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Upcoming Coffee Hours

Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, 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.

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.

Election Commission

The Wayne City Election Commission will meet at 2 p.m. Monday at Wayne City Hall. Petitions submitted to amend the city charter to change to a strong mayor form of government, elect councilmembers by district and establish term limits will be reviewed.

Library holds Food for Fines

A month-long Food for Fines Program kicked off Monday at Westland's William P. Faust Library.

Hunger and charity are associated with the winter holidays, leaving food bank shelves empty in the spring.

The Gleaners Community Food Bank is partnering with the Westland Library and 22 other libraries to alleviate hunger in southeast Michigan.

Bring non-perishable, non-expired goods to the circulation desk and receive \$2 per item off of your fines up to \$20 total. Lost or damaged items are not eligible for the program.

For those who don't have fines but would like to donate, visit any of the service desks in the library or stop by the Westland Biggby Coffee or the Westland Friendship Center and deposit your items in one of their donation-only boxes.

For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or stop by any of the library service desks.

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Wayne doesn't sell tax-reverted parcel

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A proposed sale of a city-owned Michigan Avenue parcel back to the former owner who had lost it for taxes didn't receive support Tuesday from Wayne City Council members.

Councilman Albert Damitio offered a motion

to approve the sale of the property at 36400 Michigan Ave. W for \$8,600, subject to some development conditions. The motion didn't receive support from another council member, so no action could be taken.

Council members had several issues with the sale — the price since, the parcel is assessed

with a true market value of \$38,400; the proposed development as an automotive body shop at the city entrance; and selling the parcel back to the previous owner.

"I'm concerned that the property came back to us for taxes once and the owner is trying buy it again," Councilwoman Pam Dobrowolski said.

In 2004, Abdo Amad had received approval for development of a 2,000-square-foot building to house an oil change business. That development never happened and eventually the property was taken by Wayne County for unpaid taxes.

The city obtained the property in 2012 under tax reversion for \$5,438

and then paid \$2,342 in taxes and a lighting assessment as the owner.

Amad's son Mike assured council members the property wouldn't be taken for unpaid taxes again. He said the earlier planned development fell through when bank financing was withdrawn

Please see PARCEL, A2

Four-legged officer on the job in Wayne

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

For about two years, Wayne police didn't have a police dog for searches and tracking.

Now that position has been filled by Zeto, a German shepherd, who has completed his training with his handler Officer William Mangan. It's been a new experience for both of them.

"This is my first time as canine officer. I've always wanted to do it," said Mangan, who has been with Wayne police for just over four years.

Mangan took some inspiration from Terry Foley, who was the department's previous canine officer until his retirement two years ago. Foley's business K9 Academy trained Mangan and Zeto, along with officers and dogs from 60 area law enforcement agencies.

Zeto, short for zero tolerance, was 13 months old when he came to Mangan. The pair completed a three-month training academy that started with four days training each week. Now, Mangan and Zeto join other officers and dogs for weekly training to keep their skills sharp.

Trained to detect narcotics such as cocaine and heroin, Zeto is also trained to sniff out ecstasy pills, said Mangan. Zeto is also trained to conduct building searches and tracks — for evidence, suspects or a missing person.

"All this has taught me that there is a lot more to it than I knew before I got the dog," said Mangan. "Like how obedient



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Police Officer William Mangan poses with the newest addition to the department, police dog Zeto, short for zero tolerance.

the dogs need to be."

And social. Some people have a misconception that police dogs need to be aggressive when the opposite is true.

"Zeto is real social at

work. With kids or adults he is real friendly and has no sign of aggression," said Mangan. "A lot of people think the dog is mean. He's not angry when he goes after a suspect — he's

doing what I tell him to do. When I release him (from holding a suspect), he'd let the guy pet him."

At about 18 months, Zeto still has the look

Please see ZETO, A2

Hearing delayed in vehicle homicide

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Brighton woman charged with running over and killing a Westland woman during an argument over a man will remain in jail after her preliminary examination was adjourned Thursday in 18th District Court.

Shannon Marie Gruden, 30, is charged with second-degree murder, which carries a sentence of up to life in prison, reckless driving causing death and failure to stop at the scene of an accident at fault resulting in death, both 15-year felonies, in the death of Amanda Hall, 25.

Defense attorney David Lankford requested an adjournment in the hearing, noting he had just been assigned the case the previous day and needed time to prepare his case.

Jailed in lieu of \$1 million cash bond since her arrest, Gruden stood silently crying during the brief hearing before Judge Mark McConnell. The case was adjourned until Thursday, April 18.

Lankford unsuccessfully sought to have Gruden's bond reduced. "I know it's a very serious charge — there's not much more serious than this," said Lankford.

Noting various family members would be willing to use their homes to get Gruden bond, Lankford suggested a \$50,000 cash/surety bond. He also requested that Gruden's file be marked to reflect her medical problem — a heart condition — that

Please see HEARING, A2

Men get jail time in theft of judge's snow blower

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Two Ypsilanti men have been sentenced to jail after pleading no contest to a charge that they stole a snow blower from the home of a Garden City judge.

The charges filed against brothers Justin Burton, 21, and Austin Burton, 19, were heard in Westland's 18th District Court by Judge Mark McConnell. Garden City 21st District Court Judge Richard Hammer Jr. was the victim in the case and



J. Burton A. Burton

recused himself due to conflict of interest.

Under questioning by McConnell, Justin Burton said that he was sleeping in his truck when his brother had stolen the snow blower. When questioned by police, Justin Burton told officers he had stolen the snow blow-

er but now said that he was attempting to protect his brother.

Standing before the judge, Austin Burton agreed with his brother's version of the crime, smiling broadly and laughing throughout the proceedings. "I did it. That's it," said Austin Burton.

The brothers, who grew up in Garden City and now list Ypsilanti as their home, had basically living in their vehicle when they couldn't find another place to stay, according to comments in court.

Austin Burton told McConnell that in addition to the misdemeanor larceny case in Westland, he had two outstanding felony warrants in Ypsilanti.

"You've been laughing like this is a joke. Probation won't work," said McConnell, who sentenced Austin Burton to the maximum 93 days in jail with credit for 21 days already served. The judge also agreed to dismiss a narcotics paraphernalia possession charge against Austin Burton.

Justin Burton, who had nearly completed a Holmes Youth Training Act diversion program, wanted to either attend Henry Ford Community College to become a radiology technician or enter the military.

"You don't seem to think it's as big a joke as your brother does," said McConnell, who sentenced Justin Burton to 60 days in jail with 21 days credit for time served.

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Father pleads guilty in baby's death

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Westland man pleaded guilty Friday to beating his 3-month-old son to death. Joshua Wilson, 21, entered a guilty plea to a charge of second-degree murder in the Dec. 19, 2012, death of his son, Joshua Jr. Wilson is set to be sentenced April 23 before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Edward Ewell. The charge carries a sentence of up to life in prison. Wilson and the baby's mother, Kelli Worth-

McBride, had been charged with felony murder and first-degree child abuse.

A criminal responsibility competency referral was requested for Worth-McBride, 21. That will cancel a scheduled April 22 trial date. She would next be scheduled to be before Ewell on July 8.

EMS and police were called to the couple's apartment on Venoy about the baby not breathing. The baby died a short time later at the hospital. Wilson and Worth-

McBride both made statements to police that described the baby being struck, thrown into a bed or car seat and "bear hugged" so that he would stop crying.

