concern," Hawley said. "People asked a lot of

questions and they were answered. The Planning Commission did a good job."

The nearest location for Black Diamond/Pro Fireworks is Sterling Heights, which both councilmen visited.

"I'm not a big fan of fireworks, so I had some apprehension at first," Hawley said. "I was concerned what it would look like — the ones I've seen are big and yellow. I drove by it twice."

The 2,800-square-foot building, once a Leright's restaurant, has been vacant for an extended time after housing a number of other short-time restaurants.

"They will clean up the lot, bring the building up to code," said City Clerk Matthew Miller, who is also the city planner. "They will demol-

ish out the entire interior and make the necessary changes inside. A good portion of the building will be the sales area, plus office space and checkout."

James Stajos of Black Diamond/Pro Fireworks said he has been working fireworks for much of his life, but until state law was changed last year had to sell his products in other states.

"We loved Wayne — it has everything that we want. It's a great location on a high-traffic street across from a huge assembly plant," said Stajos, who opened four stores last year and hopes for additional stores in 2013.

State law allows fireworks, formerly banned in Michigan, to be sold and discharged. Local ordinances can restrict fireworks uses

to national legal holidays and the day before and after the holiday.

"We are working with the ordinance committee and will bring back an ordinance on shooting fireworks (concerning) minors and intoxicated people," City Manager Robert English said. "We will bring it back to the council in the future."

Council also approved the site plan for Road Runners Wholesale Auto Parts at 31731 Michigan Avenue. The 11,990-square-foot building is being developed by Sami Alfashi, owner of the adjoining Michigan Collision.

"Congratulations and good luck. We hope to see continuous improvements on Michigan Avenue," Mayor Al Haidous said.

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**'Best of both worlds'**



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Employee Guy Oliver from Traverse City moves a bailed Christmas tree around the lot.

**Worker enjoys working with Christmas trees**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Christmas trees aren't just a holiday business for Michael Silvers.

"I work for the grower up north. I help load the semi, then I come and help with unloading. Then, I work for the man who bought the trees," said Silvers, who lives near Traverse City.

From just after Thanksgiving until just before Christmas, Silvers can be found working on a Christmas tree lot



Raeanna Webb and Chris Webb of Westland pick out a fresh tree at the Christmas tree lot on Wayne Road at Warren Road.

Please see TREES, A2

Please see UAW, A2

**UAW makes season merry for Westland Goodfellows**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Fundraising is up this year for the Westland Goodfellows, who are making sure more than 920 local youngsters will have a merry Christmas.

The Goodfellows brought in \$110,000 this year and will assist 402 families with vouchers for toys, clothing and food.

"We had budgeted approximately \$95,000 and fundraising eclipsed our budget," said John Adams, Goodfellows co-president. "Bill Johnson and UAW Local 900 stepped up to the plate and hit it out of the park."

Last week, Johnson presented a check for more than \$60,000 to the Goodfellows — money raised at an annual bowling event held by UAW members from the Wayne Ford Assembly plant.

"I'm just lucky to have people who like to do this," said Johnson, UAW Michigan Assembly chairman and Westland councilman.

Heather Hatfield-Clear, Goodfellows co-president, accepted the check at the council meeting.

**Burger carnival pays tribute to long-time benefactor, Jack Russo**

A familiar face was missing from the festivities at the staff and students of Burger School for Students with Autism gathered last week to take a trip down Route 66 at their annual Winter Carnival.

The event has been made possibly annually through the support of businessman Jack Russo, his family and friend Larry Berman.

This year, however, the carnival took on a different meaning for students who sang a special song at a ceremony in honor of Mr. Russo who passed away on Oct. 21.

"This day has always been so dear to Jack Russo's heart," said teacher Colleen Polin who helps plan the event." For 20 years, Jack and Noella Rus-

so and their family have actively supported Burger School. Their desire to make a difference has had a positive impact on the lives of our students."

Students "visited" eight state along Route 66. They were able to dig for treasure in the Mojave Desert, search for aliens in Roswell, New Mexico, walk the wooden pier in Califor-

nia, eat a "Chicago Dog" at the hot dog stand and sample a variety of soft drinks from along Route 66.

They also listened to vintage songs from the juke box, received a bandanna from the Harley Riders, rested at a Camp Grounds, got a photo from Hollywood, California, and visited with Santa Claus during the event.

The Russo family has designated funds each year for winter and spring carnivals events, sharing in the staff's desire to help create special memories for students that will last a lifetime, Polin said.

"They share in the vision for creating a brighter future for children and young adults with this

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**UAW**

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"We at the Goodfellows can't express enough how much we appreciate what Bill Johnson and the UAW does for us," she said. "These kids wouldn't have a good Christmas without you and your team."

The check presented at the council meeting wasn't oversized, like the first time the UAW members donated to the Goodfellows.

"The numbers on the check got bigger and the check (itself) got smaller," Adams said. "I challenged him (Johnson) to present a Post It note."

Other fundraising for the Goodfellows comes from bingo, which raises about \$30,000, \$12,000 to \$15,000 from poker nights and also direct donations from area businesses and residents.

Families assisted by the Westland Goodfellows received food vouchers to Heartland Market, vouchers to buy gifts at Meijer or Target, along with hats, gloves, school supplies and personal hygiene products in a gift

bag.

The Westland Goodfellows also distributed non-perishable foods collected during a food drive held by Livonia Churchill High School students. The collected food was divided between the Westland and Livonia Goodfellows based on the percentage of residents attending the school.

In addition, the Westland Goodfellows partnered with the Light-house Home Missions to distribute non-perishable foods.

"Overall, we had very successful fundraising efforts. The amount raised went up, but the number of children we received requests for dropped slightly," Adams said. "We're starting to see the economy changing positively as opposed to three or four years ago, when the number of requests was rising."

Going forward, Adams said he would like to be able to provide gift vouchers at \$100 — up from the current \$75 per child — to keep up with increased prices.

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**Man faces trial in knife attack of brother**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

A Westland man has been ordered bound over on charges that he attempted to kill his brother with a knife during an argument over presidential politics.

Robert Tatman, 58, is charged with assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm and felonious assault in the Dec. 11 stabbing of his brother Bryan Tatman, 55. A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf.

The brothers were in the kitchen of their mother's home on Delton Court, where both reside, when the attack occurred about 10 p.m.

"They were arguing over the presidential election results. Bryan

took offense," Westland Police Lt. Michael Harhold said. "The victim was struck in the head with a frying pan, then stabbed."

Bryan Tatman received several dozen stab wounds and cuts to his neck, ear, abdomen, defensive wounds to his hands and a broken finger, Harhold said. Bryan Tatman was later hospitalized in intensive care, he said.

"The victim was able to get up and get away. Robert was arrested in the neighborhood," Harhold said.

Robert Tatman initially told police that his brother had started the physical altercation by striking him with the frying pan, Harhold said, but based on the evidence police don't believe that is what happened.

The men's 82-year-old mother told police she wasn't sure what had happened.

Alcohol was a factor in the incident. Police said Robert Tatman had a 0.13 blood-alcohol level at the time of his arrest. Under Michigan law, a 0.08 blood-alcohol level is legally intoxicated for driving.

Following a preliminary examination Thursday in 18th District Court before Judge Mark McConnell, Robert Tatman was ordered bound over for trial as charged. A \$20,000 cash/surety bond was continued and a Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment was scheduled for Dec. 27.

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**TREES**

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located on Wayne Road at Warren Road right next to McDonald's restaurant.

The tree lot owner John Wagatha, a Westland resident, has a trailer on site for Silvers and a co-worker, who stay there while they are downstate.

"Someone always has

to stay on the lot. One of us will go to the bar, get something to eat or shop," he said.

The temporary tree lot is set up in time to be ready for business starting on the day after Thanksgiving. It starts with 1,200 trees ranging from a three-foot Scotch pine for a table top to 10- to 12-foot Fraser firs. Scotch pines are the most popular tree for the lot.

"Weekends are by far the busiest time. Usually, it's the whole family. Mostly, the kids pick the trees," said Silvers, who has worked at the tree lot for 12 years. "We get requests for Charlie Brown trees. I sold one today that was one of the worst looking trees we had, but they liked it."

By the time the lot closes, Silvers said there might be 80-100 trees left

unsold. He is hoping to return home sometime today (Sunday).

"At the end of the season, I'm ready to go home to my normal life," Silvers said. "I like coming down here, it's a lot of fun. I get the best of both worlds making money with the grower and here."

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**Services held for former Westland councilwoman**

Funeral services were held Saturday for former Westland Councilwoman Barbara Osborn.

Mrs. Osborn, 81, died Dec. 19. She was appointed to serve on the city council February 8, 1977, to fill the unexpired term of Paul Tavana, who had resigned. Mrs. Osborn served until January 1978.

The wife of the late Ralph Osborn, Mrs. Osborn is survived by

her sons Glen (Donna) and Bryan (Gloria); grandsons Shea, Jason, Kevin, Kyle and Jesse (Gina); and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held at First Baptist Church of Canton followed by burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland. The Rev. Ray Haselhuhn officiated.

Arrangements were handled by Uht Funeral Home.

**AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND**

**Annual meeting**

The Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation and Smart Growth, is inviting the public to its annual meeting 1:30-3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at Panera's Bread, 35300 Warren Road at the Westland Shopping Center.

Residents can learn about the threats to the state's fresh water resources and other issues. For more information, call Lee Duffey at (734) 722-1184.

**Community Center**

Wayne Community is offering a lock-in visit for families this winter. Pay \$5 per visit per family and enjoy your choice of swimming, ice skating

or using the indoor track. A visit is good for 10 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday and 3:30-6 p.m. Sunday at the center, located at Annapolis and Howe. The offer is valid now through March 31.

The center also is offering winter walker/skating/swim passes. Get 30 visits to use the track, go to open skate or open swim. The cost is \$30 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. The visits are good now through March 31.

For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

**Ice skating**

Looking for something to do on a Friday evening? Stop by the Mike Modano Ice Arena in Westland for

Glow Skate 8-9:20 p.m. Fridays. Get a Glow Skate punch card. Skate five times and the sixth is free.

The arena also offers open skate 1:30-3:20 p.m. Saturdays. The cost is \$4 for resident youth, \$5 for resident adults. Non-resident charges are \$4.50 for youth and \$5.50 for adults. Skate rental is \$3 for residents and \$3.50 for non-residents.

The arena is at 6210 Wildwood, Westland. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

Open skate at the Wayne Ice Arena is 10-11:20 a.m. and 2-2:50 p.m. Monday and Friday, 10-11:20 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday (for parent and children age 6 and under), 5:30-6:50 p.m. Saturday and 3:30-4:50 Sunday.

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STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Danyelle Tucker of Westland was among people who stopped by the William P. Faust Public Library on Thursday to make a blood donation. A drop blood donations during the holiday season has American Red Cross officials appealing to area donors to make time to give the gift of life at an area blood drive.

# Red Cross appeals for blood donations

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Citing a downturn in blood donations during the holiday season, American Red Cross officials are appealing to area donors to make time to restock supplies and help those in need.

Holiday-time blood donations fall off as the Big Three and other businesses shut down, schools close and busy shoppers become preoccupied, said Diane Risko, Red Cross donor resources representative for the South-eastern Michigan Blood Services Region.

"People have other things on their mind. They're busy," Risko said. "They have to shop and put up holiday decorations. A lot of companies

like the Big Three have time off. If donors can get to a blood drive over the holiday season, it's very important."

Risko said cancer patients who need blood platelets often need blood donations from as many as 10 people to get enough platelets for transfusions. She also said victims of violence, specifically gunshot victims, typically need blood donations from as many as 50 people.

Risko said the American Red Cross needs 17,000 blood donations a day for patients in need.

"This holiday season," she said, "the Red Cross encourages people to give someone hope by donating blood. It's a gift that doesn't cost a thing but can offer patients another

holiday season with family and friends."

Risko has announced the following blood drives. She said people who donate are entered into a monthly raffle for a \$500 Visa gift card.

Risko advised donors to go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter a zip code to find drives or call her at (313) 549-7052 to set up an appointment. Here's a list of upcoming blood drives:

- 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, Forum Fitness Center, 34250 Ford Road, Westland.
- 1-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, American Legion Post 396, 6860 Middlebelt Road, Garden City.
- 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City.

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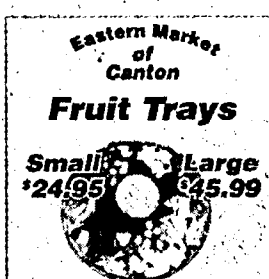
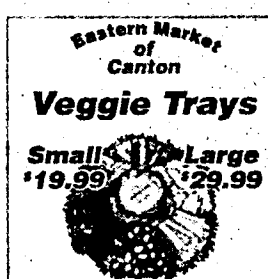
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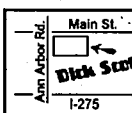
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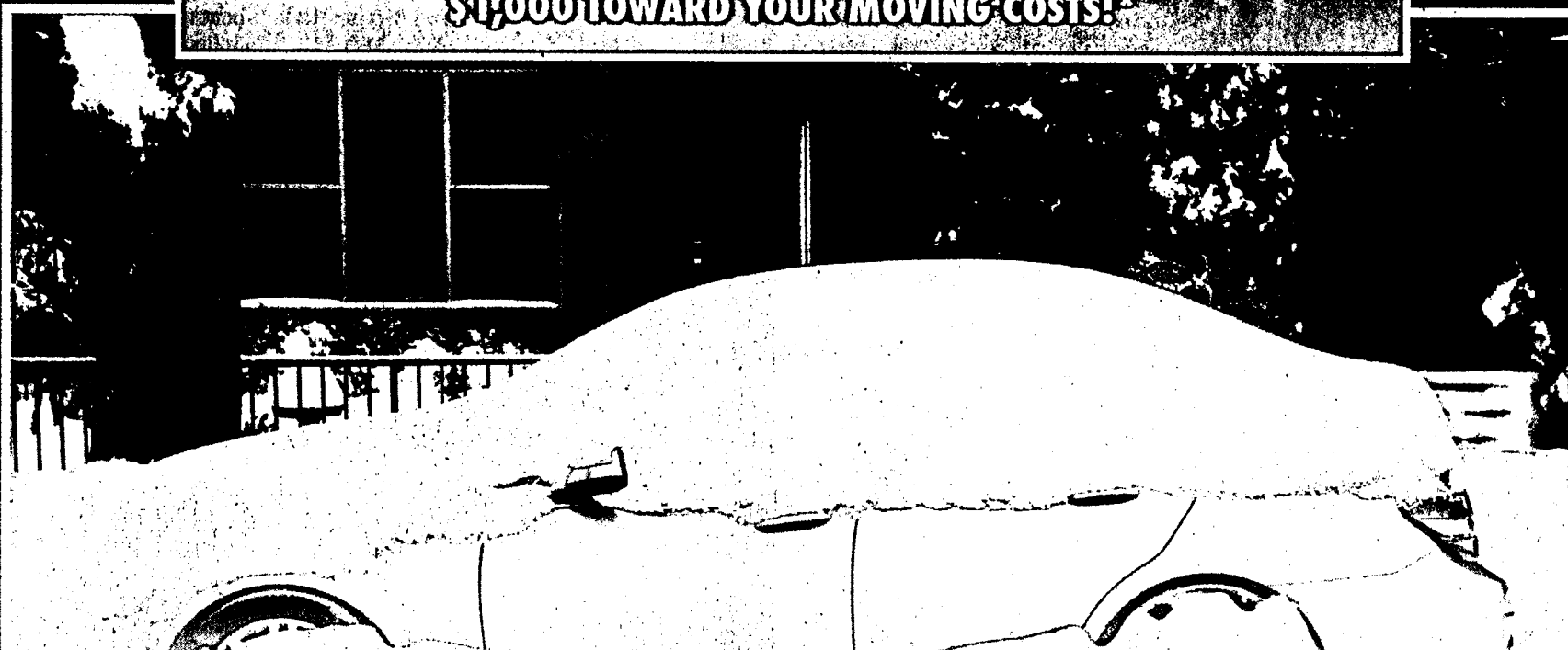


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PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Claus wore some cool shades to meet with Burger students Kaled Okdie and Drake Willis of Garden City. Garden City school board member Darlene Jablonowski did a reprise of her role as Christmas Carol.



Evan Boehringer of Garden City and Jonathan Tharp of Canton take a break from the festivities to make Christmas cards.



The staff and students of Burger School for Students with Autism honored the family of the late Jack Russo. On hand for the annual Winter Carnival were daughter-in-law Kim Russo of Plymouth, granddaughter Chloe Russo, daughter-in-law Melissa Russo, son Sal Russo, daughter Justine Russo daughter, his wife Noella Russo, grandson Christopher Burham, granddaughter Lauren McIntosh, grandson Nick Russo, son-in-law Mike McIntosh, granddaughter Ryann Russo and daughter Lisa Russo.



Nolan Jenson and India Davis of Canton take a trip down Route 66 on a dressed-up motorcycle.

