

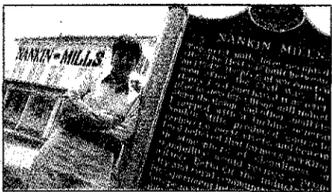
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OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



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HEALTH, PAGE C6



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SUNDAY
July 24, 2005

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City traps stray cats in rabies problem area

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland animal control officers set live traps Thursday in an effort to capture cats in a neighborhood where authorities confirmed that a stray kitten had rabies.

Officers hope to round up as many as 20 stray cats and kittens in the Stacy-Wildwood area, where a 4-year-old girl was scratched while playing with an infected kitten, Deputy Police

Chief Marc Stobbe said.

The girl hadn't gotten sick, he said, and the kitten was euthanized. The girl's mother had found a litter of kittens and brought them inside her house on Stacy.

"She noticed some of them were sick, and she was trying to nurse them back to health," Stobbe said. "Her daughter was playing with one of the kittens, and it scratched her."

The kitten was tested and found to have rabies.

Wayne County authorities confirmed that at least 19 people had received preventative treatment after coming in contact with stray cats and kittens in the Stacy-Wildwood area.

Animal control officers planned to turn any captured kittens and cats over to the Michigan Humane Society, where they would be quarantined and checked for rabies, Stobbe said.

"If they're sick they will be euthanized. If not, they'll be put up for

adoption," he said Thursday afternoon.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the rabies virus infects the central nervous system, causing encephalopathy and potentially death.

Early symptoms of rabies in humans include fever, headache and general malaise. As the disease progresses, neurological symptoms appear including insomnia, anxiety, confusion, partial paralysis, halluci-

nations, agitation, difficulty swallowing and hydrophobia, or a fear of water.

Death can occur within days of the onset of symptoms, according to the CDC.

Anyone who is bitten or scratched by a stray animal should wash the wound with soap and water, contact a health-care professional and call the police department, which will try to

PLEASE SEE RABIES, A5



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Proud to win

Becki Wallace was all smiles after being selected as the winner of the Westland Idol competition. The music contest was part of the Westland Community Foundation's annual Christmas in July at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Wallace receives her award from foundation President Glenn Shaw. For more on the annual fund-raiser, see Page A3.

Fire departments look for new ways to offer mutual aid

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

How to address safety issues caused by short staffing and no funding to hire additional firefighters is a question facing many area fire departments.

That issue was driven home in January, when Summit Township Fire Capt. Scott Thornton ran into a problem during a fire and died. A three-member engine crew was fighting the fire and unable to launch an immediate Rapid Intervention Team to aid Thornton, said Garden City Fire Chief Bill Forbush.

Forbush and fire chiefs from Westland, Dearborn Heights,



Cicirelli

Wayne and Inkster began meeting to discuss how they could share resources to improve safety for firefighters and civilians.

The chiefs decided to follow the example of Summit Township and three neighboring communities, including Jackson.

The end result is the Central Western Wayne Fire Mutual Aid Program which calls for the member departments to

PLEASE SEE AID, A5

'Such an inspiration'

Finishing the Kona Marathon leaves her dancing in street

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

It seems that Westland resident Emma Stephens would've dropped to the ground after walking 26.2 miles in the 2005 Kona Marathon in Hawaii.

Nope. "I was so thrilled to finish that I started to dance," she said. Then came the exhaustion. Then came the ice bath to reduce swelling.

Never mind the pain. Stephens, a UAW attorney who also chairs Westland's government ethics committee, had pledged to finish the 26.2-mile marathon in June.

She walked for the American Stroke Association and raised more than \$6,000, earning a medal for finishing the course.

"It's not real gold, but it's gold to me," Stephens said. She made the walk in eight hours, 44 minutes and 33 seconds - but who's counting.

"I could not believe it," she said. "It was such an inspiration. It was pretty empowering to do that."

Stephens decided to participate in the 2005 Kona Marathon in honor of her late father, John Stephens, whose death in 2000 at age 85 was partly due to stroke.

