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# Fire damages popular restaurant

**By LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

The investigation into a fire that damaged a popular Westland restaurant Tuesday morning is continuing.

Wayne-Westland firefighters were called to the Village Place Coney Island shortly before noon when smoke was reported coming from the rear of the building.

"The fire was in the attic space — there was no fire in the main restaurant area," Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. "I would

estimate the building is 50 percent damaged at least."

Located on Wayne Road north of Cherry Hill, the restaurant was actually closed when the fire was reported. Reddy said some type of problem had been reported through an alarm and a fire suppression company employee reported the fire.

"He (the employee) was working on the hood ducts. When he showed up, smoke was coming from the back of the building," Reddy said.

Wayne-Westland Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal John

Adams said the ongoing investigation into the fire is looking at the HVAC system and some housekeeping issues.

"There are some questions that need to be answered," Adams said.

An A-frame building, the Village Place is known to regulars as the Blue Roof due to its bright blue metal roof.

Firefighters, on scene until about 6 p.m., were forced to cut holes in the roof to finally extinguish the smoldering fire underneath it.

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A firefighter chops a hole in the roof around a vent to allow water to reach the fire that damaged an estimated 50 percent of the popular Village Place Coney Island.

PHOTO BY SUE MASON

## 1969 FORD MUSTANG MACH 1

He turns eBay purchase into his dream car

**By Sue Mason**  
Staff Writer

More than two decades ago, Don DiRezze promised himself he would get another 1969 Ford Mustang after having to sell one that he had.

And he did. Sitting inside the garage at Modern Classics in Westland, his new beauty — a 1969 Acapulco blue Ford Mustang Mach 1 — is detailed and polished and ready to make its debut at this weekend's Detroit Autorama.

"It was my first car when I was 15, my dad bought one and restored it," said the Westland resident. "Unfortunately, I had to get rid of it. But I said I'd get another, and I did."

DiRezze found his dream car on eBay and had it brought by trailer to Michigan from Kentucky. The paint looked good but "everything else was bad." He made the decision to restore it and has been working with Bill Foucart at Modern Classics to turn update the muscle car.

"The guy selling it did the cosmetics to turn it over," DiRezze said. "It was in rough shape. If you got underneath it, you could look up and see the steering wheel. I decided to do it right."

### Doing it right

The restoration began last July and included replacing a large portion of the floor boards. It was no easy feat, since the body had to be brought back in line without damaging the paint job, according to Foucart.

"That was the first thing we did," Foucart said. "There was a lot of banging, hammering and grinding going on. It was loud."

In addition to the Rousch engine, the car has a Heidts super ride suspension in the front end and a Heidts



Don DiRezze adjusts the brightness of the LED headlamps on his 1969 Ford Mustang. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Don DiRezze's 1969 Mustang is ready for this weekend's Autorama.

See CAR, Page A2

## W-W board special meeting to discuss search

The Wayne-Westland school board will have a one-item agenda when it meets Thursday, March 6, in special session: the superintendent search process.

The board will meet at 6 p.m. in the board meeting room at the district's administrative offices.

The board will determine how it wants to go forward in conducting a search for a new superintendent. Current Superintendent Greg Baracy announced in December his plans to retire at the end of his contract, which expires July 1. Baracy is the longest serving superintendent in the district's history. He has been Wayne-Westland's top administrator for 17 years.

See SEARCH, Page A2

## School construction forces shift of voting precincts

**By LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Westland residents who usually cast their ballots at Cooper School will have a temporary precinct for the August primary election.

Voters in Westland Precincts 12, 25 and 35 will temporarily vote at Hayes School, 30600 Louise, due to construction taking place at Cooper, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail.

Voters in the Livonia Public School District, including Westland residents, approved a bond issue to fund building improvements at the district's K-12 school buildings.

Beginning this summer and continuing through the summer of 2018, various schools will be closed to complete the renovations.

"Cooper School will be closed this summer. All of those residents (affected) will get temporary voter registration cards in the mail," Westland City Clerk

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# Paczki power: Bakery serves up special Fat Tuesday treat

By Sue Buck  
Staff Writer

The Old Fashioned Bake Shoppe on Warren, west of Inkster, usually opens daily at 6 a.m. On Fat Tuesday, March 4, also known as paczki Day, the doors opened at 5:30 a.m.

Manager Louis Simovski, hard at work preparing for the busy day, looked out and saw eager people in line and decided to open early.

"They saw our lights on, so I said why not open?" he said.

Simovski expected the bakery to make a record 1,000 paczkis for Fat Tuesday, a record for the bakery, which has been in business for more than 25 years.

It was first-come, first-served for the people who came early. The bakery ran out of paczkis about 11 a.m. and started the baking process all over again. Nobody seemed to mind the wait and some people made a second trip to the bakery to purchase additional filled pastry favorites.

"It was much more than we anticipated," Simovski said. "People love them. I'm proud to say it."

The bakery also supplies paczkis to local grocery stores like Value Center on Six Mile in Livonia and Joyview Market on Joy in Redford.

Though the bake shop offered 10 different kinds of paczkis that day, there was only one kind for Angelo Palmiri, a Dearborn Heights resident. He wanted custard.

"I've been coming here at least for 20 years," said Palmiri, who waited patiently on an inside bench.



Violet Todorovski hands a dozen paczkis to Todd Kelly of Inkster. PHOTOS BY SUE MASON

Mike and Flo Gdowski of Wayne waited for their customary favorites.

"We get the custard and the raspberry," Mike Gdowski said. "We have been coming here a lot. We come in at least once a month to pick up doughnuts. They have the best doughnuts here."

Todd Kelley came to the bakery on the recommendation of a friend.

"A guy at work told me about this place," Kelley said. "I don't live far away."

Kelley had gone to grocery stores before to buy paczkis until he found out about this bakery. There was a noticeable difference.

Tessa and father Joseph Weglarz, Garden City residents, had their favorites, too.

"I wanted the cherry ones," Tessa Weglarz said.

