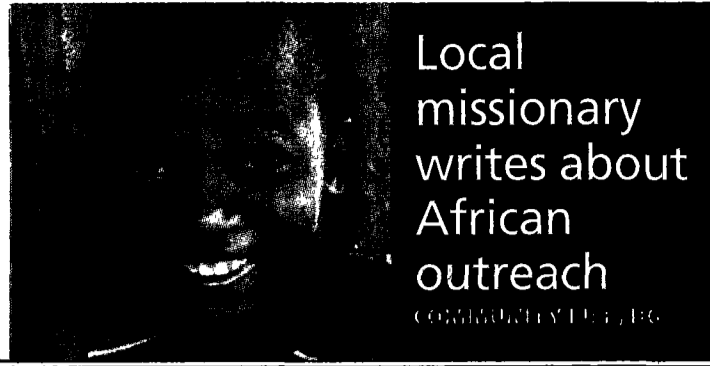


WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013 • hometownlife.com



Local man to stand trial for robbery

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Westland man has been ordered to stand trial on charges of robbing a credit union and three banks.

Harold Livingston, 42, waived his preliminary examination in Westland 18th District Court on Thursday before Judge Sandra Cicirelli.

A not guilty plea has been entered for Livingston, who is charged with four counts of bank robbery and four counts of armed robbery.

Livingston is charged with the Nov. 20 robbery of Credit Union One, 29450 Warren Road, west of Middlebelt.

A man reportedly entered the bank, produced a note demanding money and fled with

in excess of \$9,000.

Westland Police arrested Livingston the same evening driving around Norwayne, using a description of a vehicle provided by witnesses at a separate attempted bank robbery earlier in the day.

In the attempted robbery, police said the suspect was scared off when bank employees recognized him as a sus-

pect in previous Westland bank robberies.

Bank employees contacted police, providing a description of the suspect's vehicle. Photographs and descriptions of the suspect in previous robberies had been released by police.

Being held in lieu of \$750,000 cash/surety bond, Livingston has also been

charged with robberies at: Chase Bank, 31311 Cherry Hill, on Aug. 27; Bank of America, 121 N. Wayne Road, on Sept. 24; and TCF Bank, 360 S. Merri-

man, on Oct. 18. Livingston is scheduled for arraignment in Wayne County Circuit Court on Dec. 19.

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Diane Fritz of Westland and granddaughter Karli Rohraff enjoy the food prepared by culinary students at John Glenn High School.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Foundation showers Salvation Army

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Westland Community Foundation played Santa Claus last Tuesday evening, delivering cases of food, gifts and gift cards to the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

The foundation used its annual Christmas celebration, held in the media center of John Glenn High School, to gather up items for the

Corps to distribute to needy families in the communities served by the corps.

"So far the Salvation Army has more than 300 families that have applied of assistance," Salvation Army Capt. Derek Rose said. "Our volunteers are out there raising \$195,000, but we could not do what we do without people like you."

See FOUNDATION, Page A2



Glenn Shaw Jr, founder of the Westland Community Foundation, thanks the people in attendance at this year's Christmas party.

Visioning to address Wayne budget

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne City Council will have to wait until Tuesday to decide the dates for two strategic visioning sessions that will ultimately help officials decide how to deal with a looming budget deficit.

The city is working with Winchester Consulting Group to hold the two sessions that will bring together representatives of the city, employee unions, residents and the business community to brainstorm ideas on the direction Wayne will take for the next five years.

According to consultant Lisa Nocerini, the process the city is undertaking isn't about bigger or smaller government, it's about better government.

"The best thing you can do is not point the finger," she said. "These aren't town hall meetings where people stand up and yell. The goal is to protect the taxpayers and the high quality essential services they rely on."

Nocerini spoke to the council about the visioning process during study session last week, explaining the two-step process that ultimately will give the city council a framework for addressing the budget crisis.

She has recommended that the council hold the sessions on Saturdays several weeks apart. The first session would provide participants with a review of the current budget and a synopsis of the future budget going out five years, including assumptions for such things as property tax growth or decline and the impact of the personal property tax.

Breakout groups

Participants will be divided into groups for breakout sessions to go over the information and identify areas where revenue can be increased and expenditures decreased.

"In Redford, they had areas they knew that needed to be cut and how to get there, here it is an opening book," said Nocerini, referring to a visioning process that Winchester Group handled in Redford Township.

At the second session, the working groups will focus on

See VISIONING, Page A2

State Wayne honored as Wayne 2013 Business of Year



Under the leadership of Phoenix Theaters President Cory Jacobson (left), the State Wayne Phoenix Theater has been part of some of the best community events in Wayne during 2013, said Wayne Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Paul Strom. FILE PHOTO

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

In a year that included hosting a movie premiere and sold-out showings of *the Rocky Horror Picture Show*, Phoenix Theaters, operators of the State Wayne, has been honored as Wayne Business of the Year.

"This business has been part of some of the best community events in Wayne during 2013," Wayne Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Paul Strom said. "They set a great example of giving back to the community financially and

otherwise."

Presenting the award at the annual chamber luncheon to Phoenix Theaters owner Cory Jacobson, Strom said the company provides an example of positive collaboration in the Wayne community.

Phoenix Theaters took over management of the city-owned theater in August 2012. Accepting the award on behalf of his staff, Jacobson thanked Wayne for supporting the theater.

See BUSINESS, Page A2



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FOUNDATION

Continued from Page A1

Cold winter weather greeted guests, leading foundation President Glenn Shaw Jr. to note that "someone told me they check the weather every year and this is always on the coldest night of the year."

"We have people get here early so they can the parking spaces up front," he said.

'Big fundraiser'

Guests were asked to give an unwrapped new toy as admission to the seventh annual event and in exchange were treated to hors d'oeuvres prepared by culinary arts students at William D. Ford Career

Technical Center, music by the Salvation Army Band and singing by the John Glenn High School choir.

"It's a big fundraiser for the foundation," said Sharon Scott who was there with her husband, retired Westland Fire Chief Ted Scott. "We've been coming since it started, I'm on the board."

Fellow board member Diane Fritz has been bringing her granddaughter, Karli Rohraff, to event since she was 2 years old. They brought puzzles and items from Bath & Body Works as gifts for the children.

"It's important to help those in need and this is a good learning experience for her," Fritz said.

Shaw used the occasion to thank the many people who

help the foundation in its charity work. Kudos went out to Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy who opens the high school for the event each year, and businesses like the State Wayne Phoenix Theater and Skateland which help the foundation get passes to give to older children.

Many thanks

At the top of the list was the Motor City HOG Chapter which helps out with its annual toy run. In addition to the toys donated by riders, the chapter gave the foundation the \$3,600 raised through the entry fees.

Shaw also acknowledged the defunct Westland Summer Festival Committee which donated \$2,000.

Thanks also went out the

SIMPLY DIAMOND

With the loss of the Electric Stick Poker Room, the Westland Community Foundation is hoping to replace the estimated \$16,000 made at charity poker events. It's joining with the Westland Chamber of Commerce and Partnership for the Arts and Humanities to host Neil Diamond tribute concerts Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Village Theater of Canton. There will be a 2 p.m. matinee and an 8 p.m. performance. Matinee tickets are \$25. Evening event tickets are \$75 and include a 6:30 p.m. reception with food

Palace Foods "which provides many cases of food below cost and finds other ways to help us and support us," Shaw said.

from top area restaurants. Event sponsorships include \$2,500 for a Diamond sponsor and \$1,500 for a Sweet Caroline sponsor as well as program sponsorships of \$700 for Cracklin' Rosie, \$400 for Hello Again, \$250 for Song Sung Blue and \$75 for Solitary Man (Woman). Proceeds will benefit the three organizations. For tickets, sponsorships or more information, call Westland Community Foundation at 734-595-7727, Westland Chamber of Commerce at 734-326-7222 or Partnership for the Arts and Humanities at 734-765-7061.

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VISIONING

Continued from Page A1

identifying where to make cuts in the budget. According to Nocerini, this is the time for all parties "to come together and talk."

Once the visioning

sessions are done, the city will form a budget task force to develop "a healthy budget and a thriving community."

"You can also create other task forces - housing, business, economic development and marketing," she said. "They should be a mix of government, business and

residents."

As for finding participants for the visioning sessions, she recommended putting a notice in the newspaper, using Facebook and every source of outreach available. Pointing to the Redford sessions, she said the best notification was through the *Observ-*

er newspaper.

Nocerini also recommended that the sessions be held two weeks apart and that they be done before the end of January. However, a previous commitment and work schedule for Councilman Albert Damitio and James Henley respectively have the council looking at possibly holding the sessions Jan. 11 and the first week in February.

Need a location

As for the location, Mayor Al Haidous had

pointed out that the city can handle up to 100 people at the library or the Senior Activity Center, however, several council members favored a location where the breakout groups can meet away from each other.

"I agree on the separation of the groups, a lot of people don't want to talk in a large room with large groups," Councilman Skip Monit said. "They feel intimidated."

The council is looking at the possibility of using Wayne Memorial High School and informally

agreed to contact the school district about the possibility once the session dates are set.

"The possibilities are endless, but first you need the ideas," said Nocerini, who plans to be a part of the sessions which "will give me the opportunity to get to know the community. When you go for grants, you need community input."

