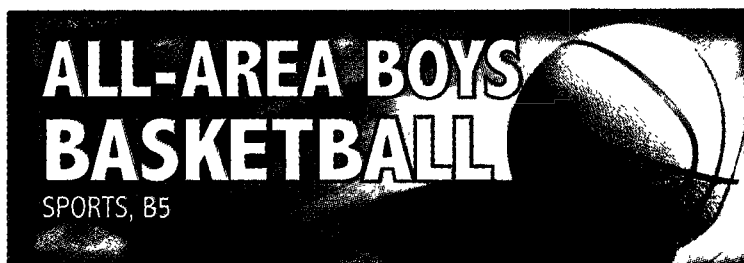




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SPORTS, B5



FOOD, B8

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Clothing sale

The Lighthouse Home Missions and Full Gospel Temple is holding a spring clothing give-away from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 5-6, at the church, 34033 Palmer between Wildwood and Venoy, Westland.

Men's, women's and children's clothing will be given away. Buy a bag for \$2 and fill it with clothes and shoes to the top. Buy as many bags as you like for \$2 each. Proceeds from the sale will go fund the work of the mission.

Artists wanted

Three Cities Art Club is seeking the best works created by the most talented artists in the area for its first exhibition open to non-members. Cash prizes will be available and works will be displayed at Westland's William Faust Library.

In addition to paintings and photography, the club is hoping to attract entries from artists who specialize in three-dimensional works.

The postmark deadline for entries is April 8. Entry forms with complete details can be downloaded from the "Member Corner" at www.threecitiesartclub.org.

Board games

The Wayne Library is hosting the first of two Family Game Board Nights 6-7:30 p.m. today (Thursday) and April 18. Bring your own games or use the library's games. It's a free program and open to all ages.

No registration is required. The library is located at 3737 S. Wayne Road. Call (734) 721-7832 for information.

Home repairs

Westland has \$90,000 in federal funding available to make emergency home repairs for low-income residents. The program is for those low-income residents who cannot afford to replace their furnace or roof or cracked windows.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center at (734) 595-0288, ext. 2630.

Proposed budget includes road work, police cars

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland council members got their official first look at the proposed 2013-14 fiscal year budget at a study session Monday, as required by the city charter.

Council President James Godbout wondered aloud if the city fathers who wrote the charter

had a sense of humor in setting the budget deadline on April Fool's Day.

But Mayor William Wild presented a proposed \$57 million two-year balanced budget with a \$5 million fund balance projected. That is despite an average 4-percent reduction in taxable property values for revenue reduction of \$394,964. No layoffs are planned.

"We're creeping up to the 10-percent (of fund balance) mark," Wild said.

When he was first elected to council in 2000, Godbout said the city only had a \$200,000 fund balance. "We've improved it to \$5 million. We've come a long way improving the overall financial position of the city," he said. "We're not out of

the woods, but there is a reason we're in a better position than some of our neighboring communities."

The city will see reduced refunds from the Tax Increment Financing Authority — which is bonding for the new City Hall, a fire station and road and landscaping improvements to Central City Parkway — and

the Downtown Development Authority, which will bond for the Farmers Market project and improvements to Tattan Park.

Other scheduled projects include: improvements to Newburgh from Warren to Palmer to be completed over two fiscal years; completion of

Please see BUDGET, A2



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland Mayor William Wild speaks to students at Elliott Elementary School to kick off career day.

Elliott students explore careers

A chef and a police officer, a chiropractor and a dental hygienist - those were just some of the professionals who shared information about their jobs with students at Elliott Elementary School during career day.

Students heard from three speakers during the morning-long program. The speakers moved from class to class led by a fourth-grade student acting as their escort.

More than 15 other special guests were in attendance, including a physical therapist, chef, police officer, chiropractor, librarian, optometrist, reporter, artist and fireman. Accompanied by a ferret, turtle and some marsupials, the veterinary technicians were particularly popular with

the students.

The students got a chance to ask questions and interact with the speakers during the classroom visits.

Westland Mayor William Wild was the keynote speaker, talking about his job to students and staff gathered in the gym at the start of the program.



Chiropractor Michael Brackney of Canton talked about his job utilizing skeletons during career day.

Councils to review joint dispatch agreement

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Officials in Wayne, Garden City and Inkster will soon be getting a look at a proposed intergovernmental agreement for a combined emergency dispatching service with Westland.

Council members in Westland were the first to get details of the proposed agreement at the council study session Monday.

Discussions have been under way to merge the combined Wayne and Garden City dispatching operations into a single unit with Westland and Inkster dispatchers, who work at the Westland Police Department. Currently, the Westland operation has 15 dispatchers but physically can accommodate additional staff.

"The key goal is cost savings. Westland would save about \$100,000 annually," Westland Personnel Director Cindy King said.

The four communities, along with Dearborn Heights, previously had entered a similar agreement for the joint purchase, maintenance and operation of an 800 megahertz digital communications system, King noted.

"It is in the hands of our city attorney right now."

Please see DISPATCH, A2

Schuck is library employee of the year

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Librarian Andy Schuck has been recognized as the Westland William P. Faust Library Employee of the Year for 2012.

Co-workers annually submit their nominations for Employee of the Year recognizing the person's dedication to the library, co-workers and community, said Marilyn Kwik, who heads the library Information Services Department.

"Andy's impact can be found throughout the library. He seeks out collaborations and is all-inclusive working to use the strengths of our



Westland William P. Faust Library Employee of the Year Andy Schuck flanked by his parents Kathy and Miller Schuck of Marquette, who happened to be visiting when their son was honored.

staff," Kwik said.

A five-year library employee, Schuck has been involved in the Fri-

day night dinner and movie, the cans for cash for food drive and hired the Battle of the Bands

winner to perform at the Zombie Prom.

"He has great customer service and great rapport with customers," Kwik said, noting Schuck organized holiday concerts, activities and the take a book, leave a book program at Biggy Coffee. "You can always count on him when volunteers are needed."

Speaking at a recent city council meeting, Schuck noted libraries had played an integral part in his life. He earned a degree in creative writing before getting his library science degree.

"The library is more than a storage place for

books. We've been able to bring innovative programs, skills training, the job seekers workshop, computer training and money sense," Schuck said. "We're working to prove ourselves worthy of millage for the next 10 years."

Schuck's parents Miller and Kathy Schuck were in the audience at the council meeting. The couple were down from Marquette for a rescheduled visit, so being present to see their son honored was purely coincidental.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

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Volume 48 • Number 91

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Missing man's body found in Westland

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Friends of Matthew Morris, a 36-year-old Canton man missing since Jan. 13, had hoped he would be found alive, but they had to face a disappointing truth after authorities found a body Monday afternoon in an industrial area on Westland's far west side.

"He was a good friend who is really going to be missed," Dustin Brungardt said. "But we're relieved that we now know where he went."

Westland authorities notified Canton police Monday afternoon that a group of surveyors found the body in a marshy area near an industrial building on the north side of Ford Road east of the Canton Walmart store, Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

"There is no sign of foul play or trauma," he said. "There was nothing found on the body to indicate foul play or trauma."

Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler said the body was found with identification indicating it was that of Morris, a diabetic man whose friends had become increasingly worried after he disappeared without saying anything.



Friends had held out hope Matt Morris, missing since January, would be found alive, but his body was found Monday in Westland.

Schreiner said Westland police notified Canton authorities about 2:30 p.m. Monday.

"There was a body found in Westland in front of an industrial building east of the Walmart on Ford Road," he said. "It was an adult male with the same age and physical description of Matt Morris. It was found in some reeds and tall weeds by some sur-

veyors who were doing some work at the building."

Toxicology results hadn't been received that might help pinpoint a cause of death, Schreiner said Wednesday morning, but authorities appear certain the body is that of Morris due to the physical description and personal effects found at the scene. Morris disappeared Jan. 13, and his white Geo

Prizm was found parked at the Emagine Theater near Ford and Lotz roads. He lived across the road in the Village Squire apartment complex.

