

# WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015 • hometownlife.com



**DIRECTOR STAGING PLAY WHILE BATTLING CANCER**  
ENTERTAINMENT, B7



Cherry Hill Road will be rebuilt from Merriman to Wayne Road running through Garden City and Westland.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Collaboration results in Cherry Hill reconstruction

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Despite cloudy skies and chilly wind, a small crowd of officials and residents turned out Tuesday morning for the announcement that a stretch of Cherry Hill through Westland and Garden City will be resurfaced in the spring.

"If you promise to rebuild it, they will come," said Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, to the crowd gathered in the Roma Hall parking lot on Cherry Hill near Venoy.

Cherry Hill between Merriman and Wayne roads will be resurfaced as part of a \$2.5 million project that will include structural adjustments to manholes, ADA sidewalk ramp repair, permanent lane line markings and signage upgrades and replacement. The resurfacing of the 10.5 lane miles of Cherry Hill is scheduled to begin in spring 2016 and be completed by mid-November.

Along with LeBlanc, whose district includes Garden City, the announcement drew Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, Westland Mayor William Wild, Garden City Manager Robert Muery, council members from both cities, an assortment of other officials and residents.

When he asked the mayors, council

See ROAD, Page A2



Wayne County Executive Warren Evans talks about plans to resurface and improve Cherry Hill in spring 2016. At left, Garden City Manager Robert Muery and Westland Mayor William Wild listen.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Woman charged with killing Wayne man

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

A Wyandotte woman has been charged with second-degree murder in the stabbing death of a Wayne man in the early hours of Oct. 9.

Kyla Jane Nundley, 47, was arraigned Sunday and a not guilty plea was entered on her behalf. Bond was set at \$50,000 cash.

Wayne Police didn't release the name of the victim, a 74-year old man. Officers responded to the home in the 35000 block of Brush at 12:54 a.m. and found him fatally stabbed.

Nundley was arrested at the home and remains jailed.

"We're not releasing any more information. She (Nundley) was an acquaintance (of the victim)," said Wayne Police Sgt. Matt Spunar, who also wouldn't say what type of weapon was used to stab the victim.

A probable cause hearing for Nundley is scheduled for Oct. 20 in Wayne 29th District and a preliminary exami-



Nundley

See DEATH, Page A2

## Men charged with raping friend

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Two men have been ordered to stand trial on charges they raped an intoxicated woman — who described one of the defendants as her close friend — at the Westland apartment the men shared.

Garrett Smith, 20, waived his preliminary examination Thursday in Westland 18th District Court and was ordered bound over for trial on two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Lengthy testimony was heard in the charges against co-defendant Jackson Stammer, also 20, who is charged with one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and one charge of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The woman, who isn't being identified, was the only witness at the hearing, which was closed to the public. She described going over to the men's apartment at the Westwood Apartment complex located off Joy, west of Newburgh, something she had done many times previously.

"We were friends in high school. I had known him a few years. He was one

See CHARGED, Page A2

## 2 players suspended after fight during Glenn-Wayne game

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Two football players were ejected from the shortened Westland John Glenn-Wayne Memorial football game Friday night.

Under Michigan High School Athletic Association rules, those players are suspended for two games. Local school officials didn't identify which school the two suspended students attend.

"We worked with MHSAA, the coaches and game officials to determine who was involved before taking action," said

John Albrecht, Wayne-Westland Schools assistant superintendent for educational services. "Other players are facing further consequences."

The incident happened toward the end of the third quarter of the game, which had been fairly close in the first half. At the time of the incident along the Wayne sidelines, Glenn was winning 33-6.

That's when "some people made inappropriate decisions," Albrecht said. Some members of the coaching staff were reported to have been involved, along with players.

Albrecht said the district is disappointed with the incident.

"Because they are our two schools, there is a rivalry, but it should have been competitive and should not have happened outside the rules of football," he said.

He added that this isn't the first time there have been problems and that it's not just Wayne-Westland schools. It happens when Franklin plays Churchill and in Northville, too, he said.

When the decision was made to stop the game, Wayne Police were called for assistance to disperse the large crowd

leaving the Wayne Memorial football, which was described as being disorderly.

"We went to assist with crowd control. It had nothing to do with the game," Wayne Police Sgt. Matt Spunar said. "We heard the game was called due to a fight. There were no arrests or injuries."

— Staff Writer Sue Mason contributed to this story.

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# Johnny Appleseed visits Westland library Saturday

If it's fall, it's time for apples. And that will be the focus of a children's program at the William P. Faust Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 17. Children ages 4-8 are invited to meet "Johnny Appleseed" from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the library at 6123 Central City Parkway, between Ford and Warren Road. The program will include a story, song, craft and free refreshments. "Our guest, who grew up on an apple farm, will share information about apples and Johnny Appleseed with the children," said Claire Mueller, head of

Youth Services at the library. "Kids will then make an apple craft and enjoy some 'apple-y' refreshments." Registration is required and can be done by contacting the library at 734-326-6123. Walk-ins will be accepted if space allows. The library also is offering homework help from 4:15-5:45 p.m. Thursdays through Dec. 17. Children in grades 1-6 are welcome to come and get free homework help from a volunteer college student. Walk-ins are accepted; sign up outside of Meeting Room C each Thursday.

## DEATH

Continued from Page A1  
nation is set for Oct. 27. This is the second murder case in Wayne this month. Jesse Wayne Gunderson, 26, is

charged with first-degree murder in the Oct. 3 death of his step-grandfather Danny Dart, 58. Referred for a mental competency examination, Gunderson is accused of hitting Dart in the head with an ax. In two unrelated incidents, Kimberly Garrett, 41, of Romulus and Onika Fields, 39, of Detroit are each facing charges, including second-degree murder stemming from fatal vehicle crashes. In jail since her arrest, Garrett is scheduled for an Oct. 19 jury

trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. Fields, who is free on bond, is set for a jury trial Jan. 25.

