

# WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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**HOLIDAY  
GIFT GUIDE  
SPECIAL  
SECTION**

## Plans discussed for new Norwayne center

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer



Campbell

The Jefferson-Barns Community Center will be the official name of the former elementary school as it finds new life housing a variety of community programs.

About 35 people turned out for a meeting Monday at the Dorsey Community Center, which will be vacated, for a first look at plans for the new facility and to provide input about what might be offered. The move from the Dorsey Center is expected to be com-

plete in May. Current services housed at the Dorsey Center, including the Westland Community Development and Housing departments, will move to the new building.

The Nankin Transit Commission, which provides affordable transportation to seniors and handicapped residents, will be moving to Jefferson-Barns. Serving four communities, Nankin Transit is currently

housed on Marquette in the former city planning offices. "It's not a very good space (currently). They will be located in the pods at the northwest end of the school," Westland Community Development Director Joanne Campbell said. "There will be a privacy fence around where the buses will park. The residents on that side of the building will not have to look at buses. It's also for security."

Nankin Transit will have a separate entrance to the building, as will the building's first likely occupant — a new boxing

club.

### Boxing program

"It will be a full-fledged boxing program; they are partnering with Kronk Gym," Campbell said.

Former Norwayne resident Jeff Styers, who helped fund efforts that resulted in a historic designation for the community, is backing the boxing club.

"He used to be a professional boxer and sees it as a way to build character and community," Campbell said, adding that mentoring services will be offered. Renovations for the

boxing club are already underway and the club is hoping to open next month.

Westland Police community policing officers assigned to Norwayne will have an office in the new community center. The officers officially have an office inside the Dorsey Center, but Campbell noted that with the lack of technology, the current space is of little practical use.

"The police chief (Jeff Jedrusik) talked of his hopes that there can be monthly program-

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A rifle salute was held by VFW Bova Post 9885 and Taps was performed by Jerry Baker, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 387.

## Fatal Westland police shooting investigated

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

The investigation is continuing into the fatal shooting of a man, armed with a knife, by Westland Police officers Saturday night.

"We'll be transparent in the investigation. We have reached out to the man's family. We obviously expressed our condolences," Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said. "We had an agitated man running around with a knife. He was armed and posed a threat."



Jedrusik

Police haven't officially identified the man but family members have confirmed the man shot was Troy Hart, 27. Hart lived with family members on Calhoun Court, a couple of short blocks from where he was shot near Grand Traverse and Clare Court.

Hart had gotten agitated and made threats to people at the Kroger at Merriman and Michigan Avenue before returning to his home Saturday evening, Jedrusik said. Police weren't called to the store about the incident.

"He armed himself with a large hunting knife and made several statements that he was going to kill someone or kill a police officer or that he wanted the police to kill him," Jedrusik said. "He posed an immediate danger."

Family members called police when Hart left the house armed with the hunting knife and shirtless, despite the cool weather. Two officers responded and after talking with the family, located Hart on the street, Jedrusik said.

"He was very agitated. They tried to calm him down. He came at the officers with the knife. They had the right to protect their lives," Jedrusik said. "It's a tragedy when someone loses their life. No po-

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## 'Duty, Honor, Country'

Westland honors veterans at ceremony

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

Perhaps not inappropriately, the words of old soldier Gen. Douglas MacArthur were invoked by two speakers during Westland's Veterans Day ceremony Tuesday.

Guest speaker retired U.S. Air Force Major Richard Briggs Jr. and Rick Patryny of the Vietnam Veterans of America, both quoted MacArthur's farewell speech to West Point cadets in 1960.

"Duty, Honor, Country." The full quote continues, "Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be."

Veterans Day is a day of celebration, Briggs said, not a memorial day. Veterans need support, he said, when suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or traumatic brain injury.

"Shake the hand of a service member today and thank them for their service," Briggs said. "But remember them every day. There are suicides, homelessness. There is much you can do to

honor veterans." Thanking the Westland Veterans Association for their efforts on the Veterans Day ceremony, Patryny recalled the comment from Gen. George Patton that "war may be fought with weapons but they are won by men."

"Nov. 11 is a national holiday to honor all those who served. The majority will say that they didn't consider it a sacrifice but an honor," he said. "When they return home, they hang up the uniform but have a lifetime of pride at having served."

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Retired U.S. Air Force Major Richard Briggs Jr.

## Westland City Council tables firefighter contract

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

Approval of a six-year collective bargaining agreement with Westland firefighters has been tabled by the Westland City Council.

There was a motion to approve the agreement but Council President James Godbout said he had concerns, specifically regarding the pension

multiplier. The pension multiplier is used with the years of service to help determine the amount of the employee's pension.

"For the bulk of it, I'm in complete support and agreement," said Godbout, who handed the gavel to President Pro Tem Adam Hammons so that he could make the tabling motion.

Members of the Wayne-

Westland Professional Firefighters Union had already ratified the agreement, which called for a 3-percent pay raise in 2015, a 1-percent raise in 2016 and a wage reopener in 2017. Under the fire department merger, the Westland and Wayne firefighters belong to one union but have separate contracts with their individual cities.

"The Wayne-Westland Pro-

fessional Firefighters Union are extremely disappointed by the action taken by Council President Godbout at the city council meeting," WWPFFU President Mitch Tokarski said. "He is attempting to negotiate a contract in the public eye from the chair of the city council."

The pension multiplier in

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# Televising public comments at meetings debated

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

On a regular basis, the Westland City Council establishes a committee to review its policies and procedures.

One idea, cutting public comments from council meetings aired on WLND, drew fire from residents after a preliminary proposal was leaked. The proposal wouldn't restrict public comments at council meetings but not include the comments when the meeting is shown on cable television.

The council is scheduled to discuss policies and procedures at a study session at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17.

Reading a quote from President John F. Kennedy, resident Bill Campbell opposed any change that wouldn't broadcast public comments from citizens.

"We need citizen comments in a democracy. Even if you disagree, you're not allowed to censor," said Campbell, who unsuccessfully ran for council last year and previously attempted to recall several council members.

### Free speech issue

Another resident, Mark Rodriguez, said not showing citizen comments wasn't only a free speech issue.

"It's so people can hear what our concerns are. To even consider editing it out of the WLND broadcast is ridiculous," Rodriguez said. "The policy and procedure is for how the meetings are conducted. If you chose to televise the meetings, it is from start to adjournment."

A three-member council committee had met to discuss changes to the policies and procedures,

*"We need citizen comments in a democracy. Even if you disagree, you're not allowed to censor."*

**BILL CAMPBELL**, resident

then sought input from the other council members.

"We were discussing it, plus the information passed on from council members," Councilman Dewey Reeves said. "We looked at every aspect to eliminate the type of comments made at council meetings."

The type of comments at issue are viewed by council members as personal attacks and false statements.

"We all agreed something needs to be done

about the personal attacks," Councilman Bill Johnson said. "I'll listen all night to comments but they need to be respectful. No decision has been made. You're kind of jumping the gun."

There is no legal requirement to televise council meeting. If the meetings are televised, there is no legal requirement that the public comments be included, according to an opinion provided by City Attorney James Fausone.

### Previous opinion

Citing a 2010 letter from the late city attorney Angelo Plakas, Fausone said allowing citizens to speak at council meetings was different than letting those comments be aired on cable television.

"There is no requirement under the Open Meetings Act and it's not a free speech issue," said

Reeves, who has been vocal about addressing verbal attacks at council meetings. "There has been an ongoing pattern of us being berated. A lot of you (citizens) come up with outright lies and we (council) have to sit here with a smile on our face."

Councilman Kevin Coleman commented that he wasn't in favor of changing the council policy and supported broadcasting the entire council meetings.

"If a few people are negative or inappropriate, it is far outweighed by people talking about their concerns, etc., and things they would not be able to speak on under the agenda items," he said.

Speaking later, Coleman said he didn't leak the policy proposal to the public but did confirm it was under discussion when called by residents. "I had discussions that

got specific. I didn't put it out there. They (the callers) had a different story. I set them straight," Coleman said.

Internet chatter regarding the policy proposal started before he had received the information, Council President James Godbout said.

"I find it interesting that others had the information before it went to council for input," Godbout said. "It's not surprising that we got the typical conspiracy theory — the lack of openness."

The policy and procedures proposals were generated by the committee for council discussion, he said, but someone informed residents before that happened.

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## SHOOTING

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lice officer wants to kill someone."

Both officers fired at Hart, who was transported to Oakwood Main Hospital where he later died of his injuries. The shooting happened about 9:30 p.m.

The shooting investigation is being handled internally by Westland Police.

"The results of the investigation will be turned over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for an independent review," Jedrusik said. "This is the normal practice when police officers are involved in shootings."

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## VETERANS

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This was the second year a ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland, behind the William P. Faust Public Library. The garden was the result of years of planning and fundraising by the Westland Veterans Association.

Longtime VWA Chairman Ken Mehl died earlier this year. Current chairman Michael Williams recalled how he got

involved.

"Back when the president was running for his first term, I went to the polls wearing an American Legion jacket," Williams said. "Ken Mehl drew me in and hooked me for the Westland Veterans Association. After that, it gave meaning to my life. Ken's name will be brought up many times, as long as I'm chairman."

At a time of increased terrorism around the world, Westland Mayor William Wild said no other country is called upon by other countries

who are unable to protect themselves from dictators, terrorist or other nations. "We spread freedom around the world. If you want to see a symbol of the best of America, you only need to look at the face of a veteran," Wild said.

During the ceremony, a rifle salute was provided by VFW Bova Post 9885. Jerry Baker, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 387, performed *Taps*.

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## CONTRACT

Continued from Page A1

the contract was set at 2.5 percent for current employees and 2.25 percent for new hires. Tokarski said that change will save the city \$500,000. In addition, new hires will not receive retiree health care.

The recent collective bargaining agreement

with the Westland Police Officers Association provides 2-percent wage increases in 2015 and 2016 with a wage re-opener in 2017. The pension multiplier in that agreement is 1.75 percent.

"I took issue with changing the multiplier from other contracts. I want to see them harmonized. I have no issue with the rest of the contract," Godbout said.

The city bargaining team — City Attorney James Fausone, Personnel Director Cindy King and Deputy Mayor Thelma Kubitskey — was present at the meeting.

"It sounds like the issue with the pension multiplier. We will sit down and go over it," Mayor William Wild said.

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## CENTER

Continued from Page A1

ming with adults and kids," Campbell said.

The school library will be maintained as a library and operated by volunteers, she said. Book checkouts will likely be on the honor system.

A much larger facility, the Jefferson-Barns Community Center will provide space for the Norwayne Community Citizens Council, which hosted the meeting. Additional parking is likely to be needed, Campbell said.

Closed in 2010, Jefferson-Barns has a gym that can be utilized.

"We will bring over the good basketball nets from the (closed) Bailey Center," said Campbell, commenting that a local church was interested in

organizing and running a youth basketball league.

### Other groups

Other groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and the Westland Democratic Club, will continue to meet at the new community center and rooms will be available for rentals.

Residents at the meeting asked about some open gym evenings for local youngsters and the possibility of attracting a Boy Scout troop.

"Renting a school gym wasn't affordable for the church. At the Dorsey Center, we charge \$35 per hour for nonprofits to rent a room," Campbell said. "With the bigger building, we're not thinking of higher rental rates. It needs to be affordable."

But the facility does need to cover its costs for utilities and other expenses, she said. The

rental cost is \$1 per year to Wayne-Westland Community Schools. The federal Housing and Urban Development Department has approved a loan to cover the renovation costs for the building, which will be repaid over 15 years from Community Development Block Grant funds.

The renovations are expected to begin in January. Campbell noted students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center will be doing as much of the work on the interior as possible.

"The building will be maintained as a school in appearance. It's a very historic building, but it has very few historic features," Campbell said. "We will utilize the historic nature of the school."

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# Another resident out thousands in IRS phone scam

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Livonia residents have been the target of many scams attempting to swindle them out of their money. Police warn those who receive such calls to be wary and err on the side of caution before turning over thousands of dollars to callers on their phone, something that took place again last week.