Schreiner said Canton and other law-enforcement agencies had combed the area near the Emagine Theater and Morris' apartment in recent weeks searching for him.

Early in the investigation, Schreiner said there had been no indication of foul play such as a struggle inside Morris' apartment.

Friends such as Kathy Gomoll of Canton had called it "frustrating" that there had been no sign of Morris. She had said it wasn't like Morris, a former Kroger employee, to disappear and not tell his friends where he was going.

Friends had distributed fliers in hopes someone might have seen Morris. Brungardt, Gomoll and others had said Morris didn't take his diabetic supplies or his coat when he disappeared on a cold winter day.

The last anyone heard from him was when he sent a text on Jan. 13.

dclem@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238
Twitter: @CantonObserver

Michigan Avenue Cruise status under discussion

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

For the past five years, the Michigan Avenue Cruise has brought classic cars and spectators to downtown Wayne.

Now there is some question about how the event, traditionally held in July, will be operated and when it will be held.

U.S. 12 Bar and Grill owner John Goci has called for a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at his establishment to discuss the future of the cruise in downtown Wayne. All residents, business owners and other Wayne community stakeholders are invited to attend.

In calling for the meeting, Goci said cruise organizer Don Nicholson doesn't plan to run a downtown Wayne cruise this year, but is moving his event to Westland.

Not true, according to Nicholson, who said the All-American Cruise planned for Westland would be in addition to a downtown Wayne event.

Funding for the event is the issue — on that, both sides agree. Nicholson said that he has been losing money on the Wayne event due to the lack of sponsorships from local businesses which are financially benefitting from the event.

"I asked all of the businesses for support. There was not enough money to pay for the event last year," said Nicholson, who also runs the Hines Drive Cruise and works on other events such as the Woodward Dream Cruise. "I paid out of my pocket. We need sponsors and support from the community to keep it going."

The main expense for cruise is promotion, with print and television advertising and other materials, to get cruisers and spectators out for the event, Nicholson said, adding he spent \$4,000 for a booth at an Autorama.

Sponsors for the Michigan Avenue Cruise were solicited through a recent Wayne Chamber of Commerce

newsletter.

"He (Nicholson) was looking for sponsors. We did our promoting of the cruise independently," Goci said. "We'd hate to see this event go away. We'd like to see if the businesses can do it on their own."

The meeting Monday will explore the possibility of operating the downtown Wayne cruise as a nonprofit event organized by local businesses and community groups.

"I think as a nonprofit we can be more successful in getting sponsors. Don is trying to run this as a for-profit entity," Goci said. "We lost Wheelfest and the fireworks. I'd hate to see us lose this."

For his part, Nicholson said Goci and others have no idea the amount of effort it takes to organize a successful cruise.

"It's always been a business for me. I never said it was nonprofit. I give an awful lot back to the city of Wayne," Nicholson said. "The people who want to put it on are the same ones putting up road blocks. U.S. 12 (Bar and Grill) wants to use it as a charity, but made a lot of money off this event."

Due to delays in getting the Wayne cruise organized and the availability of main radio sponsor WOMC, Nicholson said the traditional date of the event the Saturday following the July 4 holiday isn't available any longer.

The Westland event — the All American Cruise, which will be held on Wayne Road — has taken that July 13 date. Nicholson said Wayne businesses can take advantage of the Westland cruise.

"It's on Wayne Road and, officially, it's a Westland event. But cars won't stop in Westland if they are welcomed in Wayne," Nicholson said. "The Wayne Road cruise has been in the planning stages for three years. It is in addition to Michigan Avenue."

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

BUDGET

Continued from page A1

phase two and three work on Hunter; and completion of the work in the Brookfield subdivision.

The city will again complete state mandates for Economic Vitality Incentive Program funds for \$1.252 million in the current fiscal year and the same amount in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

For the first time in nine years, the state is also projecting an increase in constitutional revenue sharing to bring an additional \$773,000 to Westland.

There will be a slight increase to the 0.4305 mills levied for sanitation. For an average homeowner with a taxable value of \$50,000, that would mean an approximately \$21.52 tax

increase annually.

The increase had been deferred the last several years, Wild noted, because of savings generated by recycled materials being diverted from the landfill, which reduced the city's tipping fees. The city also received revenue from recycling earlier than expected. That millage had been expected to increase in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Projected 18th District Court revenues have increased to \$4 million, up from \$3.3 million in the current fiscal year. That is due, in part, Wild said to the Police Service Aide program, which allows more officers to be on the road.

The city seeing revenue from changes to health care and retirement programs. Employees represented by the American Federation of State, County and Munic-

ipal Employees are now contributing to their health care and retirement, as are city directors.

The court administration is contributing to health care, while approximately 40 new police and firefighter hires are contributing 5 percent to their pension costs.

The city's mutual gains program has been modified for a savings of more than \$100,000. That means employees who have medical coverage through the Westland retirement system or through a spouse who has city benefits will no longer receive a payment for not taking their benefits as an employee. In addition, mutual gains payments have been reduced by more than 40 percent for current employees

The proposed budget includes the purchase of 20 patrol cars to be paid for over three years and

a replacement ambulance at a cost of \$157,000.

The city expects to save \$100,000 annually with the expected July 1 merger of the Westland/Inkster emergency dispatching operations with Wayne and Garden City.

Council only adopts a single fiscal year budget, but the administration annually presents a two-year budget for planning purposes.

"The second year does use some of the fund balance, but we'll work on that until this time next year," Wild said.

Council is expected to schedule a day-long budget session Saturday, April 27. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for Monday, May 6. The fiscal year begins July 1.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

DISPATCH

Continued from page A1

It will probably be two or three weeks before I can get the agreement to council," said Wayne City Manager Robert English. "Council knows that we have been discussing it.

Westland was the first to see it."

The projected July 1 merger — which would coincide with the start of the cities' fiscal years — can be met, said English.

English commented that he had been working on this issue with Garden City Manager/Police Chief Robert

Muery. Muery couldn't be reached for comment.

The proposed agreement would spell out staffing issues caused by the merger but also cost-sharing, capital improvement decisions and calls for the establishment of a joint dispatch council consisting of each city's police and fire chief.

Westland and Wayne have already merged their fire departments and parks and recreation departments. Talks are under way to add Garden City to the merged fire department.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

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Subscription Rates:
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A GANNETT COMPANY

Madonna auction features museum-quality art, diamond earrings

Diamond earrings, artwork and a basket of Pope John Paul II memorabilia are among the items that will help raise funds at Madonna University's All Aboard for Student Scholarships event. The cruise-themed dinner and auction takes place, Friday, April 12, at Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center. Boarding passes are \$75 each.

In addition to a strolling dinner of foods from such ports of call as Poland, China, Italy and the Middle East, the event features a silent auction with more than 160 items donated by many area businesses. Auction committee member Julie DePodesta, of Livonia, donated, among other things, an abstract painting by her cousin and accomplished artist Tino Zago.

Born in Italy, Zago spent his formative years in the Detroit area where he studied at Cranbrook Academy of Art. He also studied at Yale University and now lives in New York. His artwork can be found in museums and corporate collections in Michigan and throughout



Julie DePodesta and Andrea Nodge, vice president for advancement at Madonna, show off the Tino Zago painting DePodesta provided for the silent auction.

the United States.

Asked why she was so involved in helping make Madonna's event a success, DePodesta said, "God has blessed me in so many ways. I try to

put my heart and soul in every activity or project I take on. I get involved because it comes naturally - a gift from God."

A special Purser's Diamond Pull at the event



Angela Ansara-Bahu, of MJ Diamonds, presents Andrea Nodge, of Madonna University, with one of three pairs of diamond earrings for the Purser's Diamond Pull at All Aboard for Student Scholarships.

gives guests the opportunity to purchase a chance to win one of three pairs of diamond earrings valued at \$1,500. The earrings, along with a sea of cubic zirconia earrings, were donated by Angela Ansara-Bahu, owner of MJ Diamonds at Laurel Park Mall in Livonia.