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## ROAD

Continued from Page A1

members and city manager in Westland and Garden City which county road most needed to be repaired, LeBlanc said they all mentioned Cherry Hill. Collaboration and partnership were the most frequently mentioned words during the press conference. "The resurfacing and other improvements made to this stretch of Cherry Hill Road will help local businesses thrive and make it easier for residents to move about their neighborhood," Evans said. "Projects like this serve as an example of how collaboration and building



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Wayne County Executive Warren Evans announces the Cherry Hill rebuilding project.

city. We're pleased that when a project comes up, Mayor Wild and Commissioner LeBlanc remember a smaller city." With the other larger problems facing the county, Muery said it was comforting that the Cherry Hill project would be moving forward. "Start those trucks," said Garden City resident Sharon Hassett, who attended the press conference. Garden City resident Mike Lawrence said he just wants to see improvements in Garden City and Westland. "This is great. Good things for the city are great," said Lawrence, a volunteer at the Garden City Historical Museum. lrogers@hometownlife.com

## WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## CHARGED

Continued from Page A1

of my closest friends," the woman said describing Stammler. On Sept. 6, 2014, the woman testified she had called Stammler and afterward went to the apartment, which was also shared by a third man. Although she was too young to purchase liquor, the woman said she had a fifth of rum, which she had acquired on a recent vacation, and brought it to the apartment. Once at the apartment, the woman said she and Stammler played with his new dog, watched YouTube and had drinks. When Smith came out of his room to sit on the couch, she said he was upset and both she and

Stammler tried to cheer him up. "After a while I felt like it wasn't helping. I started crying," the woman said, adding it was the anniversary of the death of someone she had been close to and she was upset. "I was on my back on the floor. The next thing I remember was being carried to Jackson's bed. He carried me from behind." Subsequently, the woman said she woke up in Smith's bed without her clothes. She testified that Smith was having sex with her while Stammler had his mouth on her breast. "I couldn't say anything — it was the alcohol in my system. I must have said something," she said. "Jackson answered. 'Haven't you always wanted to try this out.'" The woman testified

Stammler then had intercourse with her, followed by a second time with Smith. Afterward, she said, she began to gather her clothing and started calling someone to get a ride home. "I had driven my car over there. I was drunk and I couldn't legally drive," she said. Later, the woman testified that after the incident she suffered panic attacks that forced her to give up her job, suffered depression that made it difficult to attend college classes and had been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Defense attorney Brian Prain argued there was an issue of fact whether the woman had been physically helpless during the incident. Prain questioned the woman about whether she suggested the sexual contact

but later regretted it. "She is not saying no. She knows she is too intoxicated to driver. She calls for a ride," he said. "That shows she had her wits about her." Ordering Stammler bound over for trial, Judge Sandra Cicirelli said the woman testified that she felt the effects of the alcohol she consumed. "Incapacity is the key here. A person can be mentally incapacitated and not understand what is happening. It's like the date rape drug," she said. Both defendants, who entered not guilty pleas at their arraignment, remain free on bond. A Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment has been scheduled for Oct. 22. lrogers@hometownlife.com

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# Historic Detroit monuments topic of talk at library

The Visual Arts Association of Livonia will present a free program on Detroit's monuments at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Suzanne Bilick will present a talk titled, "See Detroit's Most Beautiful Monuments from all Ages - Public Art and Civic Pride." She will discuss The Spirit of Detroit/Hockeytown, the Heidelberg Project and the Scott Fountain on Belle Isle, among other topics.

Bilick is an author, history presenter and native Detroit. She is an adjunct curator at the Detroit Historical Museum. She writes about

art in Detroit, painters, pictures and patrons.

VAAL is a nonprofit organization in Livonia that provides a variety of art programs and services for Livonia and surrounding communities.

VAAL offers art classes for beginning and experienced artists year-round. All classes are taught by award-winning professional art instructors.

The Livonia Civic Center Library is at 32777 Five Mile Road between Farmington and Merriman.

For more information about the program or VAAL, call 734-838-1204 or visit vaalart.org



DETROITURBEX.COM  
The Scott Fountain on Belle Isle will be among the Detroit monuments Suzanne Bilick will discuss during a free program at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

## Livonia Chamber endorses Schoolcraft College millage

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce will support Schoolcraft College's millage request that goes to area voters in November.

The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to endorse the millage, following three months of research and analysis by Chamber leaders. They concluded the added revenue is necessary to keep tuition affordable, while supporting current and new programs that connect students to in-demand jobs sought by local companies.

"There is a lot of value to the community to have access to lower-cost, higher education," said Board Chairman-Elect Dan Laible, who is the CFO for Livonia manu-



FILE PHOTO  
Schoolcraft College is requesting a 0.6-mill tax increase in the Nov. 3 election.

facturer NYX Inc. "When you look at how Schoolcraft College stacks up to their peers, and the quality of service they provide to our business community, this is a worthwhile investment."

Schoolcraft College, seeking its first millage increase since 1986, is

asking voters on Nov. 3 for a 0.6-mill tax increase over a 10-year period. Schoolcraft President Dr. Conway Jeffress said the added tax capture would help the school add certificate and associate-degree programs for in-demand fields such as additive manufacturing

and health care administration. He added many capital improvements have been frozen in recent years, but Schoolcraft needs to update some of its aging buildings that date back to the college's opening in 1962.

This millage election impacts voters in the Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, Northville, Clarenceville and Garden City school districts. If approved, owners of a \$200,000 home would pay about \$60 more a year in property taxes.

Schoolcraft College serves some 30,000 students and reports 61 percent of its students graduate or transfer to a university, which is the best rate among community colleges in Michigan. The

school provides 263,804 credit hours on a \$96.2 million budget in 2013-14, while neighboring Washenaw Community College provided 250,506 hours for \$115.9 million in the same year.

Like many Michigan municipalities, the college lost tax revenue since 2008 with plunging property values in the area, but Jeffress said the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees has limited annual tuition increases up to 1 percent more than the consumer's price index (CPI).

"Since the business community stands to gain from this investment, this millage request shares added costs for new programs with the business community," said Dan

West, president and CEO of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce. "We believe this will enhance workforce development initiatives sought by our member businesses in recent years, which has emerged as a leading economic development issue for our region."

The Chamber is a nonprofit trade organization that represents nearly 900 companies and community groups in and around Livonia, and advocates for the Livonia business community. In recent years, the Chamber has focused on promoting career opportunities in high-demand skilled fields such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, electronics and welding.

## LWV to host town hall on redistricting in Michigan

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County will host an educational Town Hall on redistricting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road.

The presentation will explore how legislative lines are drawn in Michigan, who draws them and why it is a critically important question for those concerned about fair representation. The speaker is Angela Ryan, president of the Northwest Wayne County League.

In Michigan, the district lines are drawn by elected officials in the legislature, effectively allowing politicians to choose their voters and giving the political party in power at the time a tremendous advantage. What are the ramifications of partisan-drawn districts that favor one party over another? Is there a better and fairer way to do this? What are the alternatives?

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision on Arizona's Independent Restricting Commission said there is an alternative and that citizens, not just politicians, have the right to decide how Congressional district lines are drawn. The decision has grabbed the public's attention. Some have asked if Michigan, like Arizona, should use an independent commission to draw the lines, not only for the Congressional districts, but for the State House and Senate, as well. This alternative and others will be presented at the Town Hall.