A 60-year-old Livonia man came into the police station to report a scam he had fallen victim to, costing him several thousands of dollars. He told police someone pretending to be the Internal Revenue Service called his phone Friday morning and told him there had been an error in calculating his taxes the previous five years. Because of the error, the suspect told the man he owed several

thousands of dollars that he needed to pay. The suspect told him to stay on the phone with him and to go to several drugstores to pick up some MoneyPak cards and load them. After they were loaded, he could then read the numbers off to him, paying his taxes. The victim drove to two Rite Aides in Livonia and purchased seven cards with a combined

total of more than \$3,900. Over the course of the time he spent driving to the stores, he stayed on the phone with the suspect for several hours. He then gave the suspect the card numbers under the threat of possible police action if the victim did not comply. The suspect's phone number contained a Washington, D.C., area code. The victim then came into the police station to

file an incident report. The incident has been just one of many similar ones reported several times over the past year in Livonia. Last week, a resident came into the station to report he had been scammed of more than \$2,500 in a similar incident. The IRS will not make first contact through phone calls, according to its website. First contact will come via the mail

and agents will not ask for personal information, such as credit card or money card numbers, over the phone. Anyone who receives such a call is encouraged to report the incident with pertinent information at treasury.gov/tigta and their local police department if they feel threatened by the call.

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# Army veteran grateful for vehicle donation

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

In November 2013, U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil was involved in an accident that totaled the car she was driving and left her without transportation ever since. Her inability to replace the vehicle made it tough to get to her job at the Veteran's hospital in Ann Arbor.

In a ceremony at the Progressive Insurance office in Livonia on Nov. 11, the Jack Demmer Automotive Group and Progressive Insurance joined forces to help her out, donating a refurbished 2005 Ford Escape to O'Neil, a Saline resident and a member of the Plymouth VFW.

"I really appreciate this," said O'Neil, who joined the U.S. Army in 1998 at the age of 20. "I've had trouble getting to work ... This is the best thing anyone could ever give to me."

When O'Neil's original enlistment was up in 2002, she decided she hadn't done enough, and signed up for a stint in the Army Reserves. Her unit was activated in January 2003, and by April, O'Neil was in Iraq. After her tour was up, O'Neil was discharged in November 2003.

When officials at Demmer and at Progressive



Jim Demmer of the Demmer Automotive Group presents U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil with the keys to her 2005 Ford Escape.

were looking for a veteran to honor, Plymouth VFW officials recommended O'Neil. Demmer partnered with Progressive, the National Auto Body Council, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and several other organizations.

With parts donated from vendors, the staff at Jack Demmer Collision Centers repaired and refurbished the Escape for O'Neil, one of more than 100 veterans across the country who will receive a special vehicle on Veteran's Day through Progressive's "Recycled Rides" project.

"Amy's new job made her a perfect candidate," for the program, said

project coordinator Tommy Ryan of Progressive. "We're hoping to make a difference in a lot of lives today."

Enterprise Rent-A-Car provided O'Neil with six months' worth of free auto insurance. Regional vice president Vincent LaBella pointed out that some 10 percent of Enterprise employees are veterans and Reservists. That, LaBella said, makes the company's participation in the program special.

"We get to give back to our communities, and we get to honor our veterans," LaBella said. "It's really important for us to give back to (O'Neil) for

what she has done." The Demmer family also has a military history. Patriarch Jack Demmer is a World War II veteran, and Jim Demmer, who spoke at Tuesday's ceremony, has a son, C.J., who is in the U.S. Marines.

"We want to say 'thank you' to all those who put their lives on the line for our country," Demmer said. "We never take that for granted."

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U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil turns the ignition on the refurbished 2005 Ford Escape she received from the Demmer Automotive Group and Progressive Insurance Tuesday.

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## WESTLAND COP CALLS

## Larceny

A resident in the 27000 block of Eton told police Nov. 5 that overnight someone had stolen a 17-foot aluminum extension ladder and a 22-inch lawn mower from a trailer. He said he had parked his truck and trailer outside his fenced corner lot near the detached garage.

The mower and ladder had been strapped down on the trailer. The officer noted the straps had been cut.

## Fraud

A Westland man told police Nov. 6 that his identity had been stolen Oct. 14 by someone who attempted unsuccessfully to open several credit accounts in his name. However, he said \$2,180 was fraudulently charged to his credit card. The charges were made in Tennessee.

## Car searched

On Nov. 5, a resident in the 700 block of Van Sull told police that someone had entered her unlocked vehicle and searched it overnight. She said the only thing missing was a key to a padlock.

## Suspicious man

Just before 6 p.m. Nov. 5 a resident in the 1600 block of Ackley told police that she heard a knock on her front door. As she began walking to the door, she said a man she didn't know opened the door and walked inside.

The man began asking for money, telling the woman he needed to get on a bus. The resident said the man appeared to have some sort of learning disability. He left after two or three minutes, she said, and then went to a neighboring home.

The officer spoke to the neighbor who said the man knocked on his door and then left walking south on Ackley. The man wasn't located by the officer.

## Hit and Run

» A Garden City woman told police Nov. 7 that someone had struck her vehicle while she was inside Kroger, 7350 Middlebelt. The officer noted the passenger side rear wheel well was damaged.

» A resident in the 5600 block of N. Crown told police Nov. 7 that someone had hit her car while it was parked on the street overnight, damaging the entire driver's side.

## Larceny

A resident of the Warrenwoods Apartments, 33195 Warren Road, told police Nov. 1 that prescriptions she ordered from an online pharmacy nev-

er arrived. Checking with the company, she said she was told the medications had been delivered Oct. 16 but she didn't receive the package.

## Vandalism

On Nov. 8, a resident in the 3000 block of Grandview told police that her car abruptly stopped working Nov. 4. A mechanic who checked the car told the woman that sugar was in the fuel pump and fuel filter.

She said she thought damage had been done Oct. 31-Nov. 4 while the vehicle was parked in her driveway.

## Vandalism

A resident of the Landings Apartments, 6527 Lakeview, told police Nov. 9 that just after 12:30 a.m., he was in his living room when he heard a loud crash. When he went to the bedroom, he said the window was smashed out.

He told police he didn't see anyone around the window.

## Assault

A Westland man told police Nov. 6 just before 6 p.m. he was at the Mobil gas station, 125 S. Merriman, when three to four unknown people threw him to the ground and punched him in the face and kicked him.

The man had come to the police department two hours earlier to make a report and said he had no recollection of the incident at that time. The officer noted the man had facial injuries consistent with an assault.

## Larceny

On Nov. 11, a Westland woman told police that someone had stolen the license plate from her vehicle while it was parked at her sister's home in the 34000 block of Barton.

By LeAnne Rogers

## Judge recuses self in referee death case; trial pushed back

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

The jury trial for the man accused in the death of soccer referee John Bieniewicz will now take place early next year after a delay.

Bassel Saad, 36, of Dearborn was originally scheduled to go before a jury Dec. 8. But during a final conference Thursday morning, circuit judge Cynthia Gray-Hathaway recused herself, meaning the case would be reassigned to another judge in the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

Hathaway recused herself because Saad's attorney, Cyril Hall, had represented her in an unspecified matter in the past and Hathaway has a background in sports and had recused herself in the past in cases involving sports figures, according to Wayne County

FILE PHOTO  
Saad

Prosecutor's Office spokeswoman Maria Miller.

Hathaway also indicated she had viewed a sports event over the weekend and that impacted her ability to hear the Saad case. She did so because she wants to be sure the defendant has an unbiased judge presiding over the case, Miller said.

Saad will now return to court Nov. 21 before judge Thomas Cameron in Detroit for a motion hearing, according to the circuit court online records. His jury trial is now scheduled to take place Feb. 9.

The delay is one of many that has taken place in the case the past several months. Several hearings in recent weeks have been canceled or

pushed back, partially because Hall is newly assigned to the case.

Saad is accused of striking Bieniewicz during an adult league soccer match back in June at Livonia's Mies Park. Bieniewicz died two days after the incident, which witnesses say took place as Bieniewicz was issuing a red card to Saad, ejecting him from the match.

The incident received worldwide attention, especially since it happened during the World Cup, soccer's most prominent international tournament.

If convicted, Saad faces a maximum of life in prison. He's currently being held on \$1 million bond in the Wayne County Jail, though his previous lawyer had wanted to have it reduced to \$150,000.

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## Fire damages Wayne home

A Wayne home suffered estimated \$80,000 property damage from a fire blamed on an electrical problem.

No one was injured in the Nov. 6 fire at 32449 Annapolis. The fire was reported at 7:48 a.m. The resident reported smelling smoke and was outside when firefighters arrived.

"It was definitely an electrical fire that began inside the kitchen wall. It was a pretty bad fire," Wayne-Westland Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers said. "It made it up to the second floor."

The fire started in an electrical outlet in the kitchen, Eggers said, moved up in the knee wall to the attic.

Along with approximately \$80,000 damage to the home itself, Eggers said the fire caused an estimated \$80,000 in contents loss.

By LeAnne Rogers

## Glenn resource officer holds 'Pop with Cop'

The Westland Police Department will host "Pop with a Cop" from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, in the cafeteria at John Glenn High School.

School Resource Officer Joseph Bobby will meet with students to discuss any school safety concerns that they may have. The goal is to create a forum and an opportunity for students to feel comfortable expressing and sharing their safety concerns with the police department.

The main focus of this event is to receive direct student input and feedback. "Pop with a Cop" is an expansion of the "Coffee with the Cops" program that the Westland Police Department holds to meet with Westland residents to discuss neighborhood concerns.

Parents are also welcome to attend. For more information, call Chief Jeff Jedrusik at 734-467-3226.






## WOMEN'S HEALTH PRESENTATION SERIES

Dr. Paul Makela, gynecologist, provides insight and education about a host of female conditions. Grab a friend, your sister or mom and learn about the latest therapies and procedures available that may help eliminate or reduce your symptoms or pain, and improve your quality of life.



*Featured Speaker:*  
**Paul R. Makela, MD**  
Medical Director,  
Gynecological  
Robotic Surgery,  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital

**Upcoming Presentation:**

**Nov. 20: Pelvic Prolapse**  
Meadowbrook Country Club  
40941 W. 8 Mile Rd., Northville

5:45 p.m. - Check-in  
6 p.m. - Presentation

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# NOVI PET EXPO

## NOVEMBER 21 - 23

AT THE SUBURBAN COLLECTION SHOWPLACE In Novi

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SOMEBODY HERE NEEDS YOU.



The Corny Collins gang.

ANGELA HILLMAN



Sidnei Austin as Motormouth Maybelle.

ANGELA HILLMAN

## CAPA to present classic 'Hairspray'

For the first time in Livonia Public Schools, the Creative and Performing Arts program at Churchill High School will present the famed musical, *Hairspray*.

This fun and inspirational story about the struggle to achieve integration in the 1960s will be performed by students in the CAPA program at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 13-15.

All shows are \$10 pre-sale or \$12 at the door. Reserve at [capaboffice@gmail.com](mailto:capaboffice@gmail.com) or by calling 734-744-2650 ext. 70463. All performances take place in the auditorium at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road, between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia.

Tracy Turnblad, played by Helen Delphia, journeys through the struggles of being a "chubby" teenager who loves to dance, but can't seem to catch a break. Along the way, she finds others who have similar struggles being accepted, because of their skin color. Through humor and some truly poignant moments, Tracy and her new friends break the barriers of color and teach people the importance of using their voices for positive change.

Director Angie Hillman said it's a powerful message in this first-time production for CAPA and its audiences.

"It is such an honor to bring *Hairspray* to Livonia for the first time ever. In the creation of this production, it was important for the cast and crew to understand that we are sending the very important message of acceptance, peace and love," Hillman said. "In a world that often pits us against each other based on 'differences,' it is so vital to tell stories like this to help us unite. Our history, no matter how uncomfortable and brutal, can teach us so much, if we actually learn the lessons. We have all earned valuable lessons during this production and will take them into the world long after the curtain closes."