### CARNIVAL

Continued from page A1

severe life-long disability," she said. "They recognize the continuous challenge for all of us here at Burger School, as we strive to provide meaningful educational activities for students with such a wide range of abilities and unique needs."

Mr. Russo got his start in business on the east side of Detroit, where his passion for the trucking industry first took root in the 1970s. Not long after, he was the owner of Alco Express, transporting steel throughout Michigan,

where he and his family built a company.

He also worked alongside other business leaders, city officials, automotive suppliers and rail road providers to construct Wayne Industries in Wayne into the leading distribution warehouse dedicated to the steel industry.

His philanthropic endeavors took shape over many years, donating time, money and resources to Detroit-area churches, families in need, his own employees and to the Burger School in Garden City for children and families afflicted with autism.

A simple trip to his barber more than 20 years ago led to his involvement with the Burger School,

where he helped raise funds for a playscape, basketball court, reflective garden, science room and a host of other amenities that otherwise wouldn't have been possible without the Russo family's support and guidance.

The Noella and Jack Russo Family Foundation has been set up to continue his mission of Burger School and students with autism. More information is available online at [www.njrfoundation.org](http://www.njrfoundation.org).

"We are keenly aware of the economic issues that are impacting education and we are extremely grateful to this family for their love and support," Polin said.

— By Sue Mason



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# Hollywood's movie magic stars on Marshall's classroom doors

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer felt right at home at Marshall Upper Elementary School in Westland, where students and staff transformed their classroom doors into scenes from Christmas movies for the second annual holiday door decorating contest.

This year's contest was organized by teacher Melissa Baker who left the decision on which classroom had the best door to the judges, State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Adams.

Students had the opportunity to work together in decorating the doors and the classes also had a chance to team up with another class or two to create their doors, giving them an opportunity to work with students that they normally don't have the opportunity to work with, Baker said.

"I think that this is a great activity for the students because it gives them a bit of a break from all of the academics that we do," Baker said. "Also it gives our more artistic students a chance to show their stuff. Of course all of the doors looked amazing and it was a hard choice for the judges."

First place went to Mrs. Corina Caird's class with *The Polar Express*. Placing second was Jennifer Clark's class and their *A Muppet Christmas Carol*. Third was Michael Hall's class with *A Christmas Story*.



The classes of Melissa Baker, Kristen Vandoorne, Jennifer Kuzickis and Sarah McCord teamed up to create the Land of Misfit Toys from "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer."



"Elf" was the title of the door decorated by the class of Jessica Fiema.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Jenna Engberts, Susan Lenard and fifth-grade teacher Stephanie Amster show off their classroom door, entitled "The Grinch."

# LPS board OKs bond for ballot, but not career center

By Karen Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia school district residents will vote on a \$195 million bond proposal for district-wide improvements, but not a new career technical center.

The school board approved a resolution 5-2 to place the bond proposal before voters but rejected a resolution 3-4 to have them vote on a new \$15 million career technical center. The vote surprised even some board members, who expected both to pass.

Trustee Colleen Burton said she didn't think a new career center was a "true need" like the districtwide improvements in the proposed \$195 million bond. Board secretary Mark Johnson said the career center proposal needed more study.

"We don't even know where we would put it," he said, adding there were too many unanswered questions.

Burton, Johnson and trustees Randy Roulrier and Dianne Laura voted against the career center proposal. Laura and trustee Eileen McDonnell voted

against the \$195 million bond proposal, saying the timing wasn't right.

The board, in its resolution, did not specify when the \$195 million bond proposal would go before voters. Previously, the board had talked about May, but at least one member said she didn't want to spend \$55,000 on a May election when the August election would cost the district nothing.

### Cost to taxpayers

The \$195 million bond, if approved by voters, would cost approximately \$19 per month for a resident with a home valued at \$178,000, the median home price in the school district, for the next 30 years. The career center bond would have cost about \$1.50 more per month for that same homeowner for 30 years.

The districtwide improvements include new technology, renovations to the three high schools' auditoriums and fine-performing arts classrooms, buses, furniture, roof repairs, windows, doors, flooring, ceilings, plumbing and electrical

work, cafeteria upgrades, and relocation of elementary school offices to entrances for better security.

The \$195 million bond also includes \$3.5 million in improvements for the existing career technical center.

Dr. Janet L. Haas, principal of the tech center, was disappointed on behalf of students because a new building would have made room for new and expanded programs based on the state's changing economy. The career center is in an old elementary school.

The \$3.5 million will go toward upgrades in the heating system and other improvements like those planned for other buildings. However, she said, she told the staff, "No matter what, we are really the career center; it's the staff that makes the building what it is. We will carry on."

Oke said at the board's meeting that a new career center is no less needed than the improvements in the larger bond. He said he received emails from a lot of voters saying they wouldn't support any

bond unless it included a new career center.

"For a lot of people, this is not an add-on resolution," he said.

Oke told fellow board members they weren't voting on building a new career center, just putting it on the ballot.

"All we're doing here is giving the community the chance to decide if this is something they value or not," he said.

### Competitive edge

Mang said a new career center would help Livonia Public Schools stand out as a light-house district. She said school districts have to operate like businesses now, competing for students and their state funding.

McDonnell, who voted for the career center proposal but not the larger bond, said she didn't think the \$3.5 million in improvements for the career center would be enough to do an effective job.

"To vote to support the program with a new building seemed like the right thing to do," she said after the meeting.

She voted against the larger bond, saying the board didn't

have enough information. She said the \$3 million for roofing repairs for 27 buildings didn't seem adequate.

"I am not confident with the estimates given to the board and the community," she said. "How can all the playgrounds need the same dollar amount allocated for each building? It does not make sense to me."

Trustee Randy Roulrier, in voting for the \$195 million bond resolution, said the district has an aging infrastructure in need of repair and improvement.

"I believe school systems are a vital component to the long-term viability and success of any residential community so it stands to reason that a successful Livonia Public Schools school district helps to make for a successful Livonia," he said.

The board will not vote on the actual ballot language until after the first of the year. The resolution authorizes the superintendent to develop ballot language.

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

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turn to the experts

# Alliance, volunteers feed home-bound seniors

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

## HELPING OUR SENIORS

Janice Newton remembers the senior citizen who was disappointed because accepting a Thanksgiving invitation to her brother's house meant she couldn't get her home-delivered meal from The Senior Alliance, and she chuckles.

Because the woman was having dinner at her brother's, and because TSA's program is for home-bound seniors, the woman had to miss out on her meal that year.

But this year, over the Christmas holiday, more than 1,000 seniors won't be so disappointed. TSA's annual Holiday Meals program, which reaches out to home-bound seniors to make sure they have a nice, hot Christmas meal, is expected to top last year's 943 servings.

"Each year the need seems to be going up," said Newton, program specialist for Wayne-based The Senior Alliance. "With the economy, more people are hungry."

The Senior Alliance

**What:** The Senior Alliance  
**Where:** Offices at 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne  
**Who:** Provides services to western Wayne County, including the communities of Wayne, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Livonia, Redford and Northville.

**Why:** TSA's mission is to help older adults remain as independent as possible within their community, including home-delivered meals, holiday meals to home-bound seniors, care management, information and assistance, along with other crucial wellness and life-supporting services.

**Contact:** For more information, call (800) 815-1112.

Holiday Meals program was created to provide hot, delivered meals to home-bound seniors four holidays out of the year, including Christmas.

The Holiday Meals program is financed entirely through private donations, as well as various fundraising activities, such as Holiday Card Program, Bank Day and The Senior Alliance's annual Golf Classic.

The traditional Meals on Wheels program doesn't deliver holidays or weekends, and The Senior Alliance staffers wanted to make sure seniors were fed on those days as well. Thus, the Holiday Meals program was born.

"We came up with a program that is strictly paid for by applying for grants from various companies," said Heather Pinage, TSA's resource development director. "This program uses strictly grants, donations and volunteers."

According to Newton,

meals for the program are prepared at several venues: Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Park Restaurants in Lincoln Park and Wyandotte Hospital. Newton said each site puts its own special twist on the menu, but the meals are basically traditional holiday fare.

"At Thanksgiving it's turkey, at Christmas it's usually ham," Newton said. "Each site might have a different element, but it's basically what you'd expect to find."

TSA staffs the program almost exclusively from its file of nearly 300 volunteers who help throughout the year. According to Newton, about 100 of those volunteers handle the Holiday Meals program, and they're glad to do it.

"Sometimes (volun-

teers) hang around to pick up extra routes that might be uncovered for one reason or another," Newton said. "Some of them complain if I don't give them enough people. There's no way we could do this program without them. They are the backbone."

Home-bound seniors are eligible for the program, which serves meals Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and — new this year — Labor Day. Pinage said the program fed some 4,000 seniors last year in the 34 communities TSA serves. Even with that client list, TSA staffers know they're helping only a small portion of seniors who could use it.

"There are a lot of people who don't even know about the program, so we try to target more people using

fliers at stores, churches, etc.," Newton said. "Even if we do more than 1,000, I don't think it's a drop in the bucket of the number of seniors who are home alone. I get a lot of calls from people who know someone who doesn't have anyone, and they want them to have a good meal. That's a good thing."

Pinage, who's been with the program for about 18 months, said every dollar raised goes right back into the program.

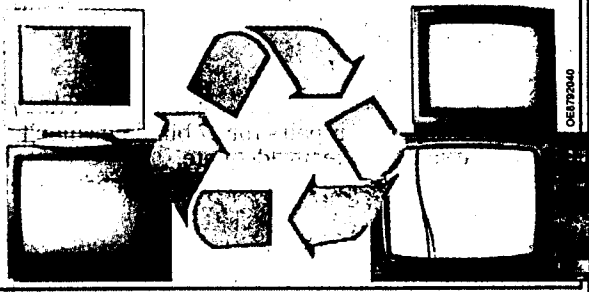
"It's good to know people are actually benefiting from this program," she said. "The seniors are appreciative. It's nice to know that what I'm doing is going directly to help somebody."

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# Wayne council sends get well wishes to 'Dougie'

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer



Douglas Beasley

Not just anybody is sent an official get well message by a vote of the Wayne City Council complete with mementoes from city departments. And Douglas Beasley isn't just anybody. As former city attorney Dick Clark said, "I

thought I know a lot of people in the city. The mayor (Al Haidous) knows more people. (Former parks and recreation maintenance supervisor) Ron

Hays knows more people than the mayor. Doug knows everyone." Called Dougie by his many of his friends, Beasley, 34, is a life-long Wayne resident and a part-time maintenance worker for the city since 1997. He's been off work fighting leukemia for about nine months. "Every city employ-

ee knows Doug, even if he doesn't work in their department," Clark said. "He stops in to see how they're doing and say hello. You can't say no to Doug." Clark has known Beasley for a long time — he said he has been friends with his parents Norm and Linda for 30 years. "I know Doug on a lot of

levels. I knew Doug as a kid. He is very high functioning with a developmental disability," Clark said. "I've been involved in Special Olympics and Doug participated when he was older. Then I used to see him working for the city." But Beasley isn't just a familiar face with city staff, he is also active at

the First Congregational Church of Wayne and is a member of the Wayne Civitans. A sports fan, Beasley worked on the film crew for Westland John Glenn High School football and, as a member of the Plymouth Whalers Fan Club, has been a home game scorekeeper.

Please see DOUGIE, A9

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### DOUGIE

Continued from page A8

"He's our little buddy," said Clark, who accepted the get well resolution on behalf of Beasley, who had been admitted to Henry Ford Hospital.

A neighbor was taping the presentation of the resolution and gifts from the police, fire and parks and recreation departments for Beasley and his parents.

"My wife and I love Doug. I call him a smooth character — you can't help but like and love him. Many in Wayne would agree," Haidous said. "Even when he wasn't working, he'd go to the community center. He'd stop in the store (owned by Haidous). I'd say, 'It's your day off.' He said he likes to be there."

Clark headed to the hospital the day after

the meeting to deliver the gifts, including a Boliva police cap and a fire helmet, along with an oversized get well card that was being signed at the meeting.

"The nurses wouldn't let us into the room until they got their cameras. He's such an enjoyable young man," Clark said. "He's friends with absolutely everybody."

rogers@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-5428

### Westland adds new truck to snow fleet

With colder weather beginning and January on the horizon, it seems realistic to expect snowfall.

To ensure Westland roads remain drivable during the winter months, the city recently purchased a 2012 International 7400 SBA tandem axle stainless steel dump truck with an underbelly scraper for the Department of Public Service.

The purchase will be made through the MI Deal purchasing plan at a cost of \$174,830. Funds for the purchase came from the motor pool capital outlay budget as well as from the sale of equip-

ment within the Department of Public Service.

"This is a great addition to the snow fleet and really helps make us more efficient when it comes time to servicing the roads," said Benny McCusker, DPS superintendent.

The International 7400 will be used for salting roads and lots, snow plowing, road grading and transportation of materials. It will also be utilized outside of the winter months to handle day-to-day operations and emergency situations.



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# Youngsters have special wish lists for Santa

**Editor's Note:** Because of space in Thursday's paper, we are printing those Letters to Santa that didn't get printed. We are thrilled with the response. We hope you will take the time to read these letters. We did and so did Santa.

**Dear Santa,**  
 • I would like an Innobab and a dreamlite turtle for Christmas. I have tried to be good all year and promise to listen to my mom and dad.

Thank you,  
**Kenny Helppie**  
 • I would like a play kitchen for Christmas. I have tried to be good all year and promise not to fight with my brother.  
 Thank you,  
**Ayla Helppie**  
 • Before I tell you what I want for Christmas, lets have a little, well, chat. So, how's the North Pole? It's warm down here in the USA. Since I was so freakishly good, could I get everything I have on my Christmas list? What

Christmas is a kitten for cuddling, a minute phone, for talking, and a face-book account for well, no reason.  
**Kaila Walker**  
 P.S Would you, could you, for Christmas, help my Daddy come to Michigan so I can see him? I haven't seen him in 7 years!  
 • Santa I bin gun can you buy me Pop the Pig! I woll put cues and mac.  
**Brandon**  
 • I hope you are having a good year at the North Pole with Mrs. Claus. I should be on the good list this

parents asked of me. I try my hardest in school and get good grades. Also, I'm helpful to others.  
 For Christmas, I would like the white iPad and a new home computer or anything else you may think of that I would like. I will be greatly appreciative.  
 My Dad wants a new truck for Christmas. He deserves it because he has been helpful and nice.  
**Jordan Stark**  
 P.S. I would like to thank you for all the things in the past and future.  
 • I wate a puppy. I wate a doll that looks like me. I have ben supper good. I have ben hpeing my family.

can you please get my family some nice presents as well? Including presents for my hamster. That would be nice.  
 I hope that you have a safe trip on Christmas eve and I promise to leave you milk and cookies. Have a very Merry Christmas!  
**Ava Good**  
 • Hi Santa how are you doing? I'm doing great! I didn't fight with my sister and I got a lot of good grades this year. I love to do schoolwork to have good grades in class  
 This year I would like to get Call of Duty Black Ops 2, Halo 4, Skylander Giants, and American, Michigan chillers book.

the reindeer, but I'm going to leave food in my moms front lawn so when the reindeer are done eating tell the that was my Christmas present to them!  
 • Hello Santa how is your family?  
 Thank you for the presents last year.  
 I deserve presents this year because I got really good grades this year. Also I behave a lot. This is what I want. I want a 16gig iPod Touch or I want a Playstation 3.  
 Well Santa the last thing I have to tell you is my sister (Alexis) always cleans her room and wants this bed set that has peace signs on it. Pretty please get her it. She deserves it. Her room is always clean.  
 Santa be safe on your trip to the North Pole.

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**Ava**  
 • Hi Santa how are you doing? I have been wondering am I on the good or bad list? I think I am on the good list even ask my mom!  
 I think I deserve presents because I have been nice to my brother and sister. This is what I want for Christmas I want some Hex Bugs, Wii U, and Skylanders Giants. I think my brother wants turn tables and he deserves presents because he has been nice to me.  
**Owen Napier**  
 • I wish I have a Jeep and iPad and a pet and a mune! I am good for a cat.  
**Elizabeth**  
 • Hello Santa, I think I've been good this year. I got good grades in school, all A's.  
 Here are some gifts that would be nice to receive this Christmas: A monster high doll, a beanie boo, and maybe an iPad. Whatever I receive this Christmas will be wonderful Santa. Also,

**Nick Farrell**  
 • How are you doing? I'm doing great. I think I've been a good girl this year.  
 Santa I deserve a present because I have awesome grades my room is always clean and I always do my sisters chores (like clean her room) What I want for Christmas is an iPod because I want to be able to face time or Skype my friends and family who live far away, also because my sisters and I always fight over the iPad.  
 I want you to help me get something for my daddy. I want you to get him a new phone because his phone always takes forever to load, and it sometimes fezzes on him. My dad deserve his new phone because he has put a lot of effort into taking care of my grandmother, my sister, my cat, and I.  
**Hanna Hastings**  
 P.S I hope you have a very good X-mas and don't tell

**Jaxson Matyjasik**  
 • Hey Santa I think I have been pretty good this year. Santa why I deserve presents is because my sister is mean to me and I try my hardest to be nice to her. So Santa if I was good can you get me the fire vision football set. Can I get a new football? Last I want is some mini sticks I have teams I like. For example I like the Caroline Hurricanes, Pittsburgh Penguins, and the New York Rangers. If I get this team I will SCREAM, it is the legends for mini sticks PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
 Santa if you could get me NFL and NHL 13 I would love that. I would love a writing note pad so I can practice my printing PLEASE PLEASE.  
 I have one more thing. My best friend Lenny has broken his best team the Calgary Flames, so Santa can you get Lenny the team of the Calgary Flames for X-mas.