As manager of an independent, family-owned business Ansara-Bahu enjoys giving back to the community. "I love the Livonia community, and therefore love to support groups like Madonna," she said.

WJR's Ken Rogulski will be the ships cruise direc-

tor/emcee, and entertainment for the evening includes a strolling Italian accordion player and a student crooner with a cruise ship lounge act. Reservations for All Aboard can be made online at www.madonna.edu/allaboard, or by calling (734) 432-5602.

AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Clothing sale

The Lighthouse Home Missions and Full Gospel Temple are holding a spring clothing give-away 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 5-6, at the church, 34033 Palmer between Wildwood and Venoy, Westland.

Men's, women's and children's clothing will be given away. Buy a bag for \$2 and fill it with clothes and shoes to the top. Buy as many bags as you like for \$2 each.

Proceeds from the sale will go fund the work of the mission.

Garage sale

Ss. Simon and Jude Church is holding a garage sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 5, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. There will be a \$2 Bag Sale at 3 p.m. All large items go for \$2 at bag sale. For more information, contact Mae Bray at (734) 722-8209.

Coffee Hours

Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, D-12th District, will hold coffee hours in Westland and Garden City on Monday, April 8.

LeBlanc will be in Westland 9-10:30 a.m. at Mr. Mikes Grill, 6047 N. Wayne Road, north of Ford. He will be accompanied by State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and State Reps. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, and David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights.

He also will hold a coffee hour 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 117 of the Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Meriman. He will again be accompanied by Knezek.

Residents can contact Knezek at (517) 373-0849 or by e-mail at davidknezek@house.mi.gov. Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend can contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, by phone at (866) 262-7306 or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Annual Auction

St. Mary Parish and School will be holding their second annual auction, A Blast From the Past, at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20. The event will include both silent and live auction items as well as various raffles throughout the evening.

Tickets are \$35 and include a strolling buffet and two drink tickets. Additional drink tickets may be purchased dur-

ing the event. Event registration and payment may be made directly to the school or parish office or after Masses on the weekends of April 6-7 and April 13-14, or until sold out.

Seating assignments for the live auction are first come, first serve with registration. Registering early offers the best opportunity to sit with a specific group for the live auction and dessert.

For more information, visit sites.google.com/site/smauction2013/home.

Spaghetti dinner

A spaghetti dinner will be held Sunday April 14, to benefit the Romanowski VFW Post 6896 pool team.

The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. A hungry plate will be available for \$8. The meal includes spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, salad and bread and butter. Desserts will be available. There also will be a cash bar, raffles, music and much more.

The Romanowski Post is at 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt in Westland. For more information, call (734) 525-9454 or (734) 261-0260.

Play date

Designer Duds n Infant Treasures is holding a "Play Date" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the store at 815 N. Wayne Road, north of Cherry Hill, Westland. Appointments are being taken to children's fingerprints made into a one of a kind piece of jewelry for Mother's Day! Check out www.pixieprintz.com

For more information, call (734) 331-2519 or check out Designer Duds on Facebook.

Ladies Night Out

The Westland Veterans Association will present its second annual Ladies Nigh Out Boxer Review Saturday, April 13, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Doors open at 7 p.m., show times is 8-11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. A limited number of VIP tickets are available for \$20. There will be a cash bar and 550/50 tickets. Proceeds will benefit the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland.

For more information, call Connie at (734) 578-4615.

Healthy Passport

The city of Westland will hold a Healthy Pass-

port Run Wild 5K and Mayor's Mile Saturday, April 20, at the Westland City Hall on Ford Road west of Wayne Road. Check-in will be at 7:30 a.m., with a shot gun start at 9 a.m.

The cost is \$20 and includes an event T-shirt and free for Buddy-Up participants. Register online at www.cityofwestland.com/healthy-passport.

Pancake Breakfast

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland is holding a pancake breakfast 8-10 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at Applebee's, 36475 Warren Road, Westland. The all you-can-eat-breakfast includes pancakes, meat, juice and coffee.

The cost is \$7. Tickets are available from members of United Methodist Women or at the door. For more information call Applebee's at (734) 467-7215 or (734) 721-4801.

Captain's coming

Children's book hero Captain Underpants will be the focus of a Captain Underpants Gross-Out-a-Rama at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road between East and West Michigan Avenue, Wayne.

Children and their favorite adult Captain Underpants fan are invited to our celebration of the popular books. They will play games, eat gross snacks, make toilet-rific crafts, and every child will get a free *Captain Underpants* book to keep.

This event is sponsored by Target. Registration for the program begins two weeks before the event. It can be done in person or by calling the library at (734) 721-7832.

Blood Drive

On Monday, April 15, the William P. Faust Public Library will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland.

To make an appointment log onto www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor code: wplccp or call 800-RED-CROSS. Everyone who comes to donate will be entered into a drawing for a free iPad mini. Anyone over age 17 (age 16 with a permission slip) can donate blood.

Ripple Effect

The Wayne Ripple Effect, a volunteer down-

town revitalization group, meets at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, in downtown Wayne. Anyone interested in volunteering or getting involved is welcome.

For more information visit www.downtownwayne.org or email Sherrie at waynerippleeffect@gmail.com.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland is holding its monthly spaghetti dinner 4-7 p.m. Friday,

April 28. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and dessert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6. The center will hold its game night 6-9 p.m. Thursday, April 18.

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

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

Rummage sale

The First Methodist Church Of Wayne-West-

land is holding a spring rummage sale Thursday-Saturday, April 25-27. Thursday and Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to noon. Saturday is also bag day - a grocery bag is \$2 and a plastic lawn bag is \$5.

Home made bake goods and refreshments will also be available for sale.

The church is at 3 Town Square, across from the Wayne Post Office. For more information, call the church at (734) 722-4801.

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For the location nearest you, call 1-888-889-EYES

Spotlight puts on 'Barnum'

Spotlight Players, a community theater group based in Canton, presents a production of the musical "Barnum," by Mark Bramble, Michael Stewart, and Cy Coleman. The show will be staged April 19-28 at The Village Theater in Canton.

Wendy Sielaff of Canton directs this production that tells the story of P.T. Barnum (Leo Babcock of Saline), and his conclave of circus acts, assisted by Music Director Richard Alder of Westland and choreographer Jen Beitzel of Northville.

Spanning 45 years, the show covers the dynamic relationship with his wife Charity (Cathy McDonald of Plymouth) as it influences the colorful cast of characters that would make him a household name, including Joice Heth (Tina Paraventi of Ypsilanti), General Tom Thumb (Jim Jackson of Westland), Jenny Lind (Rebecca Winder of Livonia), and of course James Bailey (Jeff Foust of Canton), with whom P.T. Bar-

num eventually forms the famous circus.

Barnum himself narrates the show, telling the audience a bit of his life story and the art of humbug.

Babcock, an architect in Saline and veteran performer, remarks that, "Of the 100 different shows I have performed in, 'Barnum' ranks among my favorites," said Babcock, an architect and veteran performer. "P.T. Barnum is truly a complex character to play. From a struggling showman to a successful entrepreneur, Barnum rides a roller coaster from financial ruin to fame and influence. With the steady support of his wife Charity to anchor him through the pain of midlife crises and tests of his fidelity, his zeal for life is inspiring. It is a powerful and greatly satisfying character to portray."

Foust ("Ringmaster/Bailey"), a full-time dad to a new baby boy, relates to Barnum on a personal level.

"Barnum had a dream that didn't fit with the life

everyone else was telling him to lead, but he never let those dreams go and even though he failed a few times, he persevered and created 'The Greatest Show on Earth!'" Foust said. "I have wanted to do this show since college and this is the first time I have seen a theatre produce it. I feel so lucky that it is being produced right in my own back yard."

Cathy McDonald, a teacher in Plymouth, plays Charity.