Other highlights of the show include an 8-foot can of hairspray, an adorable white dog and the iconic role of Tracy's mom, Edna, convincingly played by male actor Jesse Boruff.

Other main roles include: Wilbur Turnblad, played by Michael Gutierrez; Corny Collins, played by Lucas Stringer; Penny Pingleton, played by Kelsi Fay; Seaweed Stubbs, played by Brandon Bartley; Link Larkin, played by Alexander Capeneka; Motormouth Maybelle, played by Sidnei Austin; Velma Von Tussle, played by Kristen Falkowski; and Amber Von Tussle, played by Carly Angott.



ANGELA HILLMAN  
Jesse Boruff as Edna Turnblad and Michael Gutierrez as Wilbur Turnblad.



ANGELA HILLMAN  
Helen Delphia, as Tracy Turnblad and Alexander Capeneka, as Link Larkin.

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# Prime Healthcare making improvements at GC Hospital; proactively ready to treat Ebola

By Sue Buck  
Staff Writer



George

Ebola is a hot topic these days, and a Garden City Hospital administrator says the facility is proactively ready to treat a diagnosed Ebola patient.

Ebola, an infectious and generally fatal disease marked by fever and severe internal bleeding, is spread through contact with infected body fluids.

Saju George, the hospital's chief administrative officer, believes that the hospital is ready should an Ebola patient need treatment.

George, who is new to the community and replaces Gary Ley as the top administrator, points out that no Ebola cases have been diagnosed in Michigan.

"Ebola is the topic of

the day," George said. "We have screening measures which automatically triggers a level of extra set of eyes and ears. We have prepared ourselves to work quickly with our regional partners to take care of those patients."

George spoke recently to Garden City Rotary Club members about the hospital's overall plans. The hospital was purchased in July by physician-owned Prime Healthcare of California.

## Enhance efforts

"Our commitment is to enhance any grassroots efforts that we can for the betterment of the community," George

said. "We are the first hospital in Michigan with others in the works from what I understand."

Although some people are expecting to see exterior changes, George said most people won't see the initial improvements.

"The focus has been internal — how do we transform our focus to the community with focus on outcomes and cost?" he said. "We want to be a provider of outstanding quality care at the lowest cost and exceptional service. We know that there is work to be done and our focus has been internal the last three months."

That involves looking at how they welcome patients in the emergency room and reducing wait time there.

"We want to make

sure the care is coordinated from the time they get in to the time of discharge," he said.

The emergency room has a lot of corridors, which makes it hard for caregivers to coordinate care. The hospital is training employees on the new process, looking at capital investment and better care for the community.

"As of today, we have already invested about \$8.5 million into the hospital," George said.

Most of the public won't see the equipment or what is happening behind the scenes. The hospital plans a three-phase approach to renovating the entire facility.

"Within a year, we anticipate that we will spend a little over \$20 million," he said. "A lot of planning is happening anticipating our needs.

We believe if we provide better care, people will come."

About \$5 million is going into radiological equipment.

## Change culture

Garden City Hospital wants to change the culture a little bit and enhance the care and quality.

"Our primary investment is focused on the clinical care end," he said.

The hospital will continue its mission of training medical students, and the hospital will continue to be supportive of the community and its charities, he added.

He said that the hospital wants to broaden its network to serve 700,000 people. Right now, the hospital serves a geographic community of 13

ZIP codes with 400,000 people and wants to reach out to people who live between I-96 to Michigan Avenue and between I-275 to Telegraph.

George worked previously for St. John Health System.

"I feel more empowered today than in a nonprofit system," he said.

He wants to do the right thing and put the hospital's best foot forward. He predicts a change in culture at Garden City Hospital that will make it more patient-centered to enhance outcomes.

"We're on a journey, and we just started it," George said.

sbuck@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @Suesbuck

## Claude Monet and Impressionism

According to Merriam-Webster, Impressionism is "a style of painting that began in France around 1870, that uses spots of color to show the effects of different kinds of light, and that attempts to capture the feeling of a scene rather than specific details."

Claude Monet is credited with the birth of the term with his painting *Impression, Sunrise* in 1873 where the work was described as sketch-like rather than a finished product.

Monet was interested in capturing the natural essence in paintings, playing with light and its effects. Some of his most famous paintings were a series of water lilies in his own pond.

If you would like to see one of Monet's paintings in person, *Gladioli* is part of the permanent collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Also, at the DIA through Jan. 4, 2015, *Waterlily Pond*, *Green Harmony* is on display as a "guest of honor."

For more information about Claude Monet and his paintings, the following books might be of interest: *Life and Works of Monet* by Edmund Spinguelhurst; *Monet* by Paola Rapelli; *Monet* by Andrew Forge; *Monet's Year at Giverny*; and *Claude Monet* by Steven Levine.

*Impressionist Masterpieces in American Museums* by Robert Boardingham; *Impressionists* by Francesco Salvi; *Art of the Impressionists* by Janice Anderson; *Impressionism* by Jude Welton; *Impressionist Women* by Edward Lucie-Smith; *Key to Art from Romanticism to Impressionism* by Carlos Reyero; *Impressionists* by Michael Wilson; *Impressionism* by Pierre Courthion; and *History of Impressionism* by John Rewald are all good sources for information regarding impressionism.

If you want to paint like the masters, you might want to take a look at Jonathan Stephenson's *Paint with the Impressionists*.

The library also has two online research databases that are full of information regarding the art world: *Fine Arts and Music Collection* and *SIRS Renaissance*. Both databases can be found under the Research tab of the library home page (westlandlibrary.org) and can be accessed both in the library and at home.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9



Claude Monet's "Impression, Sunrise," 1873, was described as sketch-like rather than a finished product.

p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**Highlighted Events**  
**Preview Book Sale**  
**Friends of the Library**, 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13 - The Preview Sale is a chance for members of the Friends of the Library (or those who wish to join) to get first pick in this month's book sale.

**Friends of the Library - Public Book Sale**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16. Great prices for great books. All proceeds go to the library.  
**Rhythm & Rock Time**, 10 a.m. Nov. 15, 1-5 years old, with caregiver - Sing, play and move along with your child. Your little one's natural rhythm will shine in this interactive music program. Siblings are welcome. No registration needed.

**First and Second Grade Book Club**, 2 p.m. Nov. 15 - The First and Second Grade Book Club meets once a month to discuss books, and engage in other fun, book-related activities. November's selection is *This Is the Turkey* by Abby Levine. This program includes a snack, so please indicate any food allergies your child may have upon sign-up.

**Writers Club**, 7 p.m. Nov. 17 - 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 Writer's Club.

**Internet Q & A**, 2 p.m. Nov. 18 - Got questions about the Internet? Having trouble with your email address? Curious to learn more about Facebook, Twitter or Wikipedia? Interested in starting a blog? Want to know more about Google searching? Bring your questions and Katie, our librarian and advanced Internet user, will provide information or find solutions to your common problems. Any topic related to the internet is fair game. This

is our Internet Special Topics course for November. Prerequisite: Internet Basics or some experience using an internet browser. Register in advance at the Reference Desk.

**Percy Jackson Party**, 6 p.m. Nov. 18, Grades 5 and up - We're having a party for everyone's favorite demigod Percy Jackson. Come enjoy some Percy Jackson themed crafts, games, and snacks. No registration is required.

**Tabletop Gaming Club**, 6-8:30 p.m. Nov. 18, Ages 14 and up - Come and make friends as you play your favorite tabletop games, or discover new games. Play Munchkin, Clue, Arkham Horror, Fluxx, HeroClix, Settlers of Catan, Risk and many more. Snacks will be provided. This is a drop-in program.

**Academic Enrichment**, 3:30-5 p.m. Nov. 19, 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 child or teen to participate.

**Time for Art**, 6:30 p.m. Nov. 19, second-fifth-graders - Children will create a seasonal art project using a variety of materials and their imaginations. Registration began Nov. 5. Plan to arrive within 5 minutes of the start time to hold your spot.

**Adult Book Discussion Group**, 7 p.m. Nov. 19 - This month's reading selection is *This is Where I Leave You* written by Jonathan Tropper. Limited number of copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

**Teen Book Club**, 7 p.m. Nov. 20, Grades 7-12 - This month's selection is *Speak*, written by Laurie Halse Anderson.

**Ongoing programming**

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

Information Central was compiled by Susan Hanson. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.



Westland resident Clara Mirti places an angel ornament on the Tree of Life at Westland Shopping Center in memory of her daughter Tracey.

## Angela Hospice Tree of Life opens at Westland Shopping Center

The holidays are a time to be surrounded by and remember loved ones. Angela Hospice's Tree of Life is the perfect time to do both.

The event, which has been held annually since 1986, offers guests a unique way of honoring their loved ones, both living and deceased, in the form of an angel ornament bearing their name.

"I've been involved with the Tree of Life for many years now," said Rebecca DeRaud, bereavement and social work manager for Angela Hospice. "I've seen how meaningful the experience can be for those who participate. It really touches them to honor their loved ones in this special way."

There will be trees at two locations this year, and the ornaments will be on display through Christmas Eve. The first location is Westland Shopping Center near JCPenney, which will

have its opening ceremony at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21. The second location is at Laurel Park Place near Carson's and will open at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

Both opening ceremonies will feature Angela Hospice's founder Sister Mary Giovanni, and include a performance by the Angela Hospice Choir.

Pat Niedbala, a Westland resident and Angela Hospice volunteer, plans to take shifts at both malls but getting to work at Westland has some special benefits.

"I live in a condo complex in Westland and some of the retirees walk the mall," she said. "The Tree of Life is a good chance to see those people there as well."

Niedbala has been volunteering at the Tree of Life for nearly 20 years. Over that time, interacting with people has been her favorite part, whether that be running into someone she

knows or offering compassion to those personalizing an angel.

"I think it's a wonderful thing," Niedbala said. "Not only financially, it helps the hospice organization, but I think emotionally it does something for the people too, to connect with their grief or loss. It gives them a sense of comfort."

Some of the Angela Hospice programs that will benefit from the event include the My Nest is Best pediatric and prenatal hospice programs, and grief support, among many others.

To participate in this holiday tradition, fill out a form online at Ask-ForAngela.com or visit the Tree of Life during mall hours to personally hang your ornaments. There is no specific donation amount required.

For more information or to fill out an angel form by phone, call Barbara Paul at 734-464-7810.

## What Social Security benefit changes mean

In January 2015, Social Security benefits will increase 1.7 percent. For married couples, the increase on average will be about \$36 a month.

For the majority of people, the Medicare B premium will remain the same at \$104.90 a month. In addition, for individuals who earned more than \$85,000 or for a couple who earned more than \$170,000, their premiums will also remain the same at \$147 a month).

So with an increase in Social Security and Medicare premiums for Part B remaining flat, what is



Rick Bloom

MONEY MATTERS

the bad news? The answer is that despite the Social Security increase, the cost-of-living, particularly for seniors, went up more than 1.7 percent.

Nearly 50 percent of seniors generate 50 percent of their income from Social Security and almost 25 percent of seniors generate nearly 90 percent of their income from Social Security.

Today, pensions are a

thing of the past and retirement is no longer short term.

The bottom line is don't enter into retirement without a game plan as to how you can finance your life in retirement.

Social Security is never going to cover all of one's living expenses and in the future it will cover less. Individuals will have to be responsible for more of their retirement.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Email questions to rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

## Oakwood dedicates state's first organ donor memorial wall

More than three years after announcing plans to pay tribute to those who have helped save lives through their generosity in death, Oakwood officials unveiled Michigan's first artistic organ and tissue donor memorial wall — *A New Dawn* — at Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn.

The dedication ceremony included families of past donors and organ donor recipients, and the award-winning artist who created the unique tribute.