"It's such a horrible illness," she said. Stephens trained with the Hines Park Team - one of five Michigan teams involved in this year's Train To End Stroke program. One of her biggest cheerleaders was Ryan Davis, director of the organization's southeast Michigan chapter in Southfield.

"Her attitude was great the whole time," Davis said of Stephens' involvement in the marathon. "Her spirit was so high."

Stephens also credited her coaches, Alice Ahearn and John Hazen, for helping her to physically prepare for the marathon.

Stephens pledged to raise \$6,000 and has



Emma Stephens emphasizes that it was the entire 26.2-mile distance that she walked in the Kona Marathon to raise money for the American Stroke Association.

PLEASE SEE MARATHON, A5

Man to stand trial in fake gem scam

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Dearborn Heights man will face trial for accusations he swapped a fake gem for a \$5,000 diamond at a Westland jewelry store.

Tracy Johnson, who also uses the name Tracy Beavers, faces trial after he waived his right to a preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court.

Johnson, who has denied the alleged scam, could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, if he's convicted.

Johnson faces trial in Wayne County Circuit Court for an incident that police said occurred June 8 at Discount Jewelers, 8339 N. Wayne Road.

Store employees told police that a man came into the store, asked to look at a 1.26-karat diamond, dropped it on the floor and tried to replace it with a 2.5-karat cubic zirconium gem.

The jeweler recognized the alleged scam because he had heard of a similar incident in Novi, but the man fled the store. Police officers stopped a vehicle on northbound Newburgh near Warren. The driver admitted shopping for a diamond for his girlfriend but denied any wrongdoing.

Store personnel accused Johnson of being the suspect, although police Sgt. James Dexter said the diamond wasn't found. As he awaits trial, Johnson is free after posting \$1,000, or 10 percent of a \$10,000 bond.

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Volume 41
Number 17



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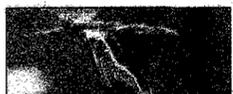
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INDEX

- APARTMENTS E6
- AUTOMOTIVE F2
- COMMUNITY LIFE C1
- HEALTH C6
- JOBS D2
- NEW HOMES E2
- OBITUARIES A7
- PERSPECTIVES C4
- REAL ESTATE E1
- SERVICE GUIDE D5
- SPORTS B1

Coming Thursday in Filter

The 27th Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance unites automobiles of the Brass Era with the Italian thoroughbreds of the Concorso d'Italia.



PLACES AND FACES

Stay home

The Westland Democratic Club will have no meetings in July or August, suspending its monthly sessions for the summer season.

The club's next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey south of Palmer and east of Venoy. Officers will meet at 7 p.m.

With this being an election year, the club is inviting candidates running for public office to speak at the September meeting. Candidates who want to get on the agenda should call Pat Mitchell at (734) 729.2953.

Summer camp

Children can explore the great outdoors at the YWCA of Western Wayne County's Summer Explorer day camp at Central City Park and the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland.

The camp is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday through Aug. 19 for children ages 6-15. Activities include swimming, scavenger hunts, sci-

ence experiments, movies, arts and crafts, pizza parties, field trips, talent show and more.

Children ages 11-15 also can participate in the Counselor in training program which offers the opportunity to learn the basics of being a camp counselor and develop important job skills.

Applications for the camp are available at the YWCA, 26279 Michigan Ave., Inkster. For more information, call the camp department at (313) 561-4110.

Under the Big Top

The Wayne Ford Civic League at 1645 N. Wayne Road will host the Royal Hanneford Circus under the Big Top Wednesday, July 27, through Sunday, July 31.

Show times are 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Ringside seating will be \$18 for all ages, adult general admission will be \$12 and general admission for children 12 years \$8. Tickets are available at the hall, online at www.wayneford.org or by calling (734) 728-5010.

There will be real Elephant and Pony rides available, kiddy

carnival rides and bouncers. The league also will serve daily dinner specials 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at \$6 for all you can eat.