The autopsy found the infant had died of blunt force trauma that caused abdominal hemorrhaging. The baby was described as being covered with bruises and suffering broken bones.

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Furnace reportedly stolen

Break-in

On March 23, a gas furnace and a water heater valued at \$2,400 were reported stolen from a home in the 34000 block of Van Born. There was forced entry through a basement window.

Break-in

A resident in the 5000 block of Woodward told police March 21 that someone had kicked in the front door. Reported stolen were a 32-inch plasma television, a DVD player, a twin size mat-

WAYNE COP CALLS

tres, 15 stainless steel pots/pans and a 100-piece Tupperware set. The approximate value of the stolen property was set at \$600.

Larceny

A resident in the 3000 block of Second told police March 11 that his bicycle had been stolen from his parked vehicle overnight. The bicycle was described as a 62-centimeter Trek 1.2, black with red lettering, curved white handle bars

and a white seat.

On March 7, a resident in the 34000 block of Currier reported a bicycle stolen from the garage during the day. The bicycle was described as a boy's 20-inch Rhino, red and silver in color.

Break-in

On March 19, a neighbor called police about a door left open at a vacant home in the 34000 block of Glenwood. Officers arrived to find the home had been broken into and the copper piping was missing.



Wayne Police Officer William Mangan puts police dog Zeto through a narcotics search training at the K9 Academy.

STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ZETO

Continued from page A1

of a puppy. "He's really good at narcotics. At home, he's a puppy," said Mangan.

The only reason the department didn't get another dog after Foley retired was economic, said Chief Jason Wright.

"We were laying off officers. I didn't want all the energy, effort and expense going into a program we might have to drop in six months," said Wright, a former canine officer. "A dog is absolutely essential. It's a community policing tool and an enforcement tool as well. They bring a tremendous amount of officer safety and community safety."

Narcotics detection maybe the first thing

people think of when it comes to police dogs but Wright said tracking for suspects and evidence is equally important.

"If an armed robbery suspect flees on foot, you use the dog for its nose," said Wright. "A dog handler gets really good at reading the dog and telling how close they are to the suspect."

Wayne officers were recently pursuing a stolen car that refused to pull over. During the pursuit, Wright said the suspect threw a handgun out of the vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. There was snow on the ground at the time.

"It was on Merriman — a border street — so the Westland canine was on duty and did an evidence search," said Wright. "Officers were walking all around looking for the gun. The canine found it.

If it hadn't been found, a kid might have found it."

Like police dogs in neighboring communities, Zeto is a full service dog meaning he is trained for a range of searches and tracks. The exception is explosives — dogs are trained for drugs or explosives and not cross-trained, Mangan said.

Along with police duties, Mangan said a dog is good for community and public relations for the department. Wright agreed.

"For us, it's huge. Everyone will request the dog for picnics and block parties. The dog will be so well-known," said Wright. "Everyone wants to see the dog, pet him and give him a dog biscuit."

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PARCEL

Continued from page A1

— not an issue now since they have the cash to fund the development.

Additionally, Amad's son told council members that they planned to have an attractive property with landscaping and no vehicles stored outside.

"I'm not opposed to selling the property if it is beneficial to the city. Once we sell the property, we don't control it," Coun-

cilman James Hawley said. "This (property) is the entrance to the community. The last thing Wayne needs is another collision or repair shop. All of them store vehicles outside."

The greatest concern, Hawley said, was selling the parcel for \$8,600. The city isn't legally allowed to make a profit on reselling a tax-reverted parcel.

"We need to give it (the profit) to Wayne County; they need money as much as we do," Hawley said. "It establishes the market

value and lowers values all along Michigan Avenue."

The sale would not impact property values, City Manager Robert English said.

"If we are selling property, it should at least be offered to the public and it should be market-driven," Hawley said. "We have one buyer at a reduced price. This affects the long-term income to the city."

The parcel, which is zoned to allow a collision shop, will be difficult to develop, according to Wayne Department of Public Works Director Ramzi El-Gharib, who is also city engineer.

The property is small, but El-Gharib noted it would be extremely difficult to get a curb cut on Michigan Avenue to access the site due to its location next to railroad tracks. He estimated a cost of \$500,000 for new ingress onto the road.

"No developer will look at it, in my professional opinion. The city will have to maintain it forever," he said.

The city is also looking into cleaning up the vacant area behind this parcel and an adjoining car wash, where there has been dumping, including an estimated 50 tires.

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HEARING

Continued from page A1

needs appropriate treatment in jail.

"I object to any reduction in bond. These are serious charges. Once there is testimony, the evidence will show there was flight," said Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Terry Anderson. "The defendant fled the area and went to another county where she was apprehended."

McCormell declined

to reduce the bond for Gruden at this point. "I'll want to hear some testimony before I address bond," said McCormell.

Police reported that Gruden, accompanied by some passengers, had driven to the 32600 block of Manistee Court where she got into an argument with Hall, described as a rival for a man's attentions. A group of people, including some of Hall's four young children, had gathered during the argument.

Gruden was behind the wheel of her Jeep Cher-

okee during the verbal altercation and ran over Hall, fatally injuring her, according to police. Originally identified as an Inkerster resident, Gruden was subsequently arrested in Livingston County on foot after abandoning her vehicle and its passengers.

On the same docket before McCormell, Gruden was also facing several other unrelated charges under maiden name Trigg.

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The Garden City skate plaza which opened last fall is a popular attraction during spring break.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Skate plaza a popular spot for teens

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Some teens only need to look to the users of the new Garden City skate plaza to observe role models of good behavior and politeness.

Skate plaza users are good examples of politeness and taking turns.

With no adult supervision or monitoring, the young people wait in line to take their turns.

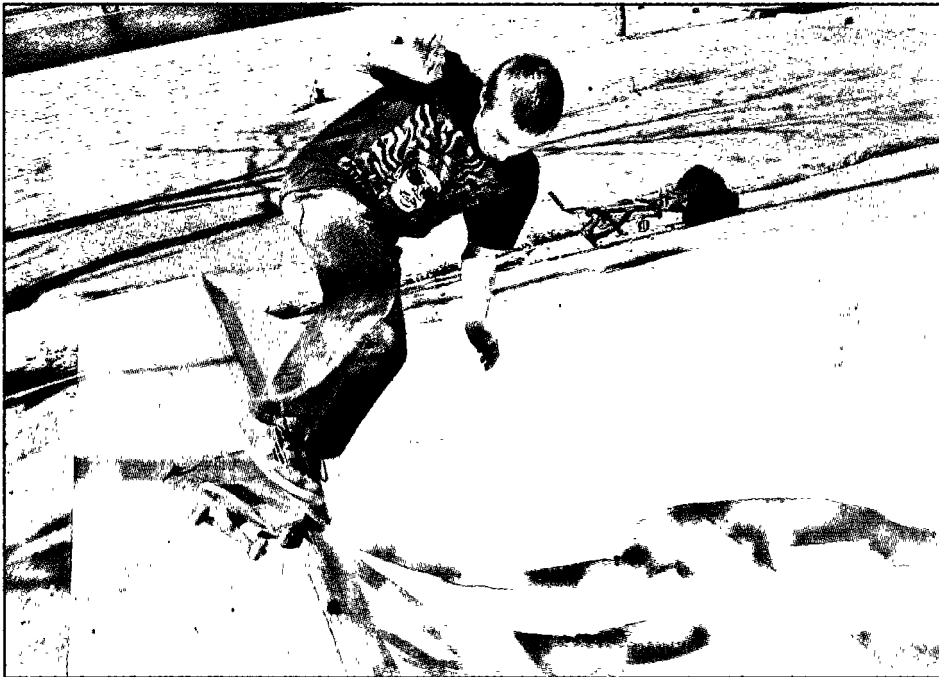
On a sunny afternoon during Spring Break, many turned out to while away their time and hone their skateboard skills.