This fall, the League of Women Voters of Michigan will host 30 community-based, redistricting education programs across the state of Michigan. All Town Halls are open to the public. Everyone is invited and welcome.

Co-sponsors include AAUW of Livonia and Livonia Citizens for Peace.



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# Livonia hosts 2015 state Questers convention

The Michigan State Questers held their 2015 Fall Convention on Oct. 9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey proclaimed Oct. 9 as Michigan State Quester Day in Livonia.

Members registered at Pre-Convention Day on Oct. 8 at the restored 1870s Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, where they were treated to morning refreshments and vignettes highlighting historical Southeast Michigan landmarks and products.

After registration, Greenmead docents hosted a tour of the historic 1841 Simmons/Hill House. Members also visited the mid-1800s Cranson-Hiberna House, which is currently the location of the Greenmead gift shop.

Several Livonia homes were open to Questers during the day and members were encouraged to visit two historic sites in



The Michigan State Questers held their 2015 Fall Convention last week in Livonia.

Livonia: the Wilson Barn Caretaker's House, 29350 W. Chicago; and the Rosedale Gardens Historic District, which is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The Pre-Convention

Day dinner was held at the Western Golf and Country Club in Redford. Members were treated to table centerpieces featuring antique collections of local members. Dearborn resident Ismay

Osborne spoke to members about her experiences while attending the Greenfield Village School.

This year's convention theme was "A Taste of Michigan," and baskets

containing local area products were displayed on each table at the convention luncheon. Livonia resident Lucas McGrail presented Quester members with a talk entitled, "Christmas

at Hudsons."

The International Questers is a nonprofit organization founded in 1944 that is dedicated to the study and preservation of historic objects and landmarks. There are approximately 900 chapters in the United States and Canada with 69 chapters throughout Michigan. Members seek to help identify, preserve and restore existing landmarks and to educate themselves through the research and study of antiques.

Local Quester Chapters have donated volunteer time and funds to Livonia's Greenmead Historical Park and Northville's Mill Race Village and have helped preserve and restore other local landmarks.

Residents who would like to learn more about local chapters of the Michigan State Questers may contact Metro Detroit Area Coordinator Aggie Thompson at 248-449-1038.

## EVENTS

Continued from Page A8

burgh Road, Livonia.

**Details:** The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is having a live auction as a fundraiser. Preview of items begins at 11 a.m.; the auction starts at 11:30 a.m. Items include holiday gifts, event tickets, guided tours, homemade goods and much more. Light refreshments will be served.

**Contact:** Lena Packer, LVW fundraising chairperson, 248-536-2583.

### SYNCHRONIZED SWIM SHOW

**Time/date:** 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18.

**Location:** Schoolcraft College Physical Education Building Pool, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Synchronized Swim Show by the Michigan Synchronizers. "Swimming in the Fast Lane" includes team, combo, trio, duet and solo routines. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Chil-

dren 12 and under are free.

**Contact:** 734-522-7749.

### TRUNK OR TREAT

**Time/date:** 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18.

**Location:** Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia

**Details:** Mt. Hope Church's eighth annual Trunk or Treat for costumed kids and their parents features food, candy and a bounce house. Everything is provided free as a service to the community.

**Contact:** mthope.com

### FALL CONCERT

**Time/date:** 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18.

**Location:** St. Sabina Catholic Church, 25555 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights.

**Details:** The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will present a free Fall Concert for people of all ages to enjoy.

**Contact:** dmcullen11374@yahoo.com.

### FINE ARTS EXHIBITION

**Time/date:** Exhibit runs through

Oct. 18.

**Location:** Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Juried exhibition of work by members of the Visual Arts Association of Livonia features art works in watercolor, acrylic, pastel and mixed media. The exhibit may be seen from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**Contact:** 734-838-1204.

### GREENLEAF COMMISSION

**Time/date:** 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19.

**Location:** 3rd floor of the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia (Joseph Jenkin Room).

**Details:** The Greenleaf Commission on Sustainability is a citizen advisory group that encourages energy efficiency, conservation and environmentally friendly practices in the City of Livonia.

**Contact:** Jim Baringhaus at 734-838-7957 or jbaringhaus@gmail.com

### SCRAP BOOK CLASS

**Time/date:** 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays through Oct. 21.

**Location:** Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middle Belt Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Beginning and expert scrapbookers alike are invited to a six-week Scrap Book Class. Cost is \$3 a night. Bring six photos you want to scrapbook. They can be from a birthday, vacation, wedding, prom or of your children, grandparents, your childhood, etc. In addition, the children's choir will be practicing at 6:30 p.m. and children and youth classes for age 4 through 12th grade meet from 7-8 p.m. Nursery care is provided for newborn through age 3.

**Contact:** 248-474-3444; clarencevillechurch@gmail.com.

### RECHARGE YOUR BRAIN AND MEMORY

**Time/date:** 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21.

**Location:** Stevenson High School, 33500 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia.

**Details:** A Livonia YMCA class will feature the author of *Feed*

*Your Brain for Memory* who will teach strategies to recharge your brain including everyday food and beverages, fun activities, important vitamins and minerals, and more. For registration, call the YMCA, 734-261-2161, any day before Oct. 19. YMCA membership is not required.

### SHADOWS FROM PAST

**Time/date:** 5:45, 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23.

**Location:** Greenmead Historical Park, Newburgh and Eight Mile roads, Livonia.

**Details:** Greenmead's historic buildings serve as the backdrop for this Family Friendly Night-time Halloween Walk. Goodies and trinkets for all. Costumes and flashlights are encouraged. Walk will begin at the Gift Shop (building closest to the stop sign). Each session runs approximately one hour. Enjoy refreshments at the Friends Meeting House following the event. Advance ticket sales only through Thursday, Oct. 22, at 4:30 p.m. Tickets \$6 per person (every person attending must have a ticket). Available at

Greenmead's Blue House. All proceeds go to the preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

**Contact:** 248-477-7375.

### GREAT GHOST CHASE

**Time/date:** 8 p.m. Oct. 23, 24 and 30; 2 p.m. Oct. 25; 10 p.m. Oct. 31.

**Location:** Motor City Theatre, 27555 Grantland St., Livonia.

**Details:** Presented by the Motor City Theatre for ages 7 to adult, this play is based on the book by Tim Kelly. Tickets are \$12 for reserved seating, \$14 for general admission tickets. Students and seniors are \$2 less. Costumes welcome on Halloween night.

**Contact:** www.mcity.org

### MOM2MOM SALE

**Time/date:** 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 24.

**Location:** St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia.

**Details:** Seventy-four tables of gently used maternity, baby and children's items. Cost is \$2 for admission by 9 a.m.; \$1for admission after 9 a.m.