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Kids, heroes team up for holiday shopping

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

It was all about kids and cops and carts and (gift) cards and fire-fighters and National Guardsmen, too, at Walmart in Livonia Thursday.

"Awesome," was the way Ethan Mowinski, 9, of Westland described his experience shopping with Livonia reserve police officer Chrissy Anderson at the Walmart on Seven Mile.

He was one of 61 kids who received a \$50 gift card to shop alongside a "hero" in an expanded version of the annual Shop with a Cop program. This year's event included not only police officers from the Redford, Livonia and Westland police departments, but Redford firefighters and National Guardsmen from Selfridge.

Redford dispatcher Kim Considine helped match kids from Redford, Livonia and Westland, who were chosen by the Goodfellows from families who need some help this holiday season, with heroes to help them shop.

Mowinski and Anderson had their choices made pretty quickly. He knew what he wanted - a Mega Blocks set - and he also got a Marker Maker for his younger cousin.

"I do it every year," Anderson said of the shopping event. "I look forward to it."

Meanwhile in the next aisle, Westland Police Sgt. Randy Thivierge was helping Emma Snead, 10, add up the cost of her choices. "You've got \$12 and you've got \$4, so you're at \$16," he said.

Emma was shopping along with brothers Evan, 7, and Isaac, 4. "Sweet," Evan said of the shopping expedition while Isaac tested out the propeller on a "Planes" toy.

Thivierge said he was leaving the choices up to the kids. "I'm just helping out the cause," he said.

Decisions, decisions

Redford Police officer Nick Dudek also was letting his shopping partner make the decisions. "She knew what she wanted," he said of Kiah Jones, 8, of Livonia.

Kiah picked out a Cooties game, girls winter boots, a My Little Pony doll, "Narnia," and "Olive, the Other Reindeer" videos as well as something for her mom. "Don't tell her," she said.

The best part of the experience? "Having fun," she said.

"Everything, mostly," was the best part for Harley Reffett, 10, of Redford. She, along with Redford Fire Department Engineer William Blacha, had picked out something for her brother, her mom, her dad, herself and even her four dogs - don't tell them but they are getting rawhide bones.

"It was great. We got everything we needed," Blacha said of his first time shopping at the event.

Jael Smith, 10, of Westland, was also finding everything she needed. She had a Slinky, Magnetic Creations, a brush, a Ninja flashlight and marbles among her items.

"She's good at it. She's thrifty," her shopping



Damien Shaw of Westland with sisters Madisyn and Autumn pose with Livonia Reserve Police Officer Pete Spanopoulos before the shopping begins. THOMAS BEAUDOIN

partner, Adam Pielecha, a Redford paramedic/firefighter, said.

"Found something, bud?" Redford Police officer Eric Kapelanski asked one of his shopping partners, David Smith, 8, of Westland, as he looked at Ninja Turtle items.

His older brother Josiah, 11, picked out the new "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" book. "I heard it's a great book."

Livonia Police Officer Mike Lewallen helped Nasir Dais, 7, of Westland pick out police Legos. "He picked it out on his own, I swear," he said.

Dais also picked out a remote control Corvette, which he was having wrapped by Walmart employees.

It's a wrap

Walmart employees were also wrapping gifts for Jalen Gonzales, 10, of Livonia. He said he didn't know what he wanted until he got there, but picked out stuff for his grandma, his sisters and himself.

After the wrapping, the kids also got their pictures taken with their hero shopper which Walmart is developing and

giving them for free, store manager Matt Vanlente said.

Vanlente said the event has gone well and even expanded this year to include firefighters and National Guardsmen as well as helping 21 more kids than last year.

Livonia Goodfellows President Bill Heaton said the program was



Westland Police Officer Kameron Sleep stands in line for gift wrapping with Jalen Gonzales of Livonia during the "Shop with a Cop/Hero" event at Walmart in Livonia. THOMAS BEAUDOIN

split evenly between the three communities of Redford, Livonia and Westland.

"We have a good partnership with Bill and the Goodfellows," Vanlente said.

The kids seemed to think it was a good partnership as well.

Redford 5-year-old Alyssa Mease picked out a toy puppy and a Barbie. "Very good," was her assessment of the event.

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District hires AD, 3 administrators

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools didn't have to go far to find two of three new school administrators whose appointments were approved by the school board at its meeting last week. They were already working for the district.

Receiving board approval were Kevin Weber of Westland as principal and Kesha Reeves of Southfield as assistant principal, both of Wayne Memorial High School, and Kimberly Cieszynski of Plymouth as assistant principal at John Glenn High School.

Weber has been with the district since 2004, working as a special education teacher until 2011 when he became an assistant principal at Wayne Memorial. He had been serving as the acting principal since Valerie Orr resigned to become principal of Monroe High School.

Weber has a bachelor of science degree from Western Michigan University where he majored in emotionally impaired/communications and a master of science degree in educational leadership from Concordia University.

"He has been acting principal since September and has done a fine job," said School Superintendent Greg Baracy in recommending Weber for the position. "He is more than qualified for the job and has a proven track record."

"It was an odd twist of fate that had me move here," Weber told the

board. "I've had 10 tough years serving the Wayne-Westland community and look forward to many more."

An 'opportunity'

Cieszynski also comes from the Wayne-Westland ranks, working in special education in the district since 2003. She also worked as a substitute teacher in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, a child advocate with First Step and a program assistant with the Beacon Day Treatment Center. She also completed a general education internship with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and a special education internship with Beacon before joining the Wayne-Westland district.

She has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Michigan State University, a master of arts degree in working with the emotionally impaired from Eastern Michigan University. She plans to complete work on an educational specialist degree in special education administration from EMU in June 2016.

"I want to thank the board and Dr. Baracy and the John Glenn administration and my special education colleagues for their support," Cieszynski said. "You've supported my dreams, thank you for the opportunity."

Reeves comes to the school district from the West Side Academy in Detroit where she was an assistant principal and athletic coordinator. She worked for the Ford Motor Co. Bartech and Carlson Marketing Group before becoming

an integrated science teacher at West Side and Detroit City High School.

She has a bachelor of science degree in secondary education and a master's degree in educational leadership, both from Wayne State University and an educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Michigan.

"She brings some great experience to the district," Baracy said.

New AD

The school board also approved two other appointments. John Young of Pinckney has been named athletic director at John Glenn High School and Matthew Connolly of Royal Oak has been named field supervisor of maintenance and operations.

Young takes over for Greg Ambrose who has been serving as athletic director for Wayne Memorial and Glenn for three years. Ambrose will return to Wayne as become the full-time AD.

"He comes to us with a vast array of experience," Baracy said. He has an extensive player and coaching background.

Young was an assistant baseball coach at the University of Michigan, the associate head baseball coach and assistant marketing director at Bradley University, assistant baseball coach at Michigan State University and an athletic supervisor/director with the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

He has a bachelor of science degree in physical education and social



Kevin Weber



Kesha Reeves



Kimberly Cieszynski



John Young



Matthew Connolly

studies from U-M where he was a four-year varsity letter winner, and a master of education degree in education, also from U-M.

'Gets job done'

Connolly has been with the school district since 1988, working as a substitute custodian in maintenance and operations and a custodian at Monroe, Schweitzer and Hicks Elementaries and Stevenson Middle School.

He has a bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"I've known Matthew a long time. He's an outstanding person and a great worker," board President Carol Middel said. "He's always there to make sure the job gets done."

Connolly thanked Tony Spina, executive director of maintenance and operations, Hicks Principal Andrew Rosinski and the office staff.

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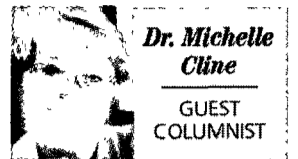
Are we taking public education for granted?

Dare to Care about Public Education is a series of articles written by the educational community of Garden City Public Schools intended to bring attention and understanding to issues of concern surrounding public education.

Public education — are we taking it for granted? Are we under the assumption it will always be available to the masses on an equitable basis? The first public school was founded in Boston, Mass., in 1635. However, education was only available to the wealthy until the 1840s when reformers, such as Horace Mann, contended that common school resulted in a united society with less crime and therefore produced good citizens.

Due to this reform, public education was provided to all children through grade 8. In the 1900s public education extended to older students with the development of the public high school. From 1900 to 1996, the percentage of teenagers in the U.S. who graduated from high school increased from 6 percent to about 85 percent.

I am a product of public education. I attended public education kindergarten through 12th grade and then graduated from a state college. Both of my siblings did the same. My older sister was the first of my mother's family to graduate from college. Our father was the first in his family to graduate from college. My maternal grandfather was my only



Dr. Michelle Cline
GUEST COLUMNIST

grandparent who graduated from high school. My two grandmothers and grandfather had to drop out of school, due to needing to find a job to support their families.

I am sure if you reflect on your own family you will find a similar history. You may be a family where you are hopeful for the next generation to be the first to attend college.

My family and I have taken for granted that our future generations will have access to a free, equitable education. I no longer believe that is the case, especially if current trends continue at the state and federal levels. Citizens of this state and nation must become aware of the vulnerability of public education to the forces (state and federal legislators and wealthy businessmen) that are working against it.

