



WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY



LOOKING
& FEELING
GREAT

SUBSCRIBERS, FIND YOUR
COPY OF WOMAN WITH
TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 • hometownlife.com

Wayne city manager to leave Sept. 27

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Citing personal reasons, Wayne City Manager Robert English will be moving up his retirement date and leaving at the end of the month.

On Tuesday, the council voted to accept English's resignation effective Sept. 27. This comes a month after accepting his resignation which was to be effective Dec. 27.

"I will spend the next several weeks working with the

department heads to make the transition as smooth as possible," English said.

City manager for nearly three years, English has worked for Wayne 30 years in various capacities, including assistant city manager and personnel director.

The council also voted to appoint Department of Public Works Director Ramzi El-Gharib as interim city manager. The council will be conducting a search for a new city manager to fill the post permanent-

ly. There will be one more regularly scheduled council meeting before English retires but council members expressed their appreciation for his service after accepting his resignation.

"I want to thank him for his time, dedication and loyalty to the city," Councilman Skip Monit said.

"He has seen things as they should be seen. I was glad Bob was willing to move forward with the ideas of council members and the mayor."

In particular, Monit mentioned English's work on the mergers of the Wayne and Westland fire and parks and recreation departments. Those mergers, along with the combined emergency dispatch center, were also cited by English in his earlier resignation letter as achievements of which he was particularly proud.

"I have tried mightily to leave the city organization and this wonderful community better for my years of service

in Wayne," English wrote in his resignation letter.

Not making comments about English, Mayor Al Haidous said he was reserving his remarks until the city manager's last meeting.

"I'm not sure if I should congratulate your wife or send her my sympathy," Haidous said drawing a laugh from the council and residents.

rogers@hometownlife.com
313-222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

Geek Fest comes to Westland library

Visitors can learn more about passions

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Whatever you're geeked about — Star Trek, comic books or the Civil War — Westland's William P. Faust Public Library is inviting you to let your geek flag fly.

The library's year-long Geek the Library outreach campaign kicks off from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, with Geek Fest.

"This community awareness campaign introduces the word 'geek' as a verb and defines it as having interest or passion for something," Reference Librarian Andy Schuck said. "Essentially, the campaign wants us to celebrate what we geek — what we are passionate about — and it reminds us that the public library supports us."

Those passions don't have to be limited to geek stereotypes — you don't have to show up in Star Fleet uniform, although you can, if you wish.

Get social

Whatever people might be geeks about, Schuck said the library can help them get more information.

The many musical, craft and social activities offered during Geek Fest will include a community Open Mic from 1-2 p.m.; the Bichini Bia Congo Drum and Dance group from 2-3 p.m., and speakers from community organizations and the Westland library, celebrating all the things we geek.

In addition, the library will host a Minute to Win It table. Anyone who completes three of the Minute to Win It games will win a chance to spin the Geek the Library Prize Wheel. Prizes include a Kindle Fire,

See GEEK FEST, Page A2

REMEMBERING DOUG



Thirty-four gold balloons were released in remembrance of Doug Beasley, would have been 34 years old this year. Gold also represents a person who, like Beasley, has lost a battle to leukemia. PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Annual picnic honors late club member

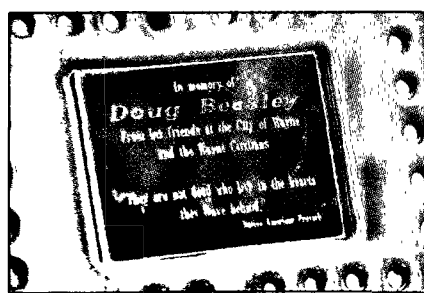
By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Each summer, the Wayne Civitans invite neighbors to attend a picnic in their namesake park.

This year, the picnic drew some additional guests as the Civitans remembered Doug Beasley, a 34-year-old club member and long-time city employee who died of leukemia in April.

"Usually, we have people from around the park attend - we put out fliers and a banner in the park the week before," Wayne Civitans President Debra Farmer said. "We had Doug's family and people from his church. Doug was well-loved."

A tree was planted and a park bench placed in the park in memory of Beasley, a joint effort of the Civitans and the Beasley family, in-



A plaque is displayed on the park bench donated from the Beasley family in memory of Doug Beasley. A tree also has been planted in his memory. PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

cluding Doug's parents Norman and Linda, brother Paul and his partner Eric Blaine.

Doug Beasley, who had a very high-functioning developmental disability, had worked part-time doing maintenance for the city since

1997. The park bench dedication and tree planting drew many city officials, including Wayne Mayor Al Haidous, Councilman Albert Damitio, Wayne Police Chief Jason Wright and Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Adams.

"People who had worked with Doug showed up. He is very much missed," said Farmer, who recalled Beasley's willingness to help out with Civitan events even after he became ill.

With their strong involvement with Special Olympics including coaching and serving as board members, the Civitans were a good fit for Beasley, himself a Special Olympian. The club also provides support for people with physical disabilities.

See BEASLEY, Page A2

Pair ordered to stand trial in Leo's Jewelry robbery

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Despite defense arguments about lack of evidence and Constitutional rights violations, two men have been ordered to stand trial on multiple felony charges in a July 17 robbery at Leo's Jewelry and Gifts in Wayne.

Quentin Goddard, 23, of Detroit and Jonathan Stalling, 20, of Battle Creek, have both been charged with armed

robbery, larceny from person and larceny in a building in the July 17 incident. Goddard also has been charged as a habitual offender.

At a preliminary examination Tuesday in Wayne 29th District Court, Judge Laura Mack took a 20-minute recess to review the testimony and case law before ruling both men should be bound over to Wayne County Circuit for trial as charged.

Regarding Goddard, who

admitted driving several suspects to the jewelry store, Mack said the prosecution case was not beyond a reasonable doubt - the legal standard at trial, higher than the probable cause required to be bound over for trial.

Similarly, Mack said the prosecution met the standard of probable cause for Stalling and declined to suppress his statements to police. Defense attorney Eric Goze argued that the statements - three

over three days - should be disallowed due to Stalling being held three days in police custody without being charged.

Earrings taken

Witnesses at the hearing included Tracey McGrath, a salesperson at Leo's, who testified that four males ran into the store coming quickly from around an exterior wall.

Two of the men, wearing gloves, carried what looked

like a short-handled sledge hammer and a claw hammer, smashed display cases, McGrath said. Reported stolen were two pairs of Swardovski crystal earrings valued at \$100.

"I didn't want to get injured. I was afraid of getting hit with a hammer," said McGrath, when asked if she had attempted to stop the robbers.

See TRIAL, Page A2



PRICE: \$1

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
hometownlife.com
MEDIA
A GANNETT COMPANY

© The Observer & Eccentric
Volume 49 • Number 30

INDEX

Business.....	A8	Homes.....	B10	Services.....	B10
Crossword Puzzle.....	B11	Jobs.....	B11	Sports.....	B1
Entertainment.....	B6	Obituaries.....	B5	Wheels.....	B12
Food.....	B8	Opinion.....	A10		

Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737 | Return Address: 41304 Concept Dr., Plymouth MI 48170

AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Coffee hours

Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, State Sen. Glenn Anderson and State Reps. Robert Kosowski and David Knezek will hold their September coffee hour from 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9, at Mr. Mike's Grill, 6047 N. Wayne Road.

Knezek and LeBlanc will hold Garden City coffee hours from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9, at the Maplewood Center, Community Room 117.

Anderson also will host a district coffee from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9, at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, by phone at 866-262-7306 or by email at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Flower sale

Spring is in the air! With summer dwindling down, winter is unfortunately right behind. But before Old Man Winter comes, why not take a moment to plan out your flowers for the spring and help the Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Parish.

Church members are selling flower bulbs that can be planted before the snow arrives. There are 26 varieties to pick from with prices ranging from \$8 to \$25, most are around \$10-\$15. The church receives 50 percent of the sale proceeds.

Place an individual order of \$40 or more and receive 8 Tête-à-Tête Daffodils for free. Orders will be taken until Sept. 21-22 and delivery will be in October. A \$5 delivery fee will not be charged on orders placed at Mass. The \$5 shipping fee does apply to online orders.

For more information, visit flowerpowerfundraising.com/campaign-?campaign_id=16623.

Bowling fundraiser

Throw three strikes for the Westland Historic Village Park at a bowling fundraiser planned for noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford, west of Newburgh, Westland.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. They include three games, free shoe rental, two slices of pizza and a 12-ounce soda. There also will be a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and more.

Tickets are available from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at the historic village park on Wayne Road between Cherry Hill and Marquette. For more information call Ryan at 734-756-0769.

Casino trip

The Wayne Rotary Club is hosting an outing to Greektown Casino on Saturday, Sept. 28. The cost is \$25 per person with each guest receiving \$20 in slot play.

The bus departs the Wayne Activity Center, formerly the Senior Center on Sims, at 3 p.m. and

departs Greektown at 9 p.m.

Have fun and help the Rotary raise money for their local service projects. For more information, call Trish Hampton at 734-890-6934.

Free concert

Brother Joe Hicks will perform songs he has written from experiences with his service with Outcry Youth and Street Ministry at a free "Blankets and Boots" concert, food and fundraiser at 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Prayer Baptist Church, 855 S. Edwin, Westland.

Non-perishable food, toiletries, gently used clothing, shoes, blankets and money can be donated. For more information, contact Brother Hicks at kylejoeandisahicks-outcryministries.com/contact.html.

Recycling event

Wayne County's Land Resource Management Division is holding an Electronic Waste and Used Clothing/Shoes collection from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday Sept. 7, at

the Compuware Arena parking lot, 14900 Beck Road, Plymouth Township.

There is no residency requirement, and the event is open to the general public. Examples of acceptable items include computers, laptops, keyboards, mice, CRT and LCD monitors, TVs, VCRs, CD players, DVD players, printers, fax machines, stereos, speakers, cell phones, telephones, microwave ovens, Christmas lights, game consoles, hand-held electronic devices, computer parts and miscellaneous cables.

New to the electronic waste collection event is the acceptance of used clothing and shoes for donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Men's, women's and children's clothing and all types of shoes and boots will be accepted.

For more information, call 734-326-3936. More information also is available on Land Resources Management link of the Wayne County website at waynecounty.com/doi.

GEEK FEST

Continued from Page A1

Geek the Library T-shirts, pizza and gift cards from local businesses.

Food and refreshments will be provided by the sponsors: Toarmina's Pizza, Biggy Coffee and Café Marquette.

"It's for all ages, there will be something for everyone," Schuck said. "We will unveil some posters we have had created from hockey to history, cooking and art. There are a lot of different ones. It will be a lot of fun."

The Geek the Library campaign is an outreach to the community to make them better aware of how the library can support their passions and interests.

In the community

"Part of the program is getting us out in the community," Schuck said. "We will have a table at Blues, Brews and Barbecue and the (Westland John) Glenn High School homecoming, getting more people to participate."

The campaign is particularly aimed at high school students, he said, but also local small businesses.

Everyone is welcome to Geek Fest and no registration is required. If people have time, Schuck said signing up on the library website, www.westland.lib.mi.us, would be helpful in getting a rough number of attendees for planning purposes.

Irogers@hometownlife.com
313-222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

BEASLEY

Continued from Page A1

In terms of Civitan Park, Farmer said the club adopted the park on Glenwood east of Newburgh when Wayne started the park adoption program many years ago.

"A group of our members lived in that neighborhood at the time," Farmer said. "We've adopted the park in the 27 years I've been a club member."

The Civitans have funded a pavilion for the park along with helping raise money for a plays-

cape installed in recent years.

Currently at about 23 members, the Civitans usually meet on the first and third Wednesdays at the Wayne Public Library - an appropriate location given the group's support for literacy programs.

"It depends on our projects. Anyone can join. We have members who joined us because they came to something we were doing," Farmer said.

"That's what brings people to the club."

Irogers@hometownlife.com
313-222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver



Corky Hays, supervisor of the Wayne Recreation Department, talks about Doug Beasley who called him "Boss." PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

TRIAL

Continued from Page A1

Store jewelry manager Robert Abdo testified that a couple was being buzzed into the store when at least three males ran into the store wearing gloves and armed with hammers. "I heard my co-worker yell 'No.' I was con-

cerned that they (the robbers) had weapons, so I ran out the door to AKA Sports to call 911," Abdo said. "I asked them to lock the door after me."

Neither of the store employees could identify Goddard or Stalling as the men who robbed the store.

Wayne Police Chief Jason Wright testified that he and Deputy Chief Alan Maciag heard the

dispatch run for the robbery and went to assist the patrol officers searching for the suspects.