Funded entirely by grants and individual donations, the artistic memorial is located near Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn's Frank C. and Mary T. Padzieski interfaith sanctuary, establishing a designated area where families and friends can go to remember their loved ones who have donated organs to save lives throughout the Oakwood system.

"The memorial wall is a unique artistic centerpiece providing a place for families and their loved ones to gather, reflect and heal, while also promoting the gift of life," said Kelly Smith, senior vice president and



Artist Tony Bellomo, Theresa DalZot from Gift of Life Michigan, Kelly Smith, division president of Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn, and Anne Kowalczyk, chief financial officer of the Gift of Life Foundation, celebrate the new donor memorial wall at Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn.

division president, Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn. "There were several passionate proponents of this memorial, including our partners from the Gift of Life, who have been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition."

Oakwood has a long history of supporting the issue of organ donations. Oakwood Hospital-Dear-

born was the first hospital in Michigan to fly the Gift of Life flag year round to support the need for organ donors. In addition, the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation has also offered long-term support to the cause and contributed significantly to the memorial wall project.

"There are currently over 3,300 people in

Michigan awaiting transplants," Smith said. "This memorial will not only help honor those who helped save lives, but also hopefully promote this cause and inspire others to do the same."

The wall, considered a work of art, features individual glass doves that are enshrined in lighted glass, expressing

the spirit of the dove in an elegant, calming and spiritual manner. The family of each organ donor will receive a matching dove engraved with their loved one's name, at a special ceremony.

The memorial wall is a surrounding space roughly 16 feet wide, designed to embrace visitors with information, pictures and stories of past donors, while encouraging participation in organ and tissue donation in English, Spanish and Arabic.

Costing roughly \$100,000 total, the memorial wall was designed and constructed by local award-winning artist Tony Bellomo, whose brother-in-law was a beneficiary of organ donation as a heart recipient.

Robin Kulwicki's brother will be one of those honored on Oakwood's Memorial Wall. He passed away in 2009, but his heart is beating on in the chest of a complete stranger.

She said she received a letter from the recipient recently that let her know that the decision to donate his organs was

the right one.

"You have to try to find some good in it," she said of her brother's death. "You're saving a single person, but how many people around that person are you helping, too? You're keeping someone in someone's life: their children or grandchildren. It's not just about one person."

Her brother, in fact, saved three lives with donated kidneys, liver and heart. His ultimate gift has helped as many as 75 more through donated bone, skin, tendons and corneas.

"Every day, unspoken heroes give their final gift; a gift that saves lives, helps the blind see and gives new hope to countless people," said Teresa DalZot, Oakwood's liaison to the Gift of Life, Michigan. "Organ, tissue and cornea donation show the unwavering compassion and selflessness of people in the face of loss and tragedy. Families donate — or honor the decision made by their loved one to become a donor — in a time of profound grief. These people deserve to be honored for years to come."

## Westland Cellular Connection store holds holiday food drive

The Westland Cellular Connection store is one of 300 Verizon stores participating in a food donation program through Friday, Dec. 12.

The Cellular Connection, the nation's largest Verizon Premium wireless retailer, will be donating and volunteering at local food banks through its Stop the Hunger initiative this holiday season in a joint effort with its customers.

Participating TCC

stores across the country are encouraging local families to bring in canned and boxed food, which will be delivered to the community's food bank. The participating store in Westland is located at 36610 Ford.

In addition to the food drive, each participating store will donate funds and employees will volunteer at local food banks until the end of December.

"Stop the Hunger is

the newest initiative under TCC's Culture of Good movement, which empowers our employees to make a positive, charitable impact in their communities," said Scott Moorehead, president and CEO of TCC. "It's how our company gives back to every community where we do business. We're honored to have the ability to help families and children in need this holiday season by donating to

and volunteering at local food banks throughout the U.S."

In 2013, the United States Department of Agriculture reported that 17.5 million of U.S. households were food insecure. With one in five children struggling with hunger at some point in their lives, TCC is doing its part to ensure that as many children as possible do not

have to battle hunger issues this holiday season.

With the Culture of Good in its second year, TCC continues to advance its corporate social responsibility efforts. Most recently, TCC's summer "Culture of Good" efforts resulted in the donation of 300 college scholarships to children and 100,000 backpacks to deserving

students.

To learn more about TCC, visit [ecellularconnection.com](http://ecellularconnection.com). Consumers can also find more information about the company at [facebook.com/tcctalk](http://facebook.com/tcctalk) and [twitter.com/tcctalk](http://twitter.com/tcctalk).

Supporters of the program are encouraged to use hashtag #cultureofgood on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to help spread the word.

## Schoolcraft PTAC hosts SBA visit

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center of Schoolcraft College will host the Small Business Administration's Regional District Office on Monday, Nov. 17, at Schoolcraft College. The overview on federal small business programs and an orientation to the SBA's support of regional companies will run from 9-11 a.m.

"The Small Business Administration's role in promoting government contracting opportunities for small businesses is invaluable," said Alexander Masters, a Procurement Counselor with the PTAC of Schoolcraft College. "This free event will go over programs related to woman-owned firms, disadvantaged business programs and others."

The SBA provides managerial, technical, and contractual assistance to small businesses, often in an effort to ready the firm and its owners for success in the private industry and government contracting. When small businesses pursue government contracting opportunities at the federal level, the SBA administers a majority of the federal procurement programs available to small firms. The PTAC provides specialized assistance in the actual pursuit of contract opportunities.

"WOSB, 8(a), and HUBZone application and certification requirements and processes will be discussed in this seminar," Alexander said. "This is a unique opportunity that brings the small business expertise

of the SBA and the government contracting assistance of the PTAC under one event."

Firms interested in attending must RSVP for the event.

Questions and comments may be directed to the PTAC of Schoolcraft College team by phone at 734-462-4438 or by email at [inforeq@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:inforeq@schoolcraft.edu).

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center of Schoolcraft College is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Defense, State of Michigan and Schoolcraft College. PTACs provide free government contracting assistance to businesses in selling products and services to federal, state and local government agencies.

### BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

#### Named special consultant

St. Mary Mercy Livonia's sports medicine medical director, Dr. Steven Karageanes, was recently named special consultant to the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science's Board of Directors. In this role, Dr. Karageanes will provide expertise on multimedia outreach and medical recommendations on improving the health of dancers around the world.

Dr. Karageanes has vast experience with the performing arts as a founding member of Athletes and the Arts, a



Dr. Karageanes

multi-organizational initiative spearheaded by the American College of Sports Medicine and Performing Arts Medical Association, dance medicine consultant with the Wayne State University Maggie Allesee Department of Theater and Dance, and assistance to the Radio City Rockettes, Velocity Dance Convention, So You Think You Can Dance, David Copperfield and Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Karageanes utilizes osteopathic manual medicine to diagnose and treat all types of acute and chronic orthopedic and sports injuries. His specialties include knee, ankle, neck and back injuries, concussion management and ultrasonography.

He is Regional Assistant Dean of Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, past-

president of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine and serves on the editorial board of the Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine. Dr. Karageanes is also the medical director of MeryElite Sports Performance, St. Mary Mercy's sports medicine and sports performance program providing athletes sports specific instruction, training, physical therapy and performance enhancement.

Dr. Karageanes completed a primary care sports medicine fellowship at Lutheran Hospital at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, and a residency at Midwestern University's Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He holds a certificate in sports medicine from the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians.

## Pre-Season Party

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> thru**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Pre-Season Party Hours:**  
**Fri. 11am-midnight**  
**Sat. 10am-midnight**  
**Sun. noon-8pm**

**Then we close & re-open**  
**for the whole season on**  
**Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**FREE PARKING**  
in the  
Compuware garage  
Mon - Fri 11am - 6pm  
with skating  
admission

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# Certified pre-owned Lincoln MKZs are hot sellers at Varsity Lincoln

By Greg Mullin  
Staff Writer

Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln MKZ-A-THON offers no gimmicks, no gifts, just great deals. More than 100 Lincoln MKZs are on-site — with Certified Pre-Owned vehicles for sale for as low as \$10,995.

Hurry over to Varsity Lincoln these next three days to catch the deals:

- » Thursday, Nov. 13, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- » Friday, Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- » Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Certified pre-owned Lincoln MKZ vehicles come with many benefits, including:

- » A meticulous, 200-point inspection by factory-trained technicians
- » Six-year/100,000-mile comprehensive warranty coverage
- » Complimentary roadside assistance

Customers spoke for themselves when detailing their experiences with the team at Varsity Lincoln.

"I have an MKZ from Varsity Lincoln; I've had it for about a year now. It's a beautiful interior, a beautiful exterior, it handles well on the road and gives me good gas mileage!" Lincoln MKZ owner Gary Trudeau said. "I love this place. I wouldn't even consider buying a car from anybody else!"

"I'm very, very satisfied — very happy with it," said Rich Lewnau, describing his Lincoln MKZ purchase.

Jason Towe told us why he got into a Lincoln MKZ: "I definitely love the comfort and the sportiness of the Lincoln. The cost was a big factor for me; it was actually cheaper than my last car I owned and I feel I'm getting a better quality car for what I'm paying!"

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Lincoln MKZ, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," said Jere Law,



This certified 2012 MKZ Lincoln Ultimate is one of more than 100 Lincoln MKZs for sale during Varsity Lincoln of Novi's MKZ-A-THON.

Varsity Lincoln's general sales manager and pre-owned director. "The 100,000-mile free bumper-to-bumper warranty that comes alongside all certified pre-owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost exclusively at Varsity Lincoln!"

Loaded with features, the Lincoln MKZ will satisfy any customer, Law explained.

"The Lincoln MKZ provides a combination of sporty and luxury. Benefits include FWD or AWD, dual-zone climate control, Bluetooth, SYNC, an adaptive suspension, a panoramic roof and heated and cooled seats for comfort, just to name a few," Law said.

This model defines luxury that is incomparable in this price. With Lincoln, most premium luxury features come standard, as opposed to paying additional for similar features on other comparable brands. "The Lincoln MKZ stands alone in its class of vehicles," Law said.

Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind from knowing that the Lincoln MKZ will hold its value.

"This model holds its value more than other models for many reasons," Law said. "Any depreciation has already been taken on by the previous owner. Plus, the advanced styling and dependability are advantageous and add to the Lincoln MKZ's value."

The MKZ-A-Thon event

includes the Lincoln MKZ Hybrids in inventory, which get an EPA-estimated MPG 41/39 (city/highway) and can drive in electric-only mode up to 85 mph.

"The Lincoln MKZ Hybrid's gas mileage, dependability and warranty make for a solid modern vehicle and overall excellent experience," Law said.

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"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are before, during and after the sale," he added.

\*0.9 percent APR for 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.

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## OUR VIEWS

# Controversial issues shouldn't wait till lame duck session

The midterm election has come and gone. Now what?

Various board and commissions locally will have some new members representing residents at the local, county, state and federal levels. They'll have to get up to speed on the various issues and agendas under consideration.

For the state Legislature, next comes the so-called lame duck session, the time between the election and the end of the legislative session. The session began Wednesday. Based on previous lame duck sessions, it's hard to determine what will come out of Lansing in the next month or so.

Two years ago, there was a flurry of activity — good or bad, depending on your point of view — coming out of the lame duck session.

Most controversial of the actions was passage of right-to-work legislation, which made it illegal to require financial support of a union as a condition of employment for public- and private-sector workers. The bills exempted police and firefighters.

Other actions included creating a regional transit authority to coordinate public transportation in southeast Michigan; increased access for highly trained gun owners to carry their concealed weapons in formerly forbidden places, such as schools, day care centers, stadiums and churches; a new emergency manager law to replace the previous statute that was repealed by voters a month earlier; tougher recall requirements against elected officials; and increased regulations on facilities that offer abortions.

Some may applaud the new measures, and others cry foul. Some issues appeared to make sense. Others, not so much.

What's unfortunate is it appears too often state legislators wait to address anything remotely controversial until after the election. For those seeking re-election or a position in another governing body, waiting until after the general election allows the lawmakers not to worry about any repercussions if the bills passed go against the views of the electorate in the district. Even more so with the new recall requirements.