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LETTERS

Continued from page A10

leave some cookies and milk for you and carrots for the reindeer.

I have got all A's on my report card, and I have done all my homework, and so these are some things I want for Christmas this year...

My little brother overall he has been good so can you please give him a Lego Star Wars set because he's always going into my Legos...

Max. B. O'Connell

How is everything in the workshop? How is Mrs. Claus doing? I think I deserve presents because I haven't annoyed my sister, Hanna, most of the year...

For Christmas I would like Pokemon cards, LEGO monster fighter sets, and 3DS games. Like Freaky Forms Deluxe. I also want Skylanders for my 3DS...

Christmas is about thinking of others. So will you please use some of your magic and make some of my little sister's toys disappear? So my dad won't be so frustrated about cleaning her messes up?

Michael Letasz

How are you doing? I'm doing great!! I think I deserve presents this year because I'm good in school and I try my hardest at volleyball.

The things I want for Christmas are a galaxy S3, and a laptop. I want a galaxy S3 because my phone doesn't work anymore. I want a laptop because my mom has one and my sister and I always fight over it...

My family was also good this year so maybe you can get my family a new car because my family doesn't like our car. They don't like our car right now because it was in a crash and it's old. We got it like five years ago, so can you PLEASE get my family a new car, PLEASE

Nicky Radiwon

Hi Santa, how are you doing? Can we discuss what I want for Christmas? I deserve a lot of presents because I haven't fought or hit my siblings. I would like a Nabi 2. I saw one online. Could it be a blue one or a green one? Could you get my Mom a new phone for Christmas because she's having trouble with the one she has. She deserves it because she stops my dad from yelling at me!!!

Aaron Trevor

I want a new xbox black elite. My mom said it was

a lot of money. That's why I want an xbox for Christmas. I want 3 games for the xbox 360, it can be any game you want but at least a cool game. My dog wants a big bone and lots of treats. My old phone is old so I would like a new phone touch crean please. I would want 3ds points so I can download games.

I've got bad grades but I have done a lot of good things.

Nathaniel Bluebaugh

All I would like for Christmas for snow, and maybe a blizzard (but that wouldn't be good for you.) Also I would like people to get home safe and sound, with their family with them. If their families cannot be with them keep them warm. The final thing I want is to have my uncle home because he serves in the navy and has been relocated 5 times since June, so it would be nice to see him again. I hope you will grant all my wishes.

Jessica D.

I would really like a brand new amazing soccer ball. I think I should get this because I've been really nice to my brothers and sisters lately.

Autume Maxwell

This year there are several things I would like this year. I hope you will be able to make this Christmas a spectacular one, like all previous ones.

The first thing on my wish list this year is the Dragon Quest IX game for the DS. I want this game so much because my cousin Jessica has it and I want to play with her on the game. I hope I can receive one this year!

Robin Jade

All I wish for Christmas is for the children that are sick during Christmas to get their true wish because out of all the children in the world they are most deserving. I believe that they are very brave and strong we need more people like them in this world because their better then I will ever be so give them my wish this year it would mean a lot to me thank you.

Ashley Frazier

"Ho ho ho" guess who I am? Ha ha ha!!! First, All I want for Christmas is for some snow and cold weather to make a snowman. Next, I would also like for the people who are fighting for us to come home and spend Christmas and other holidays with their families. Like my brother is in the army and I want him to come see us for a couple holidays. Finally, I would like to have children who are sick and poor to have a great Christmas with some good gifts and spend there time with their family.

Jade E. Hello, my name is Megan Blair I am in 6th grade and live in Michigan. What I want for Christmas is Many One Direction Things such as a wallet and their first album. Also, I'd like Super Mario (the first) for the Wii and Super Mario Bros 2 for the 3ds. Finally I'd like money or things donated to the red cross, childrens hospital, or the Michigan Humane Society. Lastly, I hope you have a good time and get all the presents to the children on time (as always). Oh, and some snow lots actually!!!

Megan Blair hi my name is Emmy. Now I know I want a lot of presents for Christmas but I hope you at least get me one of the things I want. But could you tell the reindeer I said hi. I hope its going good up there. Now I can't type much I am only six and so byeebye

emmy

I know that I haven't been good ALL year, but it's a 50-50 thing. I know this is a long shot, but I am asking for you to give my brother at least a few new cars, (play cars not real), a new allowance, and a good jug of happiness.

Rebecca B.

This year I think I deserve Christmas because I have been very nice to my sister this year also I do my chores when I can. What I want is a Furby, Slurpee maker, Nook, 3DS, 1D items and lots of books. Thanks for all of the years before this see you next year.

See you on the nice list,

Emilee Baker

Inheritance: Distribute estate as you see fit

By Rick Bloom Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I need help with an estate planning issue. I am a widower with two daughters. One of my daughters has done quite well for herself and doesn't need my money. The other one is constantly struggling to make ends meet. I have loaned her money which I know I'll never get back, but that's okay. Part of me wants to leave the great bulk of my estate to daughter number two because she needs the money. However, I'm not sure this is the right thing to do. Why should I penalize daughter number one for her success? I'm also concerned that if I do leave the bulk of my estate to daughter number two, she will just blow the money. The attorney that I've used in the past knows both of my daughters and I'm not sure he can give me an impartial opinion. What do you think I should do?

A: The issue of treating children differently in an estate is one that occurs frequently. Generally, the reason is exactly as you stated in your letter and that is that one child has done financially better than the other. There are, however, other situations that lead parents to treat their children differently. For example, I recently worked on a trust where the father, who was a widower, felt that one daughter was more helpful to him and, thus, he felt she was entitled to more. The bottom line is there are lots of situations where parents do not treat their children equally.

In the estates that I've been involved with that have unequal distributions, the parents almost always ask me if I think it is fair. My answer is, fairness has nothing to do

with it. The money you have as an inheritance is your money and you are free to dispose of it in any way that you wish. Fairness doesn't enter into the equation.

Think about when your children were growing up. If one child needed braces and the other didn't, did you spend more money on the child that didn't need the braces to compensate for the fact that the other child needed braces? In most situations, the answer would be no. You treated each child fairly according to their individual needs. It is the same thing with an inheritance.

In the letter you mentioned that you do not want to punish your daughter who has been more financially successful. My answer is that whatever way you're headed, you're not punishing her because it is not her money. It is your money to do with as you choose, in whatever way you think is right.

Too many people in our society think that when it comes to inheritances they're entitled to certain money. As far as I'm concerned, no one is entitled to anything. Whether it's leaving more money to one child because they were better to you during your lifetime or leaving more to a child because of their specific needs, you should not feel guilty as to how you allocate your money.

The bottom line, it is your money and you're entitled to do with it as you choose.

Good Luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Bloom to respond to your questions, please e-mail him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Home Accents Categories Listed DOES NOT INCLUDE SEASONAL 50% OFF Christmas & Spring items are not included in sale unless specified. Includes sections for Christmas Party & Gift Wrapping Supplies, Christmas Decor, Christmas Trees, Christmas Floral, Christmas Crafts, Christmas Light Sets & Light Accessories, Furniture, Needle Art, Framing, Photo Frames, Rubber Stamps & Sets, Papercrafting, Jewelry Making, Home Decor, Fashion Fabric, and Art Supplies.

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0E08779018

# Jews, Muslims support Christian neighbors, volunteers

By Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

Volunteering on Christmas day brings a double reward for Nancy Welber-Barr of West Bloomfield.

Not only is she receiving the joy of giving back on Mitzvah Day, a community-wide day of volunteering, she also receives the gift of giving back.

"It's a real bonus. I like to be able to help other people, and I also get the chance to help people enjoy their holidays," she said.

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit, Mitzvah Day combines efforts of local volunteers who step in to help local charities on the holiday and provide the opportunity for Christian volunteers to take the day off to celebrate the tradition of Christmas.

"It's a chance to give Christians a chance to celebrate without feeling like they have neglected their volunteering duties," Barr said.

The Jewish community has been sponsoring Mitzvah Day in the



Jane Steinger (right) and Theresa Dunlop volunteer together at the Bookstock depot in West Bloomfield.

Metro Detroit area for some 20 years and this is the fourth year that area Muslims will join with them in an effort to relieve their Christian neighbors of their volunteer responsibilities on Christmas.

"It is a show of goodwill and it also builds cooperation between the faiths," said Canton resident Muzammil Ahmed, the chairman of volunteers for the Michigan Muslim Community Council.

Working together across differing religious boundaries illustrates that "we can appreciate each other's religions while still maintain-

ing our own identity," the Canton resident added.

The establishment of Mitzvah Day originated from the command from God to help your neighbor and not to turn your back on the needy, said Micki Grossman of Farmington Hills, a longtime Mitzvah Day volunteer.

She said the idea of Mitzvah refers to Jewish religious obligation to do any good deed.

"It is our religious duty. It is a command that we live with and this is a great chance for the Jewish community to do good things and make a visible community effort in and around Detroit," Gross-

man said. Although Mitzvah Day is celebrated in other regions across the United States, Grossman believes that the idea of a community-wide Mitzvah day might well have had its origins right here in Michigan's Oakland County.

"If we didn't start it, we sure were darn close," Grossman said.

## Volunteers respond

More than 800 local residents will participate this year and help more than 40 different charities throughout the area, said Farmington Hills resident Janet Berman, co-chair of this year's event along with Hy Saffran.

Volunteers will donate their time to assist with activities ranging from delivering Meals on Wheels to serving food at homeless shelters to helping out at animal shelters, she said.

While Berman is eager to provide assistance to others on Mitzvah Day, it is the opportunity to work alongside those of different faiths that she finds most rewarding. "I remember when I

was volunteering a couple of years ago at an interfaith site and some of the Muslim women came up to me said they were interested in learning more about the Jewish tradition. It was such a beautiful experience. Something really stuck me then about the power of working together. I thought, 'look what we have here.' It may be just a little tiny thing but it is a step in the right direction," Berman said.

"The opportunity to work alongside others of different faiths for a common goal is very fulfilling, especially when children can see it. It instills a certain feeling inside that is hard to describe," she said.

It is the same feeling that 18-year-old Sarah Waqhar of Canton gets when she volunteers at the event.

Waqhar, a freshman at Eastern Michigan University, said she actively volunteers for a variety of community efforts because she feels strongly about giving back to her community.

"Volunteering on Mitzvah Day gives me a unique opportunity to

meet people of different religions and bring smiles to their faces," Waqhar said.

Working together, she said, breaks down any preconceived notions that people of different backgrounds cannot get along.

"We live in America and we're made up of so many different religions. The idea that we cannot come together and work alongside each other — we're proving that wrong," she said.

"When you set out to help someone, you don't ask them about their background or their faith and beliefs. You see a need and you fill it."

It is important as an American to be respectful of one another's religion, she said.

"We are still one community as a whole," she added.

Ahmed said that Mitzvah Day is an event that he and his family look forward to all year long.

"This is such a great event. No matter what your religion is, there is a festive air in December. Whether or not you celebrate Christmas it is hard not to get caught up in the holiday spirit," he said.

## Westland dispatchers pick up Wayne EMS calls

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Westland emergency dispatchers are now handling fire and EMS calls for the city of Wayne.

Previously, the combined Wayne-Garden City dispatching center, housed in Wayne, handled dispatching for police, fire and EMS in both cities.

The change comes as a result of the merger of the Wayne and Westland fire departments.

"We'll take a look at joint dispatching moving forward for the most cost-effective way of doing this," Westland Mayor William Wild said.

For some years, Westland has handled police and fire dispatching services for Inkster on a contractual basis.

"There was some talk that Inkster would pull out (of the dispatching contract), but they just notified me that they intend to stay," Wild said.

Going forward, Wild said he expects Westland, Wayne, Garden City and Inkster to see if they can work together on emergency dispatching.

"The Westland Police Department dispatch center was set up with room for the four communities. We're looking into it with the Garden City manager," Wild said.

## IRS offers tax tips for 'season of giving'

December is traditionally a month for giving generously to charities, friends and family. But it's also a time that can have a major impact on the tax return you'll file in the New Year. Here are some "Season of Giving" tips from the IRS covering everything from charity donations to refund planning:

- Contribute to qualified charities - If you plan to take an itemized charitable deduction on your 2012 tax return, your donation must go to a qualified charity by Dec. 31. Ask the charity about its tax-exempt status. You can also visit IRS.gov and use the Exempt Organizations Select Check tool to check if your favor-

ite charity is a qualified charity.

Donations charged to a credit card by Dec. 31 are deductible for 2012, even if you pay the bill in 2013. A gift by check also counts for 2012 as long as you mail it in December. Gifts given to individuals, whether to friends, family or strangers, are not deductible.

- What you can deduct - You generally can deduct your cash contributions and the fair market value of most property you donate to a qualified charity. Special rules apply to several types of donated property, including clothing or household items, cars and boats.
- Keep records of all donations - You need to keep a record of any donations you deduct, regardless of the amount.

You must have a written record of all cash contributions to claim a deduction. This may include a cancelled check, bank or credit card statement or payroll deduction record. You can also ask the charity for a written statement that shows the charity's name, contribution date and amount.

- Gather records in a safe place - As long as you're gathering those records for your charitable contributions, it's a good time to start rounding up documents you will need to file your tax return in 2013. This includes receipts, canceled checks and other documents that support income or deductions you will claim on your tax return. Be sure to store them in a safe place so you can easily access

them later when you file your tax return.

• Plan ahead for major purchases - If you are making major purchases during the holiday season, don't base them solely on the expectation of receiving your tax refund before the bills arrive. Many factors can impact the timing of a tax refund. The IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days after receiving a tax return.

However, if your tax return requires additional review, it may take longer to receive your refund.

For more information about contributions, check out Publication 526, Charitable Contributions. The booklet is available on IRS.gov or order by mail at 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
MINUTES OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS  
FOR THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2012**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved minutes for Meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford for the month of November 2012, are posted at the following public places within the Township:

Community Center, 12121 Hemingway  
Fire Department, 15145 Beech Daly  
Library, 25320 Six Mile Road  
Department of Public Services, 12200 Beech Daly  
Police Department, 25833 Elsinore  
Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly

Approved minutes may also be viewed on-line at [www.redfordtwp.com](http://www.redfordtwp.com)

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk  
Charter Township of Redford

Publish: December 23, 2012 AT 0608792530 3X3.5

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:  
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Jennifer Champagne, and DOES 1-25 YOU ARE BEING SUED  
BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Frank Krueger**

NOTICE: You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case.

There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you don't know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a non-profit legal services program. You can locate these non-profit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO: Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen.

Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procean su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.

Publish: December 23, 30, 2012 & January 6, 13, 2013 0E08792745 3x5

**CITY OF FARMINGTON  
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE REGARDING  
KEEPING OF HORSES**

Public Notice is hereby given that at its December 17, 2012, Regular Meeting, the City Council of the City of Farmington adopted Ordinance No. C-767-2012, summarized below. The purpose of the Ordinance is to amend Chapter 35, Zoning, of the City of Farmington Code of Ordinances, in order to add a new section, section 35-60, "Keeping of Horses."

A full copy of C-767-2012 Ordinance is on file in the City Clerk's Office for public review and inspection.

**THE CITY OF FARMINGTON ORDAINS:**

Section 1. Amendment of Ordinance Chapter 35, "Zoning," of the Farmington City Code, Article II, "General Provisions," is hereby amended to add a new section, Section 35-60, "Keeping of Horses."

Section 2. Amendment of Ordinance Chapter 35, "Zoning," of the Farmington City Code, Article II, "General Provisions," Section 35-49, "Fences" is hereby amended to add a new Subsection "I", "Corrals for the Keeping of Horses."

Section 3. Amendment of Ordinance Chapter 35, "Zoning," of the Farmington City Code, Article XXI, "Definitions," Section 35-252, "Livestock" is hereby amended.

Section 4. Amendment of Ordinance Chapter 35, "Zoning," of the Farmington City Code, Article XXI, "Definitions," Section 35-252, "Fence," is hereby amended.

Section 5. Repealer.

Section 6. Severability.

Section 7. Savings.

Section 8. Effective Date: December 30, 2012

Section 9. Enactment.

SUSAN K. HALBERSTADT, City Clerk  
City of Farmington

Publish: December 23, 2012 3-7 0E08792534

# Wayne Memorial treats families to its Holiday Night

The evening was magical for the hundreds of parents and children who attended Wayne Memorial High School's annual Holiday Night.

Guests enjoyed dinner and had time to make an ornament, decorate a cookie and write a letter to Santa. Children lined up to visit with Santa at the North Pole and have their picture taken with him. There was even time to bounce on a big inflatable and listen to Christmas carols.