"It's really fun and exciting to be part of a show that not many people know, but those who do, love," McDonald said. "I can't wait for those who are unfamiliar with Barnum to come and see why everyone loves it. It's got really great music, circus performers, and we have an incredibly talented cast."

Tickets range from \$13 to \$16, and are available through The Village Theater, by calling (734) 394-5300, or by going to the Spotlight Players' website: www.spotlightplayersmi.org



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Co-owner Jim Allie, 51, said the Lifeline Assistance program started before President Obama took office, so the term Obama Phone is a misnomer.

'Obama Phone' store comes to area

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

A new store has opened in Livonia that serves as the Michigan headquarters for a distributor of the "Obama Phone."

The Obama Phone is a refurbished cell phone with 250 monthly voice minutes provided free to low-income and disadvantaged families by the federal Lifeline Assistance program.

The program is funded by FCC-mandated universal service fees paid by telecommunications carriers and passed along, at least in part, to consumers. Consumers may notice a "universal service" line item on their telephone bills.

Owners Zach Carroll, 25, of Farmington Hills and Jim Allie, 51, of Novi opened the store March 6 at 20215 Middlebelt Road, next to Clarenceville High School.

It is one of 11 My Life Mobile locations the businessmen have opened in Michigan and Toledo since starting their company three months ago. Budget Mobile is the carrier.

The Livonia store is one of a handful of the stand-alone stores; the others are located inside other businesses, such as tax centers.

Carroll said that while the Obama Phone is available from other distributors and carriers, they don't have storefront locations like My Life Mobile.

Discount service

"We're here to provide support as well (such as instructing recipients on the use of the phones)," he said, adding they intend to keep their loca-

tions open as long as the program is available.

Allie said the Lifeline Assistance program started before President Obama took office, so the term Obama Phone is a misnomer. According to the FCC website, the Lifeline program has provided a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers since 1985, to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings. In 2005, Lifeline discounts were made available to qualifying low-income consumers on pre-paid wireless service plans in addition to traditional landline service.

"This program allows people who are using certain government assistance programs to help keep in touch with the person that they care about the most," Allie said.

My Life Mobile is compensated for each phone it gives away, with the amount going up as the volume it gives away increases. It also receives a monthly residual for 12 months for each phone, Carroll said.

In addition, My Life Mobile earns an average 16-percent commission for selling services over and above the 250 free voice minutes. For an extra \$25 a month, recipients can purchase unlimited text messaging and voice call minutes. For \$10 more per month, recipients can purchase an additional 100 minutes or 1,000 text messages.

One per home

Only one Obama Phone per household is permitted. Phone service ends after 250 minutes

per month for those who haven't purchased additional service.

Recipients qualify by having an income that is at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline or by participating in a qualifying government assistance program, such as Social Security, Medicaid, food stamps and the National School Lunch Program.

"Seniors are ideal for the program," Carroll said. "Most don't want a cell phone, they don't want to pay for one. The major carriers, they can't afford or don't need." Carroll said they've given away about 50 phones so far in Livonia. He estimates 15,000 to 20,000 Livonia residents qualify.

More coming

Recipients can also apply online at www.mylifemobile.us/ and have a phone mailed to them within about three days.

Carroll and Allie, both of whom have backgrounds in the cell phone industry, hope to open as many as 50 My Life Mobile stores each in Michigan, Ohio and Arizona.

Carroll said he gets satisfaction out of giving something to someone in need, rather than selling services to those who can afford it. "I don't expect to make millions," he said.

My Life Mobile also accepts donations of used Verizon phones for refurbishing. Hours are from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For more information, call (248) 289-0046 or visit www.mylifemobile.us/.

ksmith@hometownlife | (313) 222-2098 | Twitter: @Karen587



Spotlight Players present "Barnum" at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton April 19-28.



Grand Opening Celebration
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Westland

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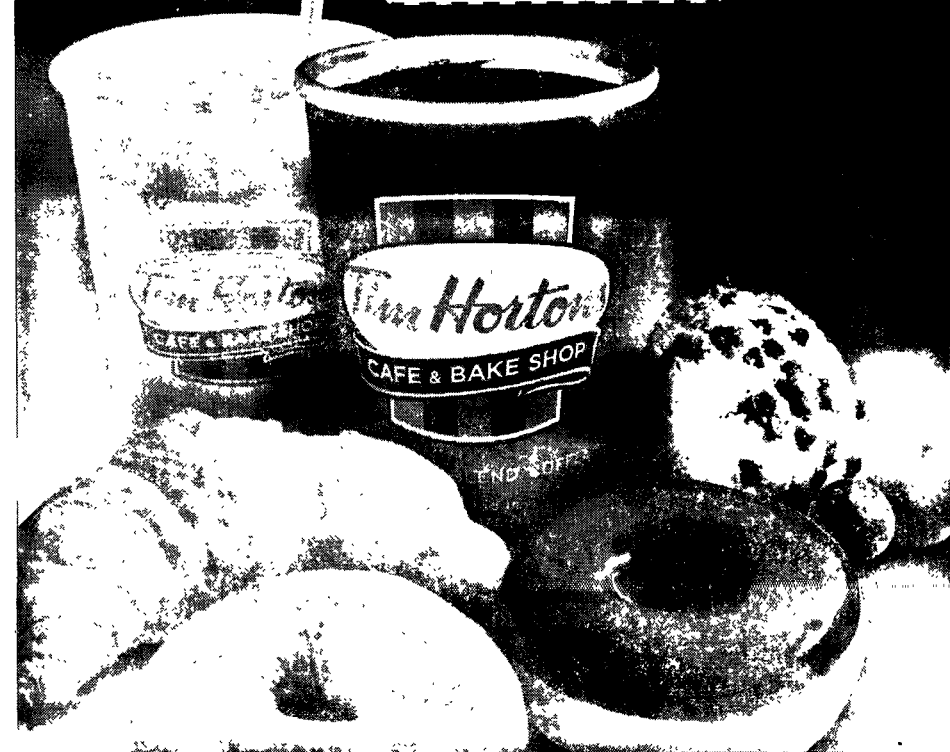
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State road funding proposals topic of town hall

State Rep. John Walsh (R-Livonia) will host a town hall to discuss road funding proposals. The event will take place 7-9 p.m. Monday, April 29, at the Vista Tech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

Speaking at the town hall will be Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association Vice President

of Government Affairs Lance Binoniemi and County Road Association of Michigan Deputy Director Ed Noyola.

Individuals from the Wayne County Department of Public Services will also be on hand to answer questions.

"Transportation funding is the big issue being talked about in Lansing currently, and many people are unsure of what proposals are out there,"

said Walsh.

"This event will allow residents to ask questions directly to the experts about funding, maintenance and repair of Michigan's road infrastructure."

This event is free, and no registration is required.

For more information, contact Walsh's office by calling (517) 373-3920 or by emailing johnwalsh@house.mi.gov.

CITY OF WESTLAND

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON 2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of Westland for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014 will be held on Monday, May 6, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk

Publish: April 4, 2013

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Copper pipes stolen from vacant home

Copper stolen

An employee of a company hired to work on a bank-owned home in the 29000 block of Marshall told police March 25 that he arrived to find the rear door had been kicked in.

Copper piping valued at \$2,000 was reported stolen. The alarm on the home had been ripped from the wall and drywall was damaged.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident of the Fountain Park Apartments, 37573 Fountain Park Circle, told police March 25 that someone had stolen all four tires and rims off his 2006 Buick Lucerne overnight.

Larceny

A 52-inch television and a stereo speaker were reported stolen from an unit at Westland Store 'N' Lock, 7840 N. Wayne Road, March 24. The owner, an Inkster man, told police he had last checked on the unit in November.

The man told police he had made a payment in November to stop the items from being auctioned and hadn't paid the rent again until March when he was again threatened with auction.

Larceny from a vehicle

Police were called to the Parkcrest Apartments, 7100 Parkcrest, March 27 after resident reported four tires and rims valued at \$1,600 stolen from a 2012 Ford Edge. A laptop computer and a cell phone were also reported stolen.