**Contact:** m2msale@stecmops.org

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## OUR VIEWS

# Our choices for office in Wayne, Westland and Garden City

## LeBlanc, Godbout, Hammons, Johnson, Reeves best choice in Westland

For a city its size, Westland has only nine elected officials. On Nov. 3, voters will select five of them — a new city clerk and four members of council.

Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, D-12th District, and Jody Rice-White are squaring off to see who will replace current City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof who is retiring after 12 years in office. The winner will receive a four-year term.

In the city council race, the candidates are incumbents James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves, William Campbell, Peter Herzberg, Judy McKinney and Charles Pickering. The top three finishers will receive four-year terms and the fourth-place finisher will receive a two-year term.

In the city clerk's race, we believe that Richard LeBlanc is the best choice. He comes to the position with a strong understanding of governmental operations, learned through his many years of service on the city council, in the State Legislature and on Wayne County Commission.

In today's world, information is delivered across multiple platforms, and LeBlanc clearly understands how social media can be used to better connect with the public. He believes that electronic access isn't where it should be in the clerk's office and is prepared to roll out changes to improve service in real time and increase engagement with all residents.

In the council race, Godbout, Hammons, Johnson and Reeves have proven themselves capable of leading the city through good and bad times. They have a proven track record of being able to work together and with the other members of council in getting the business of the city done. They are levelheaded and laser-focused on what will keep Westland going and growing.

Following the financial meltdown in 2008, they worked with the administration on keeping the city solvent. They made tough decisions that positioned the city to come out of the recession healthy and on the road to further growth and development.

Under their leadership, the city has been able to restore the shine to Central City and Tattan parks, erect a new fire station and retrofit a vacant big box store into a new city hall. And they have a keen understanding of how important the development of the former city hall property is for the city going forward.

Some of their challengers say that their decisions weren't correct. They proposed to increase fire and police staffing and restore services. While their proposals sound good, they are short on specifics as to where the funding will come from and how they will be accomplished.

The clear choices to continue to lead the city in the coming years is **Richard LeBlanc** for city clerk and **James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson** and **Dewey Reeves** for Westland City Council.

## Rowe, Shuh, Rhaesa, Monit, Miller best choices for Wayne

A citizens' initiative two years ago has members of the Wayne City Council elected by wards. Under the system, candidates for the wards are selected during the primary with the city as a whole voting for members in the general election.

This election cycle, representatives will be selected for three wards along with a two-year at-large term. In Ward 1, Christopher Sanders is being challenged by two write-in candidates, Alfred Brock and Allen "Buddy" Shuh. In Ward 2, incumbent John Rhaesa is unopposed. In Ward 3, incumbent Lorene "Skip" Monit is facing a challenge from Tom Porter.

For the two-year at-large term, appointed incumbent Anthony Miller is being challenged by Lucietta Miles, although she appears to be a non-candidate, having not responded to candidate questionnaires nor participated in the recent League of Women Voters forum.

Voters also will be electing a new mayor for the first time in many years. Councilwoman Susan Rowe is being challenged by Robert Boejrte and write-in candidate Lenard "Len" Fisher.

We believe the best choices are Shuh in Ward 1, Rhaesa in Ward 2, Monit in Ward 3, Miller for the at-large term and Rowe for mayor.

While all of the candidates bring a different point of view to the election, we believe Wayne residents would be wise to retain the incumbents. The city is going through difficult financial period and over the past few years, the council tended to waffle on how to deal with the issues at hand. But they have come together to work on the city's financial health.

The appointments to fill vacancies on the council has helped to start righting the ship. Council's decisions on the leasing of the Wayne Community Center to HYPE Athletics and the sale of the State Wayne Theater has plugged a few holes in the general fund. Their decision to hire Lisa Nocerini as city manager should bring stability to that position and to the city budget.

In the mayor's race, Rowe clearly has the experience and the training to guide the council and serve as the face of Wayne. She understands that Wayne is at a crossroads and needs to get back to basics and that a dialogue with residents needs to happen to figure out what can be done to help the city survive and thrive.

While being in more ceremonial, we believe Rowe has the ability to connect with residents and get them involved in their community. It will take the village to save the village.

Finances aside, the biggest challenge facing the council is getting residents to have confidence in them. It will take time, but considering the progress that has been made, we believe **Allen "Buddy" Shuh, John Rhaesa, Lorene "Skip" Monit** and **Anthony Miller** are the best choices for council and **Susan Rowe** the best choice for mayor to keep Wayne moving forward.

## Stay the course in Garden City with Walker, Arnoske, Kerwin, McKarge, Squires

In Garden City, voters will be electing a mayor and four members of council in the November general election.

Incumbent Randy Walker is facing former city councilman Dave Fetter in the mayor's race, while the city council election includes incumbents Margo Arnoske, Jim Kerwin, Patricia McKarge and Patricia Squires and newcomer Mark Jacobs.

The mayor will serve for two years. The top two council candidates will receive four-year terms while the third- and fourth-place finishers will receive two-year terms.

In the mayor's race, we believe that Walker has what's needed to keep Garden City moving forward. He is completing his fourth term as mayor and has been at helm during some tumultuous times for the city and the council. He has worked hard to bring civility to council meetings, even to the point of having residents removed who fail to follow the rules.

He cares about his city and it shows. He wants his community to look good and be inviting for new businesses and families. He wants Garden City to be clean, blight free and crime free and is supportive of efforts to bring that about.

He also is a champion of the Neighborhood Stabilization program, which is bringing value to the community by renovating foreclosed homes and putting them back onto the city tax rolls. He also is committed to rid the city of blight and joins Police Chief/City Manager Robert Muery on weekly blight patrols.

Arnoske, Kerwin, McKarge and Squires have shown themselves very capable of handling the city's business. The animosity and squabbles that punctuated previous council meetings are a thing of the past. The job of the council is to conduct the business of the city, and these four council members have shown they are able to do that in a civilized and polite manner. They treat each other and members of the audience with respect. Their demeanor has definitely had a calming effect on the meetings and the audience.

The incumbents also have shown they can work with each other and with the other members of council. If there are disagreements, there isn't the discord that was apparent in the past. Their ability to work together has been praised by Walker who called the current council the best the city has ever had.

Certainly there are issues to be address — city roads among them — but these candidates understand that improvements will come slowly and will be done within the confines of the city budget.

Three residents — Andrew McMechan, Millie Tyszkiewicz and William Paul Werhane — also are seeking seats on the Garden City Library Board. McMechan and Werhane are seeking re-election and Tyszkiewicz is a newcomer. The board has accomplished a lot in the few years it has been in existence and it's due to the commitment of individuals like this.