Joseph Weglarz said



A steady stream of people came and went at the Old Fashioned Bake Shoppe on Warren Road in Garden City. At times, the lines were out the door.

that he has been coming to the bakery since 1991, when he moved to the city.

Each paczki is a result of long hours of hard work where each pastry is rolled out and allowed to rise twice. It is then fried, filled with fruit and topped with powdered sugar. The recipe never changes.

"We never change the team that is winning," Simovski said.

The bakery also offers the old Polish traditional prune filling along with others.

"We have all kinds," Simovski said.

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Tessa and Joseph Weglarz of Garden City wait patiently in line for their favorite paczkis.



Mike Gdowski brought his mother, Flo, to the Garden City bakery. They're Wayne residents.

## Wayne man charged with assaulting family member

A Wayne man is facing four felony charges, including assault with intent to commit murder, for allegedly attacking a family member with a handgun.

Scott Lane, 40, was arraigned Tuesday in Wayne 29th District Court on that charge along with assault with intent to do great bodily harm, felonious assault and felony firearm. A not guilty plea was entered before Judge Laura Mack.

Wayne Police were



Lane

called to a home on Franklin early March 3 in response to a call that a woman, whose relationship to Lane wasn't provided, had been beaten with a handgun.

The woman was reported to have suffered bruises, bumps and a serious laceration to the head. Police said she sought her own medical treatment.

When police arrived, Lane and the woman were both at the home. Based on their investigation, police arrested Lane.

A search warrant was executed at the home and a handgun identified as being used in the alleged assault was located in a gun safe at the home, police said.

Lane is being held in lieu of a \$250,000 cash bond. A preliminary examination has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, before Mack.

## Upgrades for Sportway mini golf course approved

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

A familiar Ford Road landmark, the pirate ship at Sportway, will be getting a new look.

The Westland City Council has approved a site plan to allow upgrades at the business, which includes two mini golf courses.

"The original golf course was a large pirate ship on which you played several holes," owner Gerald Danielewicz said. "People liked it but it's starting to show its age. We're adding amenities to bring it up to date."

The new pirate ship will be smaller than the old one, Danielewicz said, while complementing the mountain on the second golf course closer to Ford Road.

"It will be a smaller pirate ship but it will be much more attractive," he said.

Located at 38250 Ford west of Hix, Sportway is located on 4.78 acres. Along with redeveloping the tone of the golf course, plans also call for false building facades and fencing along the east property line.

There are also plans for a gazebo on the west

side of the property for seating and parties.

The Planning Commission had recommended approval of the site plan for Sportway, which is zoned for industrial use.

Westland Council President James Godbout thanked Danielewicz for reinvesting in the city and wished him luck with the renovations.

Along with two mini golf courses, Sportway also offers go-karts and batting cages.

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## District coffee hour canceled for March

A joint district coffee hour scheduled for Monday, March 10, by State Sen. Glenn Anderson, State Reps. Robert Kosowski and David Knezek and Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc has been canceled due to a scheduling conflict.

Citizens of the 6th Senate District, 11th and

16th House Districts and 12th Wayne County Commission District may reach the elected representatives by mail, phone or email.

» Anderson: PO Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909; 866-262-7306; or SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov.  
» Kosowski: PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI

48909; 855-600-2625; or RobertKosowski@house.mi.gov.

» Knezek: PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909; 888-4KNEZEK; or DavidKnezek@house.mi.gov.  
» LeBlanc: 500 Griswold St., 7th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226; 313-224-8855; or District12@waynecounty.com.

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# On the Northern Front

Relatives seek out information about 'Detroit's Own' Polar Bears

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Michael Grobbel was in his element, talking about the 5,000 U.S. Army soldiers who fought the Bolshevik Red Army on Russian soil during the Russian Civil War in 1918-19, but it was what came after his talk Tuesday evening at the Wayne Public Library that got him excited.

"Now, let's have a look at uniform," Grobbel said, inviting Canton resident Earle Chorbagian to bring up the uniform and dog tags his father Artin wore as a member of the "Detroit's Own" Polar Bears.

"My father was wounded really bad by a dumb-dumb bullet," Chorbagian said. "They're illegal, but they used them. It shattered his forearm and it took him several years to recover."

Many in the audience had a connection to the Polar Bears, a name the men adopted aboard ship on their way home from Russia. They crafted shoulder patches, depicting a white bear on a blue background and stitched them on their uniforms.

"This is one of the early ones that they cut out," Grobbel said, looking at the patch on Chorbagian's uniform. "It's among one of the first ones. This uniform is in remarkably good shape."

Artin Chorbagian was 15 and away at school when Turkish soldiers entered his Armenian village and killed his parents. He was on his own and had to run. Over the course of the next 15 years, he was in Alexandria, Egypt, was a gauch in Argentina and a cook in Brazil, where he heard he could get U.S. citizenship if he went to the U.S. and joined the Army.

He did that and ended up in the 85th Division that was sent by President Woodrow Wilson to Russia under the pretext of keeping Allied military supplies from falling into the hands of the Bolsheviks and rescuing a stranded Czech legion needed to fight on the Eastern Front.

## 'Abbreviated' training

The division received "abbreviated" training at Fort Custer near Battle Creek and was sent to England, where 5,000 troops of the 339th Infantry and support units – the 310th Engineers, the 337th Field Hospital and the 337th Ambulance Company – were issued Russian weapons and equipment and sailed for Archangel, a Russian port on the White Sea, 600 miles north of Moscow and 60 miles south of the Arctic Circle. They became the American North Russia Expeditionary Force, which arrived in Russia in September 1918.

"My grandfather was drafted in mid-June and arrived in Battle Creek on June 30," Grobbel said. "The division was sent out on July 14. On July 17, Wilson signed an order sending a limited number of troops to northern Russia."

The group was made up primarily of men from Michigan; the first song the Polar Bears heard as they pulled into port was *Hail to the Victors*, Grobbel said.

Grobbel's grandfather Clement was in the 339th Company.

"Everyone that followed the 339th started calling them 'Detroit's Own,'" Grobbel said. "When the war was over, people started circulating petitions to bring them home. They raised enough of a ruckus that it was ordered to withdraw them at the earliest possible moment. They set sail for home in June 1919 and arrived in Detroit on July 3, 1919."