A number of children said that they come to the plaza daily or often.

"I come here every day," said Nathan Gillespie, a Garden City resident.

Residents Chase Folger and Ryan Leithead do likewise.

After months of using

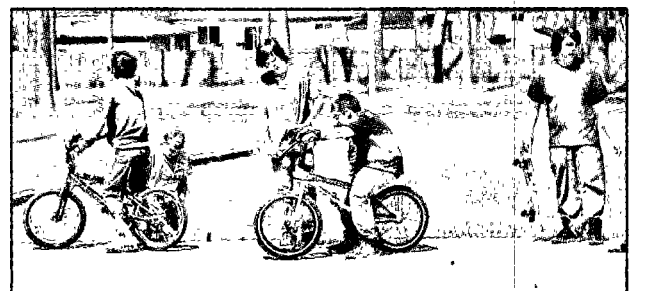


Logan Rock from Garden City performs a stunt at the Garden City skate plaza during spring break.

the plaza since it opened in November, the teens would like the plaza to become larger.

One young man is hoping that grass could be planted around the periphery.

"That would make it less dusty," said Shelby Jones, a Taylor resident, who works in Garden City.



Kids hang out and socialize at the new Garden skate plaza during Spring Break.

When the dirt kicks up around the plaza, it gets slippery. "It gets everything real dirty," Jones said.

It gets the wheels and the skateboard dirty which affects performance.

Additions seem to be on everybody's minds.

Y.D. Trapstar, an Inkster resident, would like another transfer, another miniramp.

The plaza is located in Garden City Park, on Cherry Hill, east of Mer-

riman in Garden City.

The skate plaza is located in front of the old pool parking lot.

The plaza was built with park millage money and was facilitated by former Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb, (D-Dearborn Heights) who was redistricted.

Webb wanted Garden City kids to have a free source of entertainment.

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Veterans group looking for a few more good men and women

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

At the suggestion of a longtime friend and golf buddy, Army veteran John Heraghty decided to join the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 in Westland three years ago.

"I get goose bumps when I come up to mix with other veterans. It's the camaraderie," said Heraghty, a Westland resident. "We're all from the same era but served in different branches. I wish we'd get more members from the Iraq war and Afghanistan."

When Heraghty joined the VFW, he also joined the post pool team, which takes him to a lot of different posts for matches and tournaments.

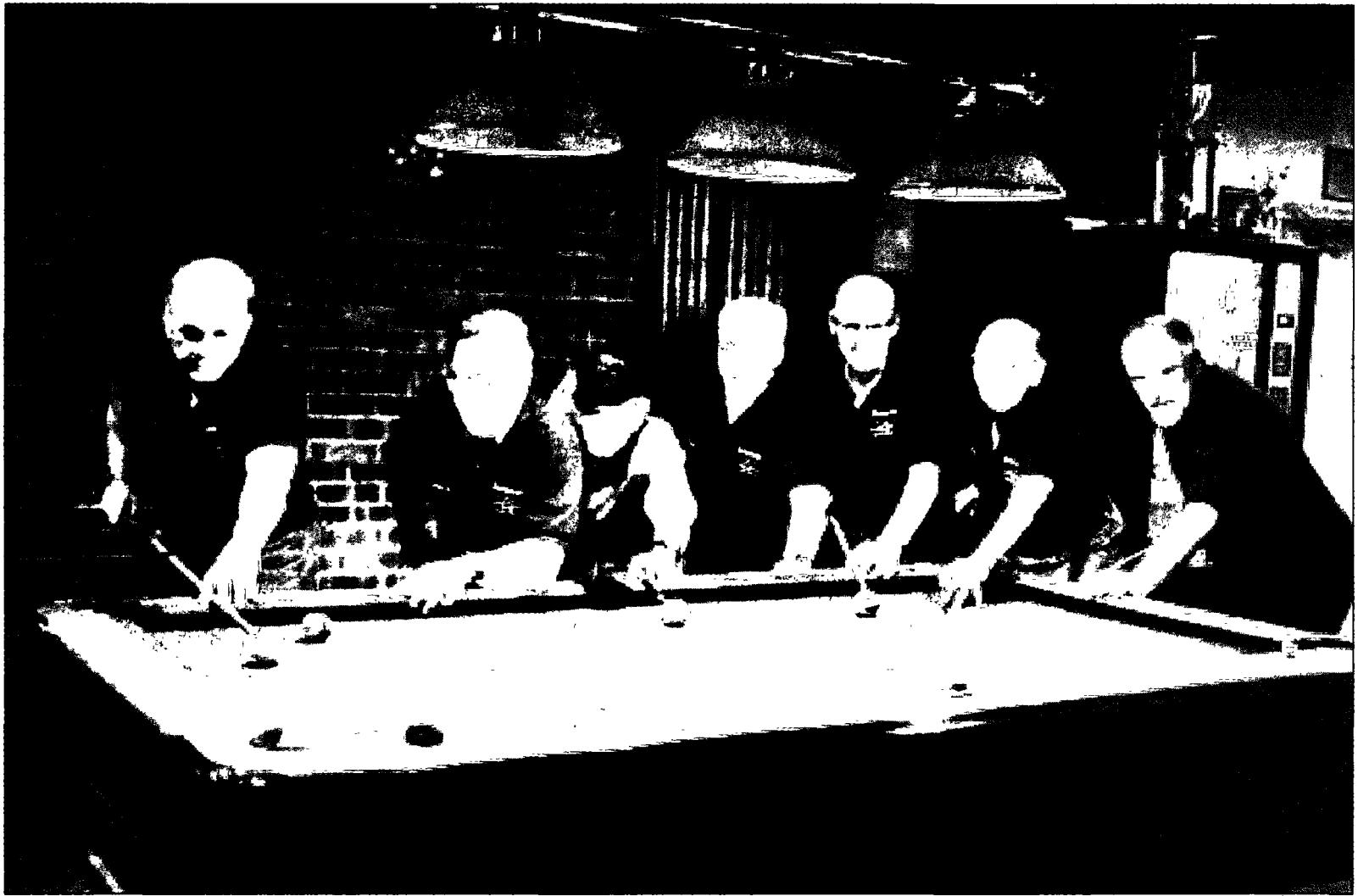
"Traveling to the other VFWs on the pool team — I really can't explain what it is like," Heraghty said.

Heraghty's buddy Tim Dunatchik of Northville had suggested joining the post — a decision that has worked out well.

"Everyone I've met here is a good person and it's nice to know them," said Dunatchik, also a pool team member. "I consider this a second home. I look forward to seeing them. I would never have met these guys except for this."