The top two vote-getters will receive six-year terms ending in 2021. The third-place finisher will serve the remainder of a term ending in 2019.

In Garden City, voters would be wise to stay the course and re-elect **Randy Walker** as mayor and **Margo Arnoske, Jim Kerwin, Patricia McKarge** and **Patricia Squires** to the city council in the Nov. 3 election.



LeBlanc



Godbout



Hammons



Johnson



Reeves



Rowe



Shuh



Rhaesa



Monit



Miller



Walker



Arnoske



Kerwin



McKarge



Squires

## LETTERS

### Dem Club endorsements

The Westland Democratic Club had an open and transparent endorsement process to determine the best qualified candidates for the Nov. 3 elections where Westland residents will elect a new Westland city clerk and four members to the Westland City Council.

The members of the nomination committee are all Westland residents, and we share the same concerns and values as other Westland homeowners and residents. We believe our endorsed candidates demonstrate the necessary ability and personal-

ity to bring people together and each has a long and impressive history of service to the Westland community.

For Westland City Council — If it isn't broken there is no need to fix it. The Westland Democratic Club has endorsed City Council candidates James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves. Each of these conscientious council members has provided exceptional accomplishments to the City of Westland.

James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves have shown themselves to be capable and hard-working, and in partnership

with the mayor, played a significant role in keeping the city in the black, and created healthy and responsible rainy day surpluses without massive layoffs.

James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves supported the revitalization of Central City Park with the Playscape, Splash Park and Farmers Market and the redevelopment of Westland's oldest neighborhood, the Norwayne Historic District, igniting the interest of younger families, proving Westland is a great place to live.

Because of their efforts, Westland has become an attractive market for young families due to the reasonable housing prices, good school districts, great library, neighborhood parks and close proximity to shopping.

For Westland City Clerk — The Westland Democratic Club has endorsed County Commissioner Richard Le-

Blanc for the City of Westland City Clerk.

With an extensive history in representing Westland citizens as a member of the Wayne-Westland school board, the Westland City Council, House of Representatives for the State of Michigan and currently as a member of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, Richard LeBlanc has a proven track record as a legislator and community activist. We are convinced, if elected, Richard LeBlanc will continue to provide residents the same high level of conscientious service from the City Clerk and staff that has been the hallmark of the office since we became a city in 1966. Mr. LeBlanc will continue to conduct himself in an ethically transparent manner.

James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson, Dewey Reeves and Richard LeBlanc demonstrate the values of the Democratic Party and believe that government should

be a partner with working families in the provision of safety, recreation and community development within the City of Westland.

We ask you to support the dual endorsement of the Westland Democratic Club and the 13th District Democratic Party Organization. Vote for James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves for re-election to the Westland City Council and Richard LeBlanc for City Clerk.

On behalf of the Westland Democratic Club,  
**Henry M. Johnson**  
President

### Supports council incumbents

I've lived in Westland since 1988 and I am happy to call Westland my home. I believe this city has never looked better. The days of calling Westland "Wasteland" are over. You don't have to look far to see that this is a thriving city.

Call me a cheerleader,

but I do like the new award-winning City Hall, the new Fire House, the improvements to Tattan Park with the Spray Zone and the Farmers Market. All these improvements have made for a better quality of life and most importantly have increased our property values. We have a fabulous library and one of the best Police and Fire departments in the state.

One cannot help but be impressed with the \$220 million of new business development knowing there are more business investments coming soon. These improvements have been made possible by a Mayor and a City Council that have a vision of how to make this city even greater.

These are the reasons I am supporting the four incumbent City Council members that are seeking reelection, James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Dewey Reeves and Bill Johnson.

**Antoinette Martin**  
Westland

# OBSERVER

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Join Observer & Eccentric in support of  
**MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY**  
 Saturday, October 24th.

As part of our commitment to the community we serve, Observer & Eccentric is partnering with your local Goodfellows in

**“Pennies from Heaven”**

Several area Goodfellows have joined the project as part of their commitment to ensuring **every child has a Christmas.**



**“See how YOU can make a difference!”**

**Bring your pennies to the following locations on Saturday, October 24th**

**CANTON** 10:00 AM - Noon  
 Summit on the Park  
 Community Center  
 46000 Summit Pkwy

**GARDEN CITY** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Garden City High School  
 (in front of school)  
 6500 Middlebelt Rd.

**LIVONIA** 10:00 Am - Noon  
 Livonia Civic Senior Center  
 15218 Farmington Rd.

**NOVI** 10:00 AM - Noon  
 Fire Station #1  
 42975 Grand River Ave.

**PLYMOUTH** 9:00 AM - Noon  
 Farmers Market  
 (in front of Penn Theatre)  
 760 Penniman Ave.

**REDFORD** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Redford Marquee  
 25833 Elsinore  
 (Next to the Redford Police Station)

**WAYNE** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Empty lot at former  
 Franks Furniture  
 Wayne Rd. between  
 Chestnut and Glenwood

**WESTLAND** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 Westland Bowl  
 (parking lot)  
 5940 N. Wayne Rd.  
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lobby

**FARMINGTON** 9:00 AM - Noon  
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Jessica's Granola Gluten Free Made in Michigan <b>\$5.99</b> ea			Fall Candy Bags <b>\$1.99</b> ea
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HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING

## Churchill nips John Glenn by 1

RU suffers rare loss against Dearborn

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Every point mattered during the Oct. 8 KLAA South Division girls swimming-and-diving meet featuring Livonia Churchill and Westland John Glenn.

Although the Rockets placed first in nine of the 12 events, the Chargers' depth ultimately prevailed, 92-91. The victory left the Char-

gers' record at 2-3 overall and 2-1 in the division while the Rockets slipped to 1-2 and 2-3, respectively.

Standouts for the winners included 200-yard freestyler Maddy Hagood, who won her event in 2 minutes, 12.88 seconds over teammate Grace Tolen, who was runner-up in 2:24.57.

Thanks to a gold-medal performance from Natalie Yurgil, the Chargers swept the 1-meter division competition. Yurgil won with 150.80 points to edge teammate Kayla Martin, who racked up 125.80

points. Churchill's Anne Kavanaugh was third with 98.25.

Charger Kaitlyn Casey was the final Churchill swimmer to touch first in an event, taking the 100 backstroke in 1:17.16.

John Glenn's dynamic duo of Sidney Aloisi and Kera Sells both placed first in both their individual events. They also played roles in helping the Rockets sweep the relay races.