The resident said the vehicle belongs to his boss, a Livonia man. The rear passenger window had been smashed.

Vandalism

On March 25, a Redford man told police that someone had cut the lock off a shed and threw a rock through a window of a

WESTLAND COP CALLS

home he owns in the 32000 block of Hillsdale Court.

Larceny

A Canton man told police March 26 that on March 15 he had left his bicycle parked outside Fifth Third Bank, 36700 Ford. When he returned, he said the bicycle was gone along with a plastic bag containing his cell phone and prepaid credit card with a \$35 balance. He told police he wanted to report the theft so he could check with the credit card company.

Vandalism

On March 26, a resident in the 1600 block of Daisy told police that someone had knocked her mail box off the post overnight. She said it was the third time her mail box had been damaged.

Stolen vehicle

A 2003 Ford F-250 Super Duty pickup truck was reported stolen March 27 from a home in the 600 block of Larchmont. The owner said he looked out the window to see the truck parked in the driveway before he went to bed at 12:30 a.m. The truck was gone at 7:30 a.m., he said.

The truck was described as having big tires, tinted windows and a gold firefighter sticker on the rear window.

Larceny from a vehicle

•A resident in the 2400 block of Barns told police March 27 that someone had smashed a window on her pickup truck overnight while it was parked in her driveway. She said her purse was stolen containing her driver's license and credit cards.

•Also on March 27, a resident in the 38000 block of Shelby told police that someone had damaged a window and frame on a 2010 Ford Taurus trying to pry it open. A 2004 Buick Rendezvous

was entered and a Louis Vuitton purse valued at \$300 was stolen. The owner said a door on the Buick doesn't lock so there was no damage to that car.

Break-in

A resident in the 38000 block of Shelby told police March 27 that someone had entered his unlocked 2006 Dodge Caravan and took his garage opener. The suspect had used the garage opener but was unable to enter the attached home. Nothing was missing except the garage door opener.

Larceny

A maintenance worker at the Margo Capri Apartments, 28400 Warren Road, told police April 1 that someone had stolen the top off a dryer along with the coin box. He said he found the coin box in the dumpster but couldn't locate the dryer top.

The coin box had some blood on it, the officer noted, but wasn't opened and sounded like it contained coins. The coin box on the washing machine was also pried but not opened.

Break-in

A resident of an apartment at 1976 S. Venoy told police March 28 that someone had pried open the door to his apartment sometime during the previous two days. A 55-inch plasma flat screen television was reported stolen.

The resident told police he is a truck driver and had been out of town. The television was rented, he said.

Vandalism

A resident in the 31000 block of Calhoun Court told police March 26 that someone had cut the tire on her 2005 Mercury Sable. The officer noted the cut but added that the tire had not been punctured.

By LeAnne Rogers

Car stolen at car wash

Buick boosted

A 53-year-old Westland woman's car was stolen about 8 p.m. March 29 after she washed it at Parkway Car Wash at 29043 Warren Road in Garden City.

After she finished, she left her 2004 Buick Rendezvous with the keys inside and went to the vacuum bay to retrieve her floor mats.

When she turned around, she saw an unknown man enter her car and drive off.

She used another customer's cell phone to call the Garden City police.

Her purse and her cell phone were inside the vehicle.

She described the suspect as a white man in his 20s, wearing a beige hoodie and blue jeans. She had observed him in the area just prior to this and she said he was talking on a cell phone and looked like he was waiting for a ride.

At about 10 p.m., the Westland police called to say that they located her vehicle in their city.

There was front end damage and the air bags were deployed. Her keys were recovered but not her lost property.

There was no arrest because the suspect had fled. The car was impounded at Westland Car Care.

Attempted vehicle theft

A resident in the 32000 block of John Hawk reported that someone attempted to steal his Ford van which was parked in front of his house.

About 5:30 a.m. March 27, he discovered that his driver's door lock had been jimmied.

The police observed pry marks from a flat head screwdriver. An unknown

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

suspect had removed the ignition collar and damaged the ignition but was unable to steal the vehicle.

The owner was still able to use his key to start the vehicle and he was able to remove it.

Nothing was missing from the interior.

Vehicle theft

A Garden City Hospital employee's 2002 Dodge Neon was stolen from the east part of the hospital parking lot at 6245 Inkster.

His wallet containing his driver's license, cash and a debit card which were inside were also stolen.

The employee discovered the vehicle missing about 11:30 p.m. March 27.

Theft

A 22-year-old Livonia woman reported at 2 a.m. March 31 that her purse was stolen while she was at Bar 153 located at 31268 Ford Road.

She said that she left her purse on a table next to the DJ booth before she went on stage to dance.

Her purse contained cash, a debit card, her cell phone and Suboxone, a replacement drug used to treat opi-ate dependence.

When she returned, she couldn't find her purse.

There are no suspects.

Break-in

When a family in the 2800 block of Krauter returned to their home about 10:30 p.m. April 1, they discovered that someone had broken into their home. A back door window was broken and the door was partially open.

Nothing was missing from the home.



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PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Youngsters get into the beat as the dance party gets going.

W-W dance party gets kids, parents excited about school

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The joint was jumpin', so to speak, as the Walker-Winter school community gathered for a Radio Disney Rockin' Dance Party Open House last week.

The first of two such events the district is hosting, the get-together was designed to introduce the school to parents and their youngsters. While youngsters danced and played games with a Radio Disney DJ, parents had an opportunity to meet the elementary teachers and principals and learn about a variety of programs available in the district.

"We hope to get parents and kids excited about school," district Superintendent Greg Baracy said. "We want them to learn about the building and the quality of the learning experience while having fun."

Walker-Winter in Canton and Hicks Elementary in Inkster were picked to have the 1½-hour dance parties and open houses. The Hicks event will be April 24. The district is making a push to bring families back to the schools.

Wayne-Westland experienced a double-digit enrollment loss at Walker-Winter to a charter school that had opened in southern Canton Township. The staff walked the neighborhoods around the school to pass out papers about the event.

"My daughter is in kindergarten. She insisted on coming," Cheryl Brown-Deacon of Canton said. "I think it's a well-organized event. It's good exposure for the school and a fun activity for the kids."

In addition to daughter Gabriella, Brown-Deacon brought her 3-year-old daughter Jayden, who will start preschool in the fall.

"I got to go to the classrooms and see different activities I wasn't aware of," Brown-Deacon said.

The event allowed parents to join youngsters in the school gym for the dance party and then leave to tour the school. Staff members and parent liaisons like Juanita Francis of Westland kept a close eye on the young-



Amaree Hooper and sister Alysa Johnson of Westland dance together. Youngsters were treated to a dance party while their parents had an opportunity to learn more about Walker-Winter School and the Wayne-Westland Community School.



Westland residents Naomi Hughes, Juanita Francis and America Espinoza have a picture taken to document their dance night.

sters while their parents toured the building.

"This is awesome," Francis said. "We need something like this at the other schools. We have a lot leaving the schools and we need to get them back. This is a way to get them back."

Parents had a chance to go on a virtual field trip, see some of the technology used in the school district, get information on

its K-11 schools of choice and meet the principals from Adams and Marshall Upper Elementary schools.

The district also used the event to promote its talented and gifted program, which is being piloted at Walker-Winter, Adams and Marshall for the 2013-14 school year, and its Spanish language class that will be offered to all elementary and



Twin sisters Autumn and Audrie Johnson, of Canton dance the night away.



Youngsters like Alex Proctor of Canton wore wristbands that were paired with ones worn by their parents.

upper elementary students next year. Representatives from the Oakwood Health Clinic, local public libraries, the district's Family Resource Center, Bright Futures after-school program, PTO and WATCH D.O.G.S. were there as well.

"It's really been well-received. It's been an amazing time," Principal Julie Mytych said. "I hope it's been a learning



Daniel Price of Wayne takes a cookie break during the Radio Disney Rockin' Dance Party at Walker-Winter Elementary School.

experience for the parents."