Charter schools

Michigan, along with many other states, supports the development of charter schools. Some states also support the use of a voucher system. While the rhetoric about charter schools is positive and it gives family choice, the truth is not as positive as reported and not everyone does have a choice to attend a char-

See CLINE, Page A5

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CLINE

Continued from Page A4

ter school.

Many citizens do not have a deep understanding of how charter schools work. Charter schools are designed with profit ideology. This is an ideology that purports competition will raise the level of quality and success. When there is competition, there has to be a winner and a loser. Which children will be the losers in education? Most charter schools are supported by for-profit organizations and they design the schools to be profitable for investors. Many of the corporations that support charter schools have been very successful in getting their investors a substantial return on investments that are supplemented with public tax dollars.

Charter schools receive tax dollars in the same manner as your local public school, but are not required to perform under the same regulations. Charter

schools are not required to provide transportation to and from their school. Parents can choose to have their children attend the school, if they have the means to transport them or if the charter school is within walking distance of their home.

Children of poverty, rarely have this option, as they are lucky if the family has access to a car and if they do, most likely the timing of the start of school does not coordinate with the work schedule of the parent who needs the car.

The cost to educate a child with special needs is at least four times greater than the cost to educate a child who does not need additional supports and services. One can imagine this fact does not fit into the ideologies of profit. It is harder to compete and be successful, if special needs and services are required, and it is less likely an investor will receive financial gains when those supports negatively impact the profit margins.

Cut in funding

Since I took the position of superintendent for Garden City Public Schools in 2008, the funding for each student (FTE) has been cut by \$572 dollars. To a district our size, it has meant a sizable reduction each and every year (which amounts to \$2.6 million less this year) to educate our students compared to the funds the district had to educate the same number of students in 2007. At the same time health care costs and retirement costs have skyrocketed, leaving less money for students.

As a public school district, Garden City Public Schools' goal is to educate our community and beyond about the realities of public education. We realize public schools have a great deal of work to do to meet the demands of creating informed citizens with skills to be successful in the 21st century. Our theme this year is to "Ride the Wave" of Public Education. We are working to assure our students are equipped

with the skills and resources they need to work and live in a global society.

We also know the average citizen has not been given the background knowledge to understand the issues that public schools face daily. This is the introduction to a series of articles we will be publishing regularly. We will also share with you stories of our successful GCPS graduates. Please help us inform you and then please share this information with others.

If we are not careful, we will find ourselves dealing with an educational system that mimics the 18th and 19th centuries, where only the wealthy were afforded an education. Do not take public education for granted. Join Garden City Public Schools, get informed, and Dare to Care about public education.

Dr. Michelle Cline is superintendent of the Garden City Public Schools and a resident of Garden City.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE UPDATES

Jazz Winter Wonders Concert

The Schoolcraft College jazz studies program, under the direction of Riccardo Selva, will present an evening of jazz performances featuring the talented musicians of the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Improvisation Combo at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, in the VisTaTech Center main campus in Livonia.

The concert program — featuring both large and small jazz groups performing traditional, contemporary, and holiday jazz arrangements — is free and open to the public. Donations, accepted at the door, help fund scholarships for students in the jazz studies program.

Sounds of the Season Concert

Schoolcraft College's music ensemble,

including the Choral Union, Synthesizer Ensemble and Wind Ensemble, will present a special holiday concert for the community at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, in the VisTaTech Center, main campus in Livonia.

This annual event — featuring a variety of spirited seasonal selections from a wide range of musical eras and a variety of genres — is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted at the door and help fund scholarships for students in the various Schoolcraft College music programs.

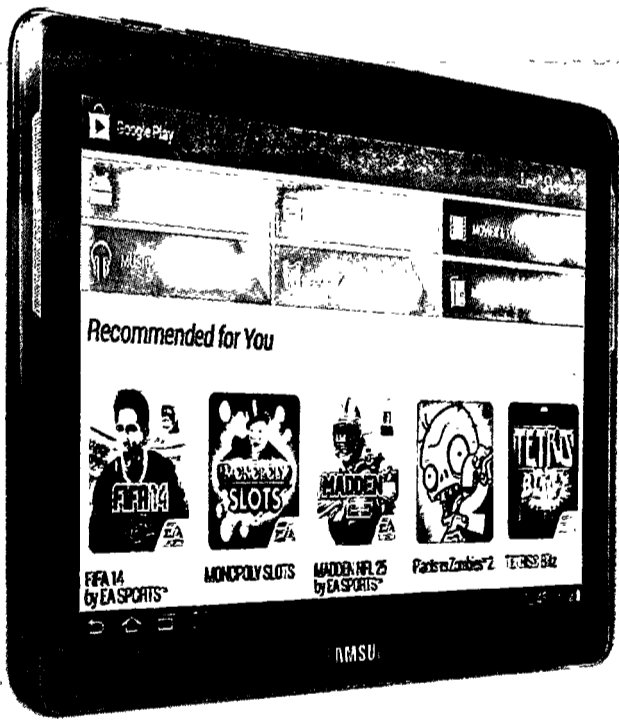
Schoolcraft College is a public, predominantly two-year college, offering classes at the college's main campus in Livonia, Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile; the Radcliff Center in Garden City; the Public Safety Training Complex in Livonia; and online at www.schoolcraft.edu.



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CAN ARTHRITIS GO AWAY?

If one asked a physician that question, the answer would be a qualified yes.

For example: Rheumatoid arthritis can go into remission. By the term "remission," doctors mean that all evidence of inflammation is gone, the patient is free of any indication that the arthritis is active. However, remission does not mean that the person is whole. The damage is irreversible. In patients with a past history of rheumatoid arthritis that means that changes in the hands such as deformities of the digits or loss of rotation of the shoulders is not reversible. Rheumatoid arthritis can leave, but the damage it has already done, remains.

If a person has osteoarthritis of the knees, then the arthritis will never go away. Do not believe what any television or newspaper ad says. Osteoarthritis represents a wearing down of cartilage, that can't be replaced any more than tread on a tire can come back after 50,000 miles of wear. And just like the tire, every step on an osteoarthritic knee wears the cartilage even more.

People with gout, who are under therapy, and who do not have an attack of gout for a year or 18 months, often feel that the gout has gone away. Not so. The patient has experienced no attack of gout because the medication, usually Allopurinol, has kept the serum uric acid low enough to prevent a flare. If the person stops the medicine, in the mistaken belief that the gout has gone away, that person is in for a painful remembrance. The attack will not occur immediately on stopping medication, but will come on eventually. Gout does not go away; if one takes medication properly, gout is contained.

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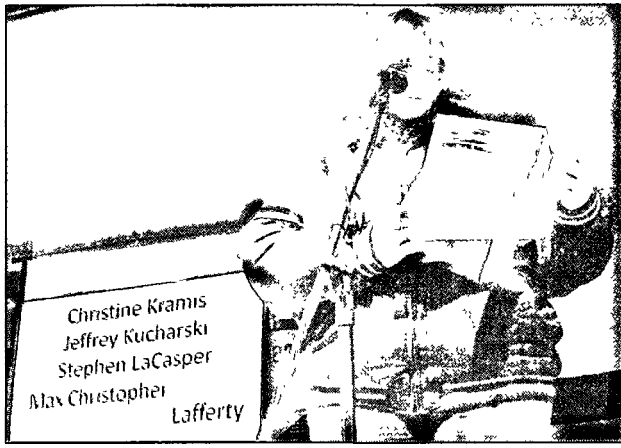
Candle ceremony honors those gone too soon

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

They came to mourn, to shed tears and to share laughs over those gone too soon.

The Compassionate Friends' Sunday evening candle-lighting service in Plymouth drew dozens of people to Kellogg Park, where, with poetry, song and a "circle of light" echoed around the world, they remembered relatives and friends who died before their time.

"There are several times a year I try to make it his day," said Kevin Moss, who lost son Wiley Moss, 22, in 2010. Wiley was happy, generous and "the best kid ever," said his father, who attended with a family friend.



During the vigil, Rhonda Temple reads the names of deceased children, including that of her daughter, Alyssa Temple. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I miss him every day," said Kathy Rambo of her son Jason, who died in 2001 at age 19.

Moss, of Novi, and Rambo, a Canton Township resident who read a

poem, *Candles in the Dark*, during the ceremony, were two of those who raised candles and braved bitter cold to honor their loved ones Sunday. It was The Com-



Vicki Johnson of Livonia is hugged by Philip Schreiber, boyfriend of her daughter, Michelle Lynn Johnson, who passed away Valentine's Day 2012. Michelle, who battled esophageal cancer, was in her early 30s. Michelle was described by her mother as loving, giving and very brave. "She wanted to live," her mother said. "I miss her terribly ... terribly." BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

passionate Friends' 17th annual worldwide candle-lighting, and also the 17th event in Plymouth.

'This helps me'

The event included the reading of three poems, recorded music — *Calling All Angels* by the pop group Train, *I Light This Candle* by Alan Pederson, and *To Where You Are* by Josh Groban — and the reading of nearly 400 names of the deceased, who were also remembered on ornaments that decorated TCF-sponsored Christmas trees in the park.

"You never get over the loss of a child. This helps me through the grieving process, to help others," said Rambo, a co-leader of the western Wayne County TCF chapter.

There were similar events Sunday, organizers said, at 7 p.m. local time in every time zone across the globe, adding up to a rotating 24-hour vigil.