As they were waiting for a light on Michigan Avenue, heading for the store, Wright said Maciag noticed a slow moving Ford Taurus on Josephine which appeared likely to be the getaway car.

They followed the

vehicle on Josephine, which dead ends at Dynamite Park, Wright said, noticing the driver was looking at a paved walking trail that leads into the park. The trail runs from Second to Josephine, beginning about a block from Leo's Jewelry, also located on Michigan Avenue.

"Two black subjects came running (on the trail) towards the vehicle

and the back doors of the Taurus opened," said Wright. "One subject got into the vehicle, the other ran back the way he came."

Rams suspects' car

At the end of Josephine, the car started to back out and Wright, who was uncertain if the suspects had weapons, said he decided to ram the suspects' vehicle to stop it from fleeing.

Two suspects then fled on foot, Wright said, as the driver began putting the car into forward and reverse attempting to get free of some large rocks on which it had become wedged.

Eventually, the Taurus became free and drove away on Michigan Avenue. A short time later, Maciag and a Wayne County Sheriff's deputy arrested Goddard who had been hiding in tall brush.

Stalling was arrested nearby by other officers. No other suspects were arrested.

In statements to police, Stalling and Goddard gave differing accounts of why they were in Wayne - looking for

apartments, giving someone a ride and having no names for their companions.

Police reported that Stalling, who eventually told police he knew about the planned robbery but never actually entered the store, was spotted on surveillance video at Leo's the day before the robbery.

Goze, Stalling's attorney, argued that the robbery was effectively known as a smash and grab and didn't warrant the level of charges.

"The prosecution failed to prove that my client was in any way or shape involved in this crime," said Nijad Mehana, who represented Goddard. "He wasn't identified as driving the car. Running from the police is not an indication of guilt. All they can tell us is that he was hiding in the bushes."

Both Stalling and Goddard are being held in lieu of \$30,000/10 percent bonds. Circuit court arraignment is set for Sept. 3.

Irogers@hometownlife.com
313-222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

Plato's Place Castle Fundraiser
Eat Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner on **Monday, September 9, 2013** at Plato's Place
30090 Ford Road, Garden City, MI 48135
A percentage of all sales that day will go to Robyn Castle and her family in their time of need.
Please join us and help us raise funds for their medical expenses and other needs while Robyn is recovering!
OE-0000164563

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS
Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media
www.hometownlife.com

HOW TO REACH US

Community Office:
41304 Concept Dr.
Plymouth, MI 48170
866.887.2737
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00 p.m.

Newsroom:
313.222.2223
Fax: 313.223.3318

To Advertise:
Classified Advertising & Obituaries...800.579.7355
Legal Advertising...586.826.7082
Fax: 313.496.4968
Email: oads@hometownlife.com

Print and Digital Advertising:
734.582.8363
Email: fcibor@hometownlife.com
Fax: 734.582.8366

Home Delivery:
Customer Service...866.887.2737
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00 p.m.
after hours by voicemail
Email: custserv@hometownlife.com

Subscription Rates:
Newsstand price:
\$1.00 Sunday
\$1.00 Thursday
Sunday/Thursday carrier delivery:
\$7 EZ Pay per month
\$45 six months
\$90 per year

Advertising Policy:
All advertising published in this newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order.

Our ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an ad constitutes acceptance of the advertiser's order.

A GANNETT COMPANY

Care & Love are the greatest things we provide

STATE LICENSED

Full Assistance with Bathing, Dressing & Hygiene in a Small Home-like Setting

for Active/Alert, Memory Impaired, Frail/Recovering & Alzheimer's residents

- Highly Competitive Inclusive Rates
- 24 Hour Professional Staffing
- Private/Semi-Private/Barrier-Free
- 3 Home-Cooked Meals a Day
- On-Call Nurse Practitioner
- Medication Management
- Daily Housekeeping & Laundry
- Beauty & Barber Shop
- Wander Secured/Enclosed Courtyard

Crystal Creek Assisted Living

8121 Lilley Road
Canton, Michigan 48187
(Located between Joy & Warren Roads)

(734) 453-3205
www.CrystalCreekAssistedLiving.com

OE18417

Personalized Hearing Care, Inc.
Audiology and Hearing Aids

Improve your hearing... Improve your life

Peace of Mind Protection

- 3 Years Repair Warranty
- 3 Years Loss and Damage Protection
- 3 Years Free Batteries

Visit us at the Canton Senior Summit Mon., Sept. 16 for a complimentary otoscope screening

Dr. Karissa Jagacki, Audiologist

Kimberly Carnicom, Audiologist

Dr. Jagacki 2011 Westland Business Person of the Year

Westland 35337 West Warren Road 734-467-5100

2013 South Lyon Herald People's Choice Award Winner

South Lyon 321 Pettibone Street, Suite 105 248-437-5505

www.personalizedhearingcare.com

OE48907



JoAnne Purtan (left), WXYZ-TV anchor and mistress of ceremonies, and Larry Alexander (right), president and CEO of the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, congratulate the ROSE Award winner for volunteering, Bob FitzGerald of Westland.

Westland volunteer receives ROSE Award

Detroit Metropolitan Airport Airport Ambassador volunteer Bob FitzGerald of Westland has been crowned winner in the volunteer category of the 2013 Recognition of Service Excellence (ROSE) Awards — Metro Detroit's most prestigious honor for hospitality and customer service.

DTW Airport Ambassadors Sharon Kelly of Trenton and Lorraine Weglarz of Allen Park also were finalists for the volunteer category. Fourteen additional Airport Ambassadors from DTW were nominees at the celebrated ROSE Award program banquet at the Detroit Institute of Arts hosted by Emmy Award-winning reporter Joanne Purtan.

"Many times, the first impression visitors get of the Southeast Michigan area is created by our Airport Ambassadors," said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Tom Naughton. "Bob, Sharon, Lorraine, and the entire team of Airport Ambassadors do an exceptional job, and exemplify the very best of our region. Having all three finalists in the volunteer category being Airport Ambassadors truly shows how valuable the volunteer program is at DTW. Bob winning the esteemed ROSE Award makes us all proud."

Fitzgerald has been a volunteer at the Wayne County Airport Authority for more than three years. In 2012, Fitzgerald received a silver lapel pin for the President's Volunteer Service Award after serving 298.25 volunteer hours, despite having been hospitalized for two months due to a fall.

According to the nomination, Fitzgerald is always the first to respond to a call for volunteers and happily works any shift that is needed. He truly exemplifies a wonderful volunteer that goes above and beyond.

"With more than 20 million visitors to the metro area each year, the hospitality industry is a significant aspect of the local economy," DMCVB President and CEO Larry Alexander said. "The ROSE Awards allow the community a unique opportunity to thank and honor the men and women, like Mr. Fitzgerald, dedicated to providing a positive experience to visitors of the region." Established in 1994 by the DMCVB,

the ROSE Awards is an annual event dedicated to honoring front-line hospitality workers throughout the region who work tirelessly to deliver outstanding customer service in their industry.

ROSE Award nominations were provided by clients, guests, supervisors and the general public. One winner in each of the six categories — Attractions and Casinos, Behind the Scenes, Hotels, Restaurants, Transportation and Volunteers — was chosen on a strict set of criteria, including outstanding customer service, ability to problem solve effectively, workplace attitude, knowledge and expertise. One Overall Service Champion, selected by a panel of expert hospitality professionals, was also recognized.

Winners received a prize pack which included gift certificates and tickets to some of the area's most popular restaurants and attractions, a dozen roses and the prestigious crystal ROSE Award.

WCAA Airport Ambassadors can be found throughout Detroit Metro Airport providing information and assisting travelers at five different information booths. In 2012, 88 DTW Airport Ambassador volunteers provided 14,156 hours of volunteer service helping travelers, and promoting the Metro Detroit region to millions of people.

In addition to Fitzgerald, Kelly and Weglarz, local Detroit Metro Airport Ambassador ROSE Award nominees included Dianna Surowiec and George Sawyer, both of Redford, Joe Scafero of Livonia, Lonnie Haines of Canton, Lori Scappaticci and Traci Sincock of Plymouth, Sally Henrikson and Wes Henrikson of Northville and Tom Beyersdorf of Novi.

To learn more about the Detroit Metropolitan Airport Ambassador program, visit www.metroairport.com/volunteer. The Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to market and sell the metropolitan Detroit area on a worldwide basis as a destination for leisure and business travel, and as a film location. The DMCVB was founded in 1896 as the world's first convention and visitors bureau. For more information, visit www.visitdetroit.com.

Wayne-Westland sticks with current firms for sinking fund projects

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The issue of who will handle architectural planning and construction management for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' sinking fund projects has been decided with school board approval of 10-year agreements with TMP Architecture Inc. and McCarthy and Smith Inc.

The board voted 5-2, with Trustee Sally Madison and board Vice-President John Goci dissenting, to approve the contracts.

Questions about the contracts have been raised by several board members, including Goci who has pressed to have the service put out for bid. The firms' work is considered professional services and by law, bids are not required.

"I don't discard that the district has a good relationship with these firms, I just think it would be in the best interest of the district, even though the law does not require a bid for work like this being performed because it's professional services," Goci said. "I think it would send a strong message to the community that we're trying to get the best deal for our money. If we have an open bid process, it would go a long way toward transparency."

According to Jim Larson Shidler, deputy superintendent for ad-

ministrative and business services, the intent of the contracts "is to use McCarthy and Smith and TMP for the duration of the district's sinking fund." Voters last year renewed that tax request for 10 years beginning in 2013.

Contracts' details

Under the new agreement, TMP's fee will be 5.85 percent with projects below \$450,000 billed at time and management. McCarthy and Smith will have a sliding scale, charging 3.9 percent for the first \$500,000, 2.4 percent for projects costing \$500,000 to \$2 million and 2 percent for those over \$2 million.

Both agreements include a seven-day opt out without cause clause. In the case of McCarthy and Smith, the district isn't charge for administrative work done by William Smith, president, and Doug Underwood, project director.

"The architect and construction manager the district uses does matter to me and the district," Larson Shidler said. "We strive to see that we get a valuable service at competitive prices."

Larson Shidler noted that each fee has different percentage attached to it and that there will be no charge for William Smith, president, and Doug Underwood, project director, when they work on projects.

"I've spent a lot of

time looking at contracts and what we have to do," board President Carol Middel said. "Each of us gets the same information and has access to the administration to ask the tough questions and make good decisions on behalf of the students, the parents and the community."

Reputable firms

Trustee Charles Trav Griffin, a member of the 1998 bond committee and the nine-member construction bond committee that recommended the board hire TMP and McCarthy and Smith, praised the two firms saying they have "good, exemplary reputation."

"We've discussed this issue at least four meetings, I hope these resolutions will lay this issue to rest," he said. "These are two reputable firms that have been hired by two other districts. I hope we can now move on with issues that are important to the school district."

Trustee Frederick Weaver pointed out that a promise was attached to the bond issue that the district would never let the buildings get in bad shape again.

"Never one time as far as have I known have we been upset with McCarthy and Smith and the job they have done," he said. "They've done an excellent job."

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

Salvation Army reaches out to youngsters, teens

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army corps, on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland, has a lot to offer young people.

The parent orientation for the after-school program will be at the building from 7-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9.

It's "a place for kids to be while parents are working or not available," said Andrew Barylski, director of community and youth ministries.

Parents are asked to call the corps at 734-722-3660 to make a reservation for the Sept. 9 meeting.

At the program, kids in grades one-12 receive tutoring from college

students. There's a week-day dinner at 5:30 p.m., along with activities like arts and crafts and gym.

"There's a variety of activities throughout the week," said Barylski, noting a computer component was added last year.

Organizers will enroll a maximum of 30 kids, from the Wayne-Westland school district area.

If you or your child has musical interests, the corps on Venoy is also the place to be. A Singing Company and Brass Band, started last year, are continuing this year.

The Singing Company meets from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays to expose young people to music. They participate in quarterly performances. The Singing Company is for

kindergarten to fifth-graders.

The Brass Band meets from 7-8 p.m. and starts this year Wednesday, Sept. 11. The Brass Band, only for those in the after-school program, is for grades three-eight.

Summer day camp at the corps recently wrapped up and was both fun and educational.

They enjoyed a variety of activities Monday through Friday including field trips. "Camp was really good," Barylski said. "We had 80 kids registered throughout the summer."