Aloisi was golden in the 50 freestyle (25.94) and the 100 freestyle (57.63), while Sells earned first-place points in the 500 freestyle (5:31.17) and the 100 butterfly, which she won in

1:02.47.

The other two-time individual first-place finisher for the Rockets was Hannah Cizauskas, who won the 200 individual medley in 2:39.02 and the 100 breaststroke in 1:20.75.

### Pioneers upend Panthers

Redford Union's winning streak was snapped on Oct. 8 when the Panthers dropped a 110-61 decision to powerful Dearborn in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference showdown held at RU.

See SWIMMING, Page B3



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### Churchill Youth Football Night

The Livonia Churchill football program's annual "Youth Football Night" will be held Friday during the Chargers' varsity cross-over game against Novi.

Youth football players wearing their team's jersey will be admitted free to the game if accompanied by a coach or a parent.

Players and coaches are encouraged to meet by the scoreboard at the south end of the field no later than 6:40 p.m.

Players and coaches who cannot make it to the game by 6:40 p.m. due to practice will still be allowed in free.

All participating teams and players will have reserved seating on the south-apron bleachers or they can bring a camp chair.

### Stevenson 50th anniversary, homecoming

People planning on attending Livonia Stevenson's home football game on Friday, Oct. 23, are advised to pre-purchase their tickets due to the large crowd expected for the game.

In addition to homecoming, the school will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Tickets for the 7 p.m. game can be purchased at Stevenson on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 22 and 23, during all three lunch periods by the north cafeteria (10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.).

On game day, the ticket booths at Anders Field will be open at 4:30 p.m.

Tickets for adults and all students in kindergarten through seniors in high schools cost \$5. Children under 5 will be admitted free (with an adult). All seniors 62 and over will also be admitted free.

Stevenson family and student passes will be honored as will Stevenson staff ID's and KLAA passes.

The game will not sell out, however, fans are advised to arrive early as seating is first-come/first-served.

### Ladywood cross country

Livonia Ladywood's cross country team was the top-finishing non-Division 1 team at Saturday's Wayne County Championship.

The Blazers accumulated 265 points, which placed them 10th overall in the meet won by Salem.

Senior Sarah Wilson led Ladywood with a 41st-place showing in 20 minutes, 48.2 seconds. Also scoring for the Blazers were junior Catherine McLaurin (42nd in 20:49.4), junior Ally Hill (46th in 20:53.8), sophomore Sam Horn (69th in 21:42.3) and junior Madelyn Bastin (72nd in 21:48.7).

### Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report their team's results to Observer sports editor Ed Wright, who can be reached at 734-578-2767 or ewright@hometown-life.com.

The deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 10 p.m. The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 10 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER



Churchill's Conner McCarthy (9) marks Stevenson's Dylan Zupko during the second half of Monday's game.

ED WRIGHT

# PLAYOFF PRIMER

Stevenson subdues Churchill with district tourney just days away

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Even though the ultra-important Division 1 district tournament was still a few days from starting and the KLAA divisional standings had been cemented a few days earlier, there was no shortage of motivation Monday night for Livonia boys soccer rivals Stevenson and Churchill, who squared off in a Central-South crossover match.

After holding a slim 1-0 lead for much of the night, the Spartans eventually prevailed 3-0 thanks to two net-finders in the final 3:15 to bump their record to 9-5-3.

The loss dropped the Chargers to 6-9-1 overall, according to KLAAsstandings.com.

"I thought we played really well," said Stevenson head coach Ken Shingledecker, whose team out-shot its hosts 22-4. "We scored some goals at the end that made it feel like they were deserved based on how we played. We had a lot of opportunities earlier that we just couldn't put away, but they finally started to come at the end.

"They were pressing out, down 1-0, trying to score a goal and we took advantage of that opportunity."

More than anything, Monday's game between the two fourth-place teams gave both coaches an opportunity to give their entire roster a chance to show their stuff.

"We're kind of in tweener mode right now, so we're trying to make sure everyone's getting time so that they stay at a high level going into the playoffs," said Shingledecker. "You want to make sure everyone is rolling. We've

See SOCCER, Page B2

WAYNE COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY MEET

## Stevenson outruns talented boys field

Bambach leads the way in Spartans' impressive victory

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Look no further than Saturday's Wayne County Championship for evidence that the Kensington Lakes Activities Association is a metro Detroit juggernaut in boys cross country.

The top-5 teams and four of the top-5 individuals at Willow Metropark in New Boston hail from the KLAA. Livonia Stevenson's 81 points was good for first, ahead of Salem (109) and Canton (137). In the 4-5 slots were Northville (160) and Livonia Franklin (191).

The triumphant showing at the Wayne County gathering

was the first in at least the past eight years for the Spartans.

"We were shooting for a top-three finish, but winning was obviously an option," said Stevenson head coach Chris Inch. "We had three guys drop 25 seconds off their previous-best times, so that was huge. Alex Brauer dropped 28 seconds and Nathan Ward went from 17:10 to 16:43, and Andrew (Bambach) went 16:39 to lead us."

Stevenson, Salem and Canton left with team trophies and a number of their athletes pocketed medals for finishing in the top 35.

"Stevenson beat us, they ran fantastic," Salem head coach



Members of the Livonia Stevenson cross country team pose with their first-place trophy following Saturday's Wayne County Meet.

Steve Aspinall said. "Us, Canton and Stevenson I would think would be the top teams coming in and it kind of shook out that way. Kind of speaks to

the difficulty of our division." Topping the field in the individual standings was Sa-

See COUNTY, Page B3

PREP PROFILE

# Stevenson's Henzi gets kick out of dual roles

Senior shines for Spartans' football and soccer teams

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

From the top of his head to the tips of his toes, Livonia Stevenson senior Ian Henzi puts everything he has into helping two Spartan fall athletic teams thrive. Whether it's elevating for a ball-advancing header on the soccer pitch or driving an extra point, field goal, kickoff or punt through the air on the gridiron, Henzi serves as a rare same-season, dual-sport game-changer at Stevenson. Just after noon on Saturday, the senior soccer captain helped Stevenson earn a 0-0 draw in Pontiac against Warren DeLaSalle. Later that same day, he booted a 41-yard field goal and five extra points



Stevenson senior Ian Henzi played a pivotal role in the Spartans' 3-0 soccer victory over Churchill Monday night.

in the Spartan football team's 38-19 triumph at Salem. Armed with a powerful right leg and spot-on mechanics that have been sharpened by countless hours of practice, Henzi tied his school's record for longest field goal made last season when he split the uprights from 42 yards

out. On Saturday against Salem, he connected on a 41-yard three-pointer to help the Spartans secure a 17-12 halftime lead. During a recent summer football camp hosted by the University of Michigan, he got a lot of onlookers' attention by drilling a 55-yard field goal.