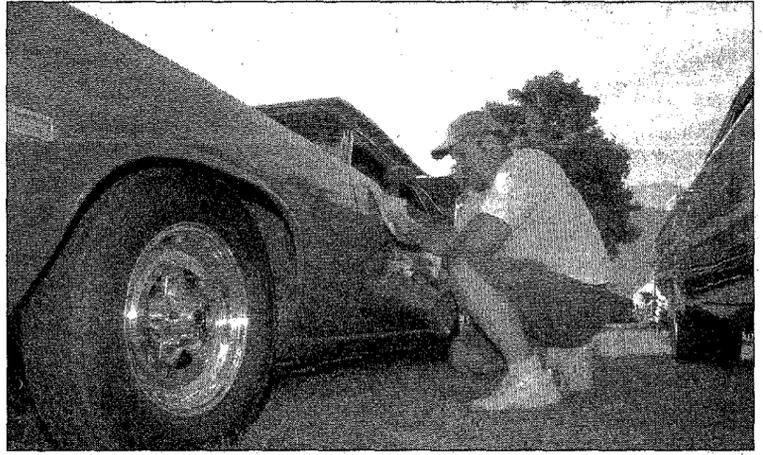
There are a limited number of seats available for each show. Discount coupons will be extended until 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 26. Senior, police, firefighter and active military personnel discounts are available by calling the hall.

Church of Rock

Come celebrate with The Church of Rock as it moves forward in its first Sunday night evening service 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, at 6500 Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland.

The Church of Rock is a youth-driven, non-denominational church birthed out of Club Triune, a safe haven for young music lovers. It currently meets 5-6 p.m. Saturdays to address issues that are relevant to youth and young adults, many of which traditional churches dare to tackle.

For more information visit www.thechurchofrock.com on the Internet.

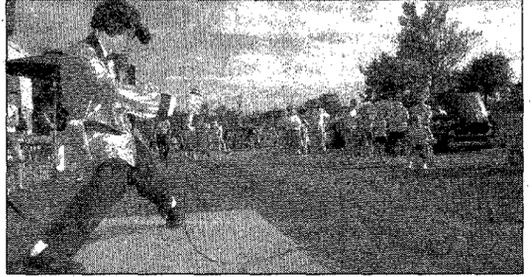


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Phil Garton polishes his 1970 Hemi-powered Barracuda, one of the vehicles on display at the annual Autos for Autism car show to benefit the Burger Center.

Cars, music and fun at Burger event

There was food, music and lots of cars all for a good cause last week.

The fifth annual Autos for Autism car show drew about 200 vehicles to Garden City High School last week.

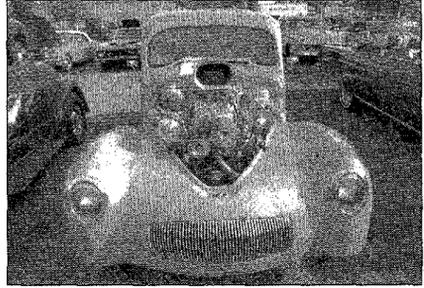


Eleven-year-old Ryan 'Elvis' Talaga entertained the crowd during the Autos for Autism car show held at Garden City High School.

Proceeds from the show benefit the Autistic School Association, Inc., which raises money for the Burger Center. Housed in a former junior high school in Garden City, the Burger Center is a county center program with an enrollment of 355 autistic students up to age 26.

Along with the judged car show, the event also included raffles and door prizes.

Next up will be the annual Lyman Golf Outing scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 13 at Hickory Creek Golf Course. Call Susan Smitt or Donna Lober at (734) 762-8420, Ext. 226.



Classic cars and extreme vehicles - there was something for everyone at the Autos for Autism car show to benefit the Burger Center.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

"If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you," indeed!

How lucky we are to live in the state of Michigan! Michiganders need not go beyond their own state to enjoy wonderful summer vacations. There are a multitude of activities here for adults only or for families, and the library is a great starting point for either learning a new outdoor skill or for planning an outdoor adventure.