And that goes against the basic tenets of representative government and elections overall.

Voters select the candidates they believe best represent their views and opinions. If they disagree with how the legislator handles the job, the electorate can select someone else in the next election. That's the whole point of elections in the first place. That's why incumbents sometimes see challenges from within their own party.

The state Legislature is a full-time position. It baffles us that so many issues are crammed into the final days the legislature is in session. Most any state senator or representative will argue that it's a full-time position and a move to a part-time legislator would hurt the state.

But the lame duck session flies in the face of that argument, since the elected officials seem to be able to handle so much of their work in a few weeks.

Among the issues that could be addressed during the current lame duck session include funding for road and infrastructure improvements, term limits, how presidential electoral votes are awarded, civil rights and medical marijuana.

There's some controversy to all of these issues, at least in terms of how they will be addressed.

We urge our local legislators to limit their official decision making in this year's lame duck legislation and leave it to the incoming legislature to address the issues voters elected them to do.



FILE PHOTO

Controversial bills are often passed in the state's lame duck session. We hope those still in office until the end of the year don't follow that trend.

## GUEST COLUMN

# Court ruling doesn't end marriage equality dream

A few years ago, a family vacation in Ohio nearly ended in a fatal car crash for April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse. They had their three adopted children with them and the close call made them realize their family had no protection under Michigan law if something happened to one or both of them.

Michigan's adoption laws prevent same-sex couples from adopting. When the case was presented to Judge Friedman, he encouraged them to challenge the Michigan Marriage Amendment, because that was the root of their problems. They did so.

On March 21, 2014, U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Friedman, a Reagan appointee, ruled that prohibiting same-sex couples is unconstitutional. In his decision, Judge Friedman said, "the state cannot use its domestic relations authority to legislate families out of existence."

Gov. Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette appealed the ruling to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. On Nov. 6, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the ruling, delivering a rare defeat in the courts to the freedom to marry, which has seen 49 victories in the courts since June 2013. The appellate court issued its decision three months after hearing same-sex marriage cases from all four states.

In each of those states, federal judges had struck down same-sex marriage bans on constitutional grounds. This ruling will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

In the majority opinion, the 6th circuit court said that same-sex marriage in every state is for the people of the states, and not for judges, to decide. I would argue that goes against the arc of history and, in her dissent, Judge Martha Daughtrey said:

"Despite a civil war, the end of slavery and ratification of the 14th Amendment in 1868, extensive litigation has been neces-



sary to achieve even a modicum of constitutional protection from discrimination based on race, and it has occurred primarily by judicial decree, not the democratic election process. My colleagues seem to have fallen prey to the misguided notion that the intent of the framers of the United States Constitution can be effectuated only by cleaving to the legislative will and ignoring and demonizing an independent judiciary. If we in the judiciary do not have the authority, and indeed the responsibility to right fundamental wrongs left excused by a majority of the electorate, our whole intricate, constitutional system of checks and balances ... prove to be nothing but shams."

Civil rights should not have to be put up for a vote; courts have always decided civil rights issues. In today's mass media, Super-PAC driven election cycles, the idea that a majority of voters get to define the rights of a minority of people is repugnant to the concepts of equality and fairness. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival." When faced with issues of equal protection under the law and guaranteeing basic civil rights, it should be the responsibility of the courts to decide. The 6th Circuit should not have ruled that a decision of this magnitude, affecting so many families, should be left up to the purview of the voters.

Currently, 32 states plus Washington, D.C., enjoy equal marriage right and a record number of Americans live in states that recognize relationships between same-sex couples.

## LETTERS

### Better behavior needed

I have been a resident of Wayne all of my life. My parents moved here in 1953, before Wayne was even a city. They were involved in many activities in this city: elections, church, civic organizations. My mother was even part of an artist group that put on a yearly exhibit in the basement of the Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union, now the home of the St. Mary's Outreach Center.

They taught me that our community is only as good as we make it, and so at an early age I, too, learned to be involved and give back. When I married my spouse, a former Westland resident, we chose to purchase our home in Wayne for many reasons, and so for 37 years this is where we have been.

We raised our children here and felt it was a great place to do so. In the summer, I'd load up the gang and we'd ride our bikes for a picnic lunch, each week picking a different city park to visit. They all played baseball here; my daughter learned to dance at the Wayne Rec at age 3. It indeed was a great place to raise a family for more than one generation.

But times change, and for a myriad of reasons, we find our city facing many new challenges. Everyone has their theories on how we got here: who mismanaged what, how funds were mispent, who is at fault. I give much credit to those who run for office for our city, thinking that they, too, have something to offer to help guide us in the direction we need to take. It is, and will not be, an easy task.

What distresses me the most is the behavior of individuals who have taken to "bashing" the members of the city council. When I attend or watch these meetings and see how these individuals are treated, I simply cannot believe that we, as adults, are treating one another this way. If I witnessed my children speaking to one another with such disrespect, even as adults, I'd have to say that we need to take a timeout and set some ground rules for respect. If a neighbor spoke to me this way, I'd do the same.

As the individuals verbally address the council, or post on

### SEND US YOUR VIEWS

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats: **Web:** www.hometownlife.com. **Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Wayne-Westland and Garden City Observer Newspapers, 29725 Hudson Drive, Novi, MI 48377-1736 **Email:** smason@hometownlife.com. **Deadline:** Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

their Facebook pages, which is another whole subject in itself, in such an unkind manner, I wonder how they expect one to think of them as respectful and responsible citizens. Rarely does anyone get up and say anything positive ... not even a thanks for trying, it's a tough job. Do the attackers have any idea how much time these individuals commit to being on the council, trying to make the best decisions? I think they have no real clue.

But what really concerns me is if young prospective homeowners view council meetings before making a decision to move into a community, and there are those that do that much research before purchasing a home, what would they think if they saw what goes on at our meetings? It certainly would make me want to live somewhere else, where the citizens were at least civil to one another.

I am embarrassed and ashamed of these behaviors, and we all should be accountable for higher expectations from one another.

Kitty Monit  
Wayne

### Voters haven't spoken

It used to be after an election, I would say to myself that the people have spoken, live with it. Whether my candidate won or lost. But now, with PACs, like labor unions and the Koch brothers, spending billions of dollars

Over 64 percent of the U.S. population will soon live in a state with the freedom to marry for same-sex couples. Nearly 59 percent of the U.S. population lives in a state currently issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples statewide.

It is unconscionable that same-sex couples married in Utah have legal protection in Utah, and 31 other states, but if they were to move to Michigan for any reason they would lose all legal protections. They would be able to claim federal tax benefits, but they would lose their Social Security spousal and survivor benefits, and all state tax relief afforded to other married couples. There are more than 1,000 rights and benefits associated with marriage, but more importantly marriage provides safety and stability for children and families.

Although this ruling means couples like April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse will continue to be excluded from the protections and responsibilities that come with marriage, we will continue to fight to ensure that their families and the 14,598 other same-sex couples in Michigan have the respect their relationships deserve and the legal protections that are afforded by law. Polling shows that 56 percent of Michiganders are ready to join the majority of their fellow Americans in allowing the freedom to marry.

Equality Michigan will continue to support April and Jayne, as well as their legal team, as they pursue the next step in the appeals process. We will not give up on our dream of equality for all of Michigan families.

Canton resident Sommer N. Foster is Director of Political Advocacy for Equality Michigan, the state's only anti-violence and advocacy organization serving Michigan's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV affected communities.

on elections, the people have not really spoken. The special interests have.

This isn't a knock on the electorate either. How does anyone avoid the negative ads, they're everywhere. The thing that bothers me most is, no one talks about what they will bring to Lansing or Washington, they only talk about what a bad, evil person their opponent is.

Now we have lost any chance of compromise in Washington, we have to live with every decision or lack thereof that comes out of Lansing and the 2016 political ads start next week. Let the fun begin.

Skip Wehrle  
Garden City

### Have I got this right?

Milwaukee has had vouchers for 23 years and the United States Department of Education ranks them among the very worst urban schools in the country.

Sweden has had privatization and choice for 30 years. They rank below the United States on international testing and are in the process of changing to a public school system.

Chile was schooled in vouchers and choice by none other than Milton Friedman, the father of choice and vouchers. They are no longer financing private schools with public money.

Both "No Child Left Behind" and "Race to the Top" have been abject failures. Yet, *Detroit News* columnist Ingrid Jacques, in the face of charter school failure nationwide, wants more choice and vouchers.

What passes for "reform" in this country is an unmitigated disaster. For too long, we have listened to corporatists, who wish to profit through privatization of American schools and a few wealthy and well-intentioned citizens who are unschooled in how children learn (Bill Gates and Eli Broad).

We need to look for improvement by emulating our high-performing schools and Finland, a top performing nation that is subjected to standardized testing a grand total of once in the educational life of a student.

Al Churchill  
Livonia

# OBSERVER

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Sue Mason,  
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Grace Perry,  
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## E-waste collection to benefit kids with speech problems

Madonna University's Lions Club and Ford MU Community Corps Journalism/Communication team will hold an electronic waste collection from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, in the parking lot of the main academic building at the university.

All of the e-clutter items collected at this drive will be turned into scholarships for children at Beaumont's Center for Childhood Speech and Language Disorders.

Acceptable e-clutter items include: unbroken flat-screen monitors, keyboards, computer towers, printers, scanners, fax machines, toner cartridges, flat-screen TVs, DVD players, VCRs, appliances, cell phones, batteries, power cables, video game systems, and more.

Beaumont's Center for Childhood Speech and Language Disorders helps children with speech and language disorders learn how to communicate. They provide a variety of specialty care programs for children with: developmental Asperia, receptive language disorders, expressive language disorders, developmental apraxia, developmental dyspraxia, articulation disorder, pragmatic disorders, stuttering and Down syndrome.

Ford MU Community Corps is a program in which students put skills learned in the classroom to practical use by using them to create a service project that will benefit a local nonprofit organization. The Journalism/Communication team is partnering with the Madonna Lions Club to promote and host the e-clutter collection event. In the past, the group has worked with Sweet Dreamzzz Inc. in Farmington Hills and Seedlings Braille Books for Children in Livonia.

In addition to the Nov. 22 collection, the team will also be collecting e-clutter Monday through Friday, Nov. 17-21, at popular on-campus spots including the Take-5 Lounge in the main academic building and the Gathering Space of the Franciscan Center. State-wide Recycling and Recovery of Plymouth will be assisting the group in their collection efforts.

Madonna University is at 36600 Schoolcraft.

# Veteran thanks Schoolcraft College for his education

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Lawrence Smith of Canton had his opportunity to say "thank you" on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, as the expanded Veterans Resource Center was dedicated at Schoolcraft College.

Smith is a 22-year U.S. Army veteran and Detroit police officer. He graduated from Schoolcraft with honors in 2012 with an associate's degree, and is finishing up his bachelor's degree in public safety administration with honors at Eastern Michigan University.

"Pam Paxton-Keehner, my counselor, was a great tool in getting me started," said Smith, 51, who'll graduate from EMU in December. "I was scared to go back to school. It was a great learning experience."

Smith urged other veterans to seek out Schoolcraft staffers'



JULIE BROWN

Schoolcraft graduate Lawrence Smith of Canton visits with Pam Paxton-Keehner, who coordinates the Veterans Resource Center at Schoolcraft. Smith on Veterans Day urged other military veterans to return to school as he did. He's finishing his bachelor's degree at Eastern Michigan University.

expertise and assistance: "They will help you through this process," he said.

Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress told the audience Tuesday afternoon that space was a

challenge in constructing the facility in the McDowell Center on the Livonia campus. Jeffress noted the *Star Trek* reference of "space, the final frontier," adding, "This is an expandable

space."

Jeffress noted not all veterans are aware of their benefits, and that paperwork can be a challenge. "This is to help veterans get all that paperwork done," he said. Schoolcraft has some 220 veterans enrolled.