For the expeditionary force, which included British, French and Canadian troops and (White) Russian loyalists, the first major battle took place Armistice Day – Nov. 11, 1918 – along the Dvina River. There were other battles at Ninja Gora and Visorka Gora



Polar Bear Memorial president Mike Grobbel shows off a uniform that belonged to Earle Chorbagian's father Artin. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Wayne residents (from left) Cynthia Gordon, Dee and Kerran Ryan check out dog tags from Artin Chorbagian, who fought in Russia as part of the Polar Bears division.



Mike Grobbel brought the Linnemann Entrenching Spade that was recovered in 2008 by Alexevy Suhanovsky.

in January 1919, when the Bolsheviks began to push back. In Russia, there were only two seasons for fighting – the dead of winter, when everything was frozen, and summer.

"It wasn't a very pleasant place, but it got more pleasant when things froze," Grobbel said.

In a letter home, Grobbel's grandfather wrote, "This life is not bad. It's like hunting rabbits on a bigger scale." Another letter pointed out that "the war may be over in France, but it's not over in the wilds of Russia. This isn't the western front. It hardly has no front at all."

In all, 82 Polar Bears were killed and 24 were wounded. Sixty-eight died of fever and disease and nine of accidental cause. They weren't able to bring all of their dead back. However, those buried in church courtyards in Archangel were disinterred and returned to the United States. They laid in state for a week. In 1929, a search party was sent to Russia and recovered the remains of 59 Polar Bears. Another two dozen remain buried in the forests of northern Russia, Grobbel said.

## Inner ring

Those Polar Bears who died in combat are buried in an inner ring around the Polar Bear Memorial monument at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy. Chorbagian's father is buried just outside that inner ring.

The "Detroit's Own" Polar

Bear Memorial Association was founded in 1922 because many of the soldiers who served, like Artin Chorbagian, were foreign-born and not eligible for veterans organizations like the VFW and American Legion. Each Memorial Day, a ceremony was held at the monument. The tradition continues today with the help of the association, but few people attend.

In 2001, Grobbel was contacted via the Internet by a Russian named Alexevy Suhanovsky. A Russian Civil War buff, his hobby is taking a metal detector and scouring the forest where the Polar Bears fought. He has unearthed unexploded artillery shells fired on the Railroad Front 91 years ago, a roll of barbed wire, grenades, bullet casings and a portion of a trench shovel that Suhanovsky found in 2008 and sent to Grobbel as a souvenir.

After the war, Artin Chorbagian recuperated in a hospital in Chicago. That's where he met his wife, a high school student visiting the wounded. He was in his 30s; she was 18.

"When he got his citizenship, he decided he wanted an American name, so he picked Harry," Chorbagian said. "He died in 1946.

"He lived long enough to see two of his sons survive World War II."

Larry Hoelscher of Canton came with Chorbagian to the program. His father Edward served in Russia with the 310th Engineers.

"He said once that he was



Joe Horvath of Wayne looks at the information about the Russian Civil War.



Larry Hoelscher (right) and Earle Chorbagian of Canton talk about their fathers, who saw action in the Russian Civil War during 1918-19.

supposed to get the Silver Star and never got it," Hoelscher said. "I Googled it and found that he did (earn) it, but never got the medal. I think I'll get the medal for my kids."

Renee Washburn of Wayne was there to find out more about the division that her grandfather had served in at the end of World War I. He came from Canada.

"My grandfather was in the 310th, but he didn't talk about it," she said. "He's been gone many, many years, but my dad would go the reunions as a kid."

## Doing research

Plymouth resident Heather Connor came to do research. Her grandfather Thomas Connor was in the Polar Bears, although she doesn't know which unit. She brought along

a photograph of him in his uniform.

"I know he was assigned to the Polar Bears, but the rest is a mystery," she said. "The family story is that he broke his leg in England. The rumor is he was playing baseball and Babe Ruth before he was (famous) struck him out and broke his leg."

"I don't know if he made it to Russia, I don't know if he was reassigned."

Connor, who grew up in Westland, is glad she attended the presentation.

"It's so nice to meet other people who are connected to the Polar Bears and get a wealth of information," she said.

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## Keir retires from police dept.

After 22 years of service, Westland Police Sgt. Darin Keir has retired.

Keir served the Westland Police Department as a Patrol Supervisor, Special Investigations Officer, SWAT team member and a motor cycle officer.

"Darin's police and tactical experience has been a huge asset to our department and will be greatly missed," said Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik.



Westland Police Sgt. Darin Keir (left) with Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik. Keir recently retired after 22 years with the department.

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### Larceny

A resident in the 33000 block of Beechnut told police Feb. 25 that he had been out of the country Jan. 22-Feb. 18 and returned to find his air conditioning unit had been stolen. The air conditioning unit, valued at \$2,700, was the only thing reported missing. No entry had been made to the home itself.

On Feb. 28, a construction company employee told police he arrived to work on a vacant home in the 5700 block of North Globe to find the front door open. He said the water heater, furnace and air conditioning unit had been stolen.

### Break-in

On Feb. 26, a resident of an apartment at 6605 Lakeview Blvd. told police that she had arrived home to find her front door had been forced open. Nothing was reported stolen.

### Hit and run

Police were called to Village Bar, 35234 Michigan Ave., just after 1 a.m. Feb. 22 after two vehicles were reported to have been hit by a Dodge Ram truck.

A Westland woman told police she was standing about 20 feet from her Buick Park Avenue when a man entered the truck and backed up, colliding with her car and a Ford Escort. The male driver and male passenger reportedly left the scene but the witness got a license plate number.

The vehicle was registered to a Wayne woman. No one was at her residence initially. Officers returned about 6:45 a.m. to find the registered owner and the male suspect looking at the vehicle in the driveway.

The male reportedly told police he didn't remember backing into any vehicles. When the damage to the truck was pointed out, the man told police his buddy had been

### Larceny

A resident of an apartment at 6509 Lakeview Blvd. told police Feb. 27 that a Nintendo 3DS XL with two games, valued at \$260, had been stolen Dec. 4. The resident said she had ordered the items but never received a delivery.