Ian Henzi follows through on a 41-yard field goal Saturday night against Salem.

"Along with being a really good athlete, Ian is a great leader," said Stevenson soccer coach Ken Shingledecker. "There is absolutely no selfishness that goes on with him. He'll do whatever I ask him to do and play wherever I want. He's all for the good of the group. He's a great kid and it's been a pleasure coaching him the past two seasons." Shingledecker said the two-sport endeavor Henzi has undertaken the past two falls has gone as

smoothly as one of his extra points. "There hasn't been one conflict relating to him playing football and soccer," Shingledecker said. "The school has been on board with the idea since the beginning and our relationship with the football team and its coaching staff is excellent." Like most soccer/football athletes, soccer came first for Henzi — by a long shot. "I started playing soccer when I was about 2 or 3, and I've played it ever since," he shared. "I remember when I was young I always like kicking a ball around." His football experience didn't kick into high gear until the summer of 2013 when he approached Stevenson's coaching staff about trying out for the junior-varsity team. "I walked onto the JV team and kicked pretty well," he remembered. "I never got in any varsity games as a sophomore, but I got pulled up for

some practices toward the end of the season." By his junior year, Henzi was the Spartans' starting football kicker. He credits double-duty conditioning to his quick rise. "I'd go to both workouts — football and soccer — in the summer," he said. "Learning to kick a football accurately is a lot harder than people might think. You have to hit the lower-third of the ball. It takes a lot of muscle memory." "There have been times when I've gotten confused while taking a shot in soccer." Henzi, who admitted his athletic career in college would probably be as a football kicker, said he'd hate to have to choose one sport over the other. "My role in soccer is more important, I'd say, because I'm a leader, a captain and I play the entire game," he said. "But I love the football atmosphere, the Friday nights."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# MAGIC NO. 6 FOR STEVENSON

Spartans double up Salem to qualify for playoffs

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

When the moment arrived for Livonia Stevenson's football team to mount its defining drive Saturday night against Salem, the Spartans went the old school route — and Austin Petrie was the driver. Clinging to a precarious 17-12 lead over the scrappy Rocks, and starting a drive two minutes into the third quarter on

its own 16, Stevenson put the ball in Petrie's hands nine straight plays — and he delivered, pounding the ball like a John Deere tractor methodically into Salem territory before he capped the six-minute possession with a diving catch from Chris Tanderys in the back of the end zone to give the Spartans a double-digit lead — 24-12 after Ian Henzi's extra point — they would never relinquish. "I do whatever I can

do to help get a win for my team," said Petrie, when asked about his yardage-devouring series. "I just try and get as many yards possible, and I wouldn't get any without the hogs up front." With its 38-19 victory, Stevenson improved to 6-1 and punched its second straight post-season ticket. The second-place finisher in the KLAACentral at 4-1, the Spartans will square off at Canton on Friday in a Kensington Conference crossover game. The setback dropped

the Rocks to 3-4 overall and 2-3 in the division — and out of the playoff hunt. Salem will travel to Franklin for its Week 8 game. "We've been talking since the summer about not just making the playoffs, but trying to get at least one home playoff game, so we still have some work to do," said Stevenson head coach Randy Micallef. "It's not going to be easy, coming back here against Canton next week and then playing Livonia Churchill. Every game from here

passes for 58 yards and a TD. Ian Knopf made sure his one reception counted as he grabbed a Tanderys slant pass with 11:11 left in the game and raced 41 yards for a touchdown to extend the winners' lead to 31-12. Salem senior quarterback Alex Nicholson made several spot-on throws — many while running to his left — as he completed 12 of 25 passes for 143 yards and one score — a 7-yarder to Mason Phillips. ewright@hometownlife.com

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## Thurston, RU battle to draw



Redford Union's Jackson Allison (left) and Redford Thurston's Joseph Allen go all-out for a loose ball during Monday's 4-4 draw at Redford Union.



Thurston's Jaylen Burch (left) and Redford Union's Bryan Griffin try to get a head on a 50-50 ball Monday afternoon.

## SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

had a tough schedule, so it's not always easy to get everyone in. "I thought everyone who came in tonight did a nice job. It was a positive night all around for our team." Churchill's best chance to get on the board came in the ninth minute with the game scoreless when Stevenson keeper Austin Kaczmarek smothered a dangerous roller that Charger forward Riles Dobar was a half-step from pouncing on. Kaczmarek played the entire 80 minutes and recorded the Spartans' seventh shut-out of the season. Three minutes later, Tyler Gregory provided the Spartans with what turned out to be the only goal they'd need as he ripped a low shot from the right flank just inside the far post to make it 1-0. Churchill goal-keeper Brandon Dix was spectacular at times over the ensuing 59 minutes as he registered 11 saves to keep his team within striking distance.

Gregory, Ryan Theisen and Brandon Navarro all had solid runs that were stonewalled by Dix, who was assisted by strong play from Charger defenders Conner McCarthy, Conner Rash, Kyle Benedict and Devon Noble. Stevenson's first insurance goal came with 3:15 remaining when Dix turned away a Theisen shot from the left side, but the rebound was punched into the unattended goal from by an alert Ian Henzi, who was positioned just outside the right post. The Spartans' final goal with 28 seconds to play was a connect-the-dots beauty as Henzi slid a slick pass to Theisen, who one-timed it to Gregory, who poked the ball home from the door-step. Much like their counterparts at the opposite end of the pitch, Stevenson back wall of Max Hoover, Alex Sergison, Conrad Kean and Robert Maisonville were terrific. **Scoreless draw** On Saturday, Stevenson battled Warren DeLaSalle to a 0-0 tie. DeLaSalle outshot the Spartans, 12-11. Stevenson goal-keepers Drew

Padgen and Turner Miller combined for four saves. Evan Sobetski stopped three shots for DeLaSalle. **Novi edges Franklin** Goals by Matt Netter, Jason Mo and Hernan Brarda lifted the Wildcats (10-5-2) to a Kensington Conference crossover victory Monday night at host Livonia Franklin (7-7-1). Connor O'Leary also drew an assist as Novi won the battle of shots (18-11), while Franklin had the corner kick advantage (10-6). Bobby Mandrinsk scored for the Patriots to cut the deficit to 2-1 before Brarda's unassisted goal put it away. Novi goalkeeper Luke McDonald made seven saves. **Trojans triumph** Clarenceville earned its sixth victory of the season Monday in boys soccer with a 3-0 win over host Romulus. Jayson Fitzpatrick, Gerardo Arzate and Armin Andelija scored for the Trojans, who are 2-6 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference and 6-8-1 overall.