"We had a lot of good things happen this past summer," added corps commander Capt. Derek Rose.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Run benefits First Responders Memorial

Wayne County Parks will sponsor the Heroes on Hines half-marathon and 5-kilometer races Saturday, Oct. 5, with proceeds going to the First Responders Memorial to be erected at Hines Drive and Hagger-

ty. The half-marathon starts at 8 a.m., followed by the 5K at 8:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by Running Fit and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

The cost is \$49 (half-

marathon) and \$29 (5K) if registered by Sept. 5. The cost is \$34 (5K) and \$59 (half) if registering Sept. 6 through Oct. 3.

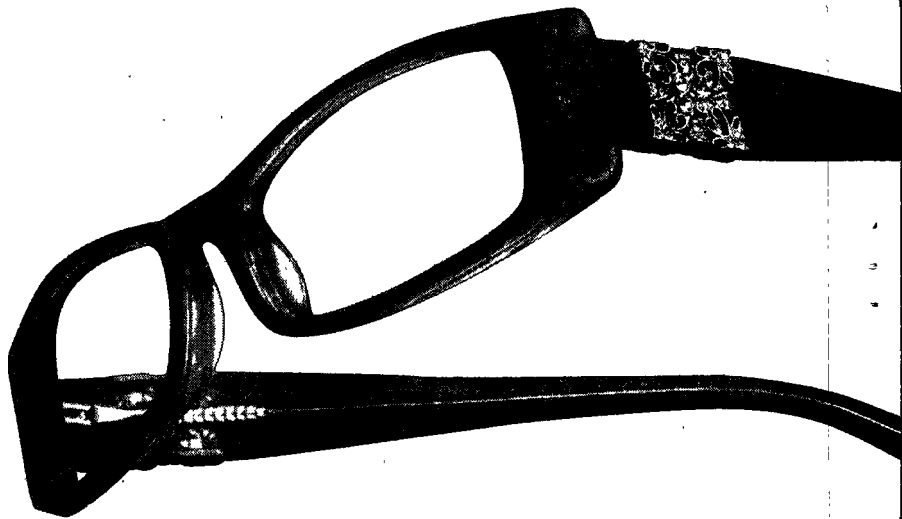
For more information, visit www.heroesonhines.com.

Macy's Optical

FREE LENSES*

(\$200 Value)

with complete pair purchase



Our doctor or yours — we fill all prescriptions. Convenient eye exam[†] appointments available. We accept most vision care plans.

Westland, 734-458-5588 • Oakland, 248-597-2956
Lakeside, 586-566-2766 • Twelve Oaks, 248-344-6994



REG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES, AND SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. *Excludes Sunshots. Additional charge may be applied for strong prescription; other progressives and lens options are additional; complete pair purchase required. †Eye exams performed by independent state licensed Doctors of Optometry. Cannot be combined with any other offer, vision care plan, package pricing or prior orders. Sale ends October 2, 2013.

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

WAYNE COP
CALLS

Larceny from a vehicle

On Aug. 30, car batteries were reported stolen overnight from two vehicles parked at a business in the 32000 block of Michigan Avenue.

The batteries were valued at \$100.

Larceny

A resident in the 32000 block of Westwick Drive reported two cement flower pots and one 3-4-foot tall cement pillar with a glass globe stolen from the front garden sometime during the night Aug. 30. The approximate value of the stolen items is \$350.

Larceny from a vehicle

On Sept. 2, a resident in the 4000 block of Chamberlain reported a Garmin GPS unit, valued at \$200, and \$535 in cash stolen from his vehicle.

The resident said he had locked the vehicle but did not set the alarm. There was no sign of forced entry to the vehicle.

Vandalism

A resident in the 36000 block of Thimbark told police Aug. 29 that she had parked her vehicle in front of her residence and in the morning she found a 16-inch horizontal scratch on the driver's side. The damage was estimated at \$500.

» On Sept. 2, a resident in the 35000 block of Chestnut reported a brick thrown through his kitchen window during the night. The damage was estimated at \$100.

Break-in

The owner of a business in the 3400 block of Mildred Street told police Sept. 3 that someone had cut the fence and padlocks off two storage trailers. Nothing appeared to have been stolen.

By LeAnne Rogers

Charges dismissed in house stripping

Criminal charges against a Michigan Department of Corrections officer accused of stripping fixtures from his father's Westland home after it was lost to foreclosure have been dismissed.

Timothy March, 47, who works at the Huron Valley Women's Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti, had been charged with larceny from a building

and receiving/concealing stolen property.

The criminal charges alleged that March went to remove his father's personal belongings from the house on North Carlson after it was sold at auction. At the same time, March was accused of removing a number of installed items from the home, such as the furnace, duct work, kitchen

cabinets, doors and the water heater.

Westland police recovered the property from March's downriver home.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Vera Massey Jones granted a defense motion to dismiss the charges against March, denying a prosecution motion seeking reconsideration.

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Break in

Police responded to an alarm call at Robmar Precision, 38189 Abruzzi, about 10:30 a.m. Sept. 2. The alarm was triggered on a rear door to the business. The officer reported no access was made to the building but metal locks on two storage sheds, which share the alarm system, had been cut off.

Entry was made into the storage units but the officer reported it appeared nothing had been disturbed.

The business owner arrived and reported that an additional unit was still locked and undisturbed leading him to surmise the suspects had been scared off.

Vandalism

Police were called to the former Sears Hardware store, 29299 Ann Arbor Trail, just before 9 p.m. Sept. 2 about the glass doors being shattered and someone possibly being inside the vacant store.

Officers found the sliding glass doors on the north side of the building broken by multiple large blocks. No one was found inside the vacant building.

Vandalism

» A resident in the 32000 block of Grandview told police Sept. 2 that he heard glass breaking at about 3 a.m. but didn't check on it. Later in the morning, he said he found the driver's side mirror broken on his 2007 Chevrolet Silverado which was parked on the

street.

» A Northville woman told police Sept. 2 that someone keyed her 2012 Dodge Journey while it was parked at her sister's home in the 1000 block of South Sutton.

The woman said she had left the car parked at her sister's home since Aug. 16 while she was out of the country on vacation.

The damage was estimated at \$1,000.

Break in

A resident in the 31000 block of Calhoun Court told police Aug. 27 that he returned home to find two windows on his home broken and the side door unlocked. Inside, he said he noticed multiple drawers and cupboards had been searched.

A circular saw was reported stolen.

Larceny

A large patio set with four chairs, a smaller patio set with a bench and chair, a silver grill and a black fire pit, valued at \$720, was reported stolen from a home in the 31000 block of Birchwood on Aug. 28.

Stolen vehicle

On Aug. 28, a resident in the 200 block of Fischer told police that just after 2 a.m. his son woke him up to tell him that someone had just driven away in the father's truck.

The resident said that he had left a set of keys in the glove compartment of the 2012 Ford F150 crew cab pickup truck, valued at \$25,000.

He said he also had left his wallet containing his identification, debit card and \$100 in cash in the truck. The truck had been left locked, the owner said.

Break in

On Aug. 28, a resident in the 2700 block of South Christine told police that he left to take his kids to work and returned about 90 minutes later to find the side door to the home had been kicked in.

Checking the house, the resident said he found an interior door damaged and two 55-inch LED televisions, valued at \$1,400, had been stolen.

Stolen vehicles

» A resident in the 200 block of Darwin told police Aug. 29 that her 1989 Chevrolet Caprice had been stolen from her driveway overnight. The resident, who is elderly, said her son sometimes drives her to appointments in the car but both had last seen it the night before.

The woman had the only set of keys to the vehicle, which was paid off and only covered with personal liability/property damage insurance coverage.

» On Aug. 29, a resident in the 34000 block of Barton told police that someone had stolen her 2002 Dodge Caravan which had been parked and locked on the street.

The resident said she saw the vehicle when she got up at 7 a.m. but noticed it was gone just after 11 a.m.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY
COP CALLS

Stolen card

A Livonia woman reported to police Aug. 28 that someone had stolen her Chase debit card. She told police she discovered it missing when she found a \$29.75 charge for gas at Speedway at 28451 Ford. The woman said she works at Burger King at 28333 Ford and believes that's where the card was taken.

Larceny

An employee of a property management company told police Aug. 28 that parts of exterior central air conditioning unit had been taken from a home in the 3200 block of Bock. The unit was in the backyard of the home and had been taken apart. The theft occurred between Aug. 14-28. The employee said nothing else appeared to be tampered with at the HUD-owned home, which is checked every 14 days.

Break-in

A resident in the 30000 block of Dawson Avenue told police Aug. 27 that someone stole almost \$1,000 in power tools and accessories from her unsecured garage. The resident said her son was putting in a new garage door on the detached garage and overnight someone took the tools, including a gas-powered edger a pneumatic nailer. She told police she talked to her neighbors who said they had not seen anything.

Identity theft

A Garden City man told police Aug. 27 that someone used his information to get a Barclay's bank card. He said he became aware of the problem in March when he received a letter from an attorney stating that he owed \$1,710 on the credit card account. He told police he didn't open the account and has no idea how someone obtained his information.

Secrets from
THE LOVE DOCTOR

with
Dr. Terri Orbuch
One of America's
Most Trusted
Relationship
Experts!

A Simple Approach to
Improve Intimacy. Reignite Passion.
REDISCOVER LOVE!
with Oakland University Professor Dr. Terri Orbuch

**Tune in
SUNDAY
Sept. 8th • 6:30 pm**
WTVS Channel 56 • dptv.org

SPONSORED BY:
**OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY**

Detroit
Public TV

This space is provided by the Observer & Eccentric Media.

**ST. MARY MERCY
LIVONIA**
SAINT JOSEPH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM

EMBRACE LIFE™

7th Annual
5K Run/Walk for Cancer

**Thank you to our
sponsors**

A special thanks
to our Presenting
Sponsor:

**bright
house** NETWORK

**Sunday, September 8, 2013
9 a.m.**

St. Mary Mercy Hospital grounds
36475 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154

The 5K run/walk is an event for cancer awareness to celebrate and Embrace Life™. Proceeds support St. Mary Mercy Cancer Services.

Register Now!

- Pre-registered runners/walkers guaranteed a race t-shirt.
- B-tag chip timing.
- Awards to overall and age group winners.
- Register before August 30 and save \$5.

For more information or to register visit smarymercy.org/5kforcancer, or call 734-655-1590.

USATF-certified course

© 2012 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, SpongeBob SquarePants and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc.

REMARKABLE MEDICINE.
REMARKABLE CARE.

smarymercy.org

BRIDGING THE GAP ACROSS THE PACIFIC

Japanese-American school in Livonia is first of its kind in Michigan

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Like many other first-graders, George Goonis wakes up every morning singing a song.

The 5-year-old Livonia resident's song might sound a bit unfamiliar to some — because chances are good he is singing in Japanese.

Raised in an English-speaking household by monolingual parents, George started earlier this month his second year as a student at the Hinoki International School in Livonia, a two-way immersion elementary school chartered by Livonia Public Schools.

"I think George has learned over 100 songs in Japanese. He's a happy-go-lucky kid and he loves it," mother Patty Goonis said of the school. "And I love the fact that he is learning another language."

In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, her son is getting something even more, according to Goonis, a librarian with the city of Livonia.

Broadened world view

"It has been a wonderful opportunity for my son to get a whole new world view. He is learning to embrace other cultures and those who are 'different' from him," she said.

Although the country of Japan and the city of Livonia are separated by some 6,400 miles, the school, the first Japanese-American school in the state of Michigan, is seeking to bridge that gap, bringing the rich culture and language of Japan to local elementary school students and their families, said Ted Delphia, the school's principal.

Officially chartered by LPS, the school was founded in 2010 by a group of interested supporters looking to provide a two-way bilingual learning environment for temporary Japanese residents, Japanese-heritage families and American families with an interest in the concept, Delphia said.

Now entering its fourth year, the school takes the best practices of both Japanese and



First-grade student Madeline Lenk brought a big grasshopper to show her class. In background, Zara Lin and Hugo Nakao. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



It's lunch time, and teacher Ai Yumiba sings Japanese songs with her kindergarten class. The music acts as a bridge between the class period and the lunch period. Singing in Japanese reinforces language skills.

American schools in an effort to create a global learning community, giving students a nurturing, culturally rich learning environment and successful educational experience in both Japanese and English, according to Delphia.

"We are not just teaching the Japanese language, it is a

parallel world of understanding," he said. "Students bring their own languages and cultures from home into the classroom and work together to help one another learn."

Only one like it in state

Currently serving approximately 135 students in grades

K-3 throughout the area, including Novi, Plymouth and Canton, the school "is completely different from any other in Michigan," said Delphia, who is a Livonia resident along with his wife Mitsuyo, a teacher at the school.