The event was put on by the students and staff of Wayne Memorial and has grown in popularity each year since it started holding it. This is the fourth year the high school has opened its doors for the community a holiday celebration. Last year's event attracted more than 1,300 adults and children.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Wayne Memorial Concert Choir sings Christmas carols for guests at the high school's fourth annual Holiday Night.



Katherine Rebell of Wayne decorates her holiday cookie.



Madison Oaks of Wayne plays time from the holiday celebration to play with Legos.



Chardinae Lewis of Wayne enjoys the spaghetti provided by Chef Anthony Paquette of the Culinary Arts Department at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.



Abbigail Stone of Westland works her way through the tunnel of an inflatable at Holiday Night.

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to rezone the property located at 30759 Ford Road from C-2 Community Business District to C-3 General Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: December 23, 2012 AT8792430 3x3

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to rezone the property located at 111 Middlebelt Road from C-1 Local Business District to C-3 General Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: December 23, 2012 3x3 AT0872280

**Garden City Michigan**  
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Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: December 23, 2012 AT8792325 3X4

**THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN**

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234**

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z 13-01 1067 Linden  
Non-Use Variance Requested  
Rear Yard Setback  
Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential  
Applicant: Kevin M. Porter

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator  
201 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170,  
(734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: Sunday, December 23, 2012 3x5 AT0872281

# Culinary awards OCC and Schoolcraft among the top international winners

Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College are among the winners in the 23rd International Culinary Art Exhibition - "The Culinary Olympics" in Germany in October.

The American Culinary Federation's Michigan Chefs De Cuisine Association announced that the Michigan Culinary Olympic Team (MCOT) returned home with more medals than any other state in the United States.

This year's award-winning team included Doug Ganhs, team captain and chef instructor at The Culinary Studies Institute of Oakland Community College (gold and bronze medal winner) and Shawn Loving, culinary arts department chair, Schoolcraft College (bronze medal winner).

Held in Erfurt, Germany, the Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung (IKA) in October featured more than 1,600 talented chefs from more than 50 countries to showcase their respective culinary skills and innovation in a competitive format.

Approximately 25,000 people attended the competition. The world-class event is similar to the traditional athletic Olympics. Every four years, the IKA serves as the single most elite competitive culinary event globally. This culinary Mecca highlights the best in both professional and student culinary teams from around the world to compete for Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals in multiple categories.

Overall, the 2012



The 2012 Michigan Culinary Olympic Team members from left top, John Miller, executive chef, Chartwells at Oakland University; Deni Smiljanovski; Doug Ganhs, team captain and chef instructor at The Culinary Studies Institute of Oakland Community College; Brian Beland, executive chef/director of food and beverage at the Country Club of Detroit; Steve Valenti; Shawn Loving, culinary arts department chair, Schoolcraft College; and Gabriel Vera, executive chef, Lena & Habana restaurants in Ann Arbor. From left bottom, Karen Hoffman; Randy Smith, manager of the 2012 MCOT and the executive chef of the Walnut Creek Country Club; and Sarah Rougeau, banquet chef at the Oakland Hills Country Club.

MCOT, sponsored by the ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine (MCCA), brought home three gold medals, one silver medal and three bronze medals from this year's competition. This year's competition resulted in Michigan winning more medals than any other state.

MCOT's goal was to use Michigan products in the competition including beef, pork, poultry,

seafood, fruits, vegetables, beer, wine, liquors and hand crafted service ware, platters and plates.

"Our mission was simple," said Randy Smith, manager of the 2012 MCOT and executive chef of the Walnut Creek Country Club. "We represented the Detroit metro area, Michigan and the entire United States on an international stage, using prod-

ucts grown, raised, processed and manufactured in our Great Lakes state, emphasizing that Michigan is home to some of the greatest products and chefs in the world."

In addition to Ganhs and Loving, this year's award-winning team included Sarah Rougeau, banquet chef at the Oakland Hills Country Club (silver medal winner), Chef Gabriel Vera,

executive chef, Lena & Habana restaurants in Ann Arbor (bronze medal winner), John Miller, executive chef, Chartwells at Oakland University (gold medal winner), and Brian Beland, executive chef/director of food and beverage at the Country Club of Detroit (gold medal winner).

Michigan is home to nearly 1,000 American Culinary Federation

members statewide and has had great success in previous World Culinary Olympics winning 12 gold, nine silver and six bronze medals in international competitions over the last 25 years.

The ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine hosted several fundraisers these past two years to help raise money for the MCOT to send the team, supplies and equipment to the competition. Through these fundraising efforts and also through contributions of many local businesses MCOT was able to raise nearly \$60,000.

Businesses that sponsored this year's team include: US Foods, Sysco Food Services of Detroit, LLC, Gordon Food Service, Northern Lakes Seafood & Meats, Mark's Quality Meats & Culinary Specialties, Coastal Produce, Churchill China, Lorge Marketing Services, LLC, Graphikitchen, LLC, Fairway Packing, Red Goose Spice Company, Assimacopoulos Supreme Baking Company, Fortune Baking Company, Leonardo's Produce, Elegance Distributors, Chef Source, ISC Services, Michigan Restaurant Association, Miceli & Oldfield, Advantage Waypoint, Del Bene Produce, King Coffee and Tea Services, Mama Mucci's Pasta, Sunburst Chemicals, R. Hirt Jr. Co., Westland Car Care Automotive, Gold Star Products, Michaels & Associates, Gass Centennial Farms, General Wine and Spirits, North Star Produce, Ray's Ice Cream, and Werp Farms.

## Wayne, Westland join forces for Relay for Life

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Wayne and Westland have combined fire departments and parks and recreation programs. Now, Westland's annual Relay for Life American Cancer Society fundraiser has become the latest combined effort for the

two communities. Westland Councilwoman Meriam Kadi, who is chairing the event, was joined by American Cancer Society representative Abigail Stonerook in announcing the joint event before each council last week. "I'm very excited to announce that Wayne is

joining us this year," Kadi said. "I'm excited that they will be part of this." The 24-hour event will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9. Relay for Life will be moving to a new location this year — Attwood Park in Wayne, which is adjacent to the Wayne Community Center.

This will mark the 13th year for Westland's Relay for Life, which during the first 10 years raised an average \$100,000 annually. At the Wayne council meeting, Kadi and Stonerook happened to speak following a get well resolution for long-time city employee Douglas

Beasley, who is suffering from leukemia. "I want to say after hearing about Doug Beasley, my heart goes out to you," Stonerook said. "Cancer touches so many of us. When you see the work that they have done, it digs at your heart a bit more."

Along with money for cancer research, Stonerook said the American Cancer Society also works to develop cancer screening guidelines, provides support for cancer patients, honors survivors and remembers those lost to cancer.

"There are 5,000 communities that host relays and I'm excited that Wayne will be one of those communities this year," Stonerook said. The 2013 kickoff will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Wayne Community Center. Anyone interested in participating is invited to attend. "We're honored to have this event in our community. I wish you well and extend a helping hand to work with you," Wayne Mayor Al Haidous said.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com  
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**THE DILEMMA OF BACK PAIN**

Almost everyone will experience back pain in their lifetime. One would think that physicians faced with such a common problem would have an approach at their fingertips for diagnosis, treatment and questions patients might ask. Such is not the case.

The fact is that in over 90% of back pain cases, the physician has no diagnosis. Treatment decisions hardly fare better. Why is that so?

First, the back is a complicated piece of anatomy. Back musculature is arrayed in both layers and weaves. The intertwined muscles are difficult to identify even with MRI, which is the best imaging available. Physicians have no way to accurately identify the presence of strains or tears in the dorsi flexors or rotators of the back.

Second, changes brought by aging mean that the structure of the back changes and episodes of pain or difficulty arising from a chair will occur on the basis of age related loss of lumbar flexibility and load accommodation. Physicians have difficulty separating these changes from pain resulting from injury or inflammation.

Physicians have a problem in prescribing therapy because few studies provide guidelines for when to start with pain medication and let time resolve the pain or under what circumstances is physical therapy the best initial course.

The question of when to use epidural injections remains unanswered though this procedure enjoys a popularity. Finally, the place for surgery and which procedure to use from a myriad of alternatives, is a matter of debate.

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**Thank you, constituents**

It has been a pleasure serving as your District 12 commissioner. I am proud to have served and represent you for the past two terms on the Wayne County Commission. I would like to thank all of those who have relayed their concerns to me over the years and I hope that those concerns have been properly resolved.

I would like to thank each of you and the three communities of Westland, Inkster and south Livonia for giving me the extraordinary opportunity to make a difference in Wayne County. As the author of the Ethics Ordinance, I know that I have left a mark on the commission and have high hopes that we, with your help, are headed in the right direction.

The Wayne County Commission districts have been redrawn and will take effect at the beginning of the new year. The current district will be split up between four of the new districts. Depend-

ing on where you live, your new commissioner will either be Diane Webb, Laura Cox, Kevin McNamara or current state Rep. Richard LeBlanc. You can find the new district maps by visiting the following web page: [http://www.co.wayne.mi.us/documents/elections\\_docs/Plan060111.pdf](http://www.co.wayne.mi.us/documents/elections_docs/Plan060111.pdf). I wish them the best of luck throughout their terms.

I wish each of you a very blessed and Merry Christmas, and also a healthy and happy New Year!

**Joan Gebhardt**  
Wayne County commissioner

**Thanks for article**

This is author Cheryl Vatcher-Martin writing to thank you for the wonderful article titled, "Write On."

This type of coverage will encourage others to write their novels during national novel writing month and beyond.

It also promotes the services at the Westland Library, which encourages writers of all levels to attend

programs such as the weekly Write-Ins during the month of November. I know that these write-ins this past November helped me out tremendously. This library is the most user friendly library in southeast Michigan.

Thanks again for your fantastic article!

**Cheryl Vatcher-Martin**  
Canton

**Needs to resign**

So (Garden City council members) Jim Kerwin and Joanne Dodge feel it's OK to miss three months worth of council meetings. Really? Would you feel the same about Jaylee Lynch or Pat Squires? How about the mayor? Can he take three months away from his duties?

The keyword here is duty. It is the duty of every council person to attend to their civic obligation. You can't do that from afar.

I'm pretty sure if it was the mayor, you'd be screaming for his resignation, if not

tar and feathers. Councilman (George) Kordie is not breaking the law and no one blames him for seeking employment elsewhere and you are right that the citizens voted him into office. But we voted him in as a full-time councilman.

Mr. Kordie, do the right thing and resign. If not, the city council must act quickly to take your seat away. We deserve better.

**Skip Wehrle**  
Garden City

**Good decision**

Today (Dec. 17) marked a truly momentous occasion, as the Westland City Council, along with Mayor William Wild and his administration, announced plans for a new Westland City Hall after the purchase of the vacant Circuit City building located on Warren Road.

The current city hall is undersized and lacking functionality. This has been an issue that has been at the forefront of our discussions for quite some time.

The decision to purchase the vacant building came after much deliberation between Mayor Wild and his staff, city council and the residents of the community. Multiple options were considered, from possibilities of building on city-owned land behind the public library to building on the current Ford Road site to retrofitting a vacant commercial facility. However, in light of what a majority of citizens favored and what was eventually deemed in the best interest of the city, the Circuit City building was designated as the site for the future city hall.

Containing more than 64,000 square feet, this facility will benefit the needs of the city in a multitude of ways. We will be able to consolidate a number of municipal departments under one roof, including the Departments of Building and Planning and WLND Cable operations. Along with offering more public meeting space, flexible-use rooms that can be rented out and

an extensive renovation that will create a more modern and energy-efficient building, I am confident that this decision will positively impact the community and its residents for years to come.

The announcement to purchase the facility culminates a year in which a lot of good happened in the city, from the merger of Wayne-Westland fire departments to an increase in fund balance to multiple small businesses moving in to long-vacant facilities. These are all positive accomplishments that everyone on the city administration and council should be proud of. After such a productive year, I am anxious to move forward into the next and continue to watch Westland grow.

Finally, I would like to thank all members on the council who put in countless hours on this matter, as well as Mayor Wild and his staff.

**James Godbout**  
Westland City Council president



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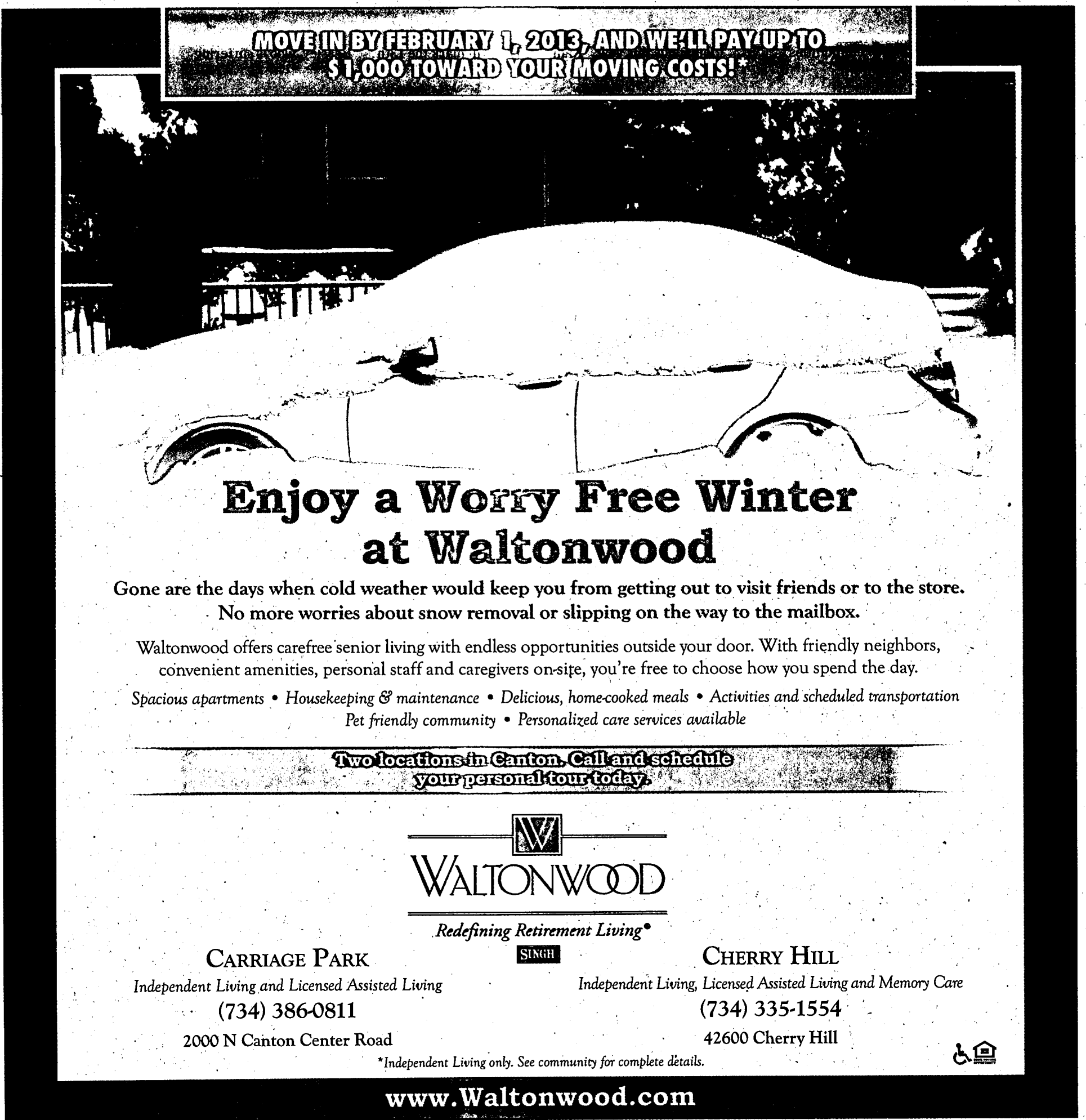


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# Children benefit from generosity of O&E readers

Families throughout the Observer & Eccentric area donated hundreds of toys to help brighten Christmas for area youngsters.

The second annual O&E Media Toy Drive was a success and "a gift of love from the community," said Choya Jordan, marketing manager of O&E Media and coordinator of the toy drive.

Youngsters at the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford Township and Orchards Children's Services received the toys earlier this month.

"The holiday season is a special time of year for children. For the children we serve, Christmas can be a sad depressing experience. We thank you for bringing hope to vulnerable children that otherwise fall through the cracks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated," said Shai A. James-Boyd, director of development and marketing at Methodist Children's Home Society.

Janice Berry, director of community relations for Orchards Children's Services in Southfield, echoed the message of thanks to all families who donated to the O&E Media Toy Drive.

"Orchards Children's Services would like to



Area families contributed items to the O&E Media Toy drive.

thank all of the generous donors who donated gifts. Our children will receive more toys as a result of your generosity. We are forever grateful."

"On behalf of the O&E staff, thank you for helping spread hope and joy to a child this holiday season," added Jordan. "Our wish is that every child both near and far feel the gift of love from family and a community," said Jordan, adding "We would like to give a special thanks to the The Birmingham Community House and Southfield Chamber of Commerce for helping to collect gifts."