After contacting the store, she said she was told the items had been delivered by UPS. She said the store replaced the items.

### Dine and dash

Police were called to the Village Place Coney Island, 449 N. Wayne Road, just before 1:30 a.m. Feb. 28 about four men who ran out without paying for their food.

The waitress said two of the men went outside while two had remained in the restaurant. The two men inside told the waitress the other men were outside smoking. Then the other two men were report-

driving.

When the officer said the buddy needed to come to the address immediately or the truck would be towed, the man admitted he had been the driver, police said. He was ticketed for leaving the scene of a property damage accident and improper backing up.

The Buick Park Avenue was reported to have a dent and scratches on the driver's side rear quarter panel. The Ford Escort, registered to a Detroit man, was reported to have a broken headlight, a dent above the headlight and a bent hood. The Dodge Ram pick-up was reported to have several small scratches.

### Larceny

The manager of Rite Aid, 35101 E. Michigan Ave., told police March 3 she was walking to the receiving area of the store when an alarm went off. Entering the receiving area, she said she found the emergency exit button pushed and

## WESTLAND COP CALLS

ed to have run outside and all four got into a car, then drove away.  
The check was for \$35.

### Larceny

On Feb. 28, a Livonia woman told police that she was shopping at Kroger, 36430 Ford, when someone stole her wallet from her purse. She said she didn't notice the wallet missing until she went to pay at the cash register.

### Vandalism

A resident in the 35000 block of Glen told police Feb. 28 that someone had pelted the house and garage with eggs overnight. Due to the weather, the owner said she had not been able to completely clean up the mess and assess any damage.

### Vandalism

On March 1, a resident of the Robert Thomas Terrace Apartments, 31686 Kara Lane,

told police that just before 9 p.m. she was in her living room when she heard glass break. She said she saw three subjects running through the parking lot. The glass door appeared to have been damaged by a BB gun.

### Attempted break-in

A resident of an apartment at 6515 Yale told police March 2 that she returned from a short trip to the store to find the front door to her apartment had been damaged. The upper deadbolt and door jamb were intact. She said she thought someone had tried to break into her unit.

### Vandalism

The rear passenger was reported smashed on a 2011 Chevrolet Cruze on March 3 while it was parked in the driveway of a home in the 39000 block of Randolph.

By LeAnne Rogers

## WAYNE COP CALLS

the rear emergency door slightly open.

Checking the store surveillance system, she said she saw a male exit carrying two large clear plastic bags containing returnable cans. She said the bags each contain about \$35 worth of redeemed cans.

### Suspicious circumstances

Westland woman told police she attempted to meet friends at U.S. 12 Bar, 34824 W. Michigan Ave., around 12:30 a.m. March 2. When her friends weren't there, she said she left.

The woman said there was a man outside the bar smoking and drinking a beer. The woman said she hurried to her car, got in and locked the doors. The man walked out and tried to open her passenger door, she said.

The man apologized and backed away, she said, adding she was unsure if he was intoxicated or confused. The woman told the officer she

hadn't immediately contacted police because she was frightened and just wanted to go home.

### Larceny

On March 2, an employee of Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Ave., told police someone stole her phone while she was working. She added she replaced the phone and only wanted the sim card returned.

### Stolen vehicle

A 7-foot by 14-foot enclosed Timberwolf trailer containing a gold 1984 Honda Gold Wing motorcycle was reported stolen Feb. 27 from American Wing, 32640 W. Michigan Ave.

The owner told police the trailer was last seen in the parking lot his business shares with Canton Pools on Feb. 26. The trailer was valued at \$5,000. The motorcycle, owned by a Dearborn man, was valued at \$3,500.

By LeAnne Rogers

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Remember to always use e-file to file your returns electronically. You'll get your refund faster when you combine e-file and direct deposit.

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**Tax Assistant, IRS Tax Map or Tax Trails.** You also can find payment options and request an installment payment agreement online. You can even order a summary of a previous tax return. When you have questions, make IRS.gov your first stop.

### Materials needed to get started

Keep this as a checklist of the items you will need to file your return. The IRS recommends keeping all tax-related documents for three years, in case of an audit. Tracking income-related documents can help you take full advantage of deductions available to you.

- » A copy of last year's tax return
- » Valid Social Security numbers for yourself, spouse and children
- » All income statements, i.e. W-2 forms from all employers
- » Interest/dividend statements, i.e. 1099 forms
- » Form 1099-G showing any state refunds
- » Unemployment compensation amount
- » Social Security benefits
- » Expense receipts for deductions

### DID YOU KNOW?

- » Most refunds are issued in less than 21 days.
- » Combining e-file with direct deposit is still the fastest way to get your refund.
- » Use "Where's My Refund?" to get personalized refund information.
- » You can also use the IRS app, IRS2Go, to check the status of your refund.
- » Can't meet the April 15 deadline? Use Free File for a free extension; then use Free File to do your taxes by Oct. 15.

### Volunteer income tax assistance

There are 13,000 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites nationwide that offer free help to people earning \$52,000 or less. Search "VITA" on IRS.gov for a nearby site. Tax Counseling for the Elderly, operated by AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, offers free help with priority assistance to people age 60 and older. Find a Tax-Aide site at [AARP.org](http://AARP.org) or call 888-227-7660. Some VITA/TCE sites even offer Free File.

— Courtesy of Family Features

# Consider this when financing home improvement projects



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

I know it's hard to believe but spring is right around the corner. One thing that happens every spring is people decide to do a variety of home improvement projects.

One of the first things to decide when planning a home improvement project, even before you select your contractor, is how to pay for it. Whether you are going to pay cash or finance the project, know what you're going to do up front. How you are going to pay for the project will help a budget and avoid overspending.

Even though interest rates are low (so borrowing costs are low) I have no problem with someone paying cash for a home improvement project. Particularly, for those people who are sitting on cash in CDs and money market accounts. After all, if you're getting 1 percent or less on your CD and to finance the home improvement is 4-5 percent, the economics are such that it makes sense to pay cash.