Jim Fausone, a college board member and attorney, also spoke at the ceremony. His wife, Carol Ann, is the first woman to become a brigadier general in the Michigan National Guard, and was also present.

"This is a rarity," Jim Fausone said. "I get to give the speech," he said, adding his wife would tell him later how he did.

Fausone noted the U.S. has some 22 million living veterans, including some 2.4 million who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He urged the audience to thank veterans for freedom to at-

tend school, to assemble and to worship without fear.

Fausone also referenced the recent general election in the U.S. "We do it without violence," he said of voting. "We do it by casting our ballots."

Fausone urged veterans to use the discipline and skills acquired in the service to reach civilian goals. "We know you're not asking for charity," he said of benefits earned.

Fausone also lauded the family members of servicemen and women. As the ceremony ended, the doorway area upstairs in the McDowell (Room 240) had a ceremonial ribbon cutting, followed by informal tours. The center features several computers in the study area, as well as resources for veterans and an area to socialize and watch TV.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar runs in the *Observer* as space permits. Nonprofit groups and community organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events. Include a daytime telephone number and contact person. Email address is: ksmith@hometownlife.com.

### PASTA POPS

**Time/date:** 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

**Location:** Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Pasta Pops is the Livonia Symphony's major fundraiser. The event begins with a silent auction of Italian-related items, pasta-type food baskets, tickets to musical events and unique wines. A family-style dinner of a variety of pastas and other foods will be served at 7 p.m. followed by a concert with many Italian favorites at 8 p.m. Tickets will not be available at the door. Reserved tickets are \$75.

**Contact:** 734-591-0266; www.livoniasymphony.org.

### HOLIDAY BAZAAR

**Time/date:** 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

**Location:** Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City.

**Details:** The Garden City Presbyterian Women's annual Holiday will feature a turkey dinner served from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday. Tickets are available at the church. There will be many booths to purchase items as well as a Cookie Walk, Grandma's Attic, Baked Goods Booth and Silent Auction.

**Contact:** Call the church office at 734-421-7620.

### ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

**Time/date:** 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

**Location:** Pierce Middle School, 25605 Orangelawn, Redford.

**Details:** More than 35 crafters

with unique and different talents. There will be a tin can raffle with items donated by community members, a bake sale, face painting and kids' basketball tournament. Admission is free.

**Contact:** 313 535-4000, ext. 1661.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY

**Time/date:** 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

**Location:** Wilson Barn, 29350 W. Chicago Ave., Livonia.

**Details:** Join Scouts from Troop/Pack 897 for an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party for children who would otherwise go without Christmas gifts this year. Needed are empty shoeboxes, and school supplies (pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, paper, coloring books) and toys (small cars, stuffed animals, battery free things, balls) and hygiene items (especially brushes and hair clips) and people to write little personal notes of good cheer.

### CAPTIVE FREE MEAL PACKING EVENT

**Time/date:** 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 16.

**Location:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

**Details:** All are invited to a worship service led by Captive Free, a relational music ministry team. In addition to leading worship, these dynamic youth will facilitate a Food Packaging Service Event. All are invited to help prepare 7,200 nutritious, life-saving meals for starving children around the world. Lunch will be served at 12:15 pm, followed by food packing. This is an ideal service activity for scout or other youth groups. Sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.

**Contact:** Kathy Weinberg, 734-464-0211 ext. 202, info@holylivonia.org.

### THE MEN WHO MADE SELFRIDGE

**Time/date:** 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17.

**Location:** Judge Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park, Eight Mile and Newburgh roads, Livonia.

**Details:** Author Dan Heaton will give an historical presentation on the two men instrumental in the creation of Self-

ridge Air National Guard Base and the launching of the U.S. Air Force. There is no charge and the public is welcome to attend this meeting of the Livonia Historical Society. Enter the parking lot off Newburgh Road, just south of Eight Mile Road.

**Contact:** 734-416-3848.

### WIDOWED CO-ED BREAKFAST

**Time/date:** 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 20.

**Location:** Annies, 33427 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites all widowed men and women to meet for breakfast, good coffee, good food and good conversation at 9 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Annies. Meet new friends in a safe setting.

**Contact:** Tom at 734-927-0610.

### LAGERS FOR LUNCHESES

**Time/date:** 7-11 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21.

**Location:** One Under Bar & Grill, 35780 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Presented by the Livonia Junior Chamber, the first ever Lagers for Lunches will

raise money to pay off school lunch debts within the city of Livonia. Attendees will sample beers from all over the country with an emphasis on Michigan breweries. Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased at lagersforlunches.eventbrite.com. Each ticket gives the attendees 15 drink tickets and appetizers.

### ST. MICHAEL ALL-CLASS REUNION

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

**Location:** Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia.

**Details:** St. Michael the Archangel School in Livonia is holding its annual all-class reunion for all alumni 21 years of age and older. Anyone with a connection to St. Michael's (graduate, attendee, participant in CYO, Religious Ed, Scouts etc.) is invited to attend for a fun-filled evening of food, drink, music, and reminiscing. A \$5 admission fee will cover pizza and pop, while a cash bar will also be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring some of their old St. Michael's memorabilia to share with others.

**Contact:** 734-261-1455, ext. 225; livoniastmichael.org/alumni.

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PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

## Thurston gridders headed to D3 'Elite 8'

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Of the eight teams still alive in the MHSAA Division 3 football playoffs, few are on a hotter roll than Redford Thurston.

On Saturday afternoon on their home turf, the Eagles played a focused, relentless style of win-or-go-home football while overpowering Dearborn Divine Child, 37-17, in a D3 district final contest.

Losers of three of their first four games this season, the 8-3 Eagles will take a seven-game winning streak into Friday's 7 p.m. quarterfinal match-up at New Boston Huron (10-1).

Of the teams still playing in D3, only 11-0 Zeeland West has a longer winning streak going than the Eagles, whose three early-season setbacks came against eventual playoff-qualifiers.



Members of Redford Thurston's football team pose with their Division 3 district championship trophy following Saturday's victory over Divine Child.

Saturday's game - played in windy, cold conditions - was deadlocked at 10-10 at the half, but Thurston regrouped at the break before out-soaring the Falcons 27-7 over the final 24 minutes.

"We made a couple adjustments at halftime, but the main

thing was we just executed better than we did in the first half and our offensive line took over," said Thurston head coach Bob Snell, whose team's previous trip to the final eight came in 2010. "In the first half, Divine Child did a good job of keeping us off balance and they brought

some heavy pressure. We were able to take control up front in the second half and [senior quarterback] Travis [Wesenberg] made some outstanding throws."

After completing 4 of 8 passes for just 15 yards in the first half, Wesenberg found a groove down the stretch, completing 8 of 10 aerials for 117 yards.

"Travis made a couple huge third-and-long throws into tight coverage that kept drives alive," Snell said.

The winners' ground game was led by the dynamic senior duo of Laymon Giddings-Whately and Chris Johnson. Giddings-Whately ran 13 times for 78 yards and four touchdowns while Johnson picked up 87 yards on 17 carries and one TD. Johnson's most prolific run came on the Eagles' second

See THURSTON, Page B2



GETTY IMAGES

## MU spikers win

The Madonna University women's volleyball team swept a pair of matches Saturday at home to end the regular season with a second-place finish in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

The 16th-ranked Crusaders improved 19-3 in the WHAC with victories over Marygrove College, 25-12, 25-21, 25-16, and Lawrence Tech, 25-19, 22-25, 25-23, 25-22.

MU, which finished one game behind regular season champ Davenport University (31-7, 20-2), opens the WHAC quarterfinals at 11:30 a.m. Friday at home against Siena Heights (18-13, 10-12).

Madonna, now 34-6 overall, overcame a match-best 26 kills by Kasey Clark to beat Lawrence Tech (18-20, 8-14).

Samantha Geile led MU with 16 kills, while Casey Gates contributed 11 kills and 10 digs.

Setter Spencer Stokes racked up 41 assist-to-kills, while digs leaders included Amanda Obrycki (19) and Breanna Geile (11) for the Crusaders.

Lawrence Tech also got 14 kills from Mary Armstrong, while setter Josie Queary added 44 assists. Kelsey Haener and Brittany Schmidt contributed 19 and 16 digs, respectively.

In the 3-0 win over Marygrove (7-24, 2-19), Kayla Vogel paced MU's hitting attack with 11 kills, while Katie Breault and Gates each added nine.

Stokes finished with 34 assists, while Hannah Poole had 13 digs.

Nicole Kempinski (Livonia Churchill) had 21 assists and 11 digs, while twin sister Kara added 15 digs for the Blue Devils.

## Whispering Willows ace

Livonia resident Ed Foley, who is 81 years young, carded a hole-in-one on Monday at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Using a 7 iron, Foley drained his tee shot in the cup on the 144-yard par 3 17th hole. It was Foley's second career ace in 50 years of playing the sport. He fired a nine-hole score of 42.

## Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's contests to Observer sports editor Ed Wright, who can be reached at 734-578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com. The deadline for Sunday editions of the Observer is Friday at 10 p.m. The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 10 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL REGIONAL



ED WRIGHT

Westland John Glenn's Shelby Hodges goes eye-to-eye with Allen Park middle hitter Rebecca Mesaeh during Tuesday night's Class A regional semifinal match at Lincoln Park High School.

## Rockets battle hard, fall to Jags

Early deficits too costly for John Glenn to overcome

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's volleyball team played with spirit, hustle and energy throughout Tuesday night's Class A regional semifinal match against Allen Park.

Unfortunately for John Glenn, it also played the majority of the night with a deficit, and mounting big-time rallies hasn't been a forte for the Rockets this season.

Fueled by phenomenal, floor-sweeping defense and a big night from middle hitter Rebecca Mesaeh, the Jaguars advanced to Thursday's regional final against Temperance Bedford with a 25-20, 25-19, 20-25, 25-19 victory over John Glenn, which finished its stellar season with a 27-18 record.

Other than its wall-to-wall triumph in game three, John Glenn led for a total of just five points in the other three sets. The Rockets fell into a 10-2 hole in the second game and an 8-2 abyss in the match-clinching game four.

"We get super tense when we're trying to dig out of a hole," said John Glenn head coach Andrew Walker. "When there's something on the line, we just don't play as well as we can under pressure."

"We dug ourselves into holes too early tonight. [Allen Park] is totally beatable. We learned quickly this year that everything depends on how we play. When we play at the top of our game, we win. If we play at the bottom, we lose. Today we saw spurts, but we weren't consistent enough."

Several Rockets excelled in their final high school match, including libero Valerie Ernat, who led her team in digs and served at a high-caliber rate; Erin Parrinello, who was a front-row force, and Kelly Epperson, who turned in a solid effort all over the court.

Setter Shelby Hodges also had a big night for the Rockets, dispersing feathery-soft sets to her high-flying teammates.

See JOHN GLENN, Page B4

PREP VOLLEYBALL REGIONAL

## MARLINS REEL IN CHARGERS



ED WRIGHT

Churchill's Rayna Yetts sets the ball for a teammate during Friday's victory over Garden City.

## Mercy sweeps Churchill to advance to Thursday's final

By Dan O'Meara  
Staff Writer

Farmington Hills Mercy took a little different approach Tuesday night in its Class A regional volleyball match with Livonia Churchill.

Best known for their tips and roll shots on offense, the Marlins used a more traditional attack and hit the ball hard to defeat the Chargers in the tournament at Bloomfield Hills Marian, 25-20, 25-16, 25-20.

"We were on our heels the entire time, and we could not read their hitters," Churchill coach Anna Gatt said.

"I know [Mercy senior] Jenna Lerg is going to Michigan to play, but she's short. I don't even know how tall she is, but she can place that ball."

"She doesn't even come up with a full arm swing. She drops down and she places the ball so well."

Lerg, who will be a libero for the Wolverines and also has played setter at Mercy, is an outside hitter this year, and she combined with senior middle Kayla Fisher to lead the Marlins in kills.