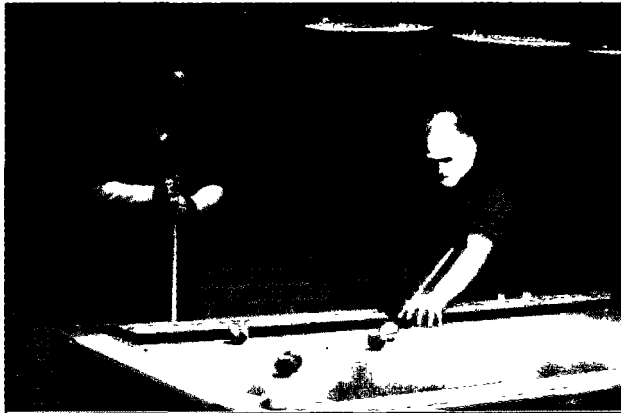
Located on Joy, the Romanowski Post was originally located at McGraw and Lonyo in Detroit before it relocated to Westland. Like other many other posts, Romanowski would like to attract new members, especially younger veterans.

"We're hurting big time like a lot of nonprofits. Not getting new members is big problem," said pool team captain Paul Postula of Livonia. "We aren't getting Desert



The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 pool team travels to various posts to take on all comers.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Tom Gallagher of Novi looks on as Westland resident Ron Radke takes a shot during pool team practice at the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post in Westland.

Storm and Iraqi Freedom veterans. I understand a lot of them are dealing with families or post-

traumatic shock." The only way veterans organizations will survive is through new members,

said Postula, an 11-year Navy veteran who served four years in Vietnam.

The Romanowski Post has 382 members but as an indication of their dilemma, Postula notes seven members recently died in the space of five days.

"We'd like to let the returning men and women know we are here to welcome them," said Donna Postula, Paul's wife who is also active in the post. "It's a second home — a place to relax and just have fun. We've had this post over 60 years and we're just keeping our heads above

water."

Three times a year, packages of toiletries and hard to get items are sent to those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The pool team is hosting a spaghetti dinner 1-6 p.m. Sunday, April 15. It's open to the public and the proceeds will benefit veterans' programs. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$8 for hungry plate and \$3 for kids. There will be music, raffles and a cash bar.

The post is located at 28945 Joy, just east of Middlebelt. Call (734) 525-9454 or (734) 261-0260 for more information.



Westland resident John Heraghty lines up his shot at the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post in Westland. Heraghty has been on the team for three years since he joined the post.

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Evolution key to Plymouth Nursery's survival over 50-plus years

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The greenhouse and acres of outdoor display space at Plymouth Nursery are somewhat barren on a chilly afternoon, but the buzz of activity there hints at a rapid transformation as the weather warms.

"There'll be 50 semis coming in here in the next month," said general manager Jeff Jones of the trucks that will deliver thousands of trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials that make up a good part of Plymouth Nursery's retail business. "In four weeks, this place will be spectacular."

Plymouth Nursery is ramping up for the growing season as it does annually — though with the cold lingering a little longer this time — but this year is special, as it marks three significant anniversaries: 85 years in business, 50 years with the Jones family, and 40 years in the same location, on Ann Arbor Road at Gotfredson.

Jeff Jones, who has spent some 40 years there, says he's put both his horticulture degree and his business degree to use as Plymouth Nursery evolved, most notably from a landscape-design and installation focus to one that's dependent on retail sales. Still, he said, there remains a demand for residential landscaping design, both in new construction and in landscape renovations, and Plymouth Nursery is there to meet that need.

"Good design uses plants for a purpose," Jones said. "You're not just throwing plants outside of the house."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia roots

Plymouth Nursery, originally Christensen's Plymouth Nursery, was purchased in late 1962 by Jeff's father, Wayne Jones. Originally on Ann Arbor Road in Livonia, Wayne Jones reopened the place, dropping the Christensen name, in the spring of 1963.

The business, without much indoor retail space, focused on sales of plants and a few gardening products. The Christensen family kept an adjacent farm of 200 acres, and Plymouth Nursery bought some of its stock.

Soon, Wayne Jones' wife, Nancy, who had an art background, returned to college to earn a certificate in landscape design.

"They started getting people asking for that kind of service fairly quickly," Jeff Jones said.

The business grew, moved to its current site in 1973 (it was then 16 acres, and has since expanded to 42), and the retail portion began growing. With suburban expansion, design and installation also became

a major part of the business, up to about 85 percent, Jones said. At the peak, there were five full-time designers and three installation crews; in 1979 alone, Jones said, the company did more than 1,000 landscape installations.

That same year, Jeff Jones graduated from Michigan State University with his two degrees, and his father quickly handed management of the business over to him.

Soon, with high interest rates and the recession of the early 1980s, home construction fell off and the design and installation business dropped dramatically.

"That's when I decided to diversify and become who we are today," said Jones.

Retail takeover

Retail sales, not only of plants, but of gardening tools, mulches, fertilizers, pesticides, patio furniture, grills, yard art and more, make up about 75 percent of the business, with landscape design and installation making up 25 percent.

Jeff Jones, with a blue spruce, and his staff are preparing for another season at Plymouth Nursery.

years, concentrating on growing product at the site. "Dad wanted to be a grower," his son said. "He's got the dirt under his fingernails."

Plymouth Nursery, however, stopped the limited amount of growing it was doing about a dozen years ago, Jones said. That part of the business, he said, had gotten too competitive and technical for small growers to make a profit. Plymouth Nursery buys much of its plant stock from Michigan growers, but also from Ohio and as far away as California, Oklahoma and Oregon.

"Some of the guys we buy from have thousands of acres of product," Jones said.

Wayne Jones, no longer active in the business, is

now 86; his wife, Nancy, passed away many years ago, her son said. Jeff's sister, Linnea Garvey, does graphics work for the nursery, which has about 55 employees at the peak of the season.

Jeff Jones has noticed several major shifts during his time in the nursery business, including plant hybridization that, he said, "has just gone crazy," resulting in more breeds, more colors, smaller plants, and flowers that bloom intermittently during the year rather than just once.

"Every year, there are hundreds of new plants introduced," Jones said. "It's a fashion industry now."

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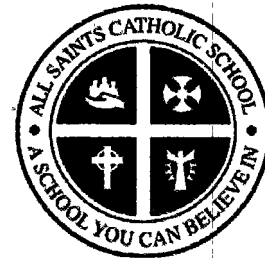
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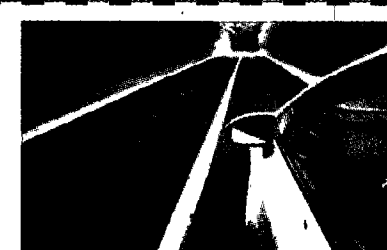
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Upcoming Events

MOM 2 MOM SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 13, early bird at 8:30 a.m.

Location: Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, between Warren Road and Ford in Garden City

Details: More than 85 tables are available. The also will be a big item area, concessions and a bake sale. Admission is \$1, \$2 for the early bird. A contract is available on M2M sale list at www.Mom2Momlist.com.

Contact: gcmom2mom-sale@hotmail.com or (734) 277-0791.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. second Wednesday of the month

Location: Lower level Classroom 2 of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City

Details: Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, group will meet for the final time at the hospital in April. It is for family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted

with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join the free monthly support group. The group will provide mutual aid, support and the opportunity to share problems and concerns.

Contact: Call (734) 58-4330 for more information.

WIDOWED MEN

Time/Date: 9 a.m. Thursdays

Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: Widowed Friends, a peer group of the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed men to meet with other widowed men for breakfast at 9 a.m. at Steve's Family Restaurant on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Many topics are discussed including those that may be pertinent to your own situation. Also, ideas are presented to help you become involved in the activities of Widowed Friends.