Kevin Moss, attending his fourth Kellogg Park TCF ceremony, said it was an opportunity to remember his son and be



Jamie Fidler signs the song "Calling All Angels," by Train, during the ceremony. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

sad and happy at the same time. His ex-wife, Lisa Moss, had gotten him involved with The Compassionate Friends, he said, and is still involved herself.

Wiley was "crazy in a good way," "awesome" and "looked after everybody," he said.

Moss recalled that when Wiley was on his high school's homecoming court as a sophomore, an overweight girl had also been elected to the court as a prank, but that his son went out of his way to dance with her, make her feel comfortable and help her get the most out of the event. "I

got this," Wiley told his father at the time.

Wiley was the life of the party, Moss and his friend agreed. "He's got them laughing up there," Moss reflected.

Paying forward

Jason Rambo was "energetic" and "full of life," his mother said.

"In those 19 years, he just loved life," she said.

Gail Lafferty, an event organizer, agreed with Rambo that reaching out to others who are grieving helps them with their own mourning. Lafferty lost son Max, 18, the day after Christmas in 1995.

"The holidays are hard for us," Lafferty said. "People were there for me. ... This is kind of paying it forward."

The western Wayne County chapter of The Compassionate Friends meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia. The group's phone number is 734-778-0800 and its website is www.tcfilivonia.org.

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Filing an amended tax return after mistake

Q: Dear Rick: I just received notice from the individual who prepares my tax return that a mistake was made on my 2012 return. Deductions that I was not entitled to were used. The bottom line is I owe an additional \$4,000 in taxes. They have prepared an amended return for me, free of charge, and have informed me they will pay any interest that the IRS may assess. Since it was their mistake they should be responsible for the tax as well. Do you agree? What will happen if I don't file an amended return? Should I just



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

wait until I hear from the IRS?

A: I do not agree. If they had correctly prepared your return, you would have owed that additional tax liability. The fact that they made a mistake did not cause you any harm with regard to the tax liability. The harm comes in that the IRS will assess you interest and that is what they have offered to compensate you. I believe their response to

you was fair. You may wish to discuss what happens if you are assessed a penalty. It would seem to me they are liable for that as well.

As to whether you should file the amended return, it is a slam dunk — yes. It is our responsibility as taxpayers to file accurate returns. When a mistake is made, it is our obligation to correct it and that is why you file amended returns.

In addition, it makes sense to file an amended return because if you do not and if for some reason the IRS discovers the error, you could cause yourself more tax problems. Not only can they

assess you additional penalties, but it could also cause them to further scrutinize your 2012 return and potentially past returns.

I have no idea what the chances are of the IRS discovering the error. My general belief is that if you discover an error and it is material, such as in your particular case, then it absolutely makes sense to be proactive. I believe you are in much better shape in dealing with the IRS if you come forward and correct your error as opposed to them discovering it.

Therefore, I believe it is in your best interest to

file the amended return.

It is important to recognize that whether we use professional tax preparers ultimately you are responsible for your tax return. Make sure to hire someone taking continuing education on a year-by-year basis. Someone who hasn't updated their skills in a couple of years is out of date. In the last 10 years there have been more than 4,000 changes to tax laws. If you do the math, that's over one each day. Obviously, not all those changes to the tax code affect individuals, however, many do. In addition, throughout the year there are new rulings and interpreta-

tions of the tax code.

As 2013 winds down, it's wise to start your search now for a professional tax preparer. Talk to family and friends to see whom they have used or get a referral from another professional. Filing your tax returns is too important to just trust to anyone. Don't hire the cheapest tax preparer, hire a competent one.

Good luck.

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

Think fire safety first to ensure festive holiday season

'Tis the season to water your Christmas tree daily and use caution with candles and electric lights to keep this joyous time of year safe.

"A dry tree is extremely flammable and could rapidly become a towering inferno in your living room. You would have only seconds to escape a potentially deadly fire — don't risk the loss of family, friends or your home," State Fire Marshal Richard Miller said.

"Assess your electrical lights and cords for possible deficiencies. Shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches are also the most common causes of tree and house fires this time of year."

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, one of every three home

Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems and one in six are caused by a heat source too close to the tree. Statistics show that Christmas tree fires are much more likely to cause death than average home fires and the risk of fire is higher with natural trees than artificial ones.

If buying a "real" tree, Miller said to make sure it's as fresh as possible with needles that don't readily fall off. Make a fresh cut of 1-2-inch at the base of the trunk to allow it to absorb water. Place the tree in a non-tip style holder with wide feet. Use only holiday lights that have been approved by a testing agency, such as the Underwriters Laboratories, and have a UL-tested label on them. LED lights are cooler and use less

electricity than conventional lights.

Never use lighted candles on the tree. Keep lit candles away from decorations, presents, furniture, draperies or anything that can burn. Keep candles up high away from children and pets. Use battery operated, flameless candles. Never leave home or go to bed with lights on or candles lit.

Additional holiday fire safety tips:

» Make sure the tree is away from doorways, fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other heat sources that could cause it to dry out prematurely or catch fire.

» If you use an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled "flame-retardant." This indicates the tree will resist burning and should extinguish

quickly.
» Don't use any strings of lights that are

frayed or broken; throw out damaged sets.
» Use no more than

three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

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GEEK OF THE MONTH



CHEF TONY PAQUETTE

I geek baking. How does the library help you engage your geek? As a culinary instructor at William D. Ford Career Technical Center in the Wayne-Westland Schools, I am geeked about baking! The library offers me the opportunity to find books and resources that keep me up to date with the latest and greatest information out there. I can find recipes and books about baking for myself and for my students in order to bring learning to life!

Donating blood with the Red Cross

The American Red Cross blood program started in 1940 and supplies about 40 percent of the U.S. blood supply. One blood donation can help save the lives of up to three people. The majority of donated blood goes to people receiving treatment for cancer, as well as people who have suffered traumatic accidents, burns or those undergoing surgery. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Blood transfusions save the lives of 4.5 million Americans per year.

The American Red Cross estimates that 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood. In order to donate blood, a person must be healthy, at least 17 years old (or 16 with parental consent), and weigh at least 110 pounds. Other factors, such as travel to certain countries, history of intravenous drug use, or diagnosis of certain diseases, may make a person



ineligible to donate. On Monday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at the library. All interested donors may sign up at the American Red Cross website or by phone. To register, navigate to redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: wplccp or call 800-RED-CROSS. Anyone over 17 (or 16 with a permission slip) can register to donate blood. Please note that blood drive will be taking place at the Red Cross bus located in the library parking lot.

The library carries a variety of materials related to the biology of blood and the history of medical relief organizations like the Red Cross. For adults, check out *Blood and Guts: A History of Surgery* by Richard Hollingham or *Cham-*

pions of Charity: War and the Rise of the Red Cross by John F. Hutchinson. For kids, check out *Blood: Physiology and Circulation* edited by Kara Rogers, *Clara Barton: Founder of the American Red Cross* by Dorothy Francis, or the DVD video *All About Blood and the Heart*.

If you'd like to learn more about the Red Cross and blood donations, visit the library's website - www.westlandlibrary.org - give us a call at 734-326-6123, or stop by the Reference Desk.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Highlighted Activities

Teen - **Minecraft Club**, 6-8 p.m. Dec. 16, ages 12-18: Play Minecraft on the Westland Teen's multiplayer server or try a cool Minecraft craft. You

don't need your own login to play. We'll get you started.

Read with Buddy, the Therapy Dog, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 16, ages 4-12: Do you love to read books? Want to practice your reading? Would you like to read a book to a new buddy? Stop by the Youth Department on and read to Buddy, a certified therapy dog. Buddy will not care if you mess up, but he might be sad if you forget to pet him. This is a drop-in program; no registration required.

Writers Club, 7 p.m. Dec. 16: Have you written stories or poems that you would like others to hear, but not critique, in a casual atmosphere? Looking to get back into writing but could some support and/or exercises? Join Cheryl Vatcher-Martin as she leads the Westland Library Writers Club. Refreshments provided.