# SPICE UP POPCORN

Update this treat by adding caramel, marmalade, nuts, candies

Make your next friendly gathering a popping success with desserts and snacks made from a wholesome simple grain. Not only does popcorn bring out the kid in everyone, it's a naturally healthy treat you can feel good about serving your guests. And, because it's naturally low in fat and calories, non-GMO and gluten free, you can rest assured that party-goers will keep popping back by for one more guilt-free bite.

Popcorn, like all six kinds of corn, is a cereal grain. It resembles corn on the cob in appearance and cultivation, but only pop-corn kernels have the ability to pop. Most of the world's popcorn is grown in the central United States.

Popcorn usually is harvested with a combine, which strips the ear from the stalk and shells the kernels from the cob. The kernels are loaded into a truck and transported to a storage bin for drying. Then, after cleaning and sorting, kernels are packaged for distribution, allowing Americans to consume more than 16 billion quarts of popped popcorn each year.

Freshly popped corn makes it easy to tickle all your guests' taste bud cravings. Salty, spicy, sweet — the options are nearly endless. Serve it up with flavors already mixed in, or let guests mix and match their own favorite toppings to create unique tastes of popcorn perfection.

A popcorn bar is a fun and easy way to have guests take an active role in the party. Provide a wide range of toppings and watch them get creative dreaming up delicious flavor combinations. You can even host a taste test and award prizes to the tastiest concoctions.

Simply set out a large bowl of popcorn and surround it with smaller bowls with various popcorn fixings. Let each person fill a paper bag or other container with popcorn and top or mix with their desired flavorings.

Try these toppings:

- » Dried fruit (raisins, cranberries, apricots)
- » Dried herbs and spices (oregano, cinnamon, nutmeg)
- » Nuts (pine nuts, peanuts, slivered almonds, pumpkin seeds)
- » Small candies (chocolate pieces, peanut butter chips, marshmallows)

These recipes make it easy to prepare crowd-pleasers for all ages ahead of time so you can focus on the fun. Find more festive popcorn recipes to help plan your next party at [www.popcorn.org](http://www.popcorn.org).

*Courtesy of Family Features*

## MARMALADE POPCORN BALLS



Yield: 15 balls

**1 ½ cups sugar**  
**1 ½ cups water**  
**1 cup orange marmalade**  
**½ teaspoon salt**  
**½ cup light corn syrup**  
**1 teaspoon vinegar**  
**5 quarts popped popcorn**

In saucepan combine sugar, water, marmalade, salt, light corn syrup and vinegar. Bring to boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Cook to hard-ball stage (250°F). Pour slowly over popped popcorn and mix thoroughly. Butter hands and shape into 2 1/2-inch balls.

## NUTTY 'N' NATURAL POPCORN

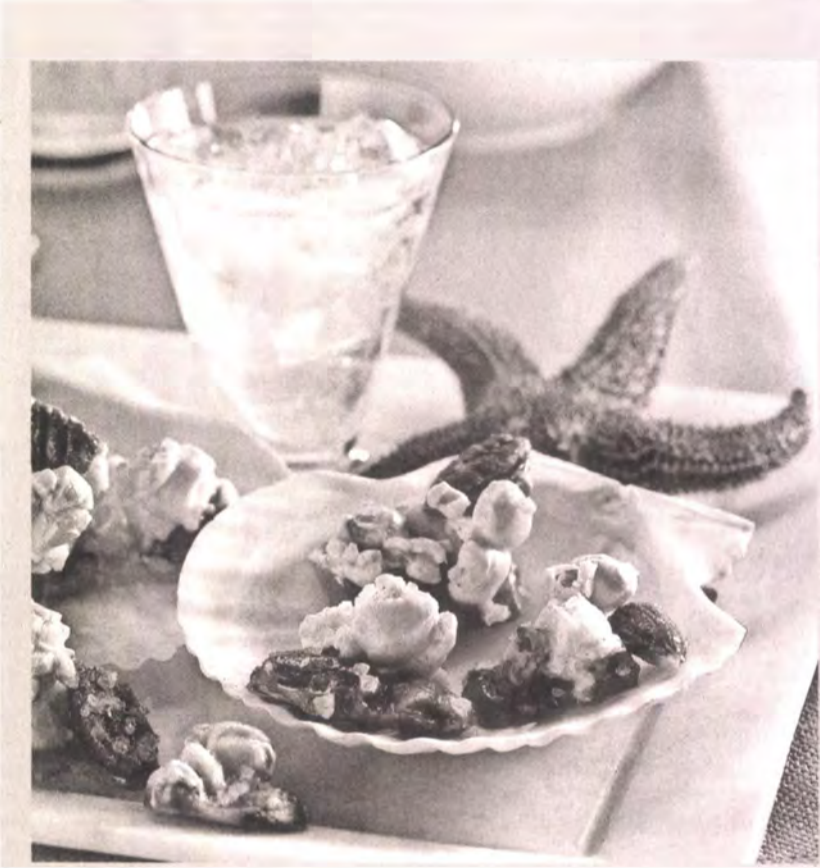


Yield: 3 quarts

**2 tablespoons sunflower seed kernels, finely ground**  
**2 tablespoons almonds, finely ground**  
**2 tablespoons walnuts or hazelnuts, finely ground**  
**4-6 tablespoons melted margarine or butter**  
**2 ½ quarts popped popcorn**  
**2 tablespoons wheat germ**  
**1 6-ounce package (1 ½ cups) chopped dried fruits and raisins**

Pour melted margarine over popcorn. Sprinkle with ground nuts and wheat germ; toss to mix. Stir in dried fruits.

## SEA SALT CARAMEL POPCORN



Yield: 3 quarts

**2 quarts popped popcorn**  
**1 ½ cups pecan halves**  
**½ cup almonds**  
**1 ½ cups granulated sugar**  
**1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine**  
**½ cup light corn syrup**  
**1 teaspoon vanilla**  
**1 teaspoon coarse sea salt**

Line large, rimmed 17-by-12-inch baking pan with foil and spray lightly with cooking spray; set aside.

Spray large glass or metal bowl with cooking spray and place popcorn and nuts inside.

In medium saucepan, combine granulated sugar, butter and corn syrup. Bring to boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Clip on candy thermometer and boil, stirring occasionally, until temperature reaches 290°F (about 15 minutes). Remove candy thermometer and stir in vanilla. Pour mixture over popcorn and stir to coat well.

Spread popcorn mixture in even layer on prepared baking pan. Sprinkle with sea salt and allow to cool completely before breaking into pieces to serve. Store in an airtight container.