Students at Hinoki attend school for six hours each day, with an elongated school year allowing for six weeks off for summer vacation, similar to the school calendar followed by students in Japan.

"We wanted to have more contact points with our students and avoid the summer slide," he said.

According to Delphia, the school follows the state of Michigan elementary school curriculum, blended with Japanese content expectations that create a unique two-way setting. Lessons are taught in both English and Japanese, allowing students the opportunity to increase their skills in a new language, while strengthening their skills in their native language.

"It is very different — we

are not trying to load on top of the kids; we are trying to work both sides and provide Japanese and American students with an opportunity to learn from each other and become bilingual, bilateral, bi-cultural and globally-minded individuals," Delphia said.

The Hinoki International School charter is overseen by LPS and "provides another program we can't offer within the district, at the same time generating added revenue to help support our current programs in the district," LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa wrote in an email.

Opening doors

It is exactly the environment that Canton Township parent Rebecca Lenk was seeking for her twin daughters Charlotte and Madeline, age 5, when she enrolled them in the school's kindergarten program last year.

"There are whole sections of the world that are closed off to me because I only speak one language," Lenk said. "I thought it would be great if, through their schools, I could open up these worlds to my own children that I could not access."

Lenk believes that the exposure to another culture will help provide her daughters with a broadened view of the world.

"They have children in their class from Japan, Senegal — all over. They all look different, speak different languages and come from different areas. These are their friends, this is their peer group and they do not know any different. It can't help but influence the way they look at the world," Lenk said.

Located in a former LPS elementary school building on Curtis Road, the school plans to add another grade level each year, eventually expanding up to sixth grade, Delphia said.

"We are not only building a bridge across the Pacific — these kids will also have an extraordinary view of two cultures," he said.

Back to School

SPECIALS

<p>STANDARD BALANCE & WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$99.00</p> <p><small>Valid only at Don Massey Cadillac Plymouth. Excludes diesels. Customer is responsible for deposit and taxes. Does not apply to insurance repairs or collision. Trucks & SUVs slightly higher. Must present coupon at time of service write-up. Not valid with any other offer. See dealer for details. Offer expires 9/30/2013.</small></p>	<p>BODY REPAIR WORK OVER \$300.00 \$50 OFF</p> <p><small>Valid only at Don Massey Cadillac Plymouth. Coupon not valid with any other offer. Must present coupon at time of service write-up. Limit one coupon per person. Coupon does not apply to prior purchases. Other restrictions may apply. Void where prohibited. Offer expires 9/30/2013.</small></p>
<p>ZMAX TREATMENT \$69.95</p> <p><small>Maintain efficiency by installing zMax treatment into all petroleum-based fluids and replace air filter.</small></p> <p><small>Valid only at Don Massey Cadillac Plymouth. Excludes diesels. Customer is responsible for deposit and taxes. Does not apply to insurance repairs or collision. Trucks & SUVs slightly higher. Must present coupon at time of service write-up. Not valid with any other offer. See dealer for details. Offer expires 9/30/2013.</small></p>	<p>A/C SERVICE \$69.95</p> <p><small>Visual inspection of A/C system and up to 1 lb. of Freon. Freon limited to r134a only.</small></p> <p><small>Valid only at Don Massey Cadillac Plymouth. Excludes diesels. Customer is responsible for deposit and taxes. Does not apply to insurance repairs or collision. Trucks & SUVs slightly higher. Must present coupon at time of service write-up. Not valid with any other offer. See dealer for details. Offer expires 9/30/2013.</small></p>

Don Massey Cadillac

In Plymouth

Hours of operation: Mon., Thurs. 7:30 am - 7:00 pm; Tues., Wed., Fri. 7:30 am - 6:00 pm; Sat. 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Call Today for an Appointment

(734) 453-7500

www.donmasseycadillac.com

Retirement Community | Independent and Assisted Living

Assisted Living*

AT THE HARBORS

Independence Village of Plymouth has a charming atmosphere with warm and caring staff. Assisted Living at the Harbors has comprehensive care available for those who need it so that they may age gracefully in one place while living in the comfort of their private apartment homes. Here are just some of the many features we offer:

- Studio and One bedroom apartment homes
- Three delectable chef-prepared, meals daily
- Meal delivery service
- Daily Light Housekeeping
- Weekly personal laundry & linen service
- 24-hour monitored pull cord system.
- Exciting daily activities
- Personal care packages available by independent contractors*

Call to learn more or stop by for a tour. We're happy to answer your questions and give you a glimpse inside our community. *We just know you'll love it.*

RATES STARTING AT

\$2,690

CALL TODAY!

Independence Village of Plymouth

14707 Northville Road | www.IndependenceVillages.com
Plymouth, MI 48170 | **734-453-2600**

©2013 Independence Villages are managed and lovingly cared for by SeniorVillage Management

\$7 MILLION GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

Oakwood Annapolis cuts ribbon on new emergency department

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Calling it the "front door," representatives of Oakwood Annapolis Hospital and Oakwood Healthcare used an oversized pair of scissors to cut a ribbon, officially opening the new more than 17,000-square foot emergency department.

A year in the making, the renovation and expansion of the emergency department represents the single largest investment in the Wayne hospital since it was built in 1957.

"This has been a great journey for me as I watched this department grow and serve our patients," said Dr. Ashok Jain, chief of staff at Annapolis. "This hospital has a long history of faithful service to the community. Oakwood and the medical staff make good partners for important patient care and for improving patient care."

Dr. Ralph Scolari, MD, director of emergency medicine at Oakwood Annapolis, said the project was important because, to many people, the emergency department is the front door to the hospital.

"This will allow us to take better care of our patients," he said. "We'll be able to see them faster, make them more comfortable, and provide treatment in a facility that is second to none in the area. We have a great new front door and we are able to provide state of the art care."

Gift to community

David Campbell, executive vice president of operations and system strategy for Oakwood Healthcare, called the project a \$7 million gift to the community.

"We put the money where it can impact the community," he said. "This was designed with the patient in mind and to clinically provide the best care possible. We want our patients to be as comfortable as they can be and confident in the quality of service they'll receive if they happen to need care."

The project features 17,848 square feet of new or remodeled space and includes 28 treatment bays. There is a five-bed "fast track" area is designed to get patients in front of physicians sooner, and an eight-bed treatment area, staffed by one doctor, two nurses and two medics. The 12-bed major treatment area has two larger trauma bays, providing additional room for physicians and support staff to help patients.

The entrance to the emergency department has also been reconfigured, providing better access to ambulance crews and improved



Diane Hartley, director of patient care services at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital (from left); David Campbell, executive vice president of operations, system strategy and growth, Oakwood Healthcare; Eric Widner, division president of Oakwood Annapolis Hospital; Dr. Ashok Jain, chief of staff at Annapolis; Rhonda Berndt, Clinical Manager, and Dr. Ralph Scolari, Chief of Emergency Medicine, and members of the Oakwood Annapolis Hospital staff do a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the new Emergency Department. PHOTO BY MILLARD BERRY

safety for patients and the staff. A separate decontamination room with its own exterior entrance is also part of the new department.

"When you come to the ER, we're ready to rock and roll," said John Cargill, trauma and emergency room coordinator. "We have the tool shop to do things right."

The emergency department remained open during the renovation and expansion. Cargill described it as "having someone invade your house while you're still living in it."

The project was designed to provide more space in the emergency department, increase the efficiency of the operation and reduce the amount of time patients will spend there.

"First floor real estate is considered very important and we took over a big chunk of it," Cargill said. "This project was all about enhancing service."

Many improvements

The emergency department project is the latest in a long line of improvements at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, the only certified Level III trauma center in the area. Last fall, the hospital made the switch to an electronic medical records system. It also has a Da Vinci robotic surgery suite, an advanced cardiac catheterization lab, open MRI, all digital advanced capability operating rooms and endoscopy suites, and private, hotel-like birthing suites.

Speaking on behalf of the city, Wayne City Councilman John Rhaesa thanked Oakwood for its "continuing commitment to the community."

"To reinvest in Wayne at this time is tremendous," he said. "This makes a positive impact on the community."

Among those in attendance was Wayne-Westland Assistant Chief-Fire Marshal John Adams, who liked

the flow of the department and the thoughtfulness that went into the project.

"It's all about enhanced service and this increases the effectiveness of our service and turnaround time," he said. "This is the hospital we transport to the most."

Oakwood officials are not only proud of the project, they're also proud it was finished on time and on budget using Michigan products, Michigan skilled tradesmen and Michigan businesses.

"We are very proud to be able to provide this level of care to the community," said Eric Widner, division president of Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. "It is a world-class facility to match our world-class physicians and staff."

smason@hometownlife.com

313-222-6751

Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

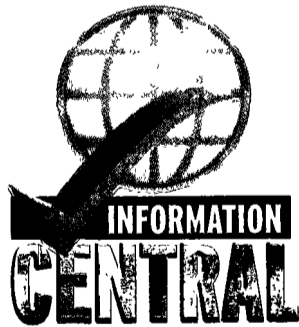
September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

The mission of the William P. Faust Public Library is to promote education and lifelong learning, to encourage personal enrichment, and to support a vibrant quality of life within our community. You can help us fulfill our mission by using the resources and services the library provides.

September is library card sign-up month. Celebrate the new school year by signing up for a library card. If you're a Westland resident without a library card, stop by the Circulation Desk to register. Just present a valid Michigan driver's license or State ID showing your name and Westland address.

Children can also get a library card, but anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to do so. If you don't live in Westland, you are welcome to use your library card from your home library in order to check out books, use the computer, and take advantage of all of the services we offer.

Having a library card means that you can do more than check out books. In addition to free books, eBooks, and audio books, we offer much more. Log on to our public computers, including a multimedia station equipped with photo and video editing software, or you can use your own device with our free Wi-Fi. Check out DVDs to watch at home, or come attend our Friday night movies. Want to learn something new? Attend our computer classes, pro-



grams, or ask a librarian how to use our databases.

The library also offers a sense of community. Spend time with others who have similar interests and needs in our Job Seekers Lab, Writing Clubs or Book Clubs, or bring your children to story times and programs for children.

If you can't make it to the library, use your card from home to search our catalog, request books, download eBooks, and do research from our articles databases.

If you aren't ever able to leave home, call and inquire about our Homebound Delivery service so we can bring the library to you.

If you have a question you can use our email, questions@westlandlibrary.org or chat with reference services to ask questions from home, or you can always give us a call at 734-326-6123.

The library's fall hours have now started: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday.

Highlighted Activities

Writers Workshop, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5. - The Writers Workshop critiques an individual's writing in a workshop setting. All genres accepted (fiction, poetry, memoir, etc.). We will tell you what is working with your piece, as well as what needs improvement. The goal of our group is to help writers get published. You must attend one session before your writing will be reviewed. To register, visit the Reference Desk, call 734-326-6123 or send an email to andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org. To read about our workshops, check out our blog at westlandlibrary.org/read/workshop

ESL (English as a Second Language) Class, 9:30-11:15 a.m.
Sept. 6 - Get help practicing your English skills in a classroom setting with a conversation emphasis taught by Diane and Richard Goers. Classes run from through Nov. 8. There will be no class on Sept. 20. Students with children are welcome.

Friday Night Movies, 7 p.m.
Sept. 6 - Come join us as for some of best recently released DVDs as part of our Friday Night Movies series. Tonight's movie, 42, is about "the life story of Jackie Robinson and his history-making signing under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey (imdb.com)." This movie is rated PG-13. There will be trivia and prizes, snacks and refreshments. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 7 p.m.

THE PLACE TO BE ... noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 - Celebrate the kick-off of our Geek the Library campaign in our Children's Garden with music, crafts, a pentathlon of games, food and more! Fun for all ages. See posters created just for our Geek the Library campaign by local celebrities and community members. Hear local musicians at our Open Mic. Be uplifted at the end of the festivities with the energetic rhythms and dancing of the Bichini Bia Congo Drum and Dance group. Support for this event provided by the Friends of the Westland Library, Toarmina's Pizza and Biggy Coffee. Just drop by and enjoy the fun.

New Program for Children: Rhythm and Rock Time, 1:30-2 p.m. Sept. 8 - Sing, play and move along with your child. Your little one's natural rhythm will shine in this interactive music program for ages 1-5 with a caregiver. This program will be conducted every Sunday during September. Join us for on, two, three or all four sessions. No sign up required.