Noontime Book Club, noon

See LIBRARY, Page A9



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LIBRARY

Continued from Page A8

Dec. 17: In Sunset Park, author Paul Auster explores how the financial meltdown of 2008 affects a group of young people. Miles Heller has been living and working in Florida when he loses his job and returns to his hometown of Brooklyn. Miles decides to squat with a motley group of artists and outcasts in an abandoned Sunset Park building. As he gets to know this ragtag band of troubled individuals, Miles contemplates his life, his choices and his damaged relationship with his father. Limited number of copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

Teen - Holiday Craft: Fleece Pillows, 6 p.m. Dec. 17, fifth-eighth graders: It's time to cuddle up with something soft and warm. How

about a fleece pillow that you make yourself? No sewing necessary. Choose from a selection of patterns and make a gift for someone special. **Registration required.**
My Money and Me, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 17: This final program in a four-part series developed by Mark B. Robinson CI-MA@AIFA@ in association with Michigan State University Extension. Tonight's program is "Manage Your Future Now." Participants will examine the definition of "risk" and "safe" and how our various interpretations of them may affect our future. The session concludes with instruction on the importance of being informed, aware and adaptive.
Academic Enrichment, 3:30-5 p.m. Dec. 18, Grades 5 and up: Bring your assignments for free homework help and study help. No advanced registration needed, however, parents must

sign a waiver upon arrival in order for student to participate.
Father Christmas, 7 p.m. Dec. 18, ages 7-11: Learn about the original spirit of Christmas from the character named Father Christmas. He will teach us about the first St. Nicholas and how he cared for the needy by providing them with food and shelter. We will also look at how different countries celebrate Christmas. Presented by the Magic Theatrics Co. Parents desiring photos of their child with Father Christmas can bring a camera for photos after the program. Snacks, refreshments, and a craft provided afterward, as well. Help celebrate the spirit of Christmas by donating a canned or dry good which will be given to Gleaners Community Food Bank; donation not required to attend.
Adult Book Discussion Group, 7 p.m. Dec. 18: David Ebershoff's

19th Wife blends two stories from different centuries to examine the pitfalls of religious extremism. He begins in the 1870s with Ann Eliza Young, the real 19th wife of Brigham Young, a founder of the early Mormon faith. Ebershoff then takes us to the modern day life of fictional character, Jordan Scott, the 20-year-old son of another 19th wife. Multiple perspectives of faith are navigated with insight and sensitivity as history and a mystery simultaneously unfold. Limited number of copies will be available at the Reference Desk.
eReader and Tablet Support Group, 2-4 p.m. Dec. 19: Do you have an eReader or Tablet? Want to learn more about it? Stop in to meet with other users, share your expertise, or learn some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your device. An eReader/Tablet expert will be on hand

to answer the difficult questions.
Teens - DIY Holiday Gifts, 6-8 p.m. Dec. 19, ages 12-18: Make some book-themed holiday crafts to give as gifts (or keep for yourself). Not crafty? We'll have some super easy options that still look impressive. No registration.
Dinner and a Movie, 6 p.m. Dec. 20: Tonight's movie, *The World's Ends*, is about "five friends who reunite in an attempt to top their epic pub crawl from 20 years earlier unwittingly become humankind's only hope for survival" (imdb.com). This month's restaurant is Beaver Creek Tackle & Beer. They'll be supplying a fish and chips dinner (we'll have the soft drinks and dessert) for \$10. Purchase your dinner tickets at the Circulation Desk by Thursday, Dec. 19. You don't have to attend the dinner to see this movie. Doors for

non-dinner attendees will be 6:45 p.m.
Kindergarten Book Club, 1 p.m. Dec. 21: Join us as we read Laura Murray's book *The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School*, talk about what we have read, and do a lot of other fun, book-related activities. This program does include a snack so please indicate any food allergies your child may have. Register for this program either online, at the Youth Services Desk or by calling 734-326-6123.
 Computer Classes are offered all year long. The library also offers one-on-one computer classes. Call 734-326-6123 for more information.

Information Central was compiled by Katie Dover-Taylor. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or visit westlandlibrary.org.

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Office space donated to Forgotten Harvest



This is where Forgotten Harvest gets the job of feeding the hungry done. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



John Owens, communications director at Forgotten Harvest, settles into his new office on the ninth floor in the Charter One Building. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The development and finance committee gather in the Superior room of the new Forgotten Harvest offices. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

"Tis the season to remember that gifts come in all forms. Forgotten Harvest, our region's only food rescue organization, received an early holiday gift last month in the form of 8,000 square feet of fully furnished office space.

The gift-giver was Grant Thornton LLP, an audit, tax and advisory firm with offices in the Southfield American Center building on Franklin Road. Grant Thornton consolidated its offices and wound up with an entire floor of unused space, so the company subleased half of it and gave the other half to Forgotten Harvest for use through November 2017.

The nonprofit company runs lean, with 80 employees responsible for collecting 875,000 pounds of unused food each week from manufacturers, grocery stores, restaurants and other sources, and distributing it to emergency food agencies throughout Metro Detroit. Nevertheless, Forgotten Harvest's staff had far outgrown the available space in its Oak Park warehouse and distribution center.

"We were bursting at the seams," said Forgotten Harvest President and CEO Susan Goodell, a resident of Birmingham. "There were so many people crammed into a small space. We



Staff members of Forgotten Harvest move into their new home in the Charter One Building in Southfield. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

couldn't even think. There were often literally several meetings going on at once in the same room.

"We have individual work spaces now. Having this space is really allowing us to work more efficiently."

What's more, Goodell says, it's a luxury for a nonprofit to have such nice offices. "It's absolutely beautiful," she said. "There's even artwork on the walls."

Generous donation

Since the offices are so beautiful, and since Forgotten Harvest is so committed to efficiency - 96 cents of every dollar donated to the organization goes directly toward food rescue - Goodell felt the need to let visitors know where the office space came from. The Forgotten Harvest sign includes an "offices generously donated by Grant Thornton" note.

Goodell said she met a former Grant Thornton

partner a few years ago, and since then the organization has provided continued support in the form of volunteers.

"Grant Thornton really wrapped their arms around us," she said.

Jim Trouba a partner at Grant Thornton and Forgotten Harvest board member, said his organization chose to get involved with Forgotten Harvest through its GT Cares program. "We were impressed by not only the mission of Forgotten Harvest, but with the commitment of its people and the significant number of people in our community that they help."

The donation, Trouba said, just made sense, especially in light of Forgotten Harvest's mission to reduce waste.

The Southfield office frees up a good deal of space in the Oak Park warehouse, which provides food storage, houses the organization's fleet of 35 refrigerated

trucks and provides work space for logistics staff.

From the warehouse, Goodell explained, local trucks depart with some of the food on hand in storage such as repackaged items that were cast-offs from manufacturers and donated nonperishable goods.

The truck then picks up donated food from 10 to 12 businesses and then drops off food at three different emergency food providers.

Other trucks go outside the Metro Detroit area, as far as Ohio, to retrieve donated food and bring it back to the warehouse.

Forgotten Harvest has 455 partner businesses that regularly donate food.

The Oak Park facility is also where Forgotten Harvest prepares some of the produce it grows on its 92-acre farm in Deerfield Township, which then goes to the Inkster processing center for canning.

The processing center is a recent development made possible through a partnership with Ferndale-based Garden Fresh Gourmet, which owns the Inkster facility.

The arrangement enables Forgotten Harvest to supplement its inventory during winter - one of the two times of year when the food supply is depleted because less fresh food is available.

The other time of year that's challenging for Forgotten Harvest is summer, Goodell said.

More than 250,000 children in our region qualify for free or reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches at school because of low family income, but in the summertime, that resource isn't available.

In response to that need, Forgotten Harvest developed a summer feeding program that provides sack lunches to 3,000 children each day.

To donate, volunteer or learn more about Forgotten Harvest, visit www.forgottenharvest.org and join the fight against hunger in Metro Detroit.

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Executive's harvest: success

'Humble' Goodell helps breed success for food rescue

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent



Susan Goodell is leading the way to help feed the needy as CEO of Forgotten Harvest. MANDI WRIGHT | GANNETT MICHIGAN

The leader of Metro Detroit's only food rescue organization is poised, accomplished and well-respected. Her name graces multiple awards. She holds a Johns Hopkins University diploma. She has better than 25 years of nonprofit management experience and can claim many firsts and milestones in food rescue. But the word that best describes Susan Goodell, president and chief executive officer of Forgotten Harvest, is "humble."

Goodell, 50, a Birmingham resident, had humble beginnings. She grew up on a sheep farm in Maine, and to this day loves to work with the fibers her family farm produced. "I like to weave," she said. "That's

my quiet time to reflect and think about what's next."

Goodell's work life is anything but quiet. At the helm of Forgotten Harvest, she's responsible for "rescuing" more than 45 million pounds of food annually from restaurants, grocery stores, caterers and food manufacturers, and getting it to 280 emergency food providers throughout Metro Detroit. And not that she would take credit for it, but that's up from 23 million pounds of rescued food two years ago and less than a

million pounds before she joined Forgotten Harvest in 2001.

Since moving to Michigan in 1994, Goodell has worked with many nonprofit organizations, but Forgotten Harvest, now occupying newly donated office space in Southfield, has provided the most hands-on work, she said. Not only does the charity provide a very basic human need — food — but it's also an extremely lean organization, with 80 employees working to combat hunger throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and 96 cents on the dollar used solely for food rescue and distribution.

"Every day is different," Goodell said. "The tasks that need to be done are so different." On any given day, she could be drumming up publicity for Forgotten Harvest, discussing government policy in her seat on the Michigan Food Policy Council, meeting with food providers or working with

staff on logistics and fundraising.

"I love being engaged in every aspect of what we do," she said. "I absolutely love this work. Every day is like your birthday."

Figuring out why and where there's food waste and putting that food to good use fascinates Goodell. She noted that, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, about a quarter of all food produced in this country goes to waste.

Manufacturers cast off imperfectly formed sausages and discolored or broken beans. Bakeries discard day-old bread.

Restaurants toss surplus meals.

"We provide that critical link between where there's too much and where there's not enough," Goodell said.

Helping people

What really makes Goodell tick, however, is seeing the end result of Forgotten Harvest's

efforts. "I am personally motivated by the people we serve," she said.