Toys were collected at O&E offices in South Lyon and Plymouth Township and in Birmingham at The Birmingham Community House and Southfield Chamber of Commerce.

## Skating time

Looking for a change of pace this holiday season? The Garden City Civic Arena offers glow skate 7-9 p.m. Saturdays and is expanding its public skating times for Christmas break

Glow skate costs \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Skate rental is \$2. Glow skate admission includes a free glow necklace.

Public skating will be available 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 26-28 and Jan. 2-4. The cost is reduced for those skating sessions only, and is \$2 per child age 5 and under, \$3 for adults age 16 and older and \$1 for rental skates.

The arena is located in Garden City Park at Cherry Hill and Merriman. For more information, call (734) 793-1882.

## Family Movie

The Garden City Public Library is inviting families to stop by the library for a Family Movie Day Thursday, Dec. 27. The library will be showing National Treasure (rated PG), beginning at 2 p.m.

The library is at the Maplewood Center. Use the entrance on Balmoral west of Merriman.

## Tutoring

Members of the Key Club are once again offering tutoring 3:30-4:40 p.m. Wednesdays.

Any middle school and elementary students can get some much-needed help with their studies at tutoring, offered 3:30-4:30

p.m. Wednesday in Room 118 at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt.

For more information, contact Myrna Hathaway at the high school at (734) 762-8350 or at hathawm@gardencityschools.com.

## Lightfest

Enjoy a breathtaking drive through Hines Park and the Midwest's longest holiday light display at the Wayne County Parks annual Lightfest.

The more than four-mile, colorful drive-through light display runs daily 7-10 p.m. through Dec. 31, except Christmas Day when it's closed. The cost is \$5 per vehicle cost. Enter Lightfest off Merriman Road north Warren Road.

For more information, call (734) 261-1990.

## GC Community Chat

Please join host Kerry Partin and his co-hosts every Thursday night at 9 p.m. It's the Internet talk show dedicated to the residents and businesses of Garden City and the surrounding communities. Share your events, fundraisers and comments with other listeners.

Call-in live at 724-444-7444 enter call ID 82757#, or visit us in our chat room at <http://talkshoe.com/tc/82757>. Either way we look forward to hearing from you.

Contact us at [gccommunitychat@gmail.com](mailto:gccommunitychat@gmail.com).

## Healing Hearts

Do you have a loved one in prison?

Know that you are not alone. Confidential support group meetings are held at Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland, 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The meetings are free.

For more information contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts at (734) 646-2237.

## Cougars Cafe

The Garden City Public Schools holds its monthly the Cougars Care Cafe on Saturdays at Henry Ruff School. Upcoming cafe dates are Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16, April 20 and May 18.

The free hot lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gymnasium of the school, located at 30300 Maplewood at Henry Ruff. The goal is to serve to serve a hot lunch once a month throughout the 2012-13 school year.

For more information or to donate, call Dorothy Wood at (734) 762-6311.

## Pet-a-Pet

Pet-A-Pet, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic, friendly pets and their owners to visit facilities one hour a month at the Garden City Hospital Rehab. Pets must be up to date with vaccinations, proof required. Visits are at 3:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Call Mickie Hickey at (734) 522-0036 for more information or to sign up.

## Shop online

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

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

## Garden City Kiwanis

The Garden City Kiwanis Club of is recruiting new members to help provide assistance to the disadvantaged residents of the community — especially children — who are having a difficult time during this economic recession. Founded in 1948, the Kiwanis Club of Garden City provides many community service projects each year, including a "Baby Shower" for the Garden City Family Resource Center, a continuing Food Pantry drive, the Trauma Doll Project for hospitalized children and the Third Grade Dictionary Project.

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

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

## Recycle for cash

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

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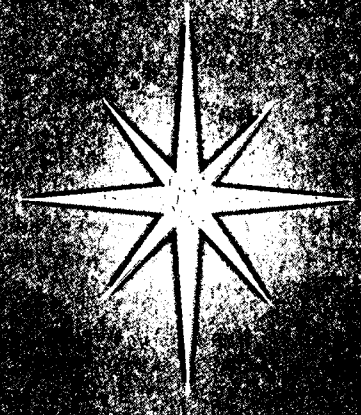
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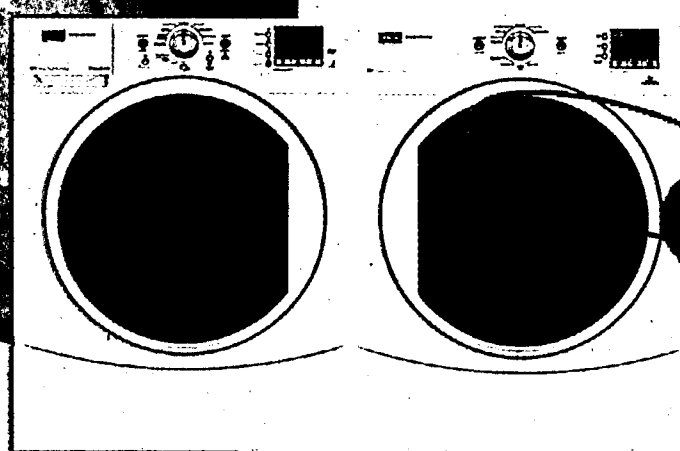
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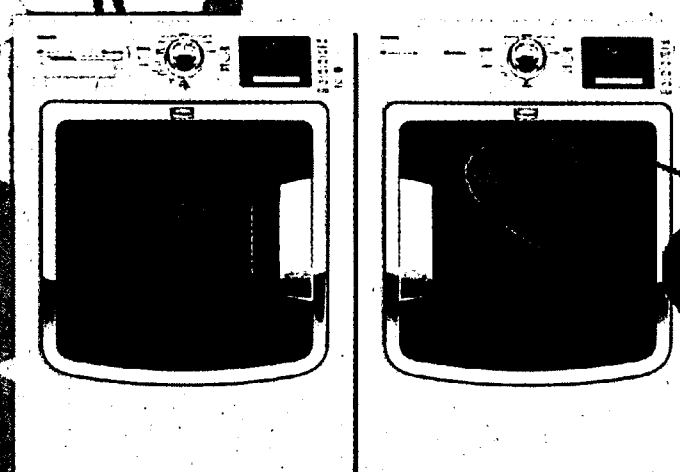
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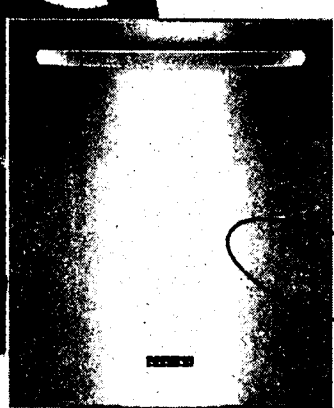
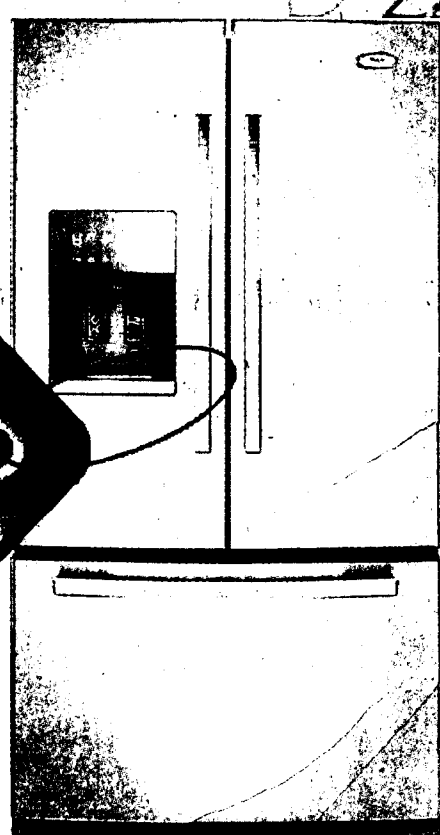
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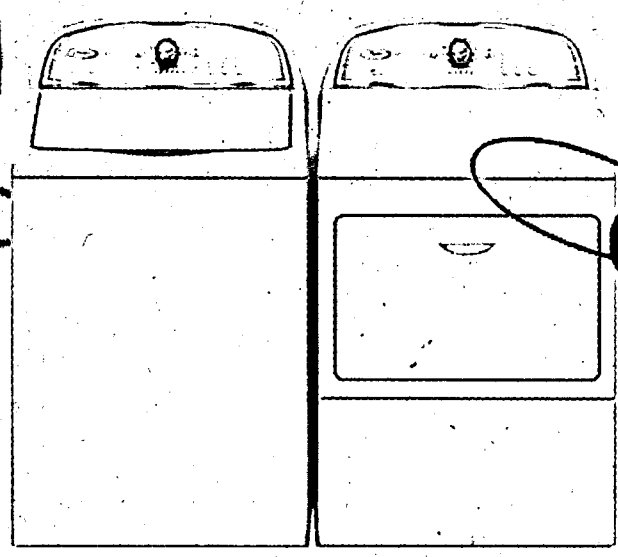
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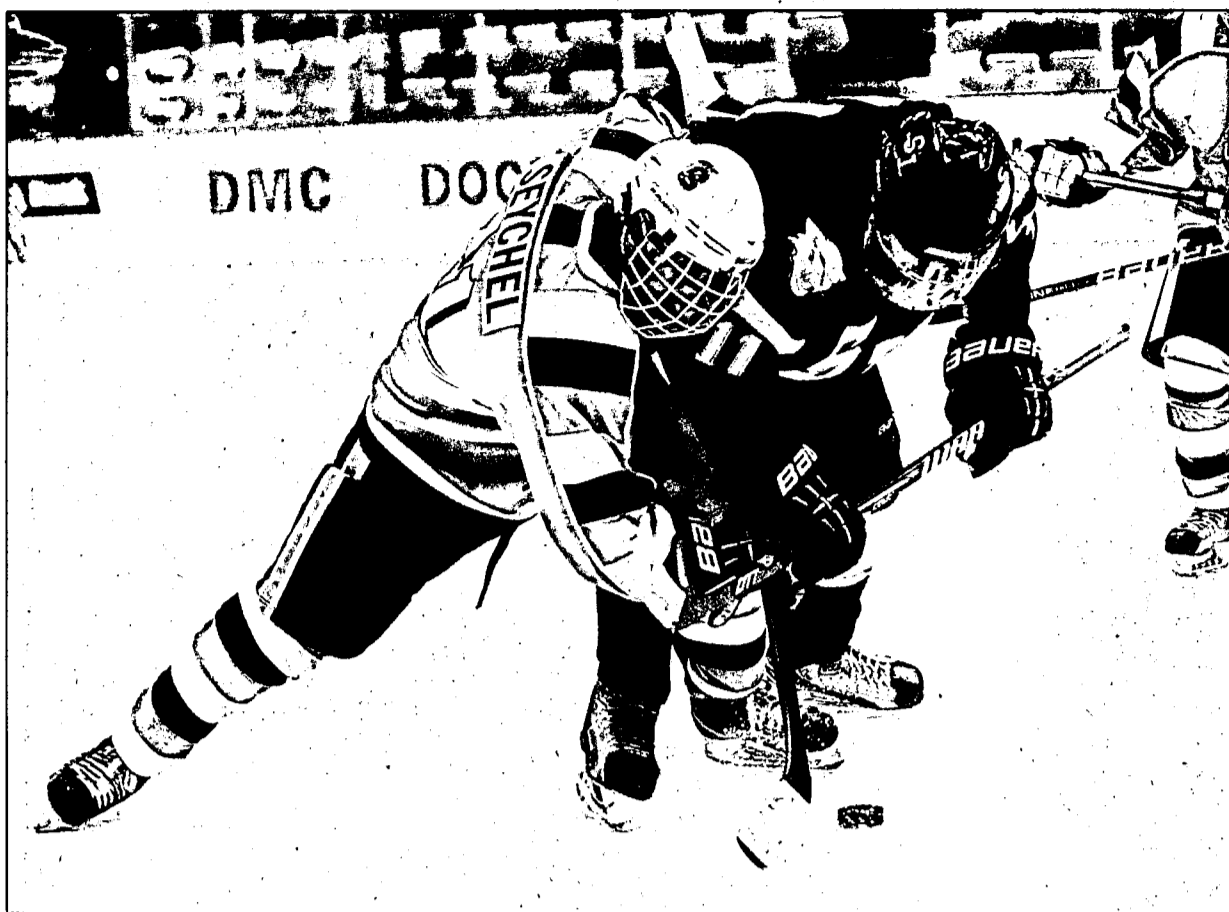
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Stevenson's Dante Seychel battles South Lyon Unified's Corey Robinson for possession of the puck Friday night at Joe Louis Arena.

## SLU goalie bounces Spartan icers

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Corey Robertson had a little extra bounce in his step Friday night on the Joe Louis Arena ice surface.

The junior figured in all four goals and goaltender Aaron Callan stopped 41-of-44 shots to lead South Lyon Unified to an upset 4-3 victory over state-ranked Livonia Stevenson in what was a substitute for the cancelled Winter Classic at Comerica Park.

South Lyon Unified ironically looked anything but a sub-.500 team.

The Lions, now 4-7-1 overall and 2-3-1 in the KLAAs Central Division, led all the way taking a 2-0 first period lead on goals by Cam Thomas (from Robertson at 2:49) and Robertson (from Grant Braeckevelt at 9:46).

Stevenson (8-1-2, 4-1-1) cut the deficit to 2-1 on Dominic Lutz's goal from Tyler Irvine and Josh Demonie at 2:43 of the second. But Robertson took advantage of a Spartan turnover and scored un-

assisted with only 14.6 seconds to go in the period to give the Lions a two-goal cushion again.

"I knew we were playing at Joe Louis and a lot of people would be watching, so you've got to give a little extra effort," Robertson said. "I thought the boards were more lively, so you had to be prepared to stop and start each way wherever it would go.

"The key to success was probably striking first and getting the first goal. That kind of puts them on their heels at the beginning, and then just keep it going."

At 1:05 of the third period, Stevenson's Dante Seychel scored on a shot from the blueline with Michael Sinclair and Ryan Frazer assisting to make it 3-2.

The Lions, however, answered at 3:53 on a power play goal by Alex Huggens (from Robertson and Cory Haas) for a 4-2 lead.

And although Travis Harvey's short back-hander from Alex Hunt made it a one-goal deficit again at 7:36, South Lyon was able to hang on for the win.

"It wasn't a bad game, it was a

competitive game," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Hats off to them. They (South Lyon) played hard. We had our chances."

And the play of Callan certainly was a deciding factor as well. "He played super, especially the second period," South Lyon coach Bill McCreary said of his netminder. "We were down quite a bit and I think he kicked out 23-of-24 shots. He had a great second."

Stevenson goaltender Connor Humitz made 18 saves in the loss. "The first period we started off slow," Mitchell said. "The second period - by our accounts - we had 23 shots and only put one in the back of the net. I think we outplayed them that second period, and we're still down two, and that was kind of the ballgame right there.

"But I give our kids credit. We didn't quit. But hats off to South Lyon. They didn't quit and got the job done."

Although the loss was damaging in the standings, knocking Steven-

Please see HOCKEY, B4

## Chargers' pressure squeezes Thurston

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's full-court pressing girls basketball team was about as hospitable as the Grinch during Thursday night's non-conference matchup against visiting Redford Thurston.

For much of the night, the Chargers' defense inflicted misery on the Eagles, forcing 31 turnovers while securing a 46-35 victory.

Churchill improved to 4-1, while Thurston dropped to 2-6. The contest was the final action for both teams until after the holidays.

"I thought at times tonight we played well defensively," Churchill coach Matt McGowan said. "We're still forcing things a little bit too much on our press; we're still reaching and fouling too much. We need to put some pressure on the oth-

er team's offense and let them make mistakes."

Senior guard Sydney Anderson was in the middle of the mix for the Chargers, finishing with 12 points, 10 rebounds and five steals.

"Sydney is a really good player and she's going to have a big year," McGowan said. "Whatever she does on the court, others follow. I thought Julia Szuba and Natalie Spala played well tonight, too."

Despite their abundance of turnovers and an 8-for-38 shooting night from the floor, the Eagles stayed within striking distance most of the game thanks to their relentless hustle and frequent trips to the free-throw line. Thurston, which forced the Chargers into 25 turnovers, trailed just 19-14 at the half after senior guard

Please see CHARGERS, B3



ED WRIGHT PHOTO

Livonia Churchill's Sydney Anderson drives to basket against Redford Thurston's Braelyn Brown during Thursday night's game.