Parenting Workshop/Training: Hitting a Home Run with School-Agers, 9:30 a.m. Sept. 9 - Starfish Family Services' Early Learning Communities presents a monthly Parenting Workshop/Early Childhood Training at the Westland library. Each month focuses on a different topic for parents, teachers and childcare providers. This month's topic is "Hitting a Home Run with School-Agers." Ideas for activities and

materials to support the interests and development of school aged children. Attend five workshops and your child is eligible to receive free books from the Imagination Library. Free childcare provided for children of participants. Register by going to westlandlibrary.org and click on the Kid's Events tab or go to www.greatstartconnect.com. Walk-ins accepted, if space allows.

Job Seekers Lab, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, 5-8 p.m. Wednesday and 1-4 p.m. Friday - Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

Chess Group, 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays - Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

Computer Classes are offered all year long. The library also offers one-on-one computer classes. Call 734-326-6123.

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



Hazel Vaughn lives independently and still gets around without the assistance of a cane or walker, her niece says.

Livonia woman turns 100 years old

Hazel Vaughn of Livonia celebrated her 100th birthday at a luncheon attended by 55 well-wishers Aug. 24 at the River Bank Golf Course in South Lyon.

She was born Aug. 28, 1913, in Providence, Ky., the fourth of six children.

She moved to Michigan in the 1940's and worked in the house-keeping department at Garden City Hospital. She retired in 1983. She is currently a resident at Brashear Tower in Livonia, where she lives in-

dependently and attends North Ridge Church in Plymouth regularly.

"Aunt Hazel" has never been married and has no children, although she helped to raise her sister's twins after her sister died. She has nieces and nephews of five generations, her niece, Lil Mobley of Plymouth, said.

She is not sure what to attribute her longevity to, but "she still gets around without the assistance of a cane or walker — an amazing lady," Mobley said.

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at 313-223-3318. For more information, call 313-222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE CONCERT

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15.
Location: Prayer Baptist Church, 855 S. Edwin, Westland.

Details: Brother Joe Hicks will perform songs he has written from experiences with his service with Outcry Youth and Street Ministry at "Blankets and Boots," a free concert, food and fundraiser. Non-perishable food, toiletries, gently used clothing, shoes, blankets and money may be donated.

Contact: Go online to kylejoeandlshicks-outcryministries.com/contact.html.

CROP FOR A CAUSE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.

Location: Scrapy Chic, 33509 W. Eight Mile, Livonia.

Details: The IBC (Inflammatory Breast Cancer) Network Foundation is holding a 12-hour crop event, featuring goodie bags, breakfast, lunch and dinner, snacks throughout the day, make 'n take, chair massages, electric chord at each table, 50/50 raffle and Tricky Tray Auction. Preregistration is \$35.

Contact: For more information, call 248-426-9020.

FIRST FRIDAY FUNNIES

Time/Date: 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6.

Location: Wayne Bowl Banquet Room, 36900 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

Details: Big Dooley Jokes is the host for an evening of comedy, featuring Charlie Newhart, Jason Keacher, Mjc Larry and Kevin Zeoli. Doors open at 8 p.m. Sounds will be by DJ KevyD. There also will be food and drink specials. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. They are available at Finishing Touch Hats and Clothier, 35006 W. Michigan Ave., Wayne, or at bigdooleyjokes.com.

CELIAC SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington.

Details: Tri County Cellac Support Group is holding a general meeting. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7 p.m.

PRESCHOOL SIGNUPS

Time/Date: Ongoing.

Location: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland.

Details: Willow Creek Preschool is enrolling for the 2013-2014 school year. Willow Creek offers preschool classes for 4-year-olds, 3-year-olds and a tot to toddler class.

Contact: Call 734-326-0078 or go online to www.willowcreek-preschool.com.

Location: Westland Free Methodist Preschool, 1421 S. Venoy, Westland.

Details: The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is now enrolling for the 2013-2014 preschool year. Enroll now and save half off the enrollment fee, a \$25 savings value. The preschool is a tuition-based Christian program that offers classes for 3-4-year-old children. It offers a theme-based curriculum taught by certified teachers and includes all the basic preschool academic skills as well as a low child-teacher ratio, indoor gym and outdoor playground.

Contact: For more information, to schedule a tour or enroll, call 734-728-3559, visit www.preschool.livesarechanging.com or send an email to wfm-preschool@yahoo.com.

WIDOWED MEN

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

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

Details: The Men's Group of Widowed Friends, a peer group of the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites you to meet with other widowed men for breakfast. 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 group's activities.

Contact: Call Dick at 313-534-0399.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15.

Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth.

Details: Widowed men and women are invited to celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m., followed by

fellowship and refreshments. Join us in a safe and friendly setting and learn about other activities offered by Widowed Friends.

Contact: For more information regarding Mass, call Pat at 734-895-6246.

MOM TO MOM

Time/Date: noon to 4 p.m. Saturday Sept. 21.

Location: McKinley Cooperative Preschool, Inside St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Approximately 40 tables, with a big item area. There will be concessions and a bake sale. Admission is \$1 per person and strollers are allowed.

Contact: A contract, if available for anyone that wants to rent an 8-foot table for \$20 at www.mckinleypreschool.org/mom2mom. For more information, send an email to beccanew1027@yahoo.com with any questions.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, early bird at 8:30 a.m.

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

Details: There will be 85 tables, a large item area, concessions and a bake sale at a Mom to Mom sale at Garden City High School. Admission is \$1, \$2 for early birds. Use gymnasium entrance. Contract available on M2M website at www.mom2momlist.com.

Contact: For more information, send an email to gcmmom2momsale@hotmail.com or call 734-277-0791.

BOWLING BENEFIT

Time/Date: 12:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 (check in starts at noon).

Location: Town and Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: \$12 per bowler (any age welcome to bowl) includes two games of bowling, shoe rental and pizza and pop. Raffle tickets will be on sale for over 50 local business prizes and baskets. Any registered bowler that is 5 years old or younger will be entered into a "kids raffle" for free.

Contact: Registration form available online at mckinleypreschool.org/fundraising-information. They can be emailed to Rebecca.Lay@beccanew1027@yahoo.com. Call her at 734-776-7741 for more information.

FALL CRAFT SHOWS

ST. THEODORE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 12.

Location: St. Theodore's Parish, 8200 Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: St. Theodore's Confraternity of Christian Women is looking for crafters for its Fall Craft Show. There are 70 tables available at a cost of \$25 each. No vendors please.

Contact: Mary at 734-425-4421 vnr#10.

PERRINVILLE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12.

Location: Perrinville Early Childhood Center, 28201 Lyndon, Livonia.

Details: Crafters are being sought for the Perrinville Early Childhood Center's fourth annual Craft/Vendor Show.

Contact: Brenda at wjob2000@ameritech.net.

ST. JOHN'S

Time/Date: Saturday, Oct. 13.

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: St. John's has table available for craft sales at its Fall Festival for craft sales for \$25. Anyone interested in renting a table can call the church at 734-721-5023 or Sharon Scott at 734-722-4651.

FOR SENIORS

FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

Details: The Senior Resources Department Friendship Center offers a variety of programs.

Contact: 734-722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us.

DYER CENTER

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland.

Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: 734-419-2020.

SENIOR FITNESS

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City.

Details: The Senior Fitness Room is available to those age 50 and older. There's an annual membership is \$55 per year or get a daily pass for \$1. Senior aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Drop in for \$3 per day. **Contact:** 734-793-1870.

LIVONIA'S FIRST ANNUAL

Outdoor Oktoberfest

SATURDAY SEPT. 21ST
Festivities Start 11am

HOSTED BY

1 UNDER BAR & GRILL

Authentic German Food

Breweries & Beers On Display

Atwater Blocktoberfest	Bell's Best Brown
Atwater Blueberry Cobbler	Bell's Cherry Stout
Atwater HopApeal	Bell's Quinannan Falls
Shorts Autumn Ale	Mt. Pleasant Brewing Oktoberfest
Shorts Noble Chaos	Harpoon Brewery UFO Pumpkin
Liberty Street Punkin Pie	Harpoon Brewery Oktoberfest
Liberty Oktoberfest	Shipyard Smashed Pumpkin
Liberty Bell Blonde	Johnny Rails Pumpkin Ale
Liberty Amber Waves	South Hampton Pumpkin
Green Bush Unicorn Killer	South Hampton Oktoberfest
Green Bush Memento Mori	Weihenstephaner Oktoberfest
Green Bush Dunegras	New Holland Ichabod
Hofbrau Oktoberfest	Arcadia Jaw Jacker
Ayinger Oktoberfest	Spaten Oktoberfest
Southern Tier Pumking	Frankenmuth Oktoberfest
Lagunitas IPA	Great Lakes Oktoberfest
Lagunitas Lucky 13	Shiner Oktoberfest
Sam Oktoberfest	Rochester Mills Oktoberfest
Sam Adams Fat Jack	Becks Oktoberfest
Leinie's Oktoberfest	Shock Top Oktoberfest
Blue Moon Pumpkin	Sierra Nevada Flipside
Griffins Claw Screaming Pumpkin	Goose Island Harvest Ale
Saugatuck Bonfire Brown	New Belgium Pumpkick
Angry Orchard	Woodchuck Fall Seasonal Cider
Bell's Oktoberfest	Magic Hat Seance

Please make your RSVP today...call

734.464.5555

35780 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154
www.Oneunderbar.com

Bring enthusiasm to all that you do

Today's food for thought is inspired by Ursula Burns, Chairman & CEO of Xerox Corporation, whom I heard speak at a Detroit Economic Club meeting. When asked by an audience member how to become as successful as Ms. Burns, she said: "Find something that you love and work really, really hard to do it well."

When we're passionate about the work we do, we create better results, we're more fulfilled, and ultimately more successful. Most importantly, Ms. Burns reminded us that success isn't all about dollars and perks. It's about enjoying a fulfilling life. The work doesn't have to be glamorous in order for us to put our heart into it. Every job can be done with enthusiasm and great success.

I heard a very touching example in a conversation on the radio between two New York City sanitation workers. They were talking passionately about clearing 14 tons of garbage from the city streets each day. I Googled and found a link so you can hear them by downloading this audio file <http://bit.ly/cvly9d>. If they can bring such enthusiasm to their work, we can too.

Wishing you great success!



Clarity Newhouse
A SUNNY NOTE

Clarity
P.S. What if the job you're doing right now isn't your dream job? In the words of Crosby Stills Nash, "If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with."

P.P.S. "The kind of commitment I find among the best performers across virtually every field is a single-minded passion for what they do, an unwavering desire for excellence in the way they think and the way they work."

Jim Collins
Author

P.P.S. You can help spread the sunshine by forwarding Sunny Notes or inviting others to subscribe at www.JoinSunnyNotes.com.

Clarity Patton Newhouse is president of Sunny Media Group Inc., located at 39209 Six Mile, Suite 165, Livonia. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond. To reach her call (734) 855-4728 or find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sunnynotes.



Louis Piszker (left), CEO of Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, joins members of the marketing department at DTE during a painting project at St. Albert the Great Catholic School, one of Wayne Metro's 10 early childhood centers.

Volunteers important to Wayne Metro work

During a time when most government-funded organizations are feeling the squeeze from budget cuts such as federal sequestration, individual gifts slowing down and fundraising event attendance decreasing, one Wayne County service organization has found a treasure trove in human capital as a way to do more with less.

Wayne Metro Community Action Agency is leaning on volunteerism to get the work done.

In recent months individuals, community groups and corporate partners have stepped up to accomplish great things. PNC Bank, DTE Energy, AmeriCorps VISTA, the agency's Re-



DTE employees helped paint the entire childhood center for Wayne Metro.

gional Advisory Councils, Board of Directors, concerned parents, civic and political leaders and other service providers have given more than 10,000 hours of time. With an average full-time staff person making an annual salary of \$30,000 per year, the agency believes it has benefited from \$144,230 in donated time and services.

"Our volunteers are helping to keep the safety net in our community intact," Wayne Metro CEO Louis Piszker said. "Our most vulnerable citizens, including seniors and families with children, depend on us and these unpaid man hours fill a gap so that we don't have to turn people away."

In addition to the man hours, the agency's unpaid workforce is eliminating large expenses from the organization's budget. Volunteers from DTE's Marketing Department helped to paint an entire early childhood center earlier this month.

Their elbow grease helped to purge a \$10,000 expense the agency would have incurred for a contractor to do the work. The money will instead be used toward the purchase of new technology, events for parents and new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) based program supplies and materials.

The corporate team

» PNC Bank - Wayne Metro and PNC Bank recently formed a long-term partnership through the company's Grow Up Great initiative. Through the program, PNC employees can spend up to 40 hours per year during working hours to support local early learning and literacy projects.