"Certainly for all of us there comes a time when you're at your desk thinking about the mountain of work that needs to be done and wondering 'Why am I doing this?' When that happens to me, I go out and see the people whose lives we make better."

Goodell paints a picture of what she sees at the food agencies, which receive 875,000 pounds of rescued food weekly from Forgotten Harvest.

People are lined up outside the building, pushing wheelchairs, garbage cans on wheels, strollers, wagons and anything else they might use to transport food. They've likely walked a mile or more to get there. They tell stories about how they found themselves in this situation. Many times a health issue triggered the strain on finances or loss of a job — something that could happen to any one

of us.

"It's shocking to realize how vulnerable we all are," Goodell said. "It's just so compelling. You know this work is so important."

While seeing the fruits of her labor inspires and energizes her, Goodell is far from complacent.

Even at 150,000 pounds of food per day making its way to people in need, courtesy of Forgotten Harvest's 35 refrigerated trucks and 65 mobile pantries, and a projected 5 percent increase in that number over the next five years, there's still a food shortage in Metro Detroit.

"There's significantly more need than we can fill," Goodell said. "Seven hundred twenty thousand people in our region are living in poverty."

To donate, volunteer or learn more about Forgotten Harvest, visit www.forgottenharvest.org and join the fight against hunger in Metro Detroit.

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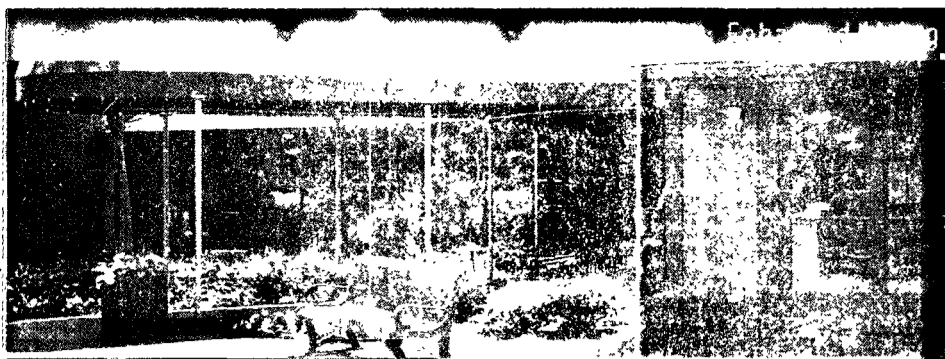
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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

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For more information, contact Barb Carreon-Haworth at 734-644-2402.

Learn to Ice Skate at Garden City Ice Arena, which is taking sign-ups for classes scheduled to start on Jan. 9 and Jan. 11.

All classes are held on Thursday's or Saturday's, and run for 8 weeks. Cost is \$80.00.

Email the Figure Skating Club at gardencity.fsc@gmail.com.

To register, visit the rink's Main Office Monday-Friday from noon to 6 p.m.

For more information, call 734-793-1882.

Christmas Break

The Garden City Civic Arena has plenty of activities planned for the Christmas Break.

» There will be public skating sessions from 2-3:30 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Sunday and 3:30-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec 21, through Sunday, Jan. 5, and Glow Skate 7-9 p.m. Saturdays. The cost is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Glow Skate costs an additional \$1. Skate rental is \$2.

» There also will be Christmas Break Sticks and Pucks Sessions from 3:30-5 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Sunday and 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20-Jan. 5. The cost is \$8 per person, goalies are free.

The arena is in Garden City Park at Cherry Hill and Merriman. The rink will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

No Coffee Hours

Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc and State Rep. David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights, will not hold their normally scheduled Coffee Hour event in December. Coffee Hours will resume again in January.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will not host his monthly coffee hours in of December. Coffee hours will resume in January.

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

Community Chat

Join Kerry Partin and his co-hosts every Thursday at 9 p.m. for the Internet talk show dedicated to residents and businesses of Garden City and the surrounding

communities. Share your events, fundraisers and comments with other listeners.

Call-in live at 724-444-7444 enter call ID 82757#, visit the chat room at <http://talkshoe.com/tc/82757>, or email gccommunitychat@gmail.com.

Zumba class

Zumba fitness is back at Merriman Road Baptist Church, on Merriman just south of Ford, Garden City. The class is for women age 18 and older. Class time is 8-9 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 24. Registration begins at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Girlfriends of Grace Ministry at Merriman Road Baptist Church, the class will be held on Thursdays at the church. Donations will be taken at the door to cover the cost of the instructor.

For more information, call 734-421-0472.

Fibromyalgia Group

The Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome support group meets from 1-3 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, south of Ford Road, Garden City.

There are no dues, donations accepted for expenses.

For more information, call Ruthann at 734-981-2519 or visit MetroFibropGroup.com.

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You may also access this information at Garden City City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Garden City Police station lobby 24 hours a day.

Published: July 21, August 18, September 16, October 13, November 17 & December 15, 2013

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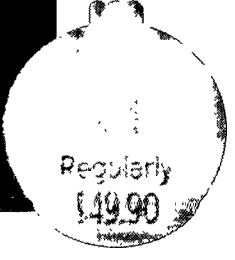
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Woman guilty of larceny from dementia patient

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Westland woman has pleaded guilty to one of two counts of larceny in a building following allegations she stole jewelry from dementia patients while working as a health care employee at Crystal Creek, a Canton assisted living center. Gail Lynn Good, 45, could face penalties ranging from probation to four years in prison when she is sentenced Jan. 14 by Wayne County Circuit Judge James Chylinski. Authorities agreed to drop a second charge of larceny in a building after Good agreed to

plead guilty to one count, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.

Good was charged after Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said police investigated allegations in late September and early October that gold necklaces, one with a diamond, had been stolen from elderly women who have dementia.

The case unfolded while Good was working at Crystal Creek, on Lilley north of Warren. She has been released from

custody while she awaits her sentencing.

Baugh has said relatives of the victims notified the assisted living center's administration, which then contacted police.

Baugh said the necklaces had been taken to jewelry shops in Westland, where one was recovered but the other already had been melted down.

Baugh had described the jewelry shops and Crystal Creek as cooperative while Canton police investigated Good, who was arrested on the job in October.

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Westland man faces trial in sexual assault

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Westland man has been ordered to stand trial on charges that he sexually assaulted a 9-year-old neighbor girl at a local apartment complex.

Zachary Jankowski, 17, was arraigned Thursday in Wayne County Circuit Court on multiple felonies stemming from an incident Sept. 1 at the River Bend Apartments.

The preliminary examination in Westland 18th District Court was held after Jankowski was found mentally competent to stand trial.

Jankowski faces six felony charges, including two counts of first-de-

gree criminal sexual conduct, one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment and assault. A not guilty plea was entered for Jankowski, who is being held in lieu of \$100,000 cash/surety bond.

Police reported that the girl and Jankowski were acquainted as neighbors at the apartment complex at Merri-man and Warren Road.

The girl was lured or grabbed and taken into a nearby changing room where she was raped and also choked, police said. The girl then reported the incident to her mother and police were contacted.

Jankowski was arrested the same evening. He was still 16 at that time and was initially taken into custody as a juvenile. He turned 17 on Sept. 24.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office obtained a court order that moved the charges against Jankowski from the Family Division Court to the Wayne County Circuit Court Criminal Division where he is charged as an adult.

A jury trial has been scheduled for March 3 before Judge Vera Massey Jones.

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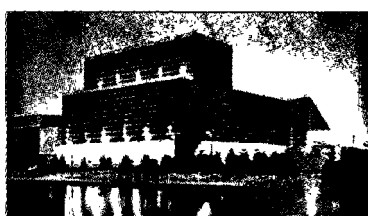
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Mall walkers boost holiday fitness, friendships

By Julie Brown
 Staff Writer

Mall walking is a great way to keep holiday calories at bay and keep seasonal stresses to a minimum at the same time.

"We have a very enthusiastic group here," said Dan Jones, general manager of Twelve Oaks in Novi. "A big part of mall walking is the social aspect."

Twelve Oaks opens to mall walkers two hours before regular opening. Jones is more of a visit-the-gym-before-work guy, but also appreciates fitness opportunities at work.

"I certainly get a few laps in," he said. "It's great just to go and take a few laps and stretch my legs a bit."

Twelve Oaks opens at 8 a.m. Monday-Saturday for walkers, 9 a.m. Sunday, with walkers asked to use only the lower level before 9 a.m. First-timers should register at the Customer Service Desk in the Center Court after 10 a.m.

At Westland Shopping Center, Garden City Hospital is the official partner for Westland Walkers. Westland's doors open 7 a.m. by Olga's (Arcade 2), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday. Mall walkers at Westland are using the mall entrance south of Arcade 2 (Olga's) during construction.

Laurel Park Place in Livonia also offers mall walking, beginning 8 a.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday.

'Camaraderie'

Jack Morrison of Plymouth Township has been a mall walker for about 20 years at Laurel Park Place. "For the camaraderie and the very small exercise I get," the retired brick



A trio of walkers hits the upper level of Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall. The three — Tom Grabowski, Dave Axelrad and Dave Butler — were among a few dozen walkers at the mall by 8 a.m. on that sub-zero morning. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

salesman said.

Morrison also likes the people he's met walking. "Everybody is lovely. It's the people we've lost," he said of those who've passed away. "We've met so many lovely people and now they're gone."