Contact: For more information, call Dick at (313) 534-0399.

HEALING HEART

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 13

Location: St. Kenneth Parish, 14591 N. Haggerty

Road in Plymouth

Details: Widowed men and women all ages and faiths, no matter how long widowed, are invited to attend Widowed Friends, a peer group, for a day filled with inspiration, insight and healing while meeting other widowed persons. Arrival at St. Kenneth Parish Center is 9:30-9:45. The cost per person is \$18 and includes speakers, a healing service, light lunch and beverages.

Contact: Call Cheryl at (586) 207-1622 or Rose at (586) 726-0844 to register or for more information.

BURROUGHS OLD TIMERS

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. on the last Friday of the month.

Location: Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth

Details: Any former employees of Burroughs/Unisys are welcome to join us to socialize or renew acquaintances. There is no cost to join or to attend. A cash bar and a fish buffet is available but not mandatory.

Contact: John Kusch 734-751-9765 or kuschjt@yahoo.com

Organizations

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November

Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.

Contact: Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or by e-mail at pibbotso@aol.com or Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

WESTLAND ROTARY

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland

Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome. Check www.westlandrotary.com for more information about meetings, programs and events.

Contact: Jeff at (734) 261-5010

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Monday of the month

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Streett at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVERS - SPOUSES

Time/Date: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for a spouse age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Street at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVERS - WESTLAND

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the third Thursday of the month

Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Street at (734) 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

LIONS CLUB

Time/Date: 11:45 a.m. the second Monday of the month and at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of the

month

Location: Big Boy Restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland.

Details: The Westland Lions Club holds lunch and dinner meetings on Mondays.

Contact: For more information, call Debbie Dayton at (734) 721-4216.

WRITING GROUP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month

Location: Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne

Details: The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free.

Contact: www.storycircle.org or send an e-mail to sheprey@yahoo.com

TOASTMASTERS

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Westland Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, between Marquette and Ford Road, Westland

Details: Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.

Contact: For information, call Doug at (248) 417-4922, or Curt at (734) 525-8445 or visit the website at westlandeasytalkers.toastmasters-clubs.org.

FISH DIAL-A-RIDE

Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, design-

nate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.

Contact: For more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

EARTH ANGELS

Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.

Contact: www.earthangel-sontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

TOPS 869

Time/Date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.

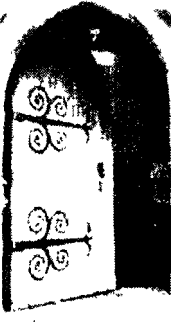
Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

TOPS M128

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland

Contact: Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879



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Habitat Detroit names area man as 'Volunteer of Year'

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Gary Earnley of Livonia is one of those homeowners who enjoys do-it-yourself projects.

So when he retired in 2008 as a systems analyst for AT&T, he thought it would be fun to volunteer for Habitat of Humanity Detroit — and give back to the city he grew up in.

Last year — and again this year — he was honored by Habitat as Construction Volunteer of the Year. He received the most recent award in February.

"It's a lot of fun," he said. "When I started, I knew some things, but I've learned a lot. My knowledge has improved dramatically, I now understand about all aspects of constructing a home."

Earnley, 64, was recognized for volunteering for 58 days in 2011 and 67 days in 2012. He shared the 2012 award with the Wednesday crew, a group of about eight volunteers. The 2011 award was an individual award.

"I was surprised to win last year, surprised our team won this year," he said. "When you do volunteer work, you don't do it for rewards."

Humility, passion

Sandra Cobb, chief of community development for Habitat Detroit, said all 2,900 of their volunteers are extraordinary, but Earnley takes his involvement with Habitat to another level that deserves recognition.

"The only thing greater than his humility is his passion," Cobb said, adding that whatever needs doing, Earnley is committed to doing. Cobb said Earnley's passion, part of his "faith belief," influences others around him.

Earnley estimates he's worked on about 45



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

homes on Detroit's far east side, either building new homes or fixing up existing homes. He's done everything but electrical work and plumbing, which licensed contractors are required for.

He's met some of the partner families — Habitat is a hand up, not a hand out, program and requires sweat equity from the families. "I really enjoy those conversations," he said. "It gives you a chance to hear their story. They're always really thankful, and in most cases, very humble. It makes you feel good helping someone that really needs help."

Earnley was familiar with Habitat before retiring. As a member of the mission board at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia, he had volunteered on Habitat projects in other states and in northern Michigan.

International mission trips

He wasn't new to volunteering either. Since 1997, he has been on about 15 international mission trips to Belize, Ecuador, Mexico, Brazil, Peru and South Korea, where he has worked on Habitat-like projects.

At a leprosy hospital in

Ecuador, he helped build a second access door to the women's dormitory and a wheelchair ramp to the men's dorm, and helped install a new gutter system. At a deaf orphanage in South Korea, he helped install smoke alarms with flashing lights so the hearing-impaired children would awaken in a fire.

He has also volunteered in disaster relief in the United States, helping with Hurricane Katrina cleanup eight times and assisting with tornado cleanup in Joplin, Mo., and flood cleanup in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

He's heading to the New Jersey coast for a week in May to help with Hurricane Sandy relief efforts there.

Earnley said each mission trip is different, but they all change him in some way. "I would say you get more back than you give," he said.

The trips that touched his heart the most, he said, were the ones to the leprosy hospital. The people there were so shunned by society that many of them stayed living at the hospital even after they were cured. Believing lepers have some kind of bad spirit, family and friends refuse to visit. If the lepers move back

into a neighborhood, and neighbors find out they had leprosy — often obvious from their missing fingers and toes — the neighbors will burn their house down.

Earnley and his fellow

mission workers would sit on the lepers' beds and visit with them, purchase items they had made, unafraid they would catch the disease. The connection built would be so strong that by the time they left, even some of the most "macho" construction workers would be crying, Earnley said.

Earnley's wife, Terry, said her husband is so humble, he didn't mention two other volunteer organizations he's involved with.

Scouting award

For 40 years, Earnley has taught swimming through the Red Cross to Boy Scouts in Dearborn, she said. He recently was honored with the Scouts' Silver Beaver Award for outstanding service to youth.

He also volunteers as a guide for blind cross country skiers through Ski for Light, Terry Earnley said.

Earnley plans to continue volunteering for at least another 15-20 years. "I do feel blessed," he said, adding he not only has good health, but the resources to pay for traveling and other mission trip and volunteer expenses. "I think it's part of God's plan for me (to give back)," he said.

Plus, he still has more to learn about construction. A member of the Habitat Detroit Thursday crew is 84.

"He moves a little slower," Earnley said, "but kids like me can learn from someone like that."

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More Great Events:

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Saturday, April 13
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Kurt Kinde, veteran drama coach & teacher from Northville High School, will be presenting his inspiring tale of his most unusual family.

RSVP by April 12.

"Motown" Happy Hour
Friday, April 26
2:00 p.m.

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

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.

Reading

Friday, April 12 is DEAR Day - that's Drop Everything And Read. Westland William P. Faust Library staff members - one at a time - will be sitting in the lobby reading. There will be signs letting people know why they are sitting there.

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

Middlebelt in Westland. For more information, call (734) 525-9454 or (734) 261-0260.

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.

Annual Auction

St. Mary Parish and School will be holding

tion, 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 during 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.

sion compliments of the Parish Men's Club and Confraternity of Christian Women.