Those who don't have the cash to pay for the home improvements must obtain financing. The key to remember is that not all financing is the same. Interest rates differ dramatically and tax deductibility of interest is also something to consider.

There are many financing avenues to pursue. The first is to use a charge card which I believe is the worst option. Not only will you pay the highest rate of interest, 18.5 percent or more, but it is also not tax deductible. If you have to finance using a charge card, then you should probably not do the home improvement.

### Retirement accounts

Another option is a loan from your 401(k) plan or a similar retirement account. As a general rule, I'm not a

fan of these types of loans.

I believe retirement accounts are sacred and should not be touched other than for retirement. In addition, there is a tax cost. The interest that you pay is not tax deductible and even though the interest you pay goes into your account, eventually when the money comes out of the 401(k) plan, it will be taxed to you.

Also at many companies, if you have a loan on your retirement account you can no longer contribute to that account until the loan is paid off. You miss the opportunity to save for your retirement and any potential employer matches.

Another option, and the one that I think is most viable, is a home equity loan. A home equity loan will typically have a lower interest rate and upfront charges. In addition, the interest is tax deductible. Not everyone qualifies for a home equity loan, so before you decide on your home improvement project determine if you qualify.

### Finance packages

Many home improvement companies also offer a variety of financing packages for their customers. Some of these packages are very favorable while others are not. The key is to look at the interest, any upfront costs and whether the interest is tax deductible. Just because it is a home improvement loan does not make it tax deductible.

Doing home improvement is something that can increase the quality of your life. However, having the wrong financing can cause all sorts of problems. So, if a home improvement project is on tap for spring, do the research and determine how you will pay for it. Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).

# Maple-sugaring program offers sweet time

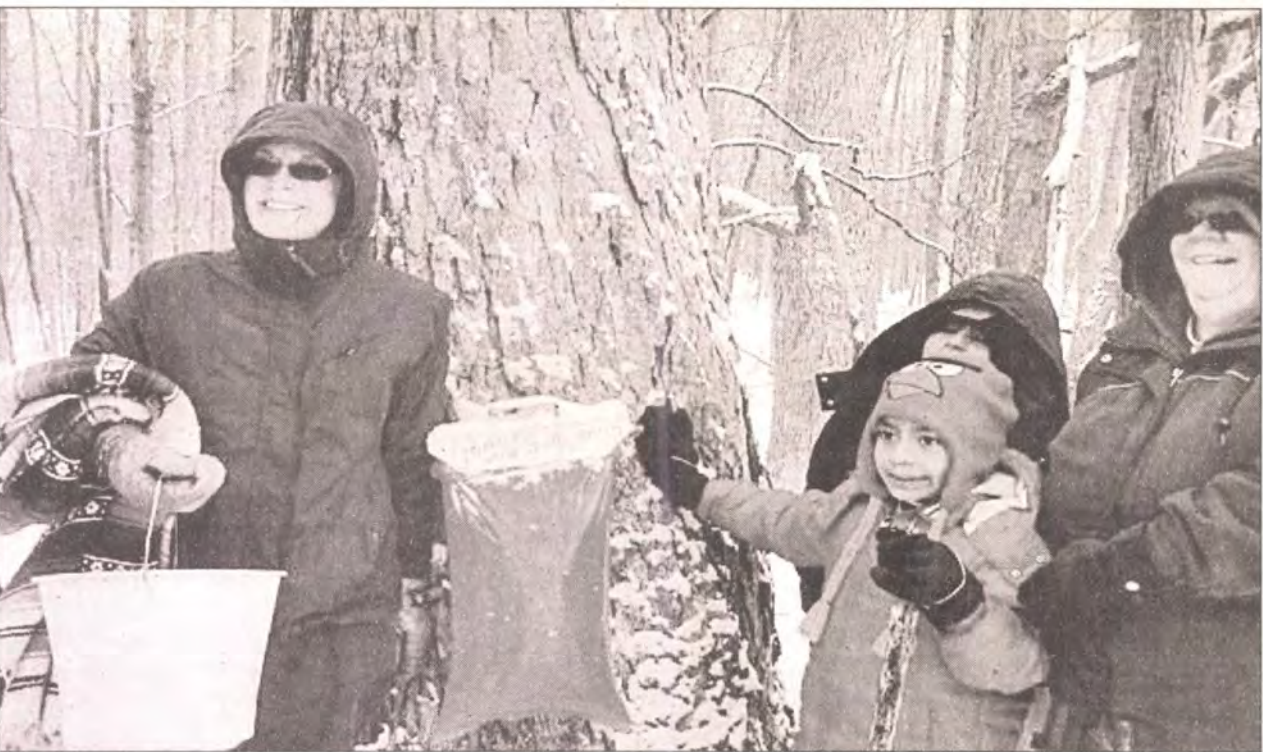
March is maple-sugaring month in Michigan and Wayne County Parks has a sweet Saturday program available for the entire family March 15 and 22.

Bundle up and join park naturalists for the annual maple-sugaring program at the Cass Benton Park picnic shelter in Northville, where a historic "sugar bush" still exists.

Learn the history of maple sugaring and take a short hike into the woods for an actual tree-tapping demonstration. In celebration of this early spring ritual, the group will enjoy pancakes with the "real thing" afterward.

"The maple-sugaring program is another example of the diversity of activities available to the public through Wayne County Parks," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said. "I encourage everyone to see, taste and experience the maple-sugaring program first-hand."

The practice of maple sugaring dates back to when Native Americans taught early settlers how to collect and boil sap during this time of year. The freezing nights and warm sunny days create pressure and force sap out of the maple tree.



People need to dress for weather conditions for the Wayne County Parks maple-sugaring program March 15 and 22.

The duration of the program is approximately 90 minutes. Register for either March 15 or March 22 and choose a start time of 10 a.m., 11 a.m. or noon.

Dress accordingly, as this is an outdoor program and the trail may be muddy.

All ages are welcome. The program fee is \$6 per child and \$2 per adult for Wayne County residents. Add \$1 per person

for non-Wayne County residents.