Seven-year-old Christian Birmingham was excited to come to the dance. He'd just gotten his hair cut and was there to see his friend Stephanie. His mother was busy checking out the kindergarten classroom while he was enjoying the dance party.

"He used to go to a uniform school in Southfield. The school didn't have a lot of activities," his mother said. "We came to register during Halloween and he was so excited. I'm glad I brought him here that day. He was so excited, he probably

talked about it for a couple of days."

"I think this really good," the Canton resident said. "It brings a lot of families together to meet."

Baracy was pleased with the first of its kind event.

"It's a very nice turnout. I'm really happy to see the students, but more so the parents interacting," he said. "It brings a school community together and that's what we're all about, the Wayne-Westland family."

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751
Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

State fair back with new name, sponsor

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Michigan's state fair, revived last year as the Great Lakes State Fair after then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm pulled funding in 2009, will be back again this year under another new name — the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair.

The announcement of the title sponsor came at today's press conference at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi where the event will again be held Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30 through Sept. 2.

Although the fair is now produced by a private entity — Michigan State Fair LLC — organizers say it will continue to offer all of the great traditions of the event that started in Detroit in 1849.

"When we asked the public what they missed most about summer in Michigan, they overwhelmingly said, 'the state fair,'" said Blair Bowman, owner of the Suburban Collec-

DETAILS

Event: Fifth Third Michigan State Fair
Dates: Friday, Aug. 30, through Monday, Sept. 3
Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
Livestock Exhibits: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday-Sunday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday
Agriculture and Indoor

Vendor Booths: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday-Sunday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday
Midway: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Sunday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday
Circus: noon; 2:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. daily (no 7:30 performance on Monday)
Entertainment Stage,

Beer Garden, Outdoor Vendors: pending
Exhibit Space: Andrea Pickolo, (248) 348-5600, Ext. 208
Displays, Sponsorships, Circuits: Mike Watts, (734) 459-6969, info@michiganstatefairllc.com

the sponsorship of Fifth Third Bank, will be the Youth Scholarship Program, offering \$10,000 in competitive scholarship programs. The scholarships will recognize excellence in breeding programs, showmanship and academics to advance the postsecondary effort of outreach through county fairs, and their 4-H clubs.

"Fifth Third Bank recognizes the state fair as not only a destination for fun and entertainment for families across the state of Michigan, but as the declaration of agriculture as an economic force within the state," said Dave Girodat, president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank Eastern Michigan. "We are proud to be the title sponsor of

this event and are committed to supporting the revival of this Michigan tradition."

Tickets for the state fair will be available in the near future and more information will be available on the web at www.michiganstatefairllc.com.

"We are so proud to partner with the great financial institution, Fifth Third Bank, which has strong roots in the community, and provides significant support to charitable efforts across the state," said Bowman. "We promise to make the Fifth Third Michigan State Fair bigger, better and more fun for a long time."

stone@hometownlife.com
(248) 437-2011, Ext. 237
Twitter: @TheNoviNews

tion Showplace. "They missed the atmosphere of being close to nature, the excitement of a child seeing his first goat, cow or baby lamb, and the celebration of Michigan's agricultural heritage."

Along with the agriculture, tourism and livestock products, this year's state fair will again have the Detroit Shrine Circus — presented by Bright House Networks — this time with the world's largest circus tent.

"We have added the one and only Detroit Shrine Circus to the festivities, and seeing a performance of this great event

is included in one low price admission," said Bowman. Circus performances will be held daily at noon, 2:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. (no 7:30 performance on Monday).

One-third of the admission price will go toward the circus, which is a significant contribution to the Shriners' annual budget and indirectly helps the organization's effort to fund their nonprofit and philanthropic efforts through the Shriner Hospitals for Children.

"The Detroit Shrine Circus is excited to be a major part of the return of the Michigan State Fair, and all the traditions

and community goodwill that goes along with this association," said Craig Stigleman, chairman, Michigan State Fair/Shrine Circus.

The midway, presented by Walmart, is expanding, and live entertainment and a beer tent return as well.

One of the big changes from last year, due to

IN BRIEF

Talk of War

The talk will turn to war - the War of 1812 - when military historian Daryl A. Bailey speaks at a Friends of Nankin Mills adult local history program Saturday, April 16, at Nankin Mills.

Bailey, the vice-president of the Friends of Nankin Mills will present an historical talk, entitled The War of 1812: The Western Frontier, at 1 p.m.

"The War of 1812 is a perfect example of how war is not an isolated event," said Bailey whose will discuss events lead-

ing up to the war, especially on the frontier where Native Americans battled American settlers. He will reveal the role previous wars, such as the French and Indian War, played into the resulting conflicts and cite several battles to illustrate this point.

Bailey and his wife, Sherrye, are the co-authors of the Arcadia book Images of America: Westland. He also has written articles for Time Illustrated: America's Civil War and The Blue and Gray magazines. The talk will be pre-

sented at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Call (734) 261-1990 to preregister. Refreshments will be provided.

VOICES & VIEWS:
COMMENT ONLINE



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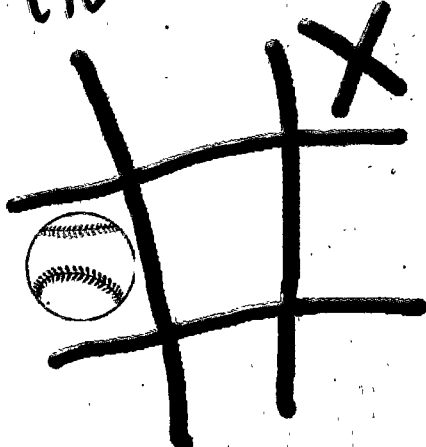
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Tips for small businesses using social media

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

Volunteers, marketing managers and small-business owners are always asking me how to find important data about their Facebook fans or simply how to use social networks to drive sales. With so many social networks and large volumes of data, uncovering insights about your company or organization's fans may seem daunting, but it is actually easier than you think.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

1. Find Where Your Targets Are – With more than a billion users, it is safe to assume your key demographic is on Facebook. The problem is, your key demographics may not use Facebook to get information about what you're selling. This is especially true if you are, say, a business-to-business wholesaler of widgets to regional retailers. Find where your target is whether on major networks like Twitter or niche message boards and blogs and work from there.

2. Don't Focus on Fan Counts – The most common mistake brands small and large make is putting too much importance on fans and followers. Large communities are great, but if those fans aren't engaging with your brand, they aren't helping your

bottom line. Make it a priority to increase interaction among a core group of followers. It will build loyalty for your brand or product and prove more important, even if your competitor has a few more likes.

3. Start Small With Metrics – We are in an age of big data and social media data is something even professionals can get lost in. When looking at YouTube insights, Facebook insights or measuring conversation volumes, pick a few key numbers to look at. My favorites are impressions, reach and engagement metrics such as comments, video views, or replies. After understanding these key metrics, expand using common sense. Do you need to understand day-to-day increases in video views? Probably not. But it might make sense to look at month-to-month increases in Facebook likes, or the best time to post content.

4. Have A Plan – This might be the most important tip for any small business or non-profit on the social web. If you don't have a set posting schedule or time to engage with your key demographics on message boards or blogs just stop. With social media you are either in or out – there is no halfway. A Twitter account or Facebook page with no new content is like a website with outdated contact information.

5. Use Resources Wisely – There's a reason big companies don't have marketing managers and CEOs running their social presence: Social is time-

consuming. Small companies may not have the luxury of dedicated social staff – and if that's the case, do your research on Google. Instead of spending a day's time to find the best time to post for your brand, look for research or white papers on Facebook's peak activity time, or key information on your industry.

6. Don't Overwhelm Fans – When considering what and when to post content remember not to overload fans with information they don't need. If you post too much, fans will hide your content making your fan count even less important. Additionally, you can look into Facebook's post level data (by clicking and exporting insights) to see if any specific content has driven fans to unlike or unsubscribe for your page.