Healthy Passport

The city of Westland will hold a Healthy Passport 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.

Rummage sale

The First Methodist Church Of Wayne-Westland 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.

Ripple Effect

The Wayne Ripple Effect, a volunteer downtown 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.downtown-wayne.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.

Democratic Club

The Westland Democratic Club will hold its chili cook-off at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, at Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey at Venoy, between Palmer and Michigan Avenue, in Westland. The board meets at 6:30 p.m.

Regular meetings will be held on May 28, June 25, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 29 and Nov. 26. For more information, contact club president Nan Melke at (734) 674-7327 or by email at WestlandDemClub@robinwood.com.

Armed Forces Day

Celebrate Armed Forces Day 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at the Westland Historic Village Park, Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill in Westland.

There will be reenactors from four American Wars, a flag raising at noon, a five demonstration at 12:45 p.m., an MRE lecture at 2 p.m. and a reenactor showcase at 3:15 p.m.

Admission is free. Food and beverages will be available. Parking will not be allowed on site but is available at the doctor's office next door.

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ARTICLE IV. - WEEDS ^[74]

Notice To Cut Noxious Weeds

To the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any land in the City of Westland:


Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be cut and destroyed if said weeds reach the height of 8 inches between the dates of April 15, 2013 through December 31, 2013 for properties with parcel numbers 001 0001 000 000 through 084 9999 999 999.

Any person failing to comply with this notice on or before the date mentioned shall be liable to the imposition of penalties set forth in section 1-8 of the Westland City Code and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the city in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the owner or occupant, shall be spread against the property on the next county and school tax roll or the next general city tax roll.

April 01, 2013

City of Westland,
Commissioner of Noxious Weeds

Publish: April 7, 2013



CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of Monday, April 3, 2013, the City Council of the City of Garden City did adopt the following schedule. All regular meetings of the City Council begin at 7:00 PM in the Civic Center Council Chambers, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135, (734) 793-1660, unless otherwise noticed.

2013 - SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS		
Monday	January 7, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	January 28, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	February 11, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	February 25, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	March 4, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	March 11, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	March 18, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	April 1, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	April 8, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	April 15, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	April 22, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	May 6, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	May 13, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	May 20, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	June 3, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	June 17, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	July 1, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	July 15, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	August 12, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	August 26, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	September 9, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	September 23, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	October 7, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	October 21, 2013	Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 12, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	November 18, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	December 2, 2013	Council Meeting
Monday	December 16, 2013	Council Meeting

Amended: April 1, 2013
Publish: December 2, 2012 & April 7, 2013

Judge denies lower bond in sexual predator case

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A judge refused Friday to reduce a \$100,000 cash bond for accused child predator Jesse Adam Hermann, charged amid allegations he tried to have sex with a Canton woman and her 3-year-old daughter.

Instead, 35th District Judge Michael Gerou issued an order for the Wayne County Jail to provide medical care for Hermann, 34, who apparently sustained an injury to his right lower leg.

"He has been bitten by some sort of a spider or a rodent — we're not sure — in the Wayne County Jail," defense attorney David Cripps said in court.

Gerou ordered medical care after Cripps indicated Hermann needed help beyond an antibiotic he already was given, but the judge refused to reduce the bond.

"Given the gravity of the offense, I think the bond is appropriate," Gerou said.

Second phase

The latest development came Friday as the second phase of Hermann's preliminary exam was adjourned until May 10 because Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Keith Clark was stuck in a Detroit courtroom on another case.

It marked the second time Cripps had sought to have Hermann's bond reduced. Three weeks ago, during the initial phase of Hermann's exam, Cripps argued that Hermann, a Jewish man from Walled Lake, wasn't getting the Kosher food he needed in jail.

Gerou issued an order for the jail to provide Kosher food, and Cripps has since said the accommodations have been made.

In court Friday, Cripps said he didn't believe Hermann is a flight risk or a danger to the community. Moreover, Cripps said, "his mother is here showing strong support for him, as she always is."

Canton Detective Andrew Kelley argued against the bond reduction and told Gerou, "I



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Attorney David Cripps argues for bond reduction for his client Jesse Hermann.

still think the conditions are good where they're at."

Hermann, described by Cripps as a former truck driver and self-employed artist, could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison if he is convicted as charged of two counts each of child sexually abusive activity and using a computer to communicate with another person to commit

a crime.

Facebook message

A Canton mother testified in graphic detail March 22 how she and a man, purportedly Hermann, corresponded by

Facebook instant message. She went to authorities after she said an attempt was made to have sex with her and her young daughter.

Canton police arrested Hermann Feb. 13 when he came to the Holiday Inn Express near Lotz Road and Michigan Avenue, allegedly to meet with the mother and child.

The woman testified March 22 that she received Facebook messages — since turned over to police — describing how Hermann wanted to kiss, fondle and have sexual contact with her and her daughter.

"I dream of a lady sharing her daughter with me," according to one of many Facebook messages read aloud in court.

Detective Kelley has testified that Hermann admitted "his intention was to have sexual relations with (the mother) and her 3-year-old daughter." Kelley said Hermann conceded his actions were "a mistake."

Clark, the prosecutor, had argued against a bond reduction on March 22, saying authorities believe Hermann "is a threat to community safety."

dclem@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238

Twitter: @CantonObserver

John Glenn students host WWII USO dance

Swing dancing will take over the cafeteria of John Glenn High School when the students and staff present World War II USO Dance at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

The event is free and open to the public and marks the 68th anniversary of the victory in Europe Day which observes the defeat of the Nazis and an end to the war.

Student groups from John Glenn will display World War II propaganda posters and honor community veterans and defense workers. The John Glenn band and choir also will perform World War II era music and the JROTC will perform patriotic drills. Students will re-enact World War II musical performances.

Radio personality Jim Harper will be the emcee for the night which will feature special performance by crooner Matt Walch and a special display of vehicles from the Detroit

Arsenal of Democrat Museum.

The dance has been made possible in part through a grant from Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is supported by the Westland Rotary of Westland, American Legion and VFW.

Students also have been interviewing World War II veterans and defense workers as part of an oral history project. The interviews will be videotaped and submitted to the Library of Congress. Participants also will be invited to attend the dance where they will receive a copy of their interview to share with their families.

Veterans who would like to have their stories preserved can contact Michele Anderson at (734) 419-2300 or an AndersonM@wwcds.net.

John Glenn High School is at 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.

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Community Garden volunteers needed

A kickoff for Westland's fourth annual Community Garden has been set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20.

The city of Westland and DTE Energy sponsor the garden, at 38155 Cherry Hill. The kickoff will include preparing vegetable beds, seeding, transplanting, mulching and celebrating the first garden day of the year.

Westland is one of nine communities participating in the DTE Energy Garden program, which partners with Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan to provide fresh produce to the hungry.

Last year, Westland was the most productive DTE garden of the year,

harvesting a total of 9,671 pounds, all thanks to the generous volunteers that donated their time to help feed the needy throughout the Detroit area.

To keep the community garden maintained, there are Volunteer Days as well as scheduled community work days, which are 4:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday starting the week of April 20. Past volunteer groups have included youth programs, religious organizations and community groups. Volunteers are invited to work from April to October.

To RSVP, contact Kate Long at klong@gcfb.org or (734) 545-2758.