Advance registration and prepayment is required at the Wayne County Parks office, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, or by phone at 734-261-1990. Cash, credit card or check payable to Wayne County Parks is accepted.

For more information, call 734-261-1990 or visit [www.parks.waynecounty.com](http://www.parks.waynecounty.com).



March is maple-sugaring month in Michigan.

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## CELEBRATE

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## WITH CLASSIC BREAD, BEEF RECIPES

**W**hether you're Irish or not, St. Patrick's Day is a time for Celtic celebrations, so try your luck with a classic like Irish Soda Bread, a popular Irish recipe with a hint of sweetness from cinnamon and raisins.

"Irish Soda Bread gets its name from the fact that it uses baking soda instead of yeast, which means making it is really as simple as mixing the ingredients together and baking it," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens. "It's perfect warmed up for an Irish-themed breakfast or dinner and it makes a great hostess gift for St. Paddy's Day parties."

To make Irish Soda Bread muffins, divide dough among 12 greased muffin cups. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Pair the bread with other hearty St. Patrick's Day classics, such as Shepherd's Pie or Corned Beef and Cabbage. Top the meal off with Leprechaun Lemonade and Paddy's Pudding.

Find more St. Patrick's Day ideas and recipes at [www.McCormick.com](http://www.McCormick.com), [www.Facebook.com/McCormickSpices](http://www.Facebook.com/McCormickSpices) and [www.Pinterest.com/mccormickspices](http://www.Pinterest.com/mccormickspices).

—Courtesy of Family Features



### IRISH SODA BREAD

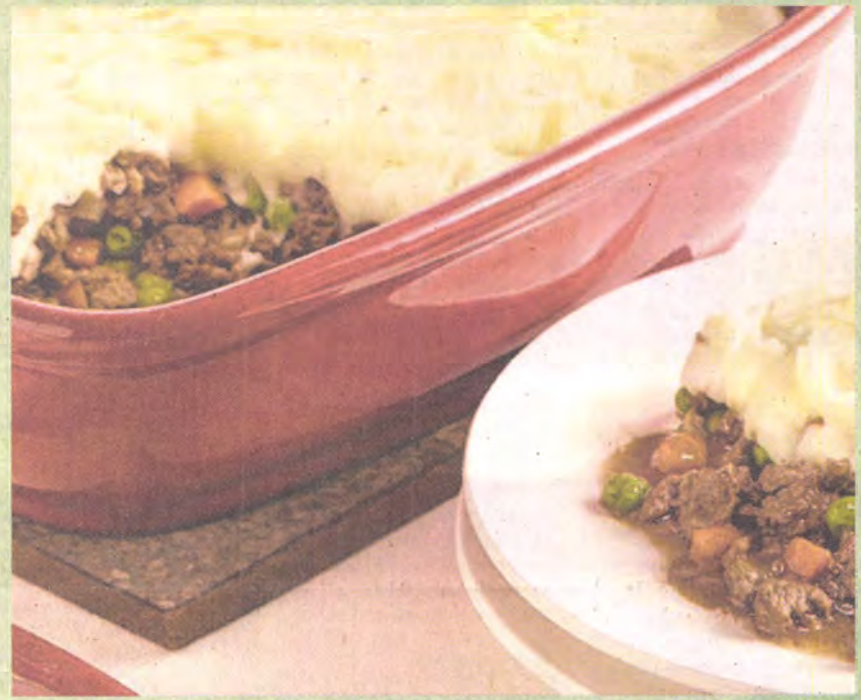
Makes 16 servings  
2½ cups flour  
½ cup sugar  
2 teaspoons McCormick caraway seed  
1½ teaspoons baking powder  
½ teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon McCormick cinnamon, ground  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup raisins or currants  
1½ cups buttermilk  
2 eggs  
½ teaspoon McCormick pure vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease 9-inch round cake pan. Mix flour, sugar, caraway seed, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in large bowl. Stir in raisins. Mix buttermilk, eggs and vanilla in medium bowl; stir into dry ingredients. Spread in prepared pan. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack.

### CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE

Serves 8  
1 corned beef brisket, trimmed (3 pounds)  
1 small onion, quartered  
2 tablespoons McCormick Mixed Pickling Spice  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
8 small red potatoes  
2 cups baby carrots or 8 carrots, peeled and cut into 1 ½-inch pieces  
1 small head cabbage, cored and cut into 8 wedges  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 teaspoon parsley flakes

1. Place brisket in 6-quart saucepot or Dutch oven. Cover with about 2 quarts water. Add onion, pickling spice and garlic; cover.  
2. Bring just to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 2 hours. (Do not boil.) Add potatoes and carrots; simmer 30 minutes longer. Add cabbage; simmer 15 minutes longer. Remove brisket and vegetables from saucepot.  
3. Slice brisket across the grain. Mix butter and parsley; brush on vegetables



### SHEPHERD'S PIE

Serves 6  
1 pound ground beef  
1 package McCormick Brown Gravy Mix or 1 package of onion gravy mix  
1 cup water  
4 servings instant mashed potatoes  
2 cups frozen peas and carrots, thawed  
Parsley flakes, optional

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Brown ground beef in large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat.  
2. Mix Gravy Mix and water in small bowl. Pour over beef. Bring to boil. Add peas and carrots. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Transfer meat mixture to 1 ½-quart baking dish. Top with mashed potatoes.  
3. Bake 30 minutes or until gravy bubbles and potatoes are slightly browned. Sprinkle with parsley, if desired.

### PADDY'S PUDDING

Makes 16 ½-cup servings  
3 ½ cups cold milk  
1 teaspoon green food color  
2 packages (4-serving size each) vanilla instant pudding  
1 tub (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed  
1 package (18 ounces) chocolate sandwich cookies, coarsely crushed

1. Pour milk into large bowl. Stir in food color. Add pudding mixes. Beat with wire whisk 2 minutes or until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes. Gently stir in whipped topping.  
2. Layer crushed cookies and pudding mixture in 3-quart bowl, beginning and ending with crushed cookies.  
3. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve. Garnish as desired with shamrock candies.