## Canton, Plymouth wrestlers roll on

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

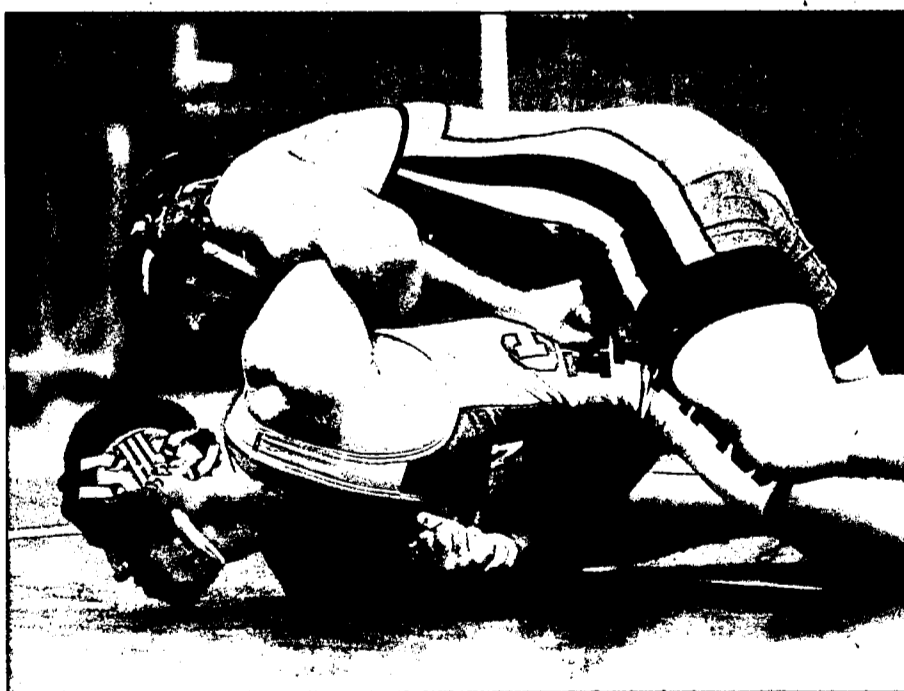
Opponents might be hoping the holiday break slows down Canton and Plymouth, which continued to roll with two wins each at Wednesday's Salem Quad Meet.

Both teams preceded the quad meet by finishing in the top three at the recent Wayne County Wrestling Championships.

Canton improved to 8-3 overall, posting a 51-27 win over Salem and a 35-20 triumph over Novi. Plymouth (8-1) also defeated Novi and Salem, by scores of 42-23 and 43-36, respectively.

"Novi's a little tougher, but we wrestled well

Please see WRESTLE, B3



BRIAN QUINTOS

Battling it out Wednesday in their bout at 189 are Salem's Mitchell Gross (top) and Canton's Jevon Hill.

## Farmington's Wilson starts in Pizza Bowl

Jason Wilson of Farmington Hills will start at cornerback for the Central Michigan (6-6) football team Wednesday night when it plays Western Kentucky (7-5) in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl at Ford Field.

The game begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be televised nationally by ESPN.

Wilson, a true sophomore from Farmington High School, went to CMU as a wide receiver, but he was moved to defense because of his ability to make a play, accord-

ing to Farmington coach John Bechtel.

The 6-foot, 174-pound Wilson is considered a shutdown corner at CMU, and his pass-catching skills translate well to defense, he said.

Wilson has two interceptions, returning one 55 yards for a touchdown against Michigan State, and seven pass breakups. He is fourth on the team in tackles with 48, including 28 solos.

As a true freshman in 2011, Wilson played in all 12 games and caught a pass (nine total) in six.

In his final two years at Farmington, the two-time, All-Observer player had 71 receptions for 1,163 yards and 10 touchdowns.



Wilson

# Chargers battle past Novi, 5-2

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill didn't have it's 'A' game going in Wednesday night's boys hockey encounter at Edgar Arena with visiting Novi.

But the Chargers probably graded out with a 'B,' and that was good enough for a 5-2 victory over the Wildcats.

"This is a game where we really had to battle to win," said Churchill first-year coach Jason Reynolds, whose team was outshot 34-26. "Novi really came to play. We were lucky that we got on the board early and able to get a substantial lead. They (Novi) certainly weren't willing to give up early in the game."

Luke Bageris scored unassisted just 1:45 into the first period to stake Novi to a 1-0 advantage.

But the Chargers responded with four straight goals before the period ended to take a 4-1 advantage.

All four Churchill goals were even strength with Riley Brown notching the first two at 3:17 (from Nick Misiak) and at 7:12 (from Drew Puishes).

Luke Otto then scored at 9:34 from Tommy Carey and Matt Sinclair tallied another at 12:07.

With just 21 seconds left in the second, Novi's Chris Kennedy scored from Jacob Lynch and Carl Farao to cut the deficit to 4-2.

But Churchill freshman goaltender Alec Calvaruso, who made 32 saves, stood tall in the final period and Misiak's empty netter from Brown and Misiak ended the suspense with only 1:34 remaining.

With the victory, Churchill improves to 5-4 overall and 3-2 in the KLAA's South Division.

The Wildcats, who got 22 saves from netminder Patrick Carney, slipped to 2-4-1 overall and 2-3-1 in the KLAA Central.

"I think we can improved upon our effort that we made in the second period," Reynolds said. "I think we had more energy in the third. We were lucky the bounces went our way. It wasn't our best effort, but it's nice to get the win."



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Churchill's Dylan Smith (10) and Tommy Carey (22) take control along the boards in Wednesday's Kensington Conference crossover against Novi at Edgar Arena.

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# Canton knocks Mercy from unbeaten ranks

By Dan O'Meara  
Observer Staff Writer

Canton capitalized on a solid second quarter Thursday to hand host Farmington Hills Mercy its first loss in girls basketball, 43-36.

The Chiefs trailed by one, 9-8, at the end of the first quarter, but they outscored the Marlins in the second, 13-2.

"We had a real poor second quarter at both ends," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "Offensively, I just think we were not running our offense. We were standing around too much. Defensively, we were a step slow, I thought.

"In the second quarter, it became a half-court game. That's something Canton is very, very good at traditionally, and (the Chiefs) were again tonight.

"They were playing a good, half-court man defense, but I think we helped them a bit by standing around too much. In the half court, they did a nice job of running their offense.

"They got to the free throw line 15 times (and made nine) in the first half to our four. Obviously, they were attacking the basket and getting to the line."

Canton head coach Brian Samulski praised his team's defense, led by Rachel Winters, who held guard Candice Leatherwood to eight points.

"Overall, it was just an outstanding win for the girls," Samulski said. "They should really be proud of what they accomplished tonight.

"Mercy is a top-10 team in the state, and I thought the girls came out and really played well. It was an outstanding team effort."

The Marlins (5-1), who were scoreless in the second quarter until the final minute, got within six points in the fourth and outscored the Chiefs (4-2) in the second half,

25-22.

"We made a bit of a run because we hit some shots and turned them over a few times, but we couldn't make the shot that would have gotten us over the hump," Morris said. "We missed five free throws in the fourth quarter."

**Board work**

Paige Aresco scored 11 points and Taylor Hunley 10 for the Chiefs, who were 15-of-23 at the foul line overall. Alanna Brown added seven points and Rachel Winters six.

Samulski said Aresco (six rebounds), Hunley (14 rebounds) and Brown (six rebounds) "did a great job on the boards. I thought we got some big minutes from Shan (Shannon Perry) and Kels (Kelsey McDougall) tonight, too."

Allie Gorcyca and Taylor Jones scored 10 points apiece for the Marlins, who made 10 of 21 free throws. Sam Bauer and Candice Leatherwood finished with eight each.

"Our effort was good," Morris said. "It was that we didn't play well enough. I give Canton a lot of credit. I saw them two weeks ago against Marian. They played much better tonight, so I give them credit for getting better."

"For us, it's a bit of a hiccup, but it's a long season. We have good kids who are going to come back ready to work and use the time over Christmas break to get better."

According to Samulski, solid team defense is something he always preaches. The Chiefs are listening.

"Defensively, I thought we were very solid," Samulski said. "Rach (Winters) and Nat (freshman Natalie Winters) did an outstanding job on their lead guards, holding them to eight and zero points."

Tim Smith contributed to this story.

# Hogans nets 37 in North win

By Dan O'Meara  
Observer Staff Writer

You can pick your sports cliché to describe the superb performance by North Farmington's Caleb Hogans on the basketball court Friday night.

He was in a zone, a groove. He had the right shooting touch; he had the Midas touch. Any one will do; they all apply.

Hogans was 8-of-12 shooting three-point field goals and scored a career-high 37 points as the Raiders charged past host Farmington, 78-37.

"It seemed the basket was as big as it needed to be for him tonight," North coach Todd Negoshian said. "I thought our kids did a really good job of finding him on sets, setting screens for him and getting him the ball when he needed it.

"He did a great job. He didn't really force any shots tonight. He just let it all come to him."

North (3-2) seemed to struggle early with Farmington's 2-3 zone, but Hogans got them going in the second quarter with 13 points. He had one three and scored mostly on drives to the basket.

It was still a ballgame at halftime with the Raiders leading 23-17, but that changed quickly in the third quarter.

North made its first four shots of the second half, and all of them were threes — the last three by Hogans, who made five and had 15 points in the quarter.

He made threes as he was falling backward with someone guarding him, and he ended the period with an awkward, off-balance three as he was going out of bounds.

"He hadn't shot the ball well yet this year," Negoshian said. "He really put some time in in the last week and a half. He's done a lot of extra shooting.

"Thankfully, it paid off for him tonight in a big way. He was in a zone; he was feeling it."

Hogans wasn't the only one making threes. Six-foot-6 Jeron Rogers threw down two treys in the quarter and three overall, finishing with 13 points.

The Raiders made 10 of 12 field goals in the third period and 17 of 26 in the second half. They shot 53 percent overall (25-of-47) and made 89 percent of their free throws (16-of-18).

"We shot 11 percent in the Rochester game," Negoshian said. "In the first few games, our youth really showed. We picked a good night (crosstown rivalry game) to come out of our shell and shoot the ball well against Farmington High.

"I thought we were due for a game. I never thought it would be to this level, but our kids have worked hard in the gym, shooting the ball. It's nice to see it really pay off for those guys."

The hot shooting in the third quarter ballooned North's lead to 51-32, and the Raiders scored the first 20 points of the fourth, too.

Hogans started the final period with back-to-back threes, and he left the game for good after making a free throw with 4:34 remaining.

Cameron Darden added 10 points for the Raiders, who made a dozen threes overall. Justin Banks scored eight, Kenneth Hammond and Bradley Harris six each for the Falcons (1-3).

# Howell's big night leads Farmington to victory

Senior guard Aaron Howell scored a school-record 34 points to help host Farmington get its first victory in girls basketball Wednesday night.

Howell, who recently committed to Michigan for track and field, also had 14 rebounds, six assists and seven steals as the Falcons routed winless Troy Athens, 69-28.

Maria Peurach had a second double-double for the Falcons, who are 1-6 overall and 1-4 in the OAA White Division, with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Farmington's Mya Douse netted a dozen points and reached five rebounds; she and Peurach each dished three assists, too.

Shannon Seegert made four steals, Maddy Trevisan and Douse two apiece. Tyler Bland scored her first varsity basket.

"It was a great game; the girls played extremely hard," Falcons coach Dave Browne said. "It's the first game we really played with our speed. We used our athleticism for the first time this season, and that's something we're going to need."

Farmington led 20-7 after one quarter and 42-13 at halftime.

Lauren Genereau scored nine points and Taylor Hill eight for the Red Hawks (0-7, 0-5).

**N. FARMINGTON 57, FARMINGTON 50:** The visiting Raiders (4-3) led at halftime Friday, 33-19, and withstood a second-half comeback by the Falcons (1-7).

Kaitlyn Kendall led a trio of North players in double figures with 17 points. Bri Durrrough scored 14, Megan Carter 12 and Jessica Caruthers nine.

Farmington's Aaron Howell tossed in a game-high 25 points. Maria Peurach scored 13 and Mya Douse 10. Howell and Peurach also had 10 rebounds apiece.

The Raiders were 11-of-17 shooting free throws and the Falcons 4-of-10.

"I thought Farmington played really well in the second half," North coach Tim Carruthers said. "They're tough to play against. They crash the boards and Howell is such a good player.

"I thought we stuck together, got some stops when we needed and shot the ball fairly decent. Overall, I was pleased with (the win)."

"They put good pressure on us in the first half," Farmington coach Dave Browne said. "I thought we did a good job in the second half of flipping that around and dictating play a little more. We did a great job of fighting back. We need to do a better job of playing a complete game."

**FRANKLIN 47, WAYNE 33:** Senior guard Katelynn Devers popped in a game-high 25 points as Livonia Franklin (4-2, 1-0) opened KLAAs South Division play Thursday with a victory at Wayne Memorial (1-5, 0-1).

Natalie Desautel added nine points for the Patriots, who jumped out to a 16-5 first-quarter lead.

Ashley Bland led the Zebras with 17 points, while Honia Williams contributed six.

"We're still missing those 5-to-10 foot shots away from the basket," Franklin first-year coach Jim Milican said. "But we played good defense. We played a 3-2 (zone) and a 2-3 and it worked out well for us."

Franklin was 9-of-14 from the foul line, while Wayne was 3-for-7.

**HARRISON 61, GROVES 21:** The Hawks (6-1, 4-1) rolled to their sixth victory Thursday behind a 23-point performance by freshman Amber Stephens, who also had six steals and five rebounds in the OAA White Division game.

Katie Conrad, Marissa Cotton and Kristen Nelson tossed in eight points apiece; Asia Campbell and Kyla Roland added five each.

Conrad helped on the boards with six rebounds. Nelson, who collected seven assists, and Nelson made four steals apiece.

Roland, a 6-foot sophomore post player, suffered a sprained ankle and didn't play in the second half.

Harrison had a 20-8 lead after one quarter and outscored Groves in the second, 19-0. The second half was more of the same with the Hawks posting a 22-13 advantage.

"This is the kind of game you get concerned about as a coach after our emotional win on Tuesday over North (Farmington to capture the FPS city championship)," coach Tim Micklash said. "You worry a little bit about a letdown."

"Fortunately, there was no letdown in the girls tonight. We came out well and responded in the first quarter. We talked about the first three minutes of a game being so important to set the tempo and dictate play. The girls did a good job of that tonight."

Jordan Blackwell had eight points and Brianna Rowe five for the Falcons (3-4, 2-4).

**MARIAN 41, STEVENSON 29:** Kilyn Bulluck scored a game-high 13 points Thursday to lead host Birmingham Marian (6-0) to a non-league victory over Livonia Stevenson (3-2).

The Mustangs, who also put eight points from Laura Bruton, jumped out to a 29-13 halftime lead. Marian also made 21-of-25 free throws on the night.

Juniors Charlessann Roy and Abby Knoph each tallied six points for the Spartans, who were 7-of-12 from the line.

"They're big and they're good," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said of the Mustangs. "They're defensive pressure stifled out offense. We have to learn how to control tempo and run our offense. We haven't jelled yet or gotten there quite yet."

**W.L. WESTERN 51, CVILLE 34:** Julia Nichols scored 18 points and Brianna Woods added 10 Friday as host Walled Lake Western (3-4) downed Livonia Clarenceville (3-5).

Junior center Ayanna Buckley had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Trojans, who couldn't recover from an 11-1 first-quarter deficit.

Christina Gould chipped in with six points, while Erica Katz and Ashley Murphy added five apiece.

Clarenceville was 17-of-30 from the foul line, while Western was 12-of-22.

**G.P. NORTH 53, PLYMOUTH 35:** In this non-leaguer Wednesday, the visiting Wildcats (1-5) were victimized by a poor third quarter and strong pressure by Grosse Pointe North (2-3).

"They play really hard and they come after you with a variety of different looks," said Plymouth coach Bob de Bear, whose team turned the ball over 26 times. "We did not respond too well."

Plymouth trailed 24-22 at halftime, but the Norsemen cruised in the third with a 22-5 advantage to pad the spread to 46-27.

"In the second half, their pressure caused a couple turnovers, some missed opportunities and things started to unravel," de Bear added.

North held a 22-9 edge in rebounds and shot the lights out from the floor to the tune of 57.6 percent (19-33). Conversely, Plymouth hit on 40.6 percent of its shots (13-32).

Kylie Robb and Jada Woody led the Wildcats, with 13 and 10 points, respectively. Shelby Cheston and Leah Kliczinski grabbed seven and six rebounds, respectively.

**PLY. CHRISTIAN 55, LENAWEE 21:** On Tuesday, host Plymouth Christian Academy (3-2) built a 38-2 halftime lead and coasted over Burton Genesee Christian.

Registering double digits for the Eagles were Rachel Smith (16 points, five rebounds), Karen Windle (14 points, five boards, seven steals, six assists) and Martha Mullett with 12 points.

Helping the victors were Jenny Malcolm (eight points, eight rebounds) and Emily Gerulis (seven points, eight boards). Adding five points and four steals was Jenna Abraham.

**PLY. CHRISTIAN 55, LENAWEE 21:** Karen Windle scored 19 points to pace Plymouth Christian Academy (2-2) to victory at Adrian Lenawee Christian.

Windle also contributed 10 rebounds, 11 steals and five assists, as the Eagles took leads of 10-3 after one quarter and 30-6 at halftime to settle matters.

Jenny Malcolm added 16 points and 11 rebounds, while Emily Gerulis (eight points, seven assists, six steals, six boards) and Rachel Fuller (seven points) also contributed to the lopsided win.