Don't sign bogus return; file one on your own

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I read one of your columns and it dealt with a wife who got in trouble with the IRS over tax returns. In short, her husband was not reporting income and she was held liable for the taxes. At the time, you gave her some advice, I'm in a similar situation; however, my husband and I have not filed this year's tax return. He earned some money that he doesn't want to report. He says we will never be caught. I don't know if I should sign the return. What if the IRS discovers that we did not report income, can I be held liable? I should add that our marriage is not the strongest and I think that we are headed for a breakup.

A: I remember the column. It dealt with a spouse who was unaware



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

of her husband's failure to report and, as such, she could take advantage of what is known as the innocent

spouse rule. Basically, this allows the spouse to avoid liability if they can show that they had no knowledge and were totally innocent with regards to the underreporting of income.

Unfortunately, this would not be the case in your situation. If the IRS did discover the underreporting of income, you could be held liable not only for the taxes, but also for interest and penalties. You would not be eligible to use the innocent spouse rule because you had knowledge of the underreporting before you signed your return.

While I know this is difficult, my advice is that you do not sign the return and inform your husband that either the income is reported on your joint return or you will file a separate tax return. He won't be happy with either alterna-

tive because there are adverse tax consequences when a married couple files separately. Generally, when married couples file returns individually, they end up paying higher taxes. I do not like people to pay more taxes than they have to, however, I am also a firm believer that you should not file a tax return that you know is inaccurate.

I wish there was another alternative, but I don't know of one. The bottom line is when you sign a tax return, you are stating it is fair and accurate. When that turns out not to be the case, there can be severe consequences.

Many people believe that they won't get caught by the IRS. However, you would be surprised how the IRS can find information. For example, what if the person who gave that money to your husband claimed it as a deduction on his/her tax return and then gets audited by the IRS? The trail could lead back to you and your husband. Or what if the people who gave the money to your husband get in trouble with the IRS and cut a deal and voluntarily report the information about your husband to the IRS? Once again, it could put you in a diffi-

cult position.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for everyone to review their tax return for accuracy before signing. If you know that the return is wrong and the number is substantial, do not sign the return. In your case, since we are so close to the tax filing deadline, my advice is to file for an extension and then discuss the situation with your husband.

Keep in mind penalties can be severe, particularly when it comes to underreporting of income. In those situations, if it's a substantial underreporting of income, you can have penalties as high as 50 percent. When you add the penalties and the interest to the tax liability, you could be doubling the amount you owe. Never play games with your taxes; do the right thing. It may cost a few extra dollars, but it certainly will allow you to sleep at night.

Good luck!

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

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

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

Attorneys Bleske 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.

Bleske 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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Daughter takes the Lead in mother-daughter acting combo

By Maureen Paraventi
Correspondent

Canton resident Anne Cloutier got a surprise when she and her daughter, Elise, decided to revive a long-dormant family tradition by performing together in a stage play — the musical “Barnum,” opening at the Village Theatre in Canton April 19.

It seems the student has surpassed the master.

This isn't the first time the two have formed an acting combo. Anne and 13-year-old Elise were in several community theatre productions five or six years ago.

“In other shows we did together she was so young that most of the time I had to be ‘Mom’ and watch out for her, and tell her where to be and what to do,” Anne said.

The two continued to do stage shows, but separately, because they weren't able to find one that was right for both of them. Anne acted in “It's a Wonderful Life,” “FONTS,” “Music Man” and “My Fair Lady,” among others.

Then along came “Barnum,” a unique hybrid of musical theatre and circus that contains the expected (song and dance numbers) as well as the unexpected (stilt walkers, unicyclists, jugglers and tumblers). While the show, which is presented by Spotlight Players, won't be performed under a Big Top, audience members may well forget that they're not at a circus.

Colorful cast

Barnum tells the story of P.T. Barnum and his conclave of circus acts. Spanning 45 years, it reveals how the dynamic relationship Barnum had with his wife, Charity, influenced the colorful cast of characters who would help make him a household name, like General Tom Thumb, Jenny Lind and the man who ultimately became his show biz partner, James Bailey.

The two Cloutiers couldn't resist auditioning for “Barnum,” which has the kind of songs “you just can't get out of your head,” Anne said, who added, “That's a good thing.” They are both in the ensemble, and Elise is a dancer and trapeze artist as well.

Between “Barnum” and the shows she



Canton resident Anne Cloutier (left) with her daughter, Elise, backstage at the production of “Sound of Music.”

did previously with her mother, Elise has been compiling a fairly impressive theatrical resume that includes roles in “Camp Rock,” “Aladdin,” “Footloose,” “Annie” and “Little Mermaid.”

With all that experience behind her, along with training in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and lyrical dance, Anne said Elise is now the expert, and has been teaching her mom — helping Anne learn dance steps and songs — instead of the other way around.

“It is so wonderful to be able to see the fine young lady she has become,” Anne said proudly.

She's not the only person impressed by her daughter's stage pres-

ence.

“People were amazed that she is only 13 — especially her adult male dance partner, whose jaw dropped when he realized he was partnered with, and asking for help from, a seventh-grade kid,” Anne said.

Bug bitten

Elise was bitten by the acting bug early. She was in a production of “Bye, Bye Birdie” when she was only 5 years old — sort of.

Anne was the one who was actually in the show, but Elise was videotaped for a segment that was shown on a screen at the beginning of the second act. Seeing her mother onstage in the first act got no reaction from young Elise, but seeing herself on the screen caused her to jump up in her seat and scream, “That's me! That's me!” She was a hit with both her fellow audience members and the actors.

“I was onstage waiting for the lights to come up and we were all just cracking up!” said Anne.

Now that Elise is a teenager, she's not only onstage in her own right, but she's adding trapeze artistry to her list of accomplishments. Anne said her daugh-

ter is a little nervous about this role, especially since the director teased her at one rehearsal by asking her if she could hang on by just one toe.

Lessons learned

“She is so excited about this,” said Anne. “She is taking private lessons at the Detroit Flyhouse to help in this. She won't be doing too many daring things, but I thought the lessons would help her to feel more comfortable when she is on the trapeze onstage.”

“Barnum” is being directed by Wendy Sielaff of Canton, assisted by Music Director Richard Alder of Westland and choreographer Jen Beitzel of Northville.

The cast includes Leo Babcock of Saline as P.T. Barnum; Cathy McDonald of Plymouth as Charity; Rebecca Winder of Livonia as Jenny Lind; Tina Paraventi of Ypsilanti as Joice Heth; Jim Jackson of Westland as General Tom Thumb and Jeff Foust of Canton as James Bailey.

“Barnum” runs April 19-28, with Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$13-16.

PROGRAMS AT THE WAYNE LIBRARY

Drop-In Playtime

Tuesday, April 17 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Multi-purpose room.

While story time is on hiatus, children with a caregiver, are welcome to join in morning playtime. There will be toys, crafts, games and books available to enjoy. This is a great time for socializing with other children and to meet the new youth librarian

Game Night

Thursday, April 18, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Youth Department.

Looking for something to do on a Thursday evening? Come hang out at the library! Bring your friends and family for a fun night of card and board games. No registration required.

Captain Underpants

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.

Children and their favorite adult Captain Underpants fan are invited to our celebration of these popular books. Participants will play games, eat gross snacks, make toilet-rific crafts and every child will get a free Captain Underpants book to keep. Please sign-up at the youth desk.

Teen Advisory Group

Thursday, April 11, 6-7 p.m. in the Multi-purpose room.