» DTE Energy -

DTE Energy, also a major sponsor of Wayne Metro's annual Walk for Warmth, has participated in several agency volunteer projects. On Friday, Aug. 2, DTE's Marketing Department kicked off a painting project at St. Albert the Great Catholic School, one of Wayne Metro's 10 early childhood centers. The team put in a total of 45 hours of time.

In addition to the hours of volunteer labor, the agency can use those hours toward a federally-mandated in-kind match and are in the running to receive a \$1,500 cash grant from the DTE Foundation.

National groups

» AmeriCorps VISTAs - VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) provides opportunities for community organizations to create, develop and strengthen initiatives that focus on economic opportunity, healthy futures and/or education.

Wayne Metro has been selected by the Corporation of National and Community Service (CNCS) to serve as an intermediary organization placing service participants with other organizations, referred to as "Host Sites."

Wayne Metro utilizes VISTAs in departments throughout the agency, including nutrition, human resources, tax preparation, housing counseling, financial services and Head Start.

"The energy of these extraordinary groups and individuals is contagious and has enriched the culture here at Wayne Metro significantly," Piszker said. "We are thankful to all of them for helping to support us, choosing to live out our mission and enabling our clients to live out their own personal missions."

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency is the Community Action Agency serving all of Wayne County, including the city of Detroit.

Its mission is to empower low-income people and strengthen communities through diverse services, leadership and collaboration.

Wayne Metro has more than 20 sites in Wayne County, including Community Service Centers at 32715 Dorsey, Westland, and 5904 Middlebelt, Garden City.

For more information, call (734) 246-2280.

The next wave of new phones



Jon Gunnells
TECH SAVVY

Some weeks I feel like this column is just like a T-Mobile commercial. The second I write about what new phone to buy, there are 10 more bigger, better, faster phones on the market. This week is no different as the rumor mill about Apple's new iPhones is picking up steam.

In August, mashable.com reported there may be high-priced and low-priced options of the popular phone. The high-end version may even come in a gold or champagne color and feature fingerprint scanning (as if typing in a passcode wasn't annoying enough).

Even if you aren't interested in the new iPhones or the Samsung Galaxy 4 and new Blackberrys that I've written about this summer, you might be interested in a few of the lesser known smartphones.

One of the most exciting new phones is the Droid Ultra, which I was able to test courtesy of Verizon Wireless. The Droid Ultra is possibly the thinnest, yet most durable phone available. It is 7.18 mm thick but reinforced with a Gorilla Glass Screen and Kevlar. Don't know what that means? Well, it is thinner than you can imagine and won't break when you constantly drop it.

The Ultra also has a slew of unique features that you will probably never use, but are cool to brag about anyway. First, the Ultra can operate in 100 percent hands-free mode using voice-recognition. If your phone is sitting on the table, you can say "Droid, call home," and it will. Unlike other popular phones, the Ultra's voice-recognition system can launch apps too.

The Ultra also has 1080p video capabilities (not all phones do), a 10 megapixel camera, and a five inch LCD HD touchscreen. For \$199 with a two-year activation, you could do a lot worse.

Verizon is also selling the Samsung ATIV for free with a two-year agreement. The phone runs on Windows' tile-based system, which is actually pretty fun and easy once you get used to it. It has an 8 megapixel camera and a 4.8 inch AMOLED display. (AMOLED is fancy for "really good quality").

The ATIV doesn't have processing speeds as solid as the Ultra, or say, the iPhone, but it does have some nice capabilities such as the camera for a user who doesn't need all the extras.

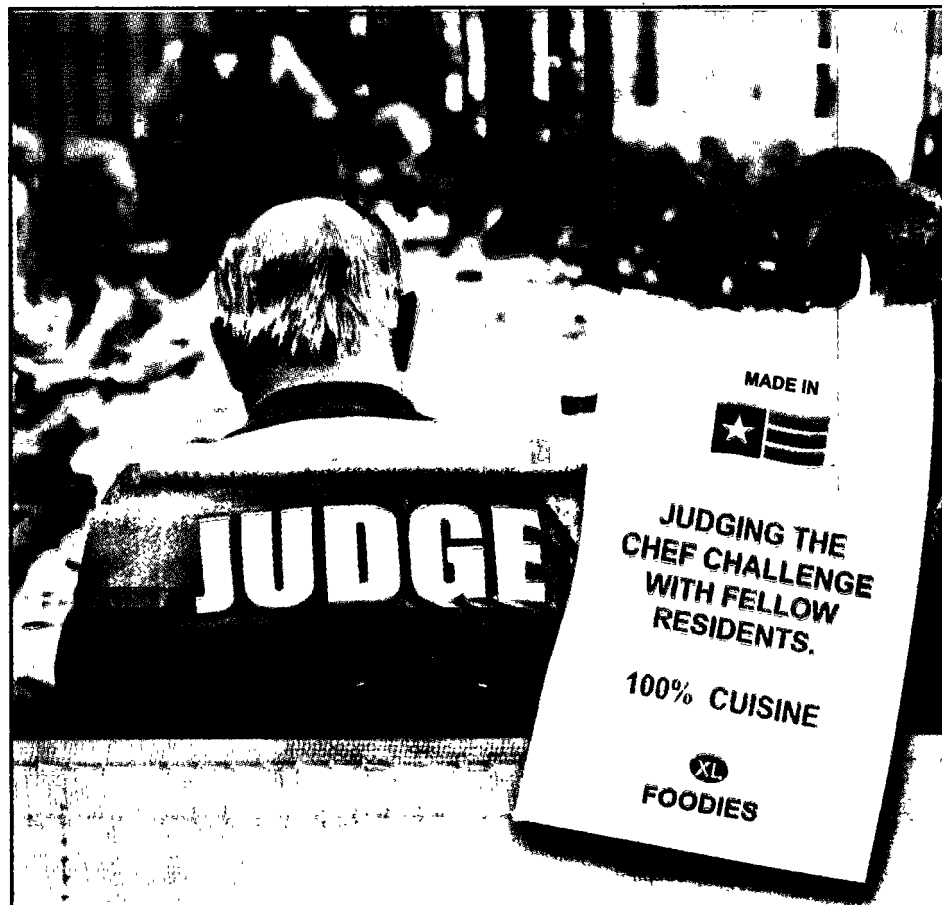
Earlier this summer I wrote about T-Mobile's new contract-free plans and how they benefit consumers. AT&T has jumped on the bandwagon and implemented a service meant to challenge T-Mobile - except their version is really crummy.

While AT&T's new plan allows users to get a new phone or tablet every year without upgrade fees or activation fees, the money doesn't make sense. Users are required to finance the phone or tablet for 20 months to be eligible for this program. So after 12 months, you can get a new phone, but you still are paying for the old one for eight months after upgrading.

Essentially, under AT&T's new plan you will always be paying for two phones at once, which is pretty much the most AT&T thing ever.

Not interested in the iPhone? There are still plenty of other phones in stores such as the Windows ATIV and the Droid Ultra. I tested both of them courtesy of Verizon Wireless. The Windows ATIV is an interesting phone because of its tile-based operating system on Windows 8. It also has a great price point which is sometimes even free through Verizon with a two-year agreement.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Email jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com.



What do you want to do today?

When it comes to our residents, we're determined to discover what makes them tick, then deliver it. Take the Chef Challenge for example. Our residents wanted to sample and vote for their favorite dishes and we made it happen. What else is possible? Start creating moments to cherish for a lifetime...Call us today!

Westland Hunter
(734) 732-4658
35700 Hunter Ave
Westland, MI 48185

Westland Joy
(734) 274-4756
39201 Joy Rd
Westland, MI 48185

Westland Venoy
(734) 732-4659
1660 Venoy Rd
Westland, MI 48186

Livonia
(734) 666-0835
11525 Farmington Rd
Livonia, MI 48150

American House
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES
americanhouse.com



Special T-shirts lighten burden of tiny patients

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

When Amanda Holdsworth learned her 18-month-old daughter had a birth defect, she needed something to keep her mind away from the constant worrying. She discovered something that helped Avery and could do the same for other patients.

Doctors realized Avery hadn't gained weight between her 15- and 18-month well child check-up in April. Amanda and Doug Holdsworth of South Lyon were told their daughter had a heart murmur and were sent to Mott's Children's Hospital where doctors discovered Avery had multiple holes in her heart, a congenital heart condition called, atrial septal defect. Surgery would fix the problem.

"It came as quite a shock," said Amanda, who works full time as a marketing manager for the business engagement center at the University of Michigan.

"We were told that she would need to have open heart surgery within a month to close the holes and relieve the pressures on her tiny system," Amanda said. "We were floored and devastated. We had no idea what to do or think. I'm one of those people that when I'm stressed I have to clean or keep myself busy."

She grabbed a pair of scissors and starting cutting up the front of Avery's shirts, added some fancy ribbon and a few snaps. The open front shirts gave doctors and nurses easy access to Avery's surgical site. By accident, her line of hospital shirts, Peek-A-Boo-Boo, was born.

Avery's back was covered and at least "she could be cozy," Amanda said adding that hospital workers and parents of other young heart patients started asking about the shirts and where they could buy them.

Easy access

Amanda has sold some Peek-A-Boo-Boo shirts online, she said, but more importantly she's hoping to earn a \$500 grant to cover material costs and allow her to donate shirts to other patients. She is a finalist in the PNC Neighborhood



Avery Holdsworth's mom replaced her hospital gown with a T-shirt that opens in the front.

Wish List Contest. Go to Facebook, like PNC and look for a tab that says, Neighborhood Wish List, vote for Heal-A-Boo-Boo. The contest continues through Sept. 16.

"The \$500 grant would give me the funds to create more than 50 sets of Peek-A-Boo-Boo shirts and legwarmers for children undergoing medical treatment," Amanda said. "In order to receive the Heal-a-Boo-Boo grant, I need to get 500 'likes' on my project." There are 99 other projects eligible for grants, and each project sponsor has to receive the entire 500 likes to get a \$500 check.

The average shirt costs about \$8 for supplies and the \$500 would go toward making 55 shirts. Amanda said that would leave her with \$60 left over to purchase 30 sets of legwarmers. She said she plans on donating 25 sets of legwarmers from her stock, as well as matching hair bows or flowers for any girl who receives a Peek-A-Boo-Boo package. Seeing patients, especially

young ones, in colorful T-shirts as opposed to hospital gowns is uplifting, she added.

"It's a mental thing and it makes you feel a little better about seeing them like that," she said.

"Seeing our Avery in a fancy T-shirt made us optimistic that everything was going to be OK."

Business plan

Amanda said she recently put together a business plan to sell the Peek-A-Boo-Boo shirts to hospitals.

"Half of my heart says I want to sell them at hospitals and the other half is, I think I can do some good with this," she said, adding that when Avery came out of surgery she was given a fleece blanket and a teddy bear rattle and the small gestures of kindness made Avery's family feel better.

Meanwhile, Avery's recovery is going well.

dandreassi@hometownlife.com
248-437-2011, ext. 262

Wayne library part of Big Green Gym program

The Wayne Public Library would like to remind residents that while summer may be ending soon, it's not too late to take advantage of the great outdoors. As a participating library in the MI Big Green Gym program, library users can check out a free one-day pass providing admission into any state park, as well as select community recreation centers.

MI Big Green Gym is a unique partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. The program is designed to promote overall well-being and a healthy lifestyle through use of parks and recreation facilities. It encourages residents to get healthy as Michigan really is a big green gym, with endless opportunities to get active.

"At Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, we understand the powerful benefits that physical activity can have on an individual's health and quality of life," said Bridget Hurd, director of Community Responsibility of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Passes are valid for seven days after checkout, but can be used on one day only. They can be found off of the main lobby of the library. Patrons are asked to bring the pass to the front desk for checkout, and a library card will be required.

The program ends Oct. 1, so there's still time to take advantage of this free program. For more information, and a complete list of participating facilities, visit the MI Big Green Gym website at mrpaonline.org/Programs/MI-Big-Green-Gym.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TAG! Meeting, 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 - All teens age 12-18 are welcome to join the Teen Advisory Group. We'll discuss events they would like to see at the library, prepare books for the Teen Blind Book Date, enjoy snacks, and learn more about their story writing challenge!

"Green" Cleaning, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24 - Join us as Bronwen Gates shares information about creating cleaning products that are safe for you and the environment. Learn how "going green" can benefit both you and the planet. A \$1 fee is required to attend this program.

Family Fun Storytime, for children up to age 5 - Registration begins Tuesday, Sept. 10, for the multi-age story time for the whole family. Join us for stories, rhymes, movement, and crafts intended to engage children and caregivers of all ages. An adult caregiver must remain with the child during the entire program. Approximately 45 minutes long. Sign up for either Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evenings. Time and dates are 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 24 and October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, and 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 25, and Oct. 2 and 9.