Friend Mel Karfis of Livonia, a retired ironworker, has also walked at Laurel Park some 20 years. "For the exercise and the camaraderie," Karfis said of mall walking. He has both family and friends who walk at Laurel Park.

"I've learned a lot of things. Our group is very well-informed," Karfis said. "It's like one big family in a way."

Walker Jim White of Livonia, who's exercised about 15 years at Laurel Park, said of Morrison, "he's the patriarch of this mall."

White, a retired banker, said, "I've got to keep my health up" of walking, which he does with wife Mary Ann and his friends. "It's like we're having our own town meeting here," White said. "You don't dare miss." Absences of regulars are quickly noted.

Over at Westland

Shopping Center that same Thursday morning, friends Linda Young and Carmen Vella were walking. The Livonia residents are regulars at the Westland mall.

"I stopped smoking four years ago, gained some weight and wanted to lose it," said Young, a retired Walgreens supervisor. "And good for the heart. That's what the doctor says."

The women walk outdoors in warmer weather, aiming for three miles daily. Vella is a home-maker.

Young's been walking there since her retirement four years ago. "I was very active at work," she said. She wanted to keep that up.

"Nice mall, clean, safe," Young said of Westland. "I enjoy it. It gives you a good chance to look at the specials."

At Westland, Charles Monroe of Garden City was also doing fitness walking that morning. The Ford Motor Co. retiree has done mall walking eight-nine years, beginning at Wonderland in Livonia.

See WALKERS, Page A15

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Party fun doesn't have to mean weight gain

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Linda Main, a registered dietitian, has some common sense advice for holiday revelers headed out to parties.

When facing the buffet, it's best to first have eaten some complex carbohydrates and protein at home, said Main, director of food and nutrition services at Garden City Hospital.

"A lot of times, people arrive hungry and it's hard to resist the items in front of you," said Main, a Canton resident who's been at GCH 27 years. She suggested such items as a yogurt, half a peanut butter sandwich or half a turkey sandwich before heading out to the party.

Once at the party, you should look over food selections, the dietitian said. "Decide which options are most important

to you. Don't feel you have to eliminate your favorites," said Main, noting portion size is key.

"Alcohol tends to lower our inhibitions" and can lead to overeating.

"Try to limit consumption of alcohol," she said. She agreed alcohol provides only "empty calories," and that women should have no more than one drink a day, men two.

Hosts can help with healthy food options. These include veggies with a low-fat dip, a fruit tray, bottled water and diet pop, she said. Smaller plates also reduce the tendency to overeat.

Caroling, game playing or decorating can also help, "something that draws the focus away from eating."

Main recommends people not try to lose weight during the holidays but stay at the same weight and, if needed,

focus on weight loss after the holidays.

In winter, you can continue with exercise, she said, even if it's just a 15-minute daily walk. Yoga and exercise classes help and are good for stress, and there's mall walking (GCH partners with Westland Shopping Center for Westland Walkers) or exercise DVDs to use at home.

Main's hospital has a nutrition clinic available at 734-458-4330. She noted they get more weight management referrals in early January.

Main added not to berate yourself needlessly if you overeat once during the holiday season. "Realize it was just one incident and put it behind you and move on," she said.

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WALKERS

Continued from Page A14

"To stay healthy, stay active," said Monroe, who walks at Westland three-five days weekly. "Sometimes you have things to do."

Monroe agreed the other walkers are friendly. "Oh, yeah, I'm a people person," he said. "They're nice."

Exercise, fun

Florence Marini of Novi was walking the upper level of Twelve Oaks on a recent Monday morning.

"I've been walking here just three years," she said. "My husband's been walking here eight years. He likes the longer route (on the lower level) and I began basically to keep him company."

Some mall walkers track their distance, but she doesn't.

"I worked for 40 years; I don't want any regimen," the retired Kroger cashier said. She likes her fellow Twelve Oaks walkers: "Everybody's friendly."

The security staff is also friendly and helpful. "I feel comfortable, secure," Marini said. "It's all controlled, the weather and everything. It's free, although I do patronize it. For my husband, it's like going to work. He needs that 'get up in the morning.'"

They socialize at the Novi mall near I-96 on weekends. Marini has her mom, 92, at home who needs help.

"Starbucks is our bar," she said with a smile.

Downstairs at Twelve Oaks was Janet Trusty of Wixom, who's walked

there three-four years. She works in the office of a family-owned business.

"We do the exercise class in front of Macy's," Trusty said of that Monday-Wednesday morning class. "Then we're out of here."

Liz Smith of Commerce Township, a retired warehouse staffer, walks and takes the class for "exercise. And it's nice and warm in here in the wintertime."

The women sometimes walk outdoors at Twelve Oaks in warm weather. "A lot of nice people," Smith added.

Walker Janice Cavins of Wixom is Trusty's twin sister, and retired in May from the city of Wixom. She was in California five months with her daughter, and just started Twelve Oaks exercise.

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Julie Yolles

SOCIAL SCENE

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Local artists

Speaking of art, The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center annual Shop & Champagne preview night was a fun evening of mingling, strolling delicacies, bountiful bubbly and, of course, shopping for one-of-a-kind art including colorful fiber scarves and hats, pottery, jewelry, sculptures, paintings, ornaments and stocking stuffers of handmade soaps. The items, including works by Westland artist Mary Kernahan and Louise Malinowski, a Redford resident, will be Center's Gallery Shop through Dec. 21.

Local sponsor

It was a sweet ending to 2013 for the Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The 29th annual Chocolate Jubilee, held at the MGM Grand Hotel, was attended by more than 750 patrons. The event,



Susan Lampinen of Pleasant Ridge and Jim Vella of Canton enjoy the DIA Night of Illusion Gala.



Attending the Alzheimer's Association's Chocolate Jubilee, from were Taylor residents Eileen Vernor (left) and Geoffrey Drutchas and Scott Colburn Boots & Western Wear owners Marge Colburn of Farmington Hills and Sarah Colburn of Ferndale.



Plymouth residents Steve and Sandy Zanella are among the 800 DIA supporters who attended Night of Illusion Gala. PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

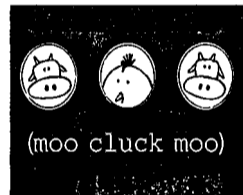
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Master Gardeners

Bob Bransky, amateur photographer, will talk about basic photographic techniques, lighting and hints for taking photographs, at the general membership meeting of the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County, Jan. 2, 2014, at the MSU Extension, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. For more information, visit mgwcc.org.

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50 Shades of Green exhibit runs through Jan. 5 2014, at 1800 N.I. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, and includes flower displays, ideas for holiday tree decorating, art inspired by the color green and holiday items for sale in the garden store. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily; open until 8 p.m. Wednesday. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve. 734-647-7600



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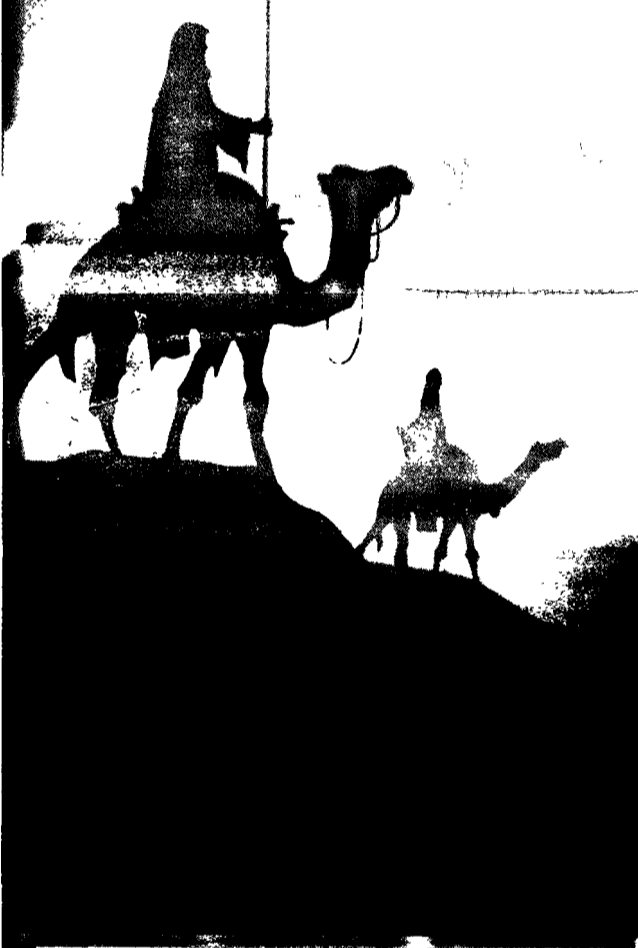
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5:00 p.m. - Family Service

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10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service
Featuring Adult Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir
Rev. Steve Clark, Pastor - Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Pastor

**Rosedale
Gardens
Presbyterian
Church, USA** 734-422-0494

9601 Hubbard
at West Chicago
Livonia, MI 48150

www.rosedalegardens.org Wheelchair Accessible

Christmas at the Kirk

December 22
4:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols
7:00 PM Service of Comfort and Hope

December 24 - Christmas Eve

11:00 AM Young Family Service
Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon


4:00 PM Family Service
Rev. William Adams III

6:00 PM Family Service
Rev. Carol Tate

8:30 PM Holy Night Service
Dr. Norman Pritchard

11:00 PM Holy Night Service
Dr. Norman Pritchard

Kirk in the Hills
1340 West Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302
(248) 626-2515 kirkinthehills.org



**Covenant
Community Church**

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Redford, MI 48239
313-535-3100
(1 block north of
Five Mile on Beech Daly)
www.covenantredford.com

Christmas Service Schedule

Sunday, December 22, 2013 - 11 a.m.
Morning Worship
Tuesday, December 24, 2013 - 6 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service

CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

470 Church Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI
248.644.5210
www.christchurchcranbrook.org

"O" Antiphons (Lessons and Carols) — Sunday, December 15 at 10 AM
Traditional Anglican Holy Eucharist service of Scripture and Christmas carols led
by the Christ Church Cranbrook Choir. No sermon.