7. Have Fun – Social media is a two-way street. Followers and potential followers want to have fun, not listen to constant sales pitches. Try applying the 80-20 rule when posting content. Eighty percent should be topical, conversational, helpful and of added value. The other 20 percent can be what I refer to as "shameless self promotion."

While these tips won't make your brand the next Red Bull or Taco Bell, they will make your social presence more effective and efficient.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? Email Jonathan.Gunnells@gmail.com.



Owner/director Roger Husband is a 30-year veteran of the funeral home business and has served the community in all phases of the grieving process.

Funeral home committed to serving families

Since Husband Family Funeral Home, in Westland, opened its doors in early 2011, it has earned a reputation for professionalism, compassion and for offering a welcoming environment to service the families during their most difficult times.

As a 30-year veteran of the funeral home business, owner/director Roger Husband, has served the community in all phases of the grieving process. The family home occupies 11,000-square foot, two-story building at 2401 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

The funeral home is a full-service facility, offering a wide variety of funeral and cremation packages from a simple burial or direct cremation to a formal funeral or memorial service with visitation and catering services. It has two chapels, a clergy room and a banquet room available for families to use. Funeral guests frequently hear the sounds of the 1962 Hammond B3 classic organ during memorial services.

The funeral home also will not be undersold when presented with a genuine price quote. With highly competi-



Located on Wayne Road, south of Glenwood in Westland, Husband Family Funeral Home is a full-service facility, offering a wide variety of funeral and cremation packages.

itive pricing, they handle all aspects of the funeral process, including many types of pre-need plans. It also offers after-care counseling.

The Husband Family Funeral Home is committed to supporting the community and takes pride in giving back. It participates in a variety of programs, including support for schools, churches and holiday gift programs throughout the area.

Husband is a graduate of Wayne State University. In addition to being a funeral director, he is an instructor at WSU where he teaches mortuary sci-

ence classes.

"The Husband Family Funeral Home is humbled when families entrust their loved ones to our care," said Husband.

"Our families deserve to be treated with reverence and expect a standard of excellence that honors their precious memories of those dear to their hearts. We are committed to providing a service of dignity and respect to families in their time of need. Life changes, love lasts forever."

For more information, call Husband Family Funeral Home at (734) 331-3349 or visit www.rhusband.com.

SERVPRO sponsors Ready Rating Program

SERVPRO®, a disaster recovery and clean-up franchise system, has signed on as a national sponsor of the American Red Cross Ready Rating™ program, a free, web-based program designed to help businesses, organizations and schools become better prepared for emergencies.

"This partnership just makes perfect sense, and truly completes the readiness equation for businesses and other property owners in the Detroit area," said Rick Isaacson, Executive vice president of Servpro Industries, Inc. "The Red Cross Ready Rating Program allows individuals to assess their readiness for a disaster, so they can take all necessary steps before disaster strikes to protect their property from damage and loss. But, when disaster does strike, knowing what to do and who to call saves time – and fast response is key to minimizing damage and downtime."

"Through the generosity of SERVPRO, the Red Cross will help empower workplaces to re-open more quickly after natural or man-made disasters, such as water main breaks, medical emergencies, power outages, tornadoes, floods and hurricanes through the Ready Rating Program," said Tom Heneghan, manager of Business

Continuity Programs for Red Cross. "Up to 40 percent of businesses never re-open their doors after such disasters; SERVPRO's partnership will enable more businesses, schools and organizations to become better prepared. We are excited to have SERVPRO join us in community outreach efforts to educate and highlight the importance of community preparedness in neighborhoods across the country."

With the approaching spring season comes the threat of severe weather, such as high winds, downpours, flash flooding, fires caused by lightning strikes and even tornadoes spawned by thunderstorms. SERVPRO® urges all Detroit-area property owners to visit the Red Cross Ready Rating website at readyrating.org to complete a 123-point self-assessment of their level of preparedness for weather-related or other emergencies.

Aligned with the federal government's Private Sector Preparedness standards, the Ready Rating assessment offers businesses, organizations and schools access to tools, tips and best practices to help improve their level of preparedness.

Isaacson said key to the program are the fol-

lowing Five Essential Steps to Preparedness – the cornerstones of the Ready Rating program: commit to preparedness, conduct a hazard vulnerability assessment, develop an emergency response plan, implement your emergency response plan and help your community get prepared.

"The time to prepare for a disaster is before it happens," said Isaacson. "Taking steps to make your property as secure as possible, then having a plan to deal with the aftermath if disaster does strike is just good business and common sense."

For information on readiness resources including SERVPRO's free Ready Plan Mobile Application, available on all smartphones, visit www.SERVPRO.com. For more information about the Ready Plan Mobile Application, visit www.servpro.com/ready. For more information on the Red Cross Ready Rating program, visit readyrating.org.

Local SERVPRO® franchises include:

• Gary Gasser, SERVPRO of Westland, (734) 721-5699 or ggasser9357@yahoo.com.

• Jeffrey Whitmarsh, SERVPRO of Dearborn Heights North/East Garden City, (313) 228-5134, servpro9764@aol.com.

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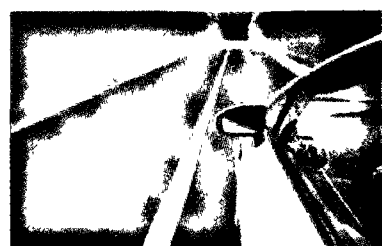
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Livonia Stevenson Boys Hockey Team State Champions for Division 2

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BOYS BASKETBALL:
Westland John Glenn: KLAAs South Division co-champions
Redford Thurston: Class A District Championship

GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Westland John Glenn Lady Rockets: KLAAs South Division, Kensington Conference, KLAAs Association, Class A District and Regional champions, 24-2 record, Class A State Semifinalist
Livonia Ladywood: Class B District and regional champions
Livonia Stevenson: Class A District champions

BOYS WRESTLING (TEAM HONORS):
Westland John Glenn: Observerland Tournament, KLAAs South Division; Kensington Conference; Division 1 District Champions
Livonia Franklin: Division 1 District Champs
Lutheran Westland: Division 4 District Champs

BOYS WRESTLING (TOP INDIVIDUAL STATE PLACERS):
Division 1 Champion: Travis Mann, John Glenn (145 pounds)
Division 1 Runner-ups: Kyle Gillies, John Glenn (103); Jordan Brandon, John Glenn (215); Jordan Atienza, Franklin (152)

BOYS SWIMMING (TEAM):
Livonia Stevenson: KLAAs Central Division, Kensington Conference Champions; 3rd, MHSAA Division 1 (finals).

BOYS SWIMMING (INDIVIDUAL):
Nick Arakelian, Stevenson: Division 1 Champion; 500-yard freestyle; state record



BOYS BOWLING:
Clarenceville: MHSAA Division 3 State and Regional champions.
Westland John Glenn: KLAAs Association champion and KLAAs Central Division co-champion

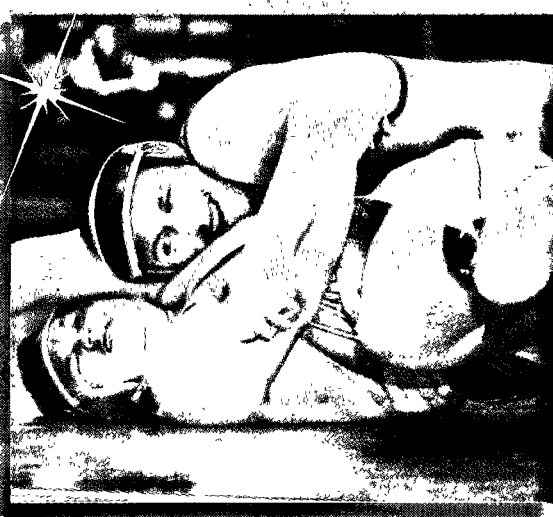
BOYS BOWLING (INDIVIDUAL):
Steven White, John Glenn: (Division 1 Regional Champion)