"We're really fortunate to have two people who can spread out the offense," Lerg said. "That definitely opens things up for me, because I'm little bit smaller. I can take shots (without always facing a block)."

"If we got an open shot, we swung hard; otherwise, we just let them make mistakes and we played a good game."

Mercy coach Loretta Vogel had scouted

See REGIONALS, Page B4

PREP PROFILES

# SEEING EYE-TO-EYE

Thurston's tall and talented QB-receiver combo tough duo

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

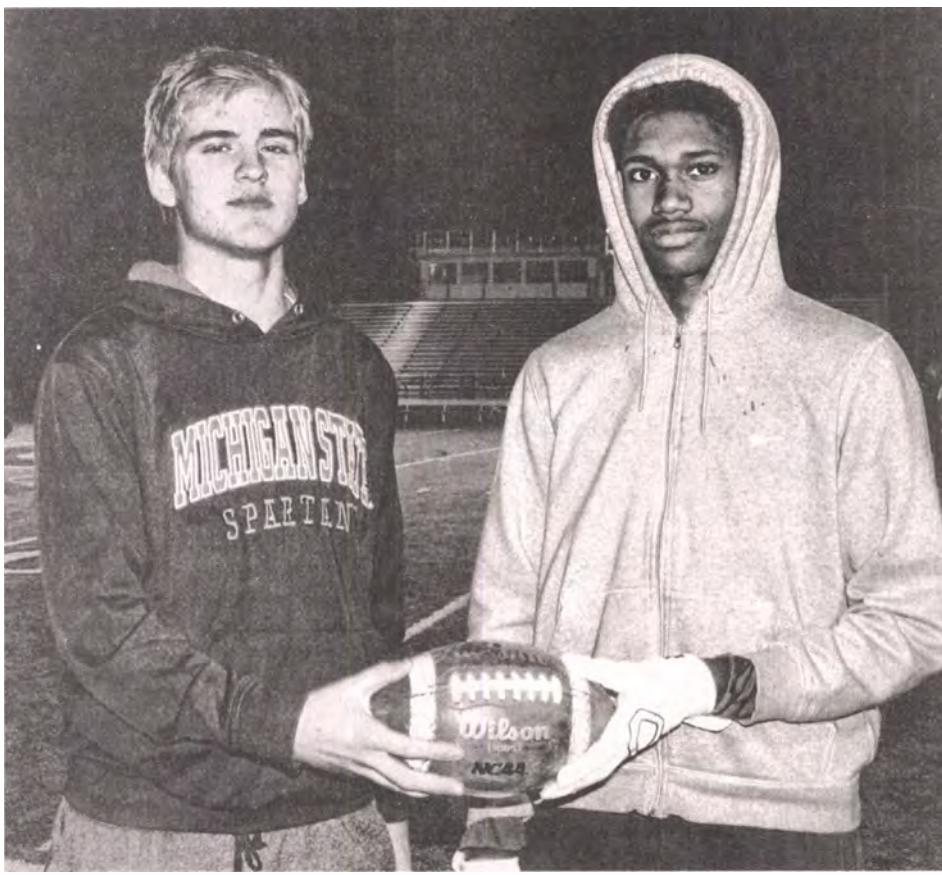
The throwing half of Redford Thurston's 6-foot-4 twin-towers passing-game duo started his career as – of all things – an offensive guard.

"One day at practice, our coach [at Pierce Middle School] threw the ball and told us, 'Whoever gets it can play quarterback,'" remembered Eagles signal-caller and former full-time middle-school blocker Travis Wesenberg. "I got to it first."

Wesenberg's No. 1 target throughout his breakout senior season has been senior wide receiver Isiah Crofford, who started every game last season at Thurston at – of all things – offensive tackle.

"When coach told me he was moving me to receiver, I was cool with it," said Crofford, who was undoubtedly the only offensive tackle in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference last season who could dunk a basketball. "It was tough at first getting the footwork down and building up my speed, but I've improved a lot."

Good friends off the field, Wesenberg and Crofford have established quite a rapport on it as well. Using their hoops forward-esque frames to their advantage, the tandem have played a pivotal role in helping



ED WRIGHT  
Redford Thurston has one of the tallest – and talented – quarterback-receiver duos in seniors Travis Wesenberg (left) and Isiah Crofford.

us in the right play when things aren't where they should be. He knows when to pull the ball down, when to improvise – he never throws the ball up for grabs. His decisions on where to go with the ball has given me a lot of confidence in tough passing situations."

Crofford's transition from the trenches to the highlight reels couldn't have gone much smoother, Snell noted.

"He's 6-4, he has speed and he can catch the ball," Snell said. "Moving him from tackle to receiver has really given us a boost. That's not an easy move for anyone, and Zeke's had his ups and downs, but he kept working at it and has really gotten better."

After starting 1-3, the Eagles' improbable march to the quarterfinal round of the tournament started at the tail-end of a loss, Wesenberg revealed.

"Our last drive against Fordson [a 34-6 loss], we said in the huddle, 'Let's turn this thing around now,'" Wesenberg remembered. "We scored a touchdown on that drive and our mind-set has been positive ever since. It's kind of a dream come true to be just one win away from the semifinals and two wins from playing at Ford Field."

"It's a good feeling to still be playing," Crofford added. "It just shows how our hard work is paying off."

ewright@hometownlife.com

Thurston advance to Friday's Division 3 regional semifinal contest at New Boston Huron.

Saturday's 37-17 victory over Dearborn Divine Child proved to be a perfect example of the damage the Wesenberg-Crofford combo can inflict on opposing secondaries. Of the 10 passes Wesenberg completed, five were to Crofford, who registered a team-high 55 re-

ceiving yards.

"When we run formations away from Isiah and get him matched up one-on-one with a cornerback, it creates a good situation for us," said Thurston head coach Bob Snell. "He usually has five or six inches on his defender and he's done a good job of catching the ball."

Wesenberg, who served as a back-up QB as a junior, has

emerged as one of Snell's most dependable field generals in recent memory. Smart (he owns a 3.5-plus grade-point average and serves as his class president), savvy and unflappable, Wesenberg rarely makes the wrong choice on the field.

"Travis is one of the best decision-makers I've ever coached," Snell said. "He gets



ED WRIGHT  
Thurston senior running back Laymon Giddings-Whately scored four touchdowns Saturday afternoon.



ED WRIGHT  
Thurston's Jacob Jenkins (77) and Alden Ingram (70) wrap up Divine Child running back David McCarty.

## THURSTON

Continued from Page B1

drive when he smashed and dashed through the Falcons' defense for 24 yards to help set up a game-tying 26-yard field goal by Kobe Williams.

Divine Child seized an early 3-0 lead on Brent Rodden's 30-yard field goal.

An outstanding special teams play set up the Eagles' first touchdown of the day. With just over nine minutes left in the second quarter, Alonzo McCoy boomed a punt 60 yards that was down inside the Falcons 5 by a hustling Isiah Crofford.

Three plays later, Aaron Griffin intercepted a Jimmy Seewald pass and returned it to the DC 7. Giddings-Whately then bulled into the end zone on a fourth-and-goal play from

the 1 to put the Eagles in front 10-3.

DC evened the score at 10-10 at the break with a 94-yard into-the-wind drive that was engineered by back-up quarterback Collin Goslin, who completed a couple pivotal third-down-and-long passes before capping the possession with a 16-yard keeper for a TD with just 32 seconds left before halftime.

"We were feeling pretty good at the half because we hadn't played well and were still tied," said Snell.

The Falcons nearly took the lead mid-way through the third quarter, but Dionte Jones surged through the middle of the DC offensive line to block a 30-yard field goal attempt.

Inspired by the turn of events, the Eagles promptly drove 73 yards and scored on a 9-yard run by Giddings-Whately to make it 16-10 (the extra

point was no good).

Thurston put the game away with a 21-point fourth quarter, which was ignited by a 55-yard pass from Wesenberg to McCoy, which took the ball to the Falcon 28. Moments later, Giddings-Whately took the ball around right end for a 17-yard scoring scamper to make it 22-10. A two-point pass from McCoy to Dionte Jones ramped the lead to 24-10.

DC cut its deficit in half, 24-17, on a 49-yard scoring pass, but the Eagles countered with a statement-making 55-

yard drive that was capped by Giddings-Whately's 2-yard TD run. The score was set up one play earlier on a 23-yard run by Johnson.

A 2-yard TD run by Johnson with four minutes left closed out the scoring.

Wesenberg finished 10 of 17 for 132 yards. His favorite target was Crofford, who reeled in five spirals for 55 yards.

Snell said New Boston Huron will pose a strong challenge for his team. "They have a very good,

balanced offense with a lot of size up front," he said. "They run out of several formations and they have good, tough athletes all over the field."

Friday's game will be the first-ever gridiron encounter between the two schools.

The Chiefs advanced to the regional round with a 44-27 victory over Trenton. They have outscored their 11 foes 346-172 this season. Thurston has racked up 296 points, but has yielded just 164.

ewright@hometownlife.com

### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On November 18, 2014 the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

2000	PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	4D	GOLD	1G2WJ52JXYF114269
1997	FORD	TAURUS	4D	RED	1FALP53S8VG194123
2002	FORD	FOCUS	4D	SILVER	1FAPF34322W361425
1998	DODGE	CARAVAN	SW	GREEN	2B4GP45G6WR600170
1992	HONDA	ACCORD		GRAY	1HGCB7651NL013009
2003	TOYOTA	MATRIX	SW	BLUE	2T1KR32E43C040472
1997	ACURA	CL	2D	WHITE	19UYA1151VL020894
2002	CHRYSLER	SEBRING	CN	TAN	1C3EL55R62N168592
2001	MINI	ECLIPSE		SILVER	4A3AC84H61E017297
2002	CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	4D	BLUE	1G1JF524737160671
2002	PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	4D	BLUE	1G2WP52K92F239536
2003	OLDSMOBILE	ALERO	4D	BLACK	1G3NF52E63C129194
2002	PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	4D	BROWN	1G2WK52J62F197526
2005	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	4D	SILVER	1G1ZU54845F178581
2011	CHEVROLET	CRUZE	4D	WHITE	1G1PC55H9B7168146
1992	FORD	F150	PU	BLUE	1FTEX15N6NKB95741
2008	CHEVROLET	IMPALA	4D	BLUE	2G1WT58K581275246

\*\*\*All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

#### 30 Day Notice of Auction

Due to unknown vehicle ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after December 13, 2014.

2004 FORD EXPLORER WHITE 1FMZU63K94UB39758, 1999 MERCURY COUGAR SILVER 1ZWH761L8X5659312, 1992 CHEVROLET P.U. GOLD 2GCEC19K9N11311429

Publish: November 13, 2014

LO-000270286 4x4.5

### ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2014-32 November 4, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was not held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. as it had previously been cancelled due to the General Election.

Matthew K. Miller  
City Clerk

Publish: November 13, 2014

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### ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2014-31 November 3, 2014

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Monday, November 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Activity & Banquet Center, 35000 Sims Ave. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED: minutes of reg. mtg. of Oct 21; PA 152 (80/20) health ins.; PSA with Plante & Moran for amount not to exceed \$10,000; appt. Interim City Manager David Murphy as alt. del. to CWCSA until June 30, 2015; consent calendar. Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned to Closed Session to discuss labor negotiations and the City Attorney's Legal Opinion at 8:25 p.m. Reconvened at 9:05 p.m. Adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Matthew K. Miller  
City Clerk

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## Make Thanksgiving Day food prep easy with fare from area markets

By Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, so it's a perfect time to create the perfect menu that's sure to impress and please your guests.

Fortunately, many local markets have already done most of the work for you, creating a wide variety of unique and delicious appetizers, desserts and other holiday menu items featuring everything from farm-fresh produce, Michigan-made products and even gluten-free items for those with food sensitivities.

While ever-popular traditional offerings such as roast turkey, creamy mashed potatoes and savory stuffing remain holiday table mainstays, chefs at some area markets and grocery stores are adding new twists to long-standing favorites.