# 'Cats able to hold off Rocks

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

All it took was one bad period for Salem to get in too deep against Plymouth Friday night at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Plymouth scored three unanswered goals in the first period and held on for a 3-2 win in the KLAAs South Division varsity boys hockey game.

"I think our first period we were bad," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "After that it's a 1-0 game for us."

According to Wildcats' head coach Gerry Vento, whose team improved to 9-1-1 and 5-1-1 in the KLAAs South, "we had a great start, we were moving our feet and getting pucks deep. ... But give credit to Salem. They made some adjustments and made it tough on us."

Plymouth outshot the Rocks 16-1 in the first period, with the only Salem shot (by Alek Zultowski) trickling past Wildcats' goalie Erick VandenBosch less than four minutes into the game.

The Wildcats then skated circles around the Rocks for the rest of the frame and went up 3-1 on two goals by Mike Schultz and one by Joe Burke. Schultz poked in the rebound of Josh Smith's shot for his second goal, which held up as the game-winner.

They could have had an even bigger lead after the first if not for some big stops by Salem goalie Anthony Veresan, who finished with 31 saves on 34 shots.

"He played well," Ossenmacher said. "They were digging in front, there were rebounds. He wasn't getting beat clean on shots."

"They were just hard-work goals and in a game like this these are the type of goals you expect to see."

Right from the puck drop to open the second period, however, Salem (5-3, 3-3) turned things around, putting pressure on VandenBosch — who stood tall when he needed to.

With 4:17 left in the second, the Rocks made it 3-2 on a play started when Zultowski sent an outlet pass that linemate Jason Newel picked up in the neutral zone. Newel skated in down the left wing, deked VandenBosch and flipped the puck into the cage.

Shortly after that, the Wildcats were faced with a two-man disadvantage for 1:26, but the Rocks were unable to click for any dangerous chances.

"They take some pride in that," said Vento, about his team killing off the 5-on-3 situation. "But it's nothing you want to game plan for, that's for sure."

Although Salem pressed in the third, the Plymouth defense and VandenBosch would not buckle.

"I thought our goalie Eric came up big in the second and third period," Vento noted. "But on the blueline I thought Kyle Bauer had one of his best games of the season. He's been playing great all year as it is."

**HELPING THE CAUSE:** Earlier Friday at PCC, the Plymouth and Salem alumni teams squared off with the Wildcats winning 6-4.

Preceding the alumni game was a contest between the Plymouth Prep Hockey Team and Salem Prep Team (a 2-1 Plymouth win). Those are not official junior varsity squads, but serve the same developmental purpose.

Plymouth Prep organized the first two games of the night as the culmination of an effort to collect at least 1,000 canned goods for Gleaners Food Bank. Spectators brought items to the rink to gain admission.

# Seaholm rallies to nip Chiefs

For more than three quarters Friday night, Canton's varsity boys basketball team gave undefeated Birmingham Seaholm all it could handle.

The host Chiefs went up 34-27 after three frames on the strength of a 14-2 edge in the third.

But the Maples flipped a switch when the game got to the fourth, outscoring Canton 23-13 to post a 50-47 non-conference victory.

Seaholm shot the lights out, connecting on 51 percent from the floor (18-35) while the Chiefs struggled, making just 35 percent of their shots (20-56).

Canton dropped to 2-3 with the loss while Seaholm improved to 5-0.

Top scorers for the Chiefs were Jordan Nobles and Josh Mayberry, with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Davon Taylor had a solid game with eight points, six steals and a team-leading 10 rebounds. Greg Williams tallied seven points.

Scoring 16 points to pace Seaholm to the comeback win was Paris Bass with Carl Marbeck and Brett Houghton each adding 10.

**HARRISON 60, W.L. NORTHERN 54:** The

Hawks (4-2) closed out the month of December with their third straight victory Friday over the visiting Knights (1-4).

Calvin Butler led a balanced scoring effort with 13 points. Todd Moore and AJ Freeman netted 12 each and Dorian Fields 11. Lorenzo Collins added six points.

Fields also had eight rebounds, seven assists and three steals; Moore had six steals and four assists. Gage Throckmorton scored a game-high 32 points for Northern, which made 12 of 15 free throws. Harrison was 13-of-20 at the foul line.

The teams were tied at halftime, 30-30. The Hawks were three points better in each of the last two quarters, 12-9 and 18-15.

"The kids are competing hard and playing more together," Harrison coach Jason Pickett said. "We had 11 assists on 12 field goals in the first half. You can't be much better than that at sharing the ball."

**BIRMINGHAM GROVES 66, THURSTON 64:** The Eagles (4-1) fell behind 16-13 after one quarter and never managed to catch up in a non-conference game played Thursday night at Groves.

"The bottom line is we didn't play well," said Thurston coach Brian Bates. "We had 14 turnovers in the first half. They weren't pressing; we were just making bad decisions with the ball. Give them credit: They outplayed us."

Junior Rayvon Croon paced the Eagles with 18 points. Otis Kemutambah and Xavier Bowen both contributed 15 points to the Eagles' cause. Kemutambah led Thurston with nine rebounds.

Groves led 32-25 at the half and 46-41 with eight minutes to play.

# HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

son two points behind first-place Brighton the KLAAs Central race, the opportunity to play at an NHL venue was priceless.

"We definitely want to thank the Red Wings organization, the Ilitch family and Adam Dubois for having us down here," Mitchell said. "It was definitely a great experience for our kids and program."

"Obviously we wanted the outcome

to be different. It's tough in the standings because we split with them (South Lyon). We have to win what's in front of us and take it one game at a time."

Meanwhile, McCreary, a former NHL player himself, was pleased to take part in such a game.

"It's wonderful to be here and certainly every one was excited for the Winter Classic, and disappointed it was cancelled, but this was a great time," the South Lyon coach said.



## Christmas traditions make holiday memories

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

When I was a kid, the Christmas season wasn't complete until my family turned on one of my favorite holiday traditions: the neon sign.

The Christmas tree could be up, with cookie baking and shopping in full swing, but it didn't feel like Christmas time until Dad, a former neon sign-maker, installed his hand-made creation on the front of our bungalow.

While everyone else in the neighborhood wrapped their shrubs in strings of twinkling lights, we wished passersby a "Seasons Greetings" in bright red script, with two glowing yellow candles and bright green holly leaves.

I loved flicking the switch that caused our porch and snow-covered grass to glow in holiday colors. I loved the sign because it was my family's unique signature tradition.

During my college years, Dad grew tired of hanging its hand-bent and hand-blown glass pieces in cold winter weather. The sign was retired to the rafters in the garage and the family tradition went with it.

Today, my parents light up their shrubs with LED lights that glow as bright as the neon sign once did, but aren't as special.

The sign was trashed after a piece broke during Spring cleaning one year. It's an heirloom gone and a tradition I'll likely never revive in my own home. But I did take a cue from Dad's artistry to create my own traditions. I love making items — everything from etched glassware to knitted scarves — in lieu of greeting cards for immediate family members.

The "grab bag of gifts," a collection of goofy garage sale items — my favorite was the glowing electric logs made by a Boy Scout troop — kids' toys, along with a few genuinely nice presents, greets anyone who visits my home in December.

Christmas traditions are those "must do" activities that we love to do every year.

Read on for a sampling of other, unique traditions submitted by local residents. Enjoy!

## Dogs visit Santa, adoptable cats wear holiday best

Every year we take the "girls" to get their pictures taken with Santa.

I started taking the girls because I figured after everything they put me through, they can be dressed-up and humiliated for a few minutes, one day a year. I've also photographed my dogs so much, that going to another place to have a photo taken is not a big deal. In fact Sunny knows the sound of me taking the lens cap off the camera and gets excited.

They actually really like going because there's always a ton of people and other animals in the store. And that's part of the other reason I enjoy taking them — breaking down that pitbull stereotype. In fact, this year there was a lady we kept running in to, despite her attempts to stay away. She kept saying how "serious" my dogs looked. She happened to be behind us in line and kept her distance while trying to be friendly. As the cashier was ringing up our stuff, about a half dozen kids appeared out of nowhere, and my dogs went into fits of licking. The kids were at the perfect lick-level for both my dogs and everyone enjoyed the interaction. As we were leaving the lady said, "those seem like nice



Cheyenne, (left) 7, a pit-Lab mix, and Sunny, 5, a pit-beagle mix, meet Santa Claus at PetSmart in Livonia. Visiting Santa is a Christmas tradition for the "girls" who live in Garden City with Jennifer Fritz, vice president of New Beginnings Animal Rescue, and her husband, Chris Trevarthen.

dogs." It wasn't much, but I knew we had changed her mind, even if it's just a bit.

### Holiday cats

We started dressing up cats at New Beginnings Animal Rescue because it's funny. Cats just have this "way" about them. They seem so uninterested and nonchalant about everything, so a little dress-up seemed appropriate. I don't want to brag, but we've kind of become experts in the art of cat-dressing-up-and-photographing — and yes, it is an art. I think it also helps show that our cats are really cool! I mean, if they tolerate having their picture taken while wear-

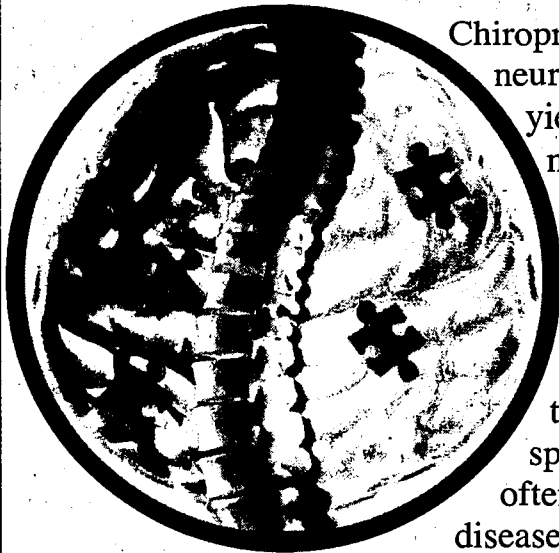


"Mint Julep" tries her best to imitate a reindeer. Dressing up adoptable cats is a part of a Christmas tradition at New Beginnings Animal Rescue (nbarmichigan.org), where Jennifer Fritz of Garden City has taken cat photography to a new level.

Please see FRITZ, B6

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**FRITZ**

Continued from page B5

ing a reindeer hat, they're obviously, well-socialized cats. People really respond to it, and the photos get passed around the internet. We always have a big spike in adoptions after the photos, so while the cats aren't particularly thrilled about the whole experience, if it helps get them into a home it's worth it.

— From Jennifer Fritz is vice president of New Beginnings Animal Rescue. She and her husband live in Garden City with their two pitbull mixes, Sunny and Cheyenne.



Making holiday gifts is a long-standing tradition in Marti Bush's family. The Redford resident's daughter, Meagan Bush, was 3 when she wore this hat and sweater made by her great-grandmother, Jane Anne Billings.

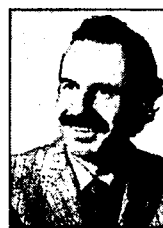
Family makes Christmas gifts

Our family has a long-standing Christmas tradition of making something for family members. The gifts range from baked items, wood working items, coupons for housecleaning help or free baby sitting so family members can enjoy a night out, and hand-knitted items.

— From Marti Bush, a knitting teacher and Redford resident



Cathy Zotos



The late Evangelos Zotos



The late Connie Zotos

Season stirs bittersweet memories, strong traditions

My father and sister were killed by a drunk driver in 1979, leaving my mother and I. Every Christmas season, my family would go to our church and put baskets together

for the needy. We would then deliver them. The expressions on the faces of the less fortunate when we gave them a beautiful basket was priceless. Our Christmas tradition always was and continues to be that we have our Christmas cards done and mailed, Christmas tree up and Christmas decorations/lights up by Thanksgiving each and

Please see ZOTOS, B8

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# Family party at the tree farm

Every year, for more than 30 years, the Vincent Clan — extended family, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first and second cousins — meet at Arend Tree Farm outside Chelsea to cut trees for Christmas.

We always tailgate, bringing donuts, bagels, hot chocolate, and coffee. Then we head to the fields. Some years, as in this photo from 2011 it was sunny, but cold. Other years, it's rained or snowed. No matter the weather, the tradition continues. Some have opted for artificial trees, but come out for the fun.

The kids and grown-up kids look forward to this tradition, most often we head to someone's house after tree cutting and celebrate family birthdays.

— From Kay Vincent Mosher and Kim Letasz, both of Canton



The Vincent clan gathers to cut Christmas trees and tailgate during annual visits to Arend Tree Farm near Chelsea.



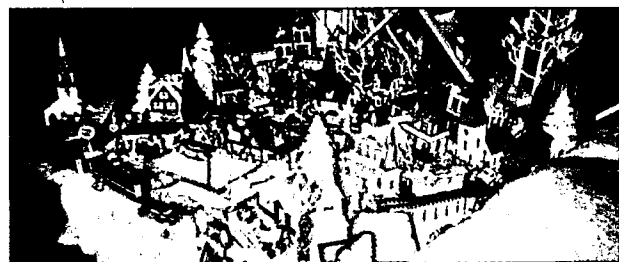
Bobbi Oestreicher of Canton cherishes this creche, which shows her grandchildren as they dressed to act out the Nativity, a family tradition for many years. The grandchildren now are teens and young adults, but the family's fourth generation will act out the drama this year.

## 'Jesus Box' and Nativity play delight grandparents

Our family has two favorite Christmas traditions. One was that we had a box decorated in Christmas paper with a slot in the top. We called this the "Jesus Box." Each of our three children's families would save money all year to place in the Jesus box before we opened our gifts. Having the very young grandchildren putting in their own money was heartwarming. As a family we voted on a place where we would give these funds.

For many years at our family Christmas our seven grandchildren acted out the story of Jesus' birth with a play. In the picture, (see accompanying photo) the baby Jesus is now 15, the lamb 18, the angel 19, the shepherd and wise man 23, and Mary and Joseph are 24 years old. For our 50th anniversary, our children gave us this creche with the grandchildren's pictures. As great-grandparents to four little ones, we hugged each other with happiness when our children asked us if they could begin doing the dramas again this year with our 4th generation

— From Bobbi Oestreicher of Canton, who is married to Dick Oestreicher



Decorating with Christmas villages is a tradition at Leo Weber's home in Livonia.

## Family decorates with Christmas villages

At our home every year, we do a lot of decorating — some outside, but much more indoors. Just about every corner of the house has something. A stand-out item worth mention is our little village collections, little towns of people and houses which exhibit a colorful, varied, eclectic and whimsical quality. It would take you an hour to really look them over thoroughly. There are two towns — a 19th Century town on a coffee table, and a modern city on a corner table.

— From Leo Weber of Livonia



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# Air duct scam gains national attention

By Joe Gagnon  
Guest columnist

The column I wrote which appeared here on Dec. 9 was only chapter one of the stories about Dr. Sase, a senior citizen who spent \$600 to have his air ducts cleaned. This is chapter two and it really gets into the deceit created by a scam outfit which I have yet to find.

My good friend Kurt who owns the best air duct cleaning company, inspected the job that the scammer did on the air ducts in the home of the doctor. I henceforth will call the dirty, rip-off, no good, son-of-a-pup company that was out there, a scammer, and that is putting it mildly.

First of all, the moths flying around the house had nothing to do with the scammer cleaning the ducts. Kurt reported that a large bag of peanuts was the cause of the moth problem. Kurt took many pictures with his special camera which travels inside the duct work and has proven that the scammer did not clean the complete inside of the homes air ducts. He cleaned a one foot area where he cut holes in the basement ducts. By the way, you must be licensed

by the State of Michigan to legally cut holes in the vent lines of a home. This scammer left 99 percent of the air ducts filled with lint, dust, dirt, etc., and the pictures really show how dirty these ducts are.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

The doctor described to Kurt what equipment the scammer used. It appears that it may have been a standard Hoover vacuum cleaner. The cost of equipment to properly clean air ducts is usually around \$100,000 and unless Hoover has had a recent huge price increase in their products, the scammer should be slammed. So far in this investigation, we know that the scammer did not do the job of cleaning the air ducts. He did the job for \$600 but wanted \$800 and was kind enough to give the doctor a discount. He did not leave the doctor an invoice for the work that was done and that is illegal. He had the doctor write a check for \$600 and make it out

to an individual name. We now have that name and a police lieutenant is working on finding that individual. At this point I have to use a line that is popular in politics these days. "Because this is a continuing investigation I can't comment any further." Let me assure that there will be a chapter three coming up.

### Offering help

So far, The National Air Duct Cleaners Association has contacted me and wants to assist me in any way it can. I am keeping the organization aware of what is happening and will use its leverage at the appropriate time.

I also have been contacted by a millionaire in California who is a known consumer advocate and he wants to lend his assistance. Locally, the television stations must not seem to think this is an educational story because you haven't seen it on the tube.