Calling all teens! Let your voice be heard and join the Teen Advisory Group. Share your opinions, ideas of things you would like the library to offer, and meet the new youth librarian. All tweens and teens welcome. Snacks will be provided. No registration required. Bring a friend and lots of ideas!

Teen Humane Society Project

Thursday, April 25, 3-4:30 p.m. in the Multi-purpose room.

Help is needed making catnip stuffed mice toys for the Michigan Humane Society. All tweens and teens ages 12-17 are welcome to help with this fun craft and service project. Supplies will be provided. Sign up at the youth desk.

Other upcoming things of note:

- National Library Week is April 14-20.
- Comics Out Loud Day is April 24.
- Summer Reading is coming soon.

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Church's adult day care program a 'godsend,' families say

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Five days a week, Mario Merucci drops his 91-year-old mother, Benedetta (Betty), off at the Adult Day Ministry program at Fireside Church of God in Livonia, where she plays games, dances, listens to music and does chair exercises with others suffering from dementia.

"I had her at home (during the day)," the Livonia resident explained. "All she would do is sit and watch TV all day long. We came here and tried it out. She loved it from the first (day)."

Betty Merucci is one of 32 "members" of the adult day care program, or "social club" as the members like to call it, operated as an outreach ministry by the non-denominational church.

Last week, the program received a first-time grant of \$1,000 from the Livonia Community Foundation to expand its handicap-accessible bathroom facilities.

The program, which started in 2009, is "the best-kept secret around," according to Katharine McEvoy, a retired special education teacher from Northville Public Schools. She said she was having a hard time finding a day program for her foster daughter, Felicia Stegall, 43, who aged out of the public school system for special education students at 26.

'Worth every penny'

She tried having a caregiver come to their home. "It was flat - no stimulation really," McEvoy said.

A caseworker noticed the sign saying "Adult Day Ministry" at the church, located on the corner of Newburgh and Plymouth roads. The sign still has the church's former name, Riverside Park Church of God.

Stegall isn't the typical club member, but McEvoy had her try it anyway, since, cognitively, she is on the same level as many of the members with dementia.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Staff and clients swing out when it's time to dance. In foreground, staffer Gina Schwemle and member Henry Zyluk.

McEvoy now calls the program a "god-send."

"She has her own little 'peeps' (people) here. There's such a gentleness to this place. Everyone is so warm."

McEvoy said the cost is "worth every penny."

Donna Buchanan of Livonia has a similar story. Her "significant other," Joe Buchanan, 65, got confused and agitated when their grandchildren, ages 3 and 6, were over. Since Donna baby-sits the grandchildren, she needed a place where Joe would be safe, stay active and be stimulated, but not get agitated. "This is the place," she said.

"He loves it. He dances. He plays games. He tells me the ladies like him."

Senior Pastor Debra Klein said the church started the

ministry after HelpSource, a private not-for-profit agency based in Ann Arbor that also offered adult day care, folded. HelpSource had rented a room from the church for its program.

Klein said the church board had been looking for a vital ministry with which to impact the community.

"The church board decided that they wanted to offer something, in addition to our regular church services, where we can express the love and compassion of Jesus Christ to people in our community," she said. "By creating a ministry that reaches out in such a vital way, we have been able to impact over 300 families."

The church board was also able to save the jobs of most of the HelpSource employees by

hiring them.

Currently, the program has three full-time and three part-time staffers, both men and women, all experienced, trained or in training in the speciality of caring for people with dementia. Klein said. All are CPR and AED-certified. The staff to member ratio varies from 1-3 to 1-5.

Benefits of activity

Susan Niciejewski, the program's dementia care consultant, said inactivity can hasten a person's decline from dementia whereas productive activities can maintain or enhance a person's abilities and counter the effects of dementia.

For confused and memory-impaired people, productive activity also provides a vibrant sense of belonging and builds

their self-esteem, Klein said.

Members must meet certain criteria, including not being prone to wandering or exhibiting disruptive or abusive behaviors under normal circumstances.

Louis Giannuzzi of Canton, who's in his 80s — "I quit counting," he said of his age — has been a member for about six months. "I think it's beautiful," he said of the program. "It's a friendly atmosphere, and the people are so nice."

Member Henry Zyluk, 62, also of Canton, said they all enjoy each other's company. "We joke with each other. We make fun of each other," he said. "It's better than sitting home and watching TV."

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Schoolcraft to start plastics technology program

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Bill Dunbar, dean of occupational programs and economic development at Schoolcraft College, met with engineers and manufacturers over the past several months to discuss changing technologies and how tomorrow's workers can best be educated.

More companies are using an increasing number of plastic parts in products ranging from motor vehicles to medical equipment. Dunbar learned companies want to hire trained employees who know plastics. The college wanted to help students land a job and develop competency levels in technology.

Those discussions led to the development of a plastics technology program. Schoolcraft is expected to offer associate degrees in 2015 and build an academic foundation for plastics engineering.

Starting in May, the college will offer its first plastics class, Characteristics of Plastics.

While that class is non-credit, it will help build in students a foundation of plastics knowledge.

The idea for the program is similar to that of the college's health information technology and nursing programs, which also have strong "industry/employer" ties, Dunbar said.

Skill building

The first four classes after the Characteristics of Plastics will be "stackable" credited classes, which will be added to the curriculum as students progress through the program. "These



NYX Cherry Hill Production Manager Gurjit Singh Sidhu explains how plastic parts for Ford and General Motors products are produced at the plant. Listening to the explanation are Dawnne Toppa, vice president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, and Amy Jones, director of business development, Schoolcraft College.



Dawnne Toppa, vice president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce; Amy Jones, director of business development, Schoolcraft College; Naghmana Siddiqi, corporate training and development manager; and Gurjit Singh Sidhu, production manager of NYX Cherry Hill in Westland, discuss how a new plastics program at Schoolcraft will help train workers.

classes will build their skills for a one-year cer-

tification; then once they hit 60 to 62 credits in that

curriculum, they can obtain their associate's

degree in plastics technology."

Dunbar estimated entry-level positions range from \$13 to \$16 an hour. "They move up from there," Dunbar said.

"It gives them an opportunity to build their skill levels and keep building their credentials. Education and those credentials are something that no one can take away from you."

Sassan Tarahomi, president-elect of the Society of Plastics Engineers Detroit Section, will be teaching the class in May. He and other SPE members met with Dunbar to discuss the program. "We are targeting this southeast Michigan region to bring in jobs," Tarahomi said. Companies with representation in the group include NYX, IAC

and Q'Vive.

Tarahomi said companies would like to hire workers, but many of the younger ones don't have experience. Students can learn about plastics materials, processing and design in the class. The class would be geared toward a designer, technician or a high school graduate. "They need to prepare so that they can get experience, try working in that field and experience that learning, and eventually get a co-op position," Tarahomi said.

Part of program

Internships at companies will be available. Dunbar estimated that students would be eligible after the one-year certification.

Plastics technology is part of the growing field of mechatronics, which Dunbar described as intelligent control of mechanical systems. Companies are turning to plastic parts in manufacturing and production to lighten the weight of vehicles to improve mileage and durability and also lessen the cost of medical equipment. Hospitals are full of equipment comprised of plastics.

"Companies are heavily involved in it," Dunbar said. "The auto industry is big on plastics, but plastics are in every industry."

Students will be able to transfer those credits to Ferris State University, which is the closest university that offers plastics technology and plastics engineering, Dunbar said.

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