### LEPRECHAUN LEMONADE

Serves 6  
6 cups prepared lemonade  
¼ teaspoon McCormick Raspberry Extract  
22 ½ drops green food color

1. Mix all ingredients in pitcher.  
2. Serve over ice in beverage glasses.



## CITY BITES

### Donation to MS Society

Metro Detroit — Edible Arrangements Metro Detroit Group, which includes stores in Plymouth and Farmington, this month will donate \$5 from the sale of each Orange Citrus Blossom arrangement to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Orange Citrus Blossom is a fresh fruit arrangement including orange slices, strawberries, grapes, cantaloupe, and honeydew, with optional chocolate-dipped fruits.

"We thought it was a great

way to help the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, particularly since it is in line with our own proactive year-round community outreach," said Vikki Hardy Brown, president of the Metro Detroit Group. Throughout the year, the Metro Detroit Group donates extra fruit to area food pantries, including Forgotten Harvest.

### Bamboo leaf wrapping

Farmington Hills — Zhong Shu Temple's monthly vegetarian cooking class will focus on bamboo leaf-wrapped dumplings, a traditional Chinese

delicacy called Zong Zi. The dumplings are made with sweet rice, brown rice, azuki bean, with a stuffing of vegetarian ground "meat," black mushroom, wood ear, taro root, pumpkin, red date and chestnut. Participants may take home a maximum six dumplings, at \$3 each. They must reserve them in advance by emailing to [michigantemple@yahoo.com](mailto:michigantemple@yahoo.com). The class starts at 10 a.m. Friday, March 7, at the Temple, 23845 Middlebelt.

### Maurice Salad and more

Plymouth — Phyllis Barkey will talk about dining at Hudson's department store during the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual "Mad Hatter Tea," 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at the museum, 155 S. Main. Barkey's interest and appreciation for Hudson's was rekindled in 2011 when she wrote an article for a magazine publication about Hudson's Mezzanine Tea Room. She's currently working on a Hudson's cookbook. Her presentation will follow a Victorian-style tea

with a twist — signature fare from the Hudson's menu, including Maurice Salad and Cheese Bread. The museum also will serve its "Mary's Blend" tea, a combination of almond and cherry flavors. Guests may wear their craziest hat to be eligible for a door prize. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers, if purchased by March 7; after that date, add \$5 to the price. Buy tickets at the museum or visit [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org)



**RELIGION CALENDAR**

**MARCH**

**BREAKFAST**

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 16  
**Location:** St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, apple-sauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 adults, \$1.50 children, 2-10  
**Contact:** 734-425-4421  
**CONCERT**

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 17  
**Location:** Congregation B'nai Moshe, 6600 Drake, West Bloomfield  
**Details:** Violinist Kara Fenyo Bahcall and Pianist Noemi Maczelka will perform works by Hungarian Jewish composer Karoly Goldmark. A kosher desseert reception follows. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$10 for B'nai Moshe members and their guests  
**Contact:** 248-788-0600; www.bnaimoshe.org  
**EXERCISE CLASS**

**Time/Date:** 10-11 a.m. Monday, March 10 through April 14  
**Location:** St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Road, Canton  
**Details:** Joe Mason, certified personal fitness trainer leads a class that includes aerobic movements for warm-up, balance and strength training, high repetitions with light hand weights, followed by yoga-oriented strength and stretch work, abdominal and back exercises and final cool down. \$42 for six weeks  
**Contact:** 734-455-5910  
**GRIEF SUPPORT**

**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, beginning March 12 for five consecutive weeks  
**Location:** St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** "Grieving with Great Hope" is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. It is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy. Register through the ministry's website or the church  
**Contact:** 734-261-1455; goodmourningministry.net  
**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6  
**Location:** St. Linus Church, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights  
**Details:** Al Kresta, author/host of the radio show, *Kresta in the Afternoon* on AM 990 WDEO, will talk.  
**Contact:** 313-274-4500

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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**Deadlines:** Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper

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**ANDERSON, JANICE L.**

March 1, 2014. Age 65, of Canton. Beloved wife of Loren E. Dearest mother of Timothy (Melinda), Anthony, Amy and the late Laura (Trevor). Dear sister of Vicky (Robert), Kay, and Karyl (Charles). Loving grandmother of Jamie, Erica (Jimmy), Michael, and A.J. (Leandra) and great-grandmother of three. Memorial gathering Saturday 10 a.m. From the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Rd. (W. of Lilley Rd.) until time of Memorial Service at 11 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association, Heartmini.org. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com



**COURTNEY, DONALD E.**

Age 87, March 1, 2014 of Westland. Beloved husband of Beverly and the late Phyllis. Loving father of Carol Courtney and Lea Anne (Charles) Gothard. Proud grandfather of Gregory Gothard and Nicholas (Sarah) Gothard. Great-grandfather of Rachel Gothard. Dear brother of Irvin "Junior" Courtney. Visitation Friday 3-8 p.m. at Verneulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd. (between Ford and Cherry Hill), Westland. In state Saturday 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Funeral Service at Fair Haven Baptist Church, 34850 Marquette, Westland. Interment Union-Udell Cemetery, Ypsilanti. Memorial Contributions may be made to Fair Haven Baptist Church. To share a memory, please visit verneulenfuneralhome.com



**MARTINI, LUIGI**

Long-time resident of Farmington Hills, joined our Father in heaven on February 9 after 93 wonderful years of life ... filled with hard work, laughter, and endless love and support to his extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Christine, in 2009, after 68 years of marriage, and his sister, Mary Collica, of Royal Oak. He is survived by his daughter, Jeanette, son Ronald (Beckie), six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Luigi was born on August 24, 1920 in Castellari, Italy, to Emilio and Veneranda Martini. His family immigrated to the United States and settled in the Detroit area when he was 7-years-old. A graduate of Cass Technical High School, Luigi proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1945-1947, as part of the Army Medical Corps, 100th Infantry, Battle of Bulge, European theater. Family was Luigi's life and he worked so hard to provide for them. He spent 35-plus years working for Ford Motor Company at the Rouge River complex while also owning a party store. Luigi could fix just about anything, and after retiring, even spent several years as a "Maintenance Manager" of a local office building. Luigi was a founding member of St. Fabian's Catholic Church, as well as an avid dancer, traveler, and member of the 9-hole Friday morning club up until last year. He loved getting the entire family together, whether it be to cruise the Caribbean or make his homemade linguine or gnocchi! The loving legacy of Luigi Martini will live on in every life he touched. A Memorial Service in celebration of Luigi's life will be held March 15 at St. Fabian's Catholic Church in Farmington Hills. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mercy Home Care & Hospice, 1111 W. Long Lake Rd., Troy, MI 48098.