GIRLS BOWLING:
Westland John Glenn: Division 1 Regional and KLAAs Central Division Champions

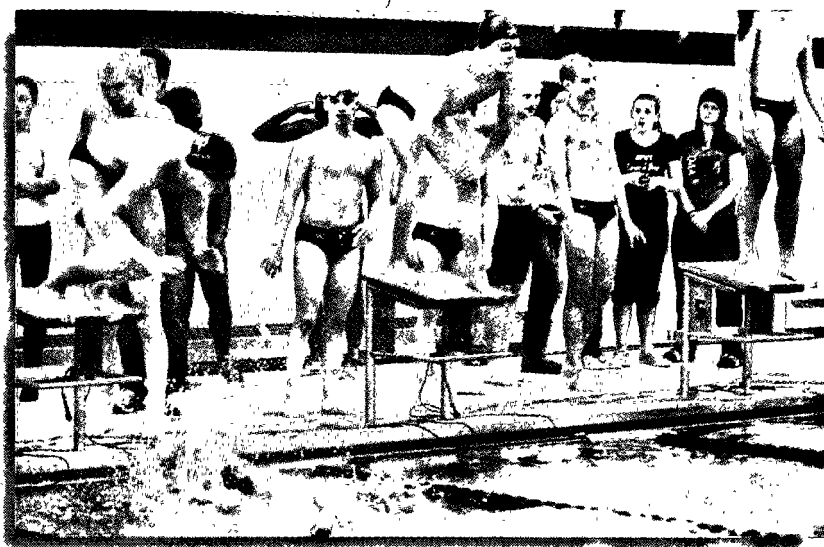
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California Wine Country Tapenade

Time for Tapenades

The ripe olive is one of the most versatile foods in the pantry. While delicious on its own, olives also add flavor to a number of dishes from soups and salads to appetizers and entrees. One dish, that features olives predominantly and is as versatile as its main ingredient, is tapenade.

Tapenade originated in Provence, France, as a simple mixture of chopped olives, with various herbs and spices and is often used as a spread on crackers or a condiment. There are many different recipes for tapenade, and the first step is selecting the type of olive to use. Green and black California Ripe Olives are perfect because of their mild taste and ability to blend well with other flavors. To ensure you are purchasing California Ripe Olives, check the label to see if they're a product of the U.S.

Tapenades are as varied as they are delicious, with consistencies that range from a spreadable paste to a chunky, salsa-like mixture. And their flavors can span the globe, from Greek and Mexican to Asian and French.

A simple ripe olive base is all you need to create a world of flavor.

Here are three very different approaches to tapenade. The first is inspired from where the olives come from — California — and includes garlic, shallots and fresh basil. The second has a Mexican flair with chipotle peppers and fresh cilantro. Finally, it's East-meets-West with an Asian-inspired version that balances the mild olive flavors with spicy Sriracha and fresh ginger.

Although delicious with crackers and a tradi-

tional cheese plate, there are a number of creative ways to enjoy tapenade, including:

- Mixing with sour cream for a zesty dip
- As a spread on sandwiches
- Spooned on tacos with lettuce, tomatoes and cheese
- Stuffed into chicken breasts for a flavorful kick
- Spread on pizza dough and topped with cheese and veggies

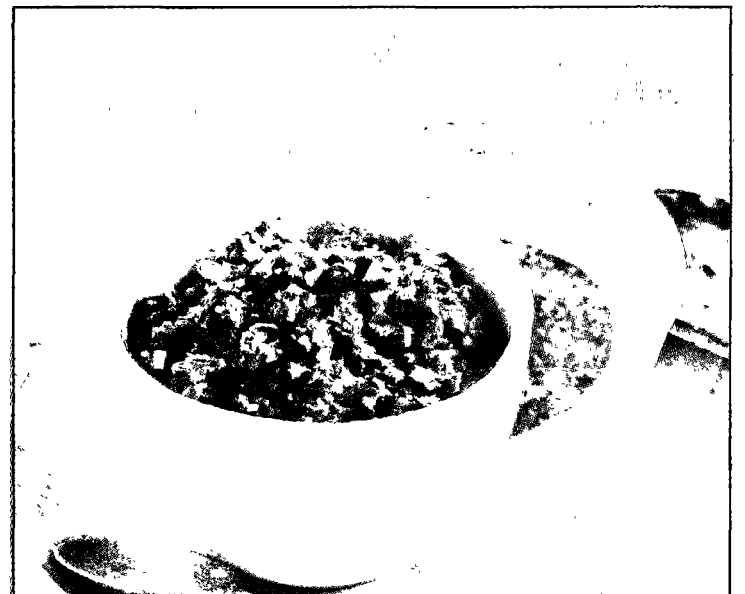
For more recipes featuring California Ripe Olives, visit www.CalOlive.org.

California Wine Country Tapenade

Prep time: 10 minutes
Chill time: 1 hour
Makes 8 to 10 servings

- ½ cup chopped shallots
- ¼ cup chopped smoked sun-dried tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 6-ounce can California Green Ripe Olives, well drained
- 1 6-ounce can California Black Ripe Olives, well drained
- ¼ cup lightly packed fresh basil
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- Crackers or toasted baguette slices

Place shallots, sun-dried tomatoes, olive oil, vinegar and garlic in a food processor and pulse on and off until finely chopped. Add olives, basil, salt and pepper and pulse again until chopped. Cover and chill for 1 hour. (May be prepared 1 day ahead.) Serve with crackers or toasted baguette slices.



Mexican Tapenade

Mexican Tapenade

Prep time: 10 minutes
Chill time: 1 hour
Makes 8 to 10 servings

- 2 6-ounce cans California Ripe Olives, well drained
- ¼ cup lightly packed fresh cilantro leaves
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 green onions, sliced
- 1 canned chipotle pepper plus 2 teaspoons adobo sauce from can

Good quality tortilla chips

Drain olives well and place in a food processor with all remaining ingredients except chips. Pulse on and off until finely chopped. Cover and chill for 1 hour. (May be prepared 1 day ahead.) Serve with tortilla chips or use as a sandwich spread or in quesadillas or tacos.



Spicy Asian Tapenade

Spicy Asian Tapenade

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes
Chill time: 1 hour
Makes 8 to 10 servings

- Tapenade:
- 2 6-ounce cans California Ripe Olives, well drained
 - ½ cup minced onion
 - 2 tablespoons olive or peanut oil
 - 2 tablespoons rice vinegar (unseasoned)
 - 1 ½ tablespoons grated fresh ginger
 - 1 tablespoon Sriracha sauce
 - ¼ teaspoon sesame oil
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Crispy Won Ton Dippers:
- 24 square won ton wrappers, each cut into 2 triangles
 - Olive oil cooking spray
 - Sea salt to taste
- Crispy Won Ton Cups:
- 24 square won ton wrappers
 - Olive oil cooking spray

Place all tapenade ingredients in a food processor

and pulse on and off until finely chopped. Cover and chill for 1 hour.

Meanwhile for dippers, preheat oven to 400°F and line 2 baking sheets with foil. Cut won ton wrappers in half and place on baking sheets; coat with olive oil spray and season lightly with salt. Bake for 5 minutes or until golden brown.

For cups, preheat oven to 350°F. Spray won ton wrappers on both sides with olive oil cooking spray. Press into 24 mini muffin cups, pressing all the way into the bottom. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown; let cool.

Serve with tapenade.

— Courtesy Family Features

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Vickie Winans

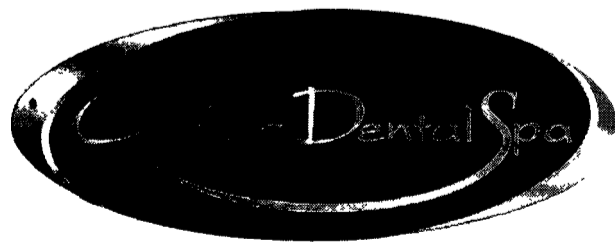
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