And once you've planned your menu, a beautiful centerpiece will add the final touch. Westborn Market, with locations in Berkley, Livonia, and Dearborn, can help make your tablescape pop with beautiful and unique fresh floral arrangements.

Adding flowers — even mixed with candles — can make a holiday table special, said Danny Sawalha, operations manager.

"We do flowers on a very large scale at Westborn, at a wide variety of price points. We have something for everyone," he added.

### Appetizers

In Farmington Hills, Johnny Pomodoro's is introducing a new Pumpkin Dip appetizer featuring sweet cream mascarpone. Paired with ginger snaps or vanilla wafers for dipping, this sweet treat is a tasty way to start the festivities, said store manager Marc Miller.

Hiller's Market, with locations in Plymouth, Northville, South Lyon and West Bloomfield, offers an easy-to-serve Ultimate Snack Attack Tray that includes up to four super premium deli meats, two cheeses, potato salad or coleslaw, and pumpernickel or rye bread. It is presented with an assortment of olives, pickles, tomatoes, radishes and condiments.

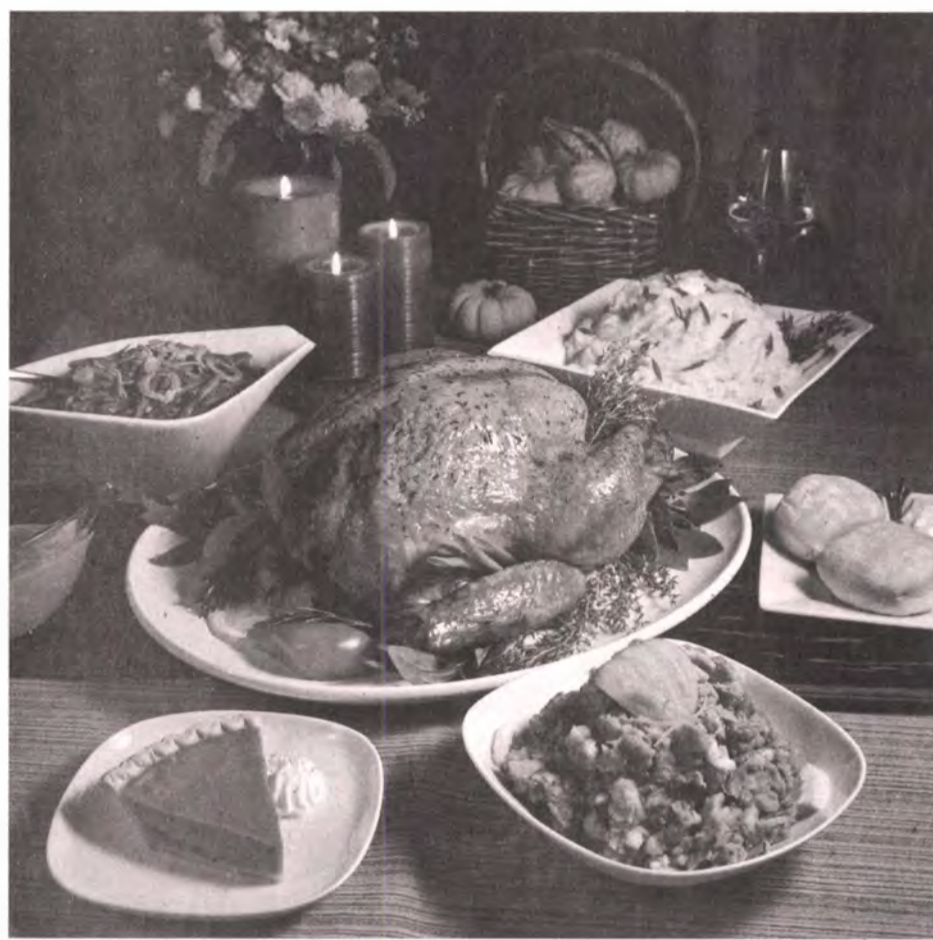
For another easy and appealing appetizer, Busch's Fresh Food Market, with several locations in the metro area, offers a spread platter featuring a blue cheese ball and salmon pate — perfect when paired with crackers.

Papa Joe's Gourmet Market and Catering in Birmingham takes the pre-dinner nibbles up a notch with its bacon-wrapped dates, made with sun-dried dates, stuffed with Gorgonzola cheese and wrapped in Applewood bacon.

### Side dishes

Papa Joe's also offers four different types of stuffing, including a gluten-free version made with quinoa, multi grains, signature spices, and a variety of fall vegetables, cherries and pumpkin seeds.

Other varieties of stuffing include a traditional version, made with house-baked bread; a Venetian version featuring pine nuts, roasted mushrooms, herbs and Parmesan cheese; and a Michigan stuffing, complete with fall



Busch's Fresh Food Market offers turkey dinners, complete with side dishes.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Executive chef Lee Ulrich presents Cranberry Faro Beet Salad, at Joe's Produce Gourmet Market and Catering in Livonia.

element to the holiday, and features 12 varieties of the trendy cookie and is available in the bakery department.

### Wine

Dan Sonenberg, manager at Johnny Pomodoro's, recommends offering guests a sneak peek at the vintage year with a Beaujolais Nouveau. Usually introduced a week before Thanksgiving, Beaujolais Nouveau is a "lighter, easier wine. It's a great complement to your Thanksgiving feast," Sonenberg said.

Experts at Holiday Market recommend The Chook Sparkling Shiraz. A luscious, light bodied Shiraz, "it tastes like liquid cranberry," said Mackey.

Mackey also recommends the 2013 Essence Riesling from Germany — "fruity and great with a buttery turkey" — as well as a 2010 Marimar Estate Don Miguel Vineyard Pinot Noir that is "great with dark meat."

J. Lohr Falcon's Perch Pinot Noir (Monterey County) is available at Hiller's Market and is "a terrific value Pinot that just received a 92 point rating from *The Wine Enthusiast*," according to Justin Hiller.

For a white wine selection, Hiller recommends Pacific Rim Riesling (Columbia Valley).

In addition to prepared hors d'oeuvres and side dishes, many area markets also offer completely prepared Thanksgiving meals to make entertaining even easier.

Area grocery stores Meijer and Kroger, as well as Busch's Fresh Food Market and Hiller's all offer pre-cooked turkey dinners, complete with sides. Prices vary by store and selection of items.

Other area gourmet markets including Holiday Market, Joe's Produce Gourmet Market and Catering, Johnny Pomodoro's, Papa Joe's Gourmet Market and Catering and Vintage Market also offer completely cooked Thanksgiving meals with prices varying depending on serving size and selections.

If you plan to serve a pre-cooked meal, be sure and order early, advises Marc Miller, manager at Johnny Pomodoro's.

"We want to make sure everyone has what they need in order to have a wonderful holiday," Miller said.

apples, walnuts and Michigan cherries, said Lisa Monroe, catering director at Papa Joe's.

Earthy greens are a wonderful way to incorporate nutrient-rich foods into the festivities, said Sarah Kerr, chef at Busch's Fresh Food Market in Livonia.

Oven-roasted Brussels sprouts tossed with fresh Michigan maple syrup, bacon and pecans are a customer-favorite, Kerr said.

Area Meijer stores also follow health-conscious food trends, offering nutritious alternatives to traditional Thanksgiving options including a new Kale Salad that features broccoli, grapes, apples and feta cheese as well as a Super Foods Salad that features kale, edamame, sunflower seeds, tomatoes, dried cranberries and more.

Joe's Produce Gourmet Market and Catering in Livonia kicks the tired jellied cranberries up a notch with a Cranberry Farro Beet Salad featuring whole cranberries, orange marmalade, butternut squash and farro grains available throughout the holiday season.

Kroger, with locations throughout the metropolitan Detroit area, offers a Cranberry Celebration Salad made with cranberries, walnuts and a variety of other sweet fruits. It is available in the deli department.

### Main course

If you are the one cooking the bird this holiday, be sure and pick up the Turkey Perfect Brining Kit available at Hiller's Markets. The kit features a brine mix and large brine bag and promises to infuse your bird with delicious herb flavors.

Brenda Jones, manager of Vintage Market in Westland, said the store of-

fers an alternative for those who don't like turkey or who want an additional main course: roast lamb.

"We sell a lot of leg of lamb for Thanksgiving. Not everyone likes turkey, or they might be sick of it. So it is nice to have another option, something a little different that it still special," she said.

Canton's Holiday Market also offers a mouth-watering addition to your Thanksgiving table. Seasoned prime rib — roasted on site — is ready to serve and easily carved, said store manager Diane Mackey.

### Desserts

Holiday Market also offers sweet treats for your dessert menu, including a cannoli torte (yellow cake layered and frosted with homemade cannoli filling and covered with crushed cannoli shells, toasted almonds and shredded coconut). For those seeking a new twist on pumpkin pie, they also offer a Pumpkin Spice Roll filled with sweet cream cheese frosting.

Joe's Produce Gourmet Market and Catering also takes pumpkin to the next level with Pumpkin Spice Cupcakes frosted with a cream cheese frosting and topped with candied pecans.

Pies, ranging from apple, cherry and other fruits, to pecan and pumpkin, made by the Grand Traverse Pie Company are available at area Busch's Fresh Food Market locations.

A special seasonal apple-caramel dessert featuring fresh apples, whipped topping and rich caramel — a lighter alternative to pies and cakes — is available from Vintage Market.

Hiller's Market's macaroon tray offers an opportunity to bring a French



Submitted  
Chef Gale Gand will visit Busch's Fresh Food Market in Plymouth on Nov. 14.

## Meet Food Network chef at Busch's in Plymouth

Gale Gand, nationally celebrated pastry chef, restaurateur, cookbook author and host of Food Network's dessert series *Sweet Dreams*, will meet customers 3-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 15185 Sheldon, Plymouth.

Gand will be on hand to pose for photos and sign autographs as well as her cookbook *Brunch*, which will be available for purchase. Busch's also will prepare several of Gand's cookie recipes for customers to sample and will hold raffles to win baking essentials and other prizes.

For more information, call Busch's at 734-414-5200.

## Looking great: Set a beautiful table on Thanksgiving Day

By Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

Preparing your Thanksgiving table is about more than just setting the table. It's also about setting a mood and creating the ambiance to complement your food and your guests.

For Karen Ingoglia, that means keeping it fun and fairly simple in order to accommodate the approximately 40 guests that converge on her Farmington Hills home to celebrate the holiday each year.

"I tend to go with deep gold, oranges and red — fall colors — for the cloths and runners," Ingoglia said.

Small pumpkins and gourds mixed with synthetic leaves and other decorative autumn pieces are placed on shelves and tables to add a festive touch.

"I want it to be pretty but not extravagant," said Ingoglia, the mother of three small children, all under age 6.

Complementing the fall jewel tones with wooden serve ware and accent pieces also heightens the atmosphere, said Nada Abbate, owns of Nada and Company in Royal Oak.

Establishing a mood also is easy with lanterns filled with candles or even flowers and other greenery for an effortless but elegant centerpiece, Abbate said.

Mason jars, covered with chalk-based paint and filled with tea lights or used as vases with fresh fall flowers, can create the same effect, she added.

Choosing the right serve ware can also make an impact and help set the mood for your dinner, said Kathy Magaluk, owner of the



Submitted

Karen Ingoglia of Farmington Hills and family, Ava, 5, Michael, 4, Anthony, 18 months, and husband Chris. The family entertains close to 40 people over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Acorn Farm, a kitchen home goods store in Milford.

Magaluk recommends Juliska, earthenware from Portugal, in a hammered pewter finish to add a special touch, not just for the holiday but for everyday use as well.

"It has a wonderful finish and is still microwave-, freezer-, dishwasher- and oven-safe," Magaluk said.

She often pairs it with Juliska's Berry and Thread pattern, in Whitewash, for a simple yet sophisticated look.

Linens, in understated fabrics such as burlap, can play a big part in making your table look chic as well, Magaluk said.

"Adding a burlap runner over a tablecloth is a great look," she said.