I did receive an e-mail from Tom in Livonia who writes: I have noticed that since I turned 65 and retired, I have been inundated with calls trying to sell me air duct cleaning, credit card consolidation, roofing, insulation, etc., and yet I am

on the "Do Not Call" list which doesn't seem to mean anything. It got so bad that I had to upgrade my phone service to get caller ID so I don't pick up the phone when these people are calling. Most have their numbers blocked or it comes up "unknown" which tells me not to pick up the phone.

Tom goes on to write that the "Nigerian scams" are the worst. People call to see if they are real and if they should send thousands of dollars to get their inheritance. The saddest thing is when people do send the money, which is their savings, and want to know how to get it back, it is gone.

It's too bad that seniors or their families couldn't work with banks to put a limit on the amount of money that can go out of an account without a co-signer or reviewer: The strong message coming from this column is to always be aware whether you are a senior or not. Buyer Beware. Stay tuned.

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



Sharon Raskin of Farmington Hills (left), Inika Williams of West Bloomfield and Terri Fuller of Bloomfield Hills shop at Lisa Rosenberg's (right) Closet NV Holiday Party. Rosenberg owns the West Bloomfield store.

# Shopping benefits children's camp

By Julie Yolles  
Social Scene columnist

Sharon Raskin of Farmington Hills and other patrons of Closet NV in West Bloomfield shopped for a good cause Thursday, Dec. 20 while at the store's holiday party.



Social Scene

Julie Yolles

Closet NV, owned by Lisa Rosenberg, generously donated a portion of proceeds to North Star Reach, a camp for kids with serious health challenges located in Pinckney. North Star Reach is a provisional member of the SeriousFun Children's Network of camps started by Paul Newman and is targeted to open by 2015. All of the kids and their families will attend camp for free.

North Star Reach is 40 percent into a \$26 million capital campaign. Donations from the Closet NV holiday event will go towards the building of the camp.

For more information, visit [www.northstarreach.org](http://www.northstarreach.org). For the very, very, very last-minute shoppers, Closet NV will be open until 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, and from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Christmas Day, Tues. Dec. 25. Closet NV is located at 6889 Orchard Lake Road in the Boardwalk.

# Group offers divorce support

Schoolcraft College's Transition Center Divorce Support Group plans a variety of discussion topics for its winter-spring program.

The group meets 7-9 p.m. twice monthly for discussion and to hear guest speakers at the McDowell Center, room 225, on the Livonia Campus, 18600 Haggerty, located between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Group discussions, facilitated by Diane Hartman of Heron Ridge Associates, PLC, are set for Jan. 8, 2013, Feb. 12, 2013, March 12, 2013, and April 9, 2013. Attorney

Patricia A. Kasody will be available at each session to answer questions in a private setting on a first-come, first-served basis.

Other programs are:

- Jan. 22, 2013 — Laura Reyes Kopack, attorney with Creighton, McLean & Shea, will present an overview of the divorce process, including information on property settlements, custody, child support, visitation, and spousal support.
- Feb. 26, 2013 — Nina Dodge Abrams, of Abrams Law Firm, PLLC, will present an overview of the divorce process.
- March 26, 2013 —

Mariann DeFlon, PhD, of Heron Ridge Associates, PLC, will discuss preparing for and coping with loss as it relates to divorce.

- April 23, 2013 — David W. Roessler, CDFA, of Divorce Solutions, LLC, and Vicky McClelland, CDFA, will discuss the financial aspects of divorce and how to plan for your financial future

after divorce.

The Divorce Support Group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of, or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. There is no fee to attend the group and registration is not required.

For more information, e-mail transitions@schoolcraft.edu or call (734) 462-4443.

## GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

on the FOTR website, [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org) or by calling (313) 792-9621.

### Master Gardener

MSU Extension is accepting applications for the next Master Gardener classes. Beginning in January 2013, this 12-week course teaches the student basic horticultural principles and environmentally-sound gardening practices. Course topics include introduction and volunteerism, plant science, soils for plant growth, flower gardening, woody ornamentals, turf/lawn care, vegetable culture, small fruit culture, tree fruit culture, plant health care, indoor plants and household pests. Cost is \$300, along with a \$25 registration fee. For more information and/or to download application visit: <http://www.mgwwc.org/Pages/MSUExtension-Office.aspx> or call Anita Callender at (734) 729-3632 Ext. 103.

### Livonia Garden Club

Vince Kogo, an urban chicken farmer, will talk about raising chickens, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information visit [www.orgsites.com/mi/livoniagardenclub/](http://www.orgsites.com/mi/livoniagardenclub/).

### Stonefly search

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) seeks volunteers to help with the 12th annual search for stoneflies on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013. Finding a stonefly living in the river is a good indication that the river is healthy because these small insects require cold, clean water. Last year, 73 volunteers found these "nuggets of gold" at 14 of 32 sites. This year's search will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. No searching is done in Dearborn; volunteers carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit. Volunteers must dress for the weather and be prepared to be out in the cold for several hours. Only trained team leaders go in the water; volunteers search through samples on the bank. Children five years and older are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult; groups of up to 6 people can be accommodated. Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 11, 2013


## ZOTOS

Continued from page B6


every year. The lights would always be turned on the day after Thanksgiving because that is the

Greek Orthodox Theotokos (Virgin Mary) day to begin the celebration of the upcoming birth of Christ.


— From Rev. Dr. Gregory E. Zotos DD., PhD of Livonia




**In Memory Of**  
**Jerry H. Maxwell**  
Passed  
10/29/2011  
North Farmington  
Teacher 27 years  
3-time award  
winning author for  
"The Perfect Lion"  
DAR National  
Teacher of the  
Year 1995  
AT2302670




**Brian Hinzman,**  
We think of you and miss you every single day. This is especially true during the holiday season. 'Til we meet again.  
With love,  
Your family  
AT2302670



**In Memory Of**  
**Melissa (Williams) Lambaren**  
7-7-1974 to 12-3-2007  
Like a song that remains in the heart when the music is playing no more, like a fragrance that stays in the air where a flower has blossomed before, like a star that continues to glow long after the breaking of dawn, the ones we have loved remain with us still, and the beautiful memories go on. Love you and miss you so much! Dad, Mom, Chris, Jenny, Sue, Jess and Marty  
AT2302670



**In Loving Memory Of**  
**TRACEY MARIE MIRTI**  
Sept. 15, 1964 - June 2, 2007  
You touch the hearts of all who knew you and left your footprints where you walked. We love and miss you very much especially during your birthday and holidays. — Mom, Dad, Bobby, Kelly, Dan, Jesse, Jacob and McKenzie  
AT2302663



**In Loving Memory Of**  
**Charles J. McPhee**  
October 3, 1940 ~ October 3, 2010  
My Dearest Chuck,  
The third Christmas holiday season without you is fast approaching. It is difficult to believe that the time has passed so quickly yet, not a day goes by that I don't miss and think of you. The precious time we spent together will be embedded in my heart and soul forever. Thanks for being the loving, kind, generous and loyal husband that you were. You taught me many things over the years, but the most important lesson was that time is the most precious commodity that one can give of themselves. Thanks for all the wonderful and loving memories we shared as, they will be with me always.  
Love,  
Mary  
AT2302663



## Series focuses on dementia

Dementia is a devastating part of aging, both for the person with dementia and their families. There are so many questions and possibilities; it's difficult to know what the right decisions are, or how to cope.

To help navigate these troubled times, Botsford Commons Senior Community in Farmington Hills plans to offer a monthly series on the topic as part of its "Botsford University Education Program for Families."

The series, "Developing Meaningful Connections with People Experiencing Dementia," will start Tuesday, Jan. 8 and will be held the second Tuesday of every month. Sessions will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Chapel on the Botsford Commons campus, 21440 Archwood Circle, located between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Roads, north of Eight Mile, south of M-5 and Grand River Ave.

Planned topics include: introducing Alzheimer's and related dementias, understanding brain changes, respecting the humanity of the person, adapting methods of com-

munication, approach to activities of daily living, and understanding challenging behaviors. The series periodically will feature guest speakers.

After the informational part of the evening, guests may stay for Botsford Commons' Alzheimer's Support Group.

The sessions are free of charge. For more information call (248) 426-6902.

The Alzheimer's Association, Senior Helpers and Botsford Commons also offer a call-in support group that is held on the first Tuesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. Moderated by experts from Senior Helpers and Botsford Commons, the program is free, but callers must register in order to receive a dial-in number for each session. The "lunch hour" time frame is intended to make the conference calls convenient for working caregivers. A different topic is covered each month, with time for questions and answers, as well. To RSVP for the call-in group, call (248) 865-1000 or visit [alz.dialin@seniorhelpers.com](http://alz.dialin@seniorhelpers.com).

## One step for health: Say no to soft drinks

By Sandy Baumann  
Guest columnist

If you could make just one health resolution on New Year's Day that would decrease your weight without dieting, improve your sleep, lower your risk for high blood pressure, and save you money, would you be interested?



Sandy Baumann

There really is such a resolution: eliminate soft drinks, especially cola drinks.

According to *Beverage Digest*, the average American drank an average of 714 eight-ounce servings (almost 89 gallons) of carbonated soft drinks in 2011. By eliminating three 12-ounce cans of sugary soda per week, you could lose 7 pounds in a year without dieting. A preschool teacher said she lost over 20 pounds when she quit her daily 20-ounce soft drink. As a result, she also had more money to spend on food.

There are several health benefits of reducing soft drinks:

### Better dental health

According to the Michigan Dental Association, the combination of acid and sugar in soft drinks weakens tooth enamel and leads to decay, cavities, and even tooth loss. By eliminating soft drinks, you will preserve your teeth and reduce your risk for gum disease.

### Less bone loss

Soft drinks that contain phosphoric acid, especially cola drinks,



can cause bone loss. A Tufts University study of several thousand participants found that women who regularly drink three or more cola soft drinks per day had almost 4 percent lower bone mineral density in the hip. Caffeine in soft drinks may increase risk for hip fracture. In a study of more than 30,000 women, those who consumed the most caffeine had three times greater risk for hip fracture than those who consumed little caffeine. Men also are at risk. A 65-year-old man in my bones class was diagnosed with osteoporosis after a life-long soft drink habit.

### Better sleep

Caffeine is found in cola soft drinks and in others such as Mountain Dew. Since your body takes three to 10 hours to eliminate one-half the caffeine you ingest, the cola you drink with dinner may be one reason you have difficulty sleeping. If you have insomnia, a great first step is to eliminate caffeinated beverages.

According to holistic physician Dr. David Williams, soft drinks increase risk for acid reflux and heartburn. Carbonation expands the stomach. The resulting pressure can force stomach acid back into the esophagus, causing pain at night. He also indicates that drinking carbonated beverages increases waking with night heartburn.

### Reduced risk for diabetes, high blood pressure

A study reported by WebMD compared nurses who drank cola beverages to those who drank very little. One can of cola daily increased their risk for high blood pressure by 13 percent; two to three cans by 24 percent; and four or more cans by 28 percent.

Most soft drinks now contain high-fructose corn syrup. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* indicates this sweetener may produce high levels of insulin, impaired glucose tolerance, elevated triglycerides, and increased blood pressure, thus raising the risk for diabetes and heart disease.

### Beware of diet soft drinks

Soft drinks that are artificially sweetened definitely should be eliminated. When the body tastes something very sweet, even from artificial sweeteners, it may release large amounts of insulin, leading to low blood sugar and more hunger. By eliminating diet soft drinks you gain better control of your appetite. Here are other side effects of artificial sweeteners:

- Aspartame (Equal, Nutrasweet) — Increased risk for Alzheimer's, hearing loss, Parkinson's, head-

aches, seizures, panic attacks, memory loss, migraines, anxiety, insomnia, depression. Source: *Excitotoxins: The Taste that Kills* by Dr. Russell Blaylock.

- Sucralose (Splenda) — Hindered thyroid function; panic attacks; mental or emotional breakdown; trouble concentrating; feeling depressed or moody; allergic reactions in the skin and throat; bladder, stomach and intestinal pain; diarrhea and constipation; headaches; numbness and stroke-like symptoms. Source: *Sweet Deception* by Dr. Joseph Mercola.

When you resolve to eliminate soft drinks, wean yourself off slowly over a few weeks. You will avoid withdrawal symptoms such as headaches and uneasiness. Hopefully, you soon will enjoy the many health benefits of quitting these unhealthy drinks.

Sandy Baumann, M.S. in biochemistry, is a Farmington-based health speaker and author of *Feed Your Bones Naturally*, *Good News for High Blood Pressure*, *Feed Your Brain for Memory*, *Control Food Cravings and Wellness Superheroes: CoQ10, Omega-3 Oils, Magnesium, Vitamin D*. To find out more about Baumann's books, and her presentations on such topics as memory, high blood pressure, bone loss and control for food cravings, call her at (248) 474-1974 or visit her website, [www.FeedYourBrain.org](http://www.FeedYourBrain.org).

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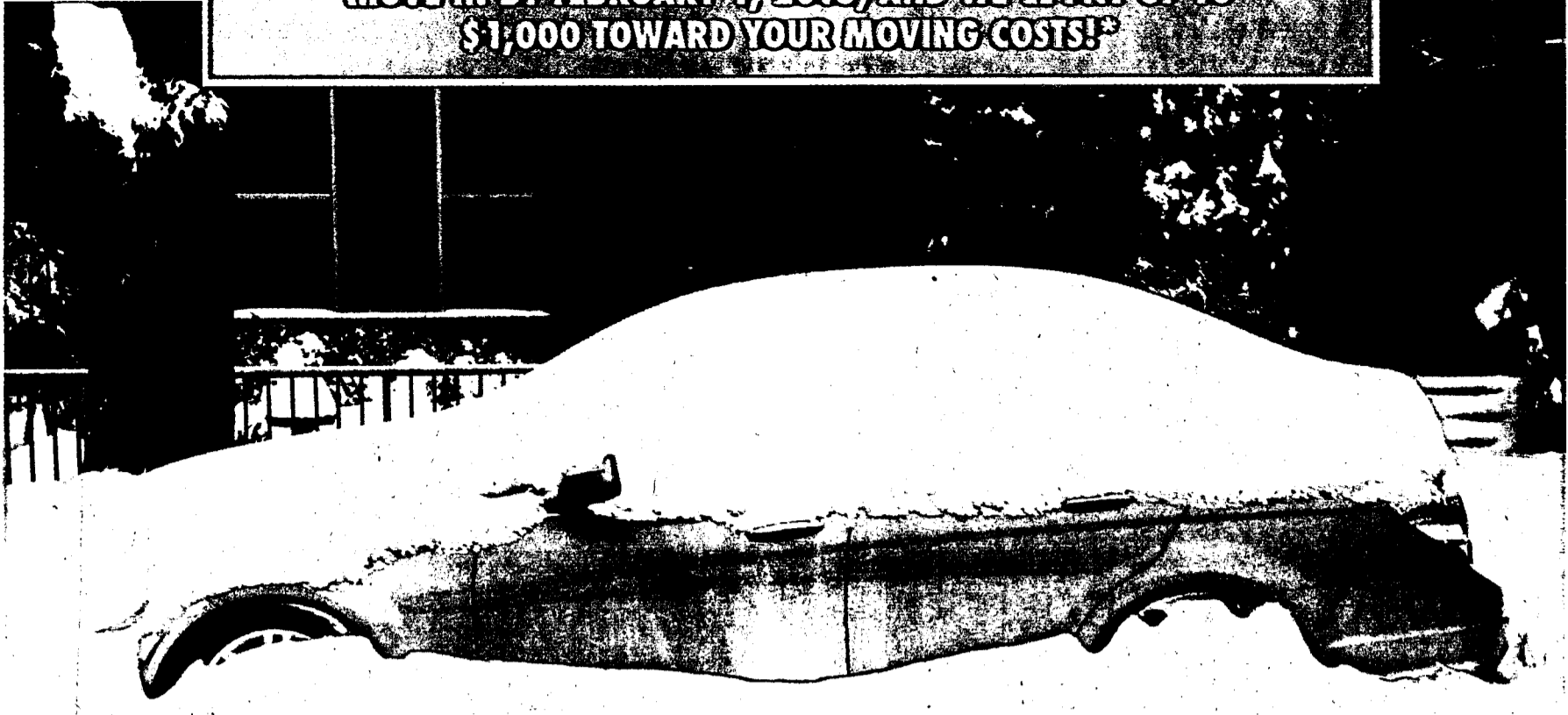
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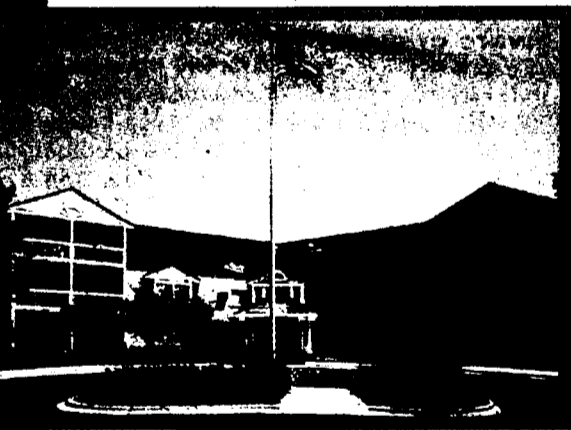
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