Chiller Wednesdays, Nankin Area Reads, 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays - The Nankin Area celebrates the Jonathan Rand "Chiller" series Oct. 14-Nov. 14. Children ages 9 years old and up that would like to participate in crafts, games, read-a-loud, and fun are welcome to sign up.

The participating libraries are Wayne, Garden City, Livonia Civic Center and Dearborn Heights. Each participating library will offer activities a different night of the week. The program concludes Nov. 14 at the Livonia Civic Center with a visit from Jonathan Rand himself. Tickets are available to those who participate in the Wayne Public Library's program.

The series includes Sinister Spiders Oct. 23, New York Ninjas Oct. 30, Fog Phantoms Nov. 6, Iron Insects Nov. Rand at Livonia Civic Center Nov. 14.

Wayne Information Central was compiled by John MacDonald of the staff of the Wayne Public Library. The library is at 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. For more information, call 734-721-7832 or visit wayne.lib.mi.us.

Put Your Garage Sale on the map!

Place your garage sale ad with Observer & Eccentric Media!

Now is the time to clean out those closets, basements and garages.

TURN YOUR OLD ITEMS INTO NEW CASH!

It's GARAGE SALE SEASON!

Reach thousands of local bargain hunters and YOU'LL receive some FREE items too!

Our GARAGE SALE KIT includes:

- Signs
- Price Stickers
- Two pages of Ideas and advice for having a great garage sale
- One pass for two tickets to any Emagine Theatres
- Coupon for a FREE 4-square Buddy's Pizza
- Buddy's Pizza food discount card
- Interactive "Map It" feature online at hometownlife.com

BONUS OFFER...
Place your ad online at hometownlife.com and we will double the movie passes to Emagine Theatres

While supplies last.

Call NOW... **1.800.579.7355** for your Garage Sale Kit TODAY! **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA**
hometownlife.com **MEDIA**
A GANNETT COMPANY

OUR VIEWS

Kids count: Slow down, be safe while driving

Now that school has started for most area students, we encourage motorists to watch out for young pedestrians.

Crashes involving vehicles and pedestrians make up less than 1 percent of total crashes, but fatalities involving pedestrians make up nearly 22 percent of all fatalities, according to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

And pedestrian accidents are on the rise in southeast Michigan, as more people are walking as part of a healthy lifestyle, SEMCOG reports.

Keep in mind that children are often distracted or are unable to accurately judge traffic situations while on their way to and from the bus stop or school.

Motorists should:

» Watch for pedestrians at all times and always be prepared to stop for them.

» Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians crossing.

» Keep the windshield clean and headlights on.

» Stop or yield to pedestrians at crosswalks, whether marked or unmarked.

» Never pass/overtake a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians.

» Obey speed limits in school zones. They are in place to save lives. According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle going 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed as compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling 35 mph.

Motorists should also learn and obey the school bus laws.

Each year, nationally, about 19 children are killed in school bus-related traffic crashes, according to AAA. On average, six are passengers on the bus and 13 are pedestrians.

» Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop.

» Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off.

Motorists must stop and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Parents can help their children stay safe by teaching them the following rules for walking to and from school or the bus stop:

» Use extreme caution when crossing the street, especially when dark.

» Walk, don't run, when crossing the street.

» Stand clear of hedges, parked cars or other obstacles so drivers can see you.

» Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.

» Watch for cars reversing in parking lots and near on-street parking spaces.

» Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections, if possible.



Each year nationally, about 19 children are killed in school bus-related traffic crashes, according to AAA. On average, 13 are pedestrians. GETTY IMAGES | COMSTOCK IMAGES

» Obey traffic signals such as walk/don't walk signals.

» Look left-right-left before crossing a street or stepping into traffic.

When riding a school bus, children should be instructed to:

» Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive and stand at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.

» Wait until the bus stops, the door opens and the driver says it's OK before stepping onto the bus.

» If you must cross the road to enter the bus, walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.

After exiting the bus, children should be reminded to:

» Be alert to all traffic.

» Be sure the bus driver can see them and they can see the bus driver. Tell the bus driver if they drop something beside the bus. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see them.

» Take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus and make eye contact with the bus driver if they have to cross the street in front of the bus.

The start of school is an exciting time of year. As motorists and/or parents, let's do everything we can to make it a safe time of year.



Speed limits in school zones help save lives. According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle going 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed as a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling 35 mph.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you excited about the first day of school?

We asked this question of teachers at Memorial 1-2 Campus in Garden City.



"Yes, I'm very excited. It's my first time flying solo. It'll be a lot of fun once I have my room set up."

Suzanne Russell
First year teacher



"Absolutely. I'm excited to meet a new group of children that I'll share my classroom with and help grow."

Beth Loritz
First-grade teacher



"I'm very excited, it's my first year as a second-grade teacher. I'm excited to start with a new class."

Kathy Kolesar
Second-grade teacher



"Yes! It's always a fresh new beginning. This is my 20th year teaching and every year is as exciting as my first year was."

Anna Buczek-Vergona
Second-grade teacher

LETTERS

City needs to prioritize

I'm writing to you regarding to the following article: Vote clears way to bond for new Westland City Hall.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I strongly feel these types of articles inform those of us who actually care what our city is doing for us. As residents, we deserve to have a city government we can trust to keep our best interests at hand.

How important is a new building to us? Do we win a prize? Can it not be repaired at a smaller cost? Are there not enough empty buildings in Westland? Will this help our struggling residents in any way? I don't think so.

I admit I don't know of all the details regarding where the funds are coming from, etc. You'd have to be an attorney and/or politician to get all the facts. As far as I'm concerned it shouldn't matter. Time and money are spent on these projects when other more important issues are at hand, the people who live here.

I believe we are taken advantage of because they know they can get away with this. As a Westland resident since October 2003, I feel the city is needlessly wasting time, effort and unbelievable sums of money even considering this project to fund a new City Hall building. There are so many necessary issues to be considered. Having had to research some of the city ordinances, I've found that the city itself is not enforcing many of these.

A short drive around a few older neighborhoods will prove to anyone that some business and homeowners are not complying with the ordinances on the books regarding repair nor upkeep. Shabby store fronts, people using their lawns for a parking lot, others using their front yards as a scrap yard or putting their trash out days before scheduled pickup. Fines from this alone could provide the city with funds to improve the condition of the city's appearance and

safety.

There are services the city had once provided that they no longer offer: leaf pickup, branch pickup to name a few. I am sure there are many more. Ask any of us who have no one or the money to hire someone to help us. Should the city not help?

I could go on and on. Again, as a resident whose property values have plummeted over the last 10 years, I care about my city and feel sad when someone calls it "Wasteland." I know the city can do better. Priority might be a good thing for them to consider.

J. Powers
Westland

Help protect power of vote

Aug. 26 marked the 93rd anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. This year, the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County honored Women's Equality Day through a continued focus on protecting the voting rights of all eligible voters.

Now is a critical time to do all we can for voters. Earlier this summer, a key part of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), known as Section 4, was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The damage to the VRA can and must be fixed - Congress has the power to act swiftly to restore the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act. The League needs your help in calling on Congress to repair and restore the VRA.

The anti-voter laws that are cropping up around the country in the wake of the Supreme Court decision will negatively impact all voters - young and old, rich and poor alike. As members of the League of Women Voters, we are working to make our democracy strong through voter registration drives and educational forums - and this Women's Equality Day by thanking Congress for starting the process to fix the VRA and encouraging them to repair and restore it quickly.

Our foremothers understood that voting provides citizens the

ability to have an impact on the critical issues facing their communities. Women's Equality Day is the perfect time to celebrate and protect that right.

For more information about the League of Women Voters, please visit www.lwvww.org or contact us at 734-421-4420.

Angela Ryan
president
League of Women Voters of NW
Wayne County

King's dream is fulfilled

Regarding the Aug. 15 article, "50 years later, King's dream still unfulfilled."

Excuse me, but we have a black president who has served two terms in the United States.

Your views are that there have been no changes since Martin Luther King Jr. 50 years ago. Barack Obama has proved that all races can have a chance for a better life and become educated to even serve the highest office in the nation.

Mary E. Clark
Redford

War or insurance?

The GOP is desperate to stop the Obamacare before it gets going. Why? Because when people actually experience the program, they will say they did not know how great it would be.

I was recently at some relatives' home and was explaining the benefits, and they were so impressed. They said, why would anyone be against this program? I told them because the lobbyists and the GOP are spending millions to confuse you. Would you give up your Social Security and Medicare today? Of course not. But guess what, back when these programs were passed under Democratic presidents, the GOP wailed that they would bankrupt the country.

Why is it that we can go to war and waste billions of dollars, and we cannot use the money to help us? Think about this. War or health insurance. Which do you want? Of course this is my opinion, what is yours?

Joanne Braund
Royal Oak

WAYNE-WESTLAND
OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

Sue Mason,
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

Step at a time

RUNNER FINDS MEANING HELPING OTHERS REACH FITNESS GOALS

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Whether it's running a business, running an event or running for the health of it, Randy Step is enjoying the race.

A dedicated runner for almost 40 years, Step is the president of Running Fit Inc., which just opened its eighth area running gear store and includes fitness event management and race-timing businesses.

It doesn't seem like work at all, the South Lyon resident says.

"I'm so fortunate to be in a business where everyone who works here is passionate about what they do," Step said during an interview at the Northville Township Running Fit. "They're passionate runners."

Step and his co-workers, who produce well-known Michigan running events such as Dances With Dirt and Run Woodstock, recently took on management of the inaugural Heroes on Hines, five-kilometer and half-marathon races in honor of Wayne County police officers and firefighters who lost their lives on the job. The Saturday, Oct. 5, event, which will raise money for the maintenance of the county's First Responders Memorial, begins and ends near Hines Drive and Haggerty in Plymouth Township, where the memorial, under construction, will be located.

Running Fit joined Wayne County parks and recreation officials to plan Heroes on Hines and the company designed runners' shirts and medals, mapped the course and is promoting the event and handling registrations.

"I'm just trying to create something that I think would be really cool," he said.

Running kismet

Step grew up in Detroit and Redford Township, where his father worked at the Charles Step Funeral Home, which was founded in Detroit by Randy's grandfather and is now run by Randy's brother, also named Charles.

Step didn't run in high school — he is a 1974 Redford Union graduate — but took it up at Michigan State University, where during his sophomore year, as a transfer student, he found himself in a dormitory with a concentration of Spartans cross country runners. "I pretty much got hooked and put in a lot of miles with those guys," sometimes logging 80 to 100 miles a week, Step said.

He majored in mortuary science and began his career as a funeral director, something he did for seven years. He has great respect for the work.



Randy Step recently took on management of the inaugural Heroes on Hines, five-kilometer and half-marathon races in honor of Wayne County police officers and firefighters who lost their lives on the job. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Randy Step, running a 2011 race, is a dedicated runner and the president of Running Fit Inc.

"You have the opportunity to help people in the most difficult days of their lives," he said.

But the running bug had taken hold and Step also trained for races and triathlons (running, swimming and cycling), even taking time off with his wife Kathleen, a top female triathlete at the time, to train and compete.

"I never ran those kind of times where I thought I could make a living," he said.

Achieving goals

Still, he lived and breathed running and opened the first Running Fit in Ann Arbor in December 1984, eventually transitioning into retail full time. He also sold commercial exercise equipment for several years; when his partner bought Step's share of that business, he said, he decided to refocus on running.

Step said he felt guilty about leaving the funeral home for a business he found so enjoyable, but came to realize his new career gave him the chance to help people

through difficult times, too.

"We have the ability to change people's lives dramatically and we see it all the time," he said. Step described how non-runners looking for a healthier lifestyle walk in after a serious talk with a doctor or an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting "and think this is going to be some kind of torture." Running Fit, which offers running classes, gait analysis and other support services for runners, helps them get to the next level and beyond, he said.

"It's all personal," Step said of the goals runners set as they progress. "The psychological side's huge. The physical side's huge."

Step likes to tell runners to "run fast and take chances," meaning, he said, to get outside of their comfort zones.

Close call

But he also urges safety, saying that he prefers trail instead of street running, wears bright colors, runs without music and stays aware of his surroundings. "I hate running near a road," he said.

The dangers were painfully illustrated for him Aug. 14, when Step's wife Kathleen, competing in Running Fit's T-Rex Triathlon at Island Lake Recreation Area, collided with a car while bicycling at top speed, he said. An inexperienced driver apparently didn't see her and turned sharply in front of her to get past a

HEROES ON HINES

What: Heroes on Hines, Wayne County-sponsored five-kilometer (3.1 miles) and half-marathon (13.1 miles) races.