Blue Christmas — Sunday, December 15 at 4 PM
A service dedicated to all who are challenged by this year's holiday season;
such as the grieving, the unemployed, and those feeling alone.

Christmas Eve — December 24
Holy Eucharist at 5 PM
(suggested for families with small children and youth);
Festive Holy Eucharist at 8 and 11 PM
with full choir and musicians.

Christmas Day — Wednesday, December 25 at 10 AM
Holy Eucharist service with cantor and sermon.
Christmas Brunch — Christmas Day at 11 AM
Offering music, appetizers, conversation, and a traditional
Christmas day feast with turkey, ham, and all the trimmings.

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Tuesday, December 24th
4:30 PM, 8:00 PM, & 10:00 PM.

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with Communion
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734-421-0749

The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor
www.celebrationLC.com



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia
734.464.0211 www.holytrinitylivonia.org

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion offered at all Services
5:00 pm Family Worship
7:00 pm Candlelight Worship
10:30 pm Festival Prelude of Christmas Music
11:00 pm Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day
11:00 am Holy Communion

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There's a place for you here.*



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MPG²**

\$169
PER MONTH
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current A/Z plan
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at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title
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EPA-estimated rating of
**22 city /
34 highway
MPG²**

\$199
PER MONTH
LEASE

FOR EVERYONE!
For 24 months
\$2,538 Cash Due
at Signing

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and license fees extra.

- This Vehicle Features:**
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 - SYNC® with MyFord® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System³
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EPA-estimated rating of
**23 city /
32 highway
MPG²**

\$199
PER MONTH
LEASE

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current A/Z plan
lessees!
\$1,012 Cash Due
at Signing

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and license fees extra.

- This Vehicle Features:**
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EPA-estimated rating of
**19 city /
27 highway
MPG²**

\$209
PER MONTH
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lessees!
\$1,329 Cash Due
at Signing

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 - AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
 - SecuriCode™ Keyless Entry Keypad
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio
 - Voice-Activated SYNC®³

2014 FLEX SEL FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**18 city /
25 highway
MPG²**

\$259
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for
current A/Z plan
lessees!
\$1,506 Cash Due
at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title
and license fees extra.

- This Vehicle Features:**
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 - 6-Speed SelectShift® Automatic Transmission with shifter button activation
 - AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control®
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio
 - Power Liftgate • Rear View Camera
 - SYNC® with MyFord Touch®³

2014 TAURUS SEL FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**19 city /
29 highway
MPG²**

\$259
PER MONTH
LEASE

For 24 months for
current A/Z plan
lessees!
\$1,604 Cash Due
at Signing

Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title
and license fees extra.

- This Vehicle Features:**
- 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 Engine
 - AdvanceTrac® with Electronic Stability Control
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2014 EXPLORER XLT FWD



EPA-estimated rating of
**17 city /
24 highway
MPG²**

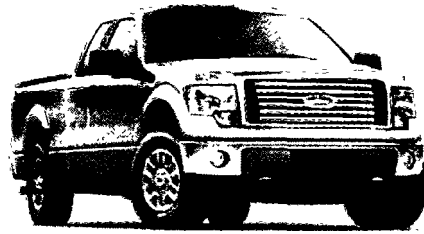
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PER MONTH
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For 24 months for
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EPA-estimated rating of
**14 city /
19 highway
MPG²**

\$279
PER MONTH
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current A/Z plan
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at Signing

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and license fees extra.

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JOBS

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By Beth Braccio Hering
Special to CareerBuilder

Worried that age might be a strike against you when applying for a job? Present yourself the right way and experts agree that you can turn that potential negative into one of your selling points.

"The key for older job seekers is to embrace rather than hide from what they have to offer future employers," says Tamryn Hennessy, national director of career development for Rasmussen College. "A lifetime of a variety of employments, household and family obligations and volunteer accomplishments can be assembled into a résumé and interview that a younger job seeker simply cannot offer."

So get set to put your experience to good use by doing these three things:

1. Concentrate on the job

If you spend your time demonstrating how you are the right candidate for the position, age need not even enter into the equation. "Never be defensive about your age or even focus on it at all," states Martha Finney, a Santa Fe-based employee engagement and career management consultant and co-author of "Unlock the Hidden Job Market." "Focus on who you are and how what you bring to the table would meet the company's strategic objectives."

Hennessy suggests highlighting your suitability right from the start by looking at the key action words from the job description (such as "analyze," "design," "inspect," etc.) and matching them to your history. "Focus on your past experiences including non-industry, volunteer and family obligations where you have demonstrated accomplishments under these action word categories. Use the exact same action word and apply it to your experience, always being sure to offer quantifiable results."

Proving your age is an asset in a job search



2. Have confidence in your past

Lavie Margolin, author of "Lion Cub Job Search: Practical Job Search Assistance for Practical Job Seekers," advises mature job seekers to get in the mindset that age is a strength. "As opposed to a recent college graduate filled only with potential, the mature worker can demonstrate a track record of accomplishment throughout his career."

Let your years of real-life experience shine by presenting evidence of qualities employers value.

- These may include:
- The ability to meet deadlines
 - Loyalty to a company, industry or cause
 - Flexibility and adaptability
 - Problem-solving skills
 - A strong work ethic
 - Leadership
 - Teamwork

To generate ideas, look at past performance reviews. Not only will this help provide concrete examples, but select words of praise can be incorporated into your application or interview to add credibility (as in, "My direct supervisor at company X noted in my evaluation that my thorough research on our three main competitors was instrumental to selecting the launch date of our newest product.").

3. Have equal confidence in your future

If worries over new methods or technologies are putting a dent in your confidence, take a class or two to get up to speed. Since one of the greatest fears about hiring older workers is that they are too set in their ways and unwilling to learn new things, this action also can show employers your enthusiasm for continual growth.

By law, age should not be a

consideration for employment, yet many job seekers receive subtle (and not so subtle) clues that it may be an issue. If concerns about age do come up, try to tactfully redirect the conversation back to your abilities. Another tactic is to show that you are comfortable and happy with where you are. "Stress the great stage of life you are entering, one with fewer family distractions that will allow you to be the most reliable and dedicated employee possible," Hennessy suggests. Also worth pointing out: "Younger workers may have less understanding of what they want to do exactly in their career," Margolin notes. "An older worker has a better understanding of his interests and how they fit best into the market."

Watch, too, that you aren't blaming age when there is actually a different problem. "Don't assume you're increasing your

chances of landing a job by applying for jobs that are beneath your experience level," Finney notes. "Overqualified for the position" isn't always code for "too old." Hiring managers wisely want candidates who are appropriate for the job level, so if you're experiencing a long string of application rejections, don't lower your sights, raise them. Only go after jobs that appropriate for your skill sets and experiences."

Finally, remember that employers want to hire likeable people who fit into company culture and can do their job. Treating interviewers as friendly equals and relating to them with relaxed confidence never goes out of style.

Beth Braccio Hering researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder.com. Follow @ CareerBuilder on Twitter.

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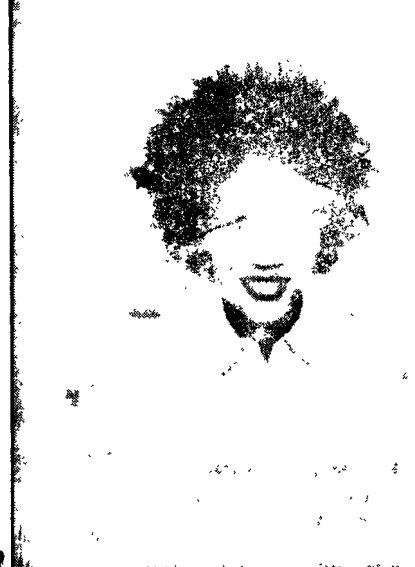
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| Gold Star Mortgage | 3446 | (888) 293-3477 | 4.375 | 0 | 3.375 | 0 |
| Gold Star Mortgage | 3446 | (888) 293-3477 | 4.25 | 1.125 | 3.25 | 0.5 |
| Group One Mortgage | 107716 | (248) 282-1602 | 4.625 | 0 | 3.5 | 0 |

Above information available as of 12/6/13 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

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| Observer & Eccentric, Thursday, Dec. 26th | Monday, Dec. 23rd, 3:30pm |
| (Wayne County Publications) | |
| Observer & Eccentric, Sunday, Dec. 29th | Friday, Dec. 27th, 4:30pm |
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