**GADE, MARJOEY C.**

Age 83, of Livonia, passed March 3, 2014. Born in Hopkins, Minnesota, daughter of the late Henry and Clara Pokorny. Loving wife of the late Reidar. Cherished mother of Lisa (Jay) Asquini, Peter (Cindie), Marcus (Wendy) and Desiree Gade. Beloved grandmother of Lina (Todd) Roeser, Carl Asquini, Amanda, and Alexis Gade and great-grandmother of Kate Monroe Roeser. Dear sister of Roger and Jeanne Pokorny and the late Henry and Arlene Pokorny of Hopkins, MN, and sister-in-law of Inger Gade Karlsen of Sandefjord, Norway. Special aunt to many nephews and nieces. Named First Citizen of Livonia in 1981 for her numerous charitable and volunteer activities. Marjoey gave her love and time unselfishly, always putting family and friends first. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 8 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Rd., Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.



**BULL, MARY H.**

Age 83, born on February 6, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan, passed away on March 1, 2014 in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Loving wife of Jack Bull for 60 years. Beloved mother of John (Terri Klochko) Bull Jr, Nancy (Aron) Lorenz, James (Denise) Bull, and Molly (Brady) Phillips. Cherished grandmother of Jared Phillips, Emmet Phillips, Madison Lorenz, Jean Klochko-Bull, Grace Klochko-Bull and John R. Bull III. Mary graduated from the University of Michigan at the age of 20 with a major in mathematics. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at U of M. Mary and Jack have been lifelong members of Pine Lake Country Club in Orchard Lake. Mary was a Life Member of the Women's District Golf Association of Michigan where she had many close friends and friendly competitors. Mary was an accomplished athlete, enjoying tennis, swimming and skiing in addition to golf. She succeeded in passing this competitive spirit to all of her children and grandchildren. Mary often described herself as "...100 lbs. of fun!" Mary and Jack were avid travelers and were long-time members of the Nomads Travel Group and enjoyed trips all over the world. Mary was a member of Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, where she taught Sunday school. She will be greatly missed by all. Family will receive friends and family at a Celebration of Life Memorial Service on Friday March 7, 2014 beginning at 11:00am at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302. Arrangements entrusted to the Pixley Funeral Home Godhardt-Tomlinson Chapel. Memorials appreciated to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. To share an everlasting memorial please visit: godhardttomlinsonchapel.com



*May you find loving comfort in your time of loss.*

May you find comfort in family and friends

**SEOG, DOROTHY BELLE BURK**

Age 93, of Livonia, Michigan, passed away on March 2, 2014 at Addington Place of Northville, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Vincent Seog in 1993; her son, Bruce Howard Seog in 2013; her grandson, William Joseph Seog in 2008; by her brother, Harley "Bur" Burk; and her sister, Wathena May Miller. Surviving are her children, William E. Seog (Wanda), Greg O. Seog, Mark A. Seog, Donna L. Clayton (Joseph Donald), Lori L. Seog; and her loving niece, Wathena Jane (Janie) Ferris. She is also survived by four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A visitation with the family will be held at Generations Funeral Services, 29550 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336, (248) 246-9200 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2014. We will miss our mother, friend, and confidant. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Seasons Hospice at 27355 John R. Road, Madison Heights, Michigan 48071, or on-line at: www.seasonsfoundation.org



**WEAVER, MARGARET E.**

Age 94, died at Estabrooks Havencrest in White Lake, MI, on January 29, 2014, after a long illness. Beloved mother of Kathryn (Marlborough, MA) and William (Milford, MI), she was a long time resident of Farmington Hills, MI, where she substitute taught at Farmington's High schools and Jr. high schools for over 20 years (1961 to 1985). Born Margaret Estelle Wolfinger in Hagerstown, MD, May 18, 1919, she was the daughter of D. Angle Wolfinger, past District Attorney, Washington County, MD, and Edna (Shilling) Wolfinger, a homemaker. Margaret graduated from the University of Maryland, (B.S. in Physical Education), where she met her husband of 56 years, Harry B. Weaver, (B.S. Engineering). Harry passed away in 2002. Margaret taught PE in Silver Springs and Baltimore, MD school systems for 13 years, and especially loved coaching girls' basketball and field hockey. Margaret was an avid golfer, gardener and enjoyed traveling with her husband. She had many other hobbies including bridge, sewing and playing piano. In addition to her two children, Kathryn and Bill (Wanda), she is survived by grandchildren Allison Weaver Atkinson, Troy Weaver, Dana Weaver and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service is planned at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334, on March 8, 2014, at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to any of the following: Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Church (Youth Ministry), 33360 W. 13 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334; Detroit Public Television, http://www.dptv.org; Gentiva Hospice 25925 Telegraph Road, Suite 102 Southfield, MI 48033

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**WARD CHURCH** 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400  
**Sunday Worship Services**  
 8 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m.  
 4 different music styles from classic to modern  
 www.wardchurch.org  
 LO-0000184424

**PRESBYTERIAN**

**Fellowship Presbyterian Church**  
**Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.**  
**Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.**  
 Services held at: **Saint Andrews Episcopal Church**  
 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road  
 Nursery provided • [www.fellowship-presbyterian.org](http://www.fellowship-presbyterian.org) AT150658

For Information regarding this Directory,  
 please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247  
 or e-mail: [ssare@hometownlife.com](mailto:ssare@hometownlife.com)