Where: Western end of Hines Park and surrounding areas, with start and finish near Hines Drive and Haggerty. Race-day parking is at Burroughs, at Plymouth Road and Haggerty.

When: Saturday, Oct. 5. Starts are 8 a.m. for the half-marathon, 8:30 a.m. for the 5K.

Why: To raise money for long-term maintenance of the First Responders Memorial under construction at Haggerty and Hines. The races will be followed by a memorial dedication ceremony. Organizers hope to make the run an annual event.

How: Visit www.heroesonhines.com for more information or to register. The 5K is \$29 through Thursday, Sept. 5, then \$34 through noon Thursday, Oct. 3, then \$40 until race time. The half marathon is \$49 through Sept. 5, then \$59 through noon Oct. 3, then \$70 until race time. Runners will get a technical shirt; half-marathoners will also get a finishers' medal. Medals for overall, age-group and team competitions.

stream of T-Rex cyclists, Step said.

Kathleen Step flew clear of the car and landed in gravel, her husband said, and is pretty banged up, but expected to recover.

"Just to see her crushed me," Step said, explaining that he rushed to the scene, knowing only that a T-Rex participant had been in an accident, to find his wife covered with dirt, gravel and blood. "I came close to losing her."

Kathleen Step is a longtime nurse who recently earned a doctorate in nursing from the University of Michigan. The couple's children, Trevor, 28, and Anna, 25, followed their path as runners and fitness buffs — Trevor is Running Fit's general manager for retail, while Anna is the company's art director.

"I was a very proud dad," Step said. "It was fun to go see their cross country in college."

Step into the race

Step has high hopes for Heroes on Hines as an annual run and likes the idea of the First Responders Memorial.

"I'm hoping the race is enough that people take notice," he said. Organizers are planning to line the course's final mile with an honor guard of public safety personnel and equipment.

Step issued a challenge to the police and fire departments in Wayne County and beyond: Form a team, join the race and have a friendly competition against your colleagues in public safety. The FBI and the Ontario Provincial Police, he said, have already entered teams. "They should all have a team in this race, every precinct, every fire hall," Step said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
313-222-2405
Twitter: @mattjachman

Seniors get wordy at county spelling bee

The newest senior citizen master spellers in Wayne County will be determined at the Wayne County Spell-Off for Seniors competition Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Dozier Recreation Complex in Inkster.

The finalists successfully spelled their way to the championship round by winning previously held contests at six Wayne County locations.

"Whether it's the Spell off for Seniors or the just completed Senior Olympics, our senior community provides inspiring moments for all of us to emulate," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said. "I am looking forward to this year's competition."

The final 18 participants will face-off in a single elimination style event beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Dozier Complex, 2025 Middlebelt, north of Michigan Avenue, Inkster. A first-place winner and second- and third-place runner-ups will be determined during the competition.

There is no cost to come and watch the Spell Off for Seniors. A number of other activities are planned, including a free lunch and a raffle. Those interested in attending are asked to call (313) 224-0755 to make a reservation. Costs associated with the event are underwritten by a number of sponsors.

For information on programs for seniors available through Wayne County, visit the Wayne County website at www.waynecounty.com and click on the Senior and Veterans Services tab.

PLAN AHEAD!

MUMS ARE HERE!
Reg. \$7.99
3 FOR \$19.99

DWARF ENGLISH BOXWOOD
#3 pot Reg. \$39.99
4 FOR \$100

EMERALD GREEN ARBORVITAE
5-6' B&B Reg. \$79.99
SALE \$49.99
5 OR MORE
\$40 EACH

BUMPER CROP Organic Soil Builder
2 cu.ft. Reg. \$16.99
\$13.99
Soil amendment with mycorrhizae for mums, bulbs, anything that grows!

50th ANNIVERSARY

PLYMOUTH NURSERY

www.plymouthnursery.net
734-453-5500
Mon-Thurs 9am-6pm • Fri-Sat 9am-7pm
Sat 9am-6pm • Sun 10am-5pm
Offers Expire 9/11/13

9900 Ann Arbor Rd. W.
7 Miles W. of I-275
1 1/2 Miles S. of M-14
Corner of Gollitredson Rd

WE'RE PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS.

Experience Vegas-style thrills like never before. Scorching slots. Action-packed tables. Live Poker and Bingo. Tantalizing restaurants. Free live entertainment. Go ahead, make your next event a guaranteed hit.

- Family Reunions
- Fundraisers
- Red Hat Society Trips
- Service Club Outings
- Tour Groups
- And much more!

For Details Call
877-FKC-8777

FIREKEEPERS

CASINO • HOTEL
BATTLE CREEK

FireKeepersCasinoHotel.com

I-94 to Exit 104
11777 Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014
MUST BE 21.

You Deserve the Very Best!

Live Here for the Best of Your Life - at half the cost of assisted living!

First Come, First Served.

Limited number of apartments available.
Act now to avoid the wait list!

Nine floor plans to choose from,
all including services and style to rival a fine hotel.

- Home Cooked Lunch or Dinner*
- Luxurious Dining Room
- Coffee Shop
- Game Room
- 24 Hour Staffing

- Exercise Room
- Library
- Friendly Staff
- Beauty/Barber Shop
- Country Store
- Movie Theater

- Chapel
- Planned Activities and Outings
- Beautiful Indoor Lounge Areas
- Outdoor Court Yards

Our Extras Make the Difference

For more information, please call

Grand Blanc

at Genesys Health Park
3221 E. Baldwin Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI
(810) 606-1110

Lyon Township

Across from Coyote Golf Club
28413 Abbey Lane
New Hudson, MI
(248) 437-6550

www.abbeypark.com

*Lyon Township location only.



IT'S OFFICIAL.

The FCC reports
XFINITY delivers
reliably fast speeds.
AT&T doesn't.

The results are in. The latest Federal Communications Commission study shows that XFINITY® delivers more speed than you're paying for, even during peak hours. Plus, XFINITY delivers the fastest in-home Wi-Fi for all rooms, all devices, all the time.

So don't settle for less with AT&T.

<p>GET STARTED WITH PERFORMANCE INTERNET</p> <p>\$29⁹⁹</p> <p>a month for 6 months</p>	<p>NO TERM CONTRACT REQUIRED</p>	<p>INCLUDES CONSTANT GUARD™</p> <p>Stay safe with the most comprehensive suite of protection.</p>
--	----------------------------------	---

Get what you pay for and then some.
Call 1-866-926-4665 today.

comcast.com/xfinity

COMCAST

xfinity
the future of awesome™

Offer ends 9/30/13. Not available in all areas. Limited to Performance Internet for new residential customers. After 6 months, monthly service charge for Performance Internet is \$49.99 for months 7-12. After promotional period, regular rates apply. Comcast's current monthly service for Performance Internet ranges from \$42.95-\$51.95 with TV or Voice service or \$56.95-\$64.95 without TV or Voice service. Limited to service to a single outlet. Equipment, installation and taxes extra. May not be combined with other offers. Actual speeds vary and are not guaranteed. Wi-Fi claim based on August 2012 study of comparable in-home wireless routers by Allion Test Labs, Inc. Not all features, including Constant Guard, compatible with Macintosh systems. Based on February 2013 FCC Measuring Broadband America report. Call for restrictions and complete details, or visit comcast.com. ©2013 Comcast. All rights reserved. 2012 Electronic Arts Inc. EA, EA SPORTS and the EA SPORTS logo are trademarks of Electronic Arts Inc. Official FIFA licensed product. © The FIFA name and OLP Logo are copyright or trademark protected by FIFA. NPA128995-0012



Phil Morden won the title of Top Shot on the History Channel's reality competition "Top Shot All Stars." HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marksman is reality show's 'Top Shot'

By Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

Mission accomplished. Phil Morden wanted to improve on his first foray into reality television, appearing two years ago on the third season of *Top Shot*, a marksmanship-based competition on The History Channel. The Milford man placed fifth. Last week on *Top Shot All Stars*, he did better. Much better. He won the fifth season against 15 other returning contestants.

Morden, a self-taught gun enthusiast and videographer, bested three other finalists Aug. 28 in three elimination challenges.

In addition to winning the title of History's *Top Shot*, Morden won \$100,000 and a special edition speedboat. Filming for the show took place in California, running Aug. 16, 2012, to Sept. 25.

"It was almost a year before they aired it," Morden said. "Everyone knew the length of time I was out there was about the time to make it to the finals. I tried so hard not to slip up."

Morden said now that the cat's out of the bag, he and his wife will take an anniversary trip and buy some nice things for their home.

He hasn't really seen boat, either, which was shown to contestants at the start of the competition's finale.



Phil Morden won the title of Top Shot on the History Channel's reality competition "Top Shot All Stars." HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Morden, whose family still lives in the Huron Valley area, were together for last week's finale, along with friends and neighbors.

And even though he knew how things were going to turn out, "it was still pretty exciting to watch," he said.

This season's finale played to Morden's strengths, requiring more physical work. Morden, 26, was the youngest of the last competitors.

The first challenge pitted the four finalists in an obstacle course, firing at targets after climbing through a pipe, water, under netting and under barbed wire.

The second challenge required the top three to fire different weapons from various stations up a hill. In both cases, Morden was the fastest competitor.

In the finale, the contestants had seven different challenges: firing a

Remington 1875 at six targets, a Ruger rifle at 20 bottles, a revolver for two perfect six-shot runs at targets, a crossbow at three moving targets, World War II rifle at a long-range target, a pistol shot through a 2-inch tube downrange and a cannon.

"I couldn't ask for a better final three challenges," Morden said.

Morden struggled a bit at the perfect-run shot, where competitors had to start the round over if they missed, but he caught up with the crossbow and never looked back.

Morden said several of the show's challenges were memorable, including the spinning wheel where he had to shoot strapped to a contraption that spun him around. In season 3, he was eliminated just before that challenge. "It was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be," he admitted.

The World War II half-track was another highlight, shooting exploding targets while it drives along a course. "That's something you're not going to do anywhere else," he said.

Morden said since he returned from filming the latest *Top Shots* season, he started teaching firearms classes. Contact him at philrunngun@yahoo.com.

allmen@hometownlife.com
248-437-2011, Ext. 226

Time for year-end tax planning

Now that Labor Day is behind us we are in the home stretch of 2013 and time to start thinking about year-end planning.

There are certain things that must be completed before the end of the year. And while you still have some time it's not a bad idea to start getting organized. Here are some things that you may want to consider over the next few months.

Roth IRAs

This time of year I always mention the importance of Roth IRAs. Roth IRAs allow money to grow tax free not tax deferred and are not subject to the 70½ rules. This is always a great time of the year to determine whether you should convert some of your existing IRA money into a Roth IRA.

If you are over 70½ and subject to minimum required distributions you cannot convert that amount. However, you can convert anything above it. My general rules for converting money into a Roth IRA are 1) you must have the money to pay the tax that you will incur by converting; 2) by converting the money it won't throw you into a higher tax bracket; and 3) you can let the money sit in the Roth IRA for at least five to seven years.

If you meet these



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

criteria then potentially converting existing IRA money into a Roth IRA can be a very good financial move.

Flexible spending

Many people have flexible spending accounts through work and in many cases that money must be spent on a qualified medical expense before the end of the year. If you have a flexible spending plan and need to spend the money before the end of the year, now is the time to make a doctor's appointment or get a new pair of glasses.

In some plans you do not have to spend it before the end of the year. The key is to make sure you understand the terms of your plan.

Deductions

For some people year-end tax planning can result in significant savings. Whether it's accelerating deductions into this year (such as making charitable contributions before Dec. 31) or choosing when to pay your winter property tax bill can make a difference from a tax standpoint. Unfortunately, there's no one right an-

swer for everyone. The key is to look at your individual situation and determine whether deductions will be worth more to you this year or next. Depending on your tax bracket and whether you itemize your deductions can make a significant difference in your taxes.

Those age 70½ and older can also donate their minimum required distribution directly to a charity. This can result in a substantial tax savings particularly for someone who does not itemize their deductions.

By donating the minimum required distribution to a charity, you avoid paying taxes on the distribution. The key for this transaction is that the money must go directly from your IRA into a charity. The transaction must be completed by Dec. 31 so don't delay.

I don't know where this summer went but I do know that 2014 will be upon us soon. So start planning now so you don't have to rush. It's a great time to look at your individual situation determine if you need to do any year-end planning.

Good luck!

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