If you haven't camped before, or would like some new ideas on the subject, you might enjoy reading *Camping Made Easy* by Michael Rutjer or *Parent's Guide to Camping with Children* by Roger and Kimberley Woodson.

Check out a video like *Camping*

with *Kids* or the new DVD, *The Forgotten Skills: Expert Techniques & Equipment Tips to Make Your Camping Experience More Rewarding*.

If you don't want to rough it, you might try the video, *Go RVing - Life's a Trip*. The book *Are We There Yet? Enjoying the Outdoors with Partners, Families and Groups* by Brian Baird will offer valuable insight when planning your next expedition.

Want to be a little more adventurous?

The video, *Basic Backpacking: Your Video Guide to Overnight Backpacking*, or the book, *Hiking & Backpacking: a Trailside Guide* by Karen Berger, will point you in the right direction. While out on the trail, you can learn to find your way around by reading

Orienteering by Steven Boga or Map and Compass: Basic Essential by Cliff Jacobson.

If you don't want to "hoof it," cycling might be your thing. Titles such as *Mountain Biking Michigan*; *The Best Trails in Southern Michigan* by Dwain Abramowski or *Adventure Cycling in Michigan: Selected On & Off Road Rides* will point you in the right direction.

When the summer sun gets too hot, it's time to head for the beach. *Beach Freaks: Guide to Michigan's Best Beaches* will steer you toward a beach that is just right for you.

Whether you are looking for adventure or peace and quiet, the library can start you out on the right track.

The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

A public accuracy test will be conducted at the time and location listed, for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulating equipment and programs which will be used to tabulate voted ballots for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan.

Location: Civic Center (City Hall)
6000 Middlebelt
Garden City, Michigan 48135

Date: July 27, 2005
Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
734-793-1620

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To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org

You can access this information at the Garden City Library or City Hall during regular Business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

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Even Santa Claus shows up for Christmas in July party

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

It's not easy convincing Santa Claus to leave her North Pole home in July to attend a party in heat-stricken Michigan.

A Christmas theme will convince her every time.

Santa, rumored to call herself Roxanne Gill when not in the red get-up, helped kick off the Westland Community Foundation's 11th annual Christmas in July party Thursday at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

If Santa wasn't impressive as a guest, how about the Beatles or Neil Diamond?

OK. So the Beatles were actually a tribute band called the Back Beats and Neil Diamond was really foundation board member David James.



Glenn Shaw, president of the Westland Community Foundation, presents Carol Sharp with a special recognition award for her work with the Warm Hearts program during the foundation's Christmas in July celebration Thursday evening at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland.

"It's probably one of my highlights of the year giving out these scholarships," Shaw said. "I'm just tickled to death because I see some of these kids going on to great things, like culinary arts school."

The party included a *Westland Idol* contest that pitted eight finalists from local bars against each other. The winner: Becki Wallace for her rendition of Ike & Tina Turner's *Proud Mary*.

"These people don't just stand in front of a microphone. They actually perform, and they do a great job," Shaw said.

Foundation officials also honored Carol Sharp and the local Warm Hearts organiza-



Becki Wallace walked away with top prize with her rendition of Tina Turner's 'Proud Mary.'

tion, which knits blankets and other items for those in need, Shaw said.

The Christmas in July party has become critical for funding of Salvation Army camp programs.

Some local businesses answered a challenge by Shaw and a business associate to match donations. One business, alone - Labor Ready - gave \$1,500, Shaw said.

Meanwhile, Shaw announced the winners of this year's scholarships, most of them in the \$1,000 range. They were Jennifer Adkins, Angela Cetrone, Christopher Chatterton, Jennifer Dotson, Kristina Hall, Jon LeFaive, Karissa Morgan, Christina Polsgrove, Garrett Radford, Brandon Russell, Jo'nelle Smith and Samantha Woodby.

The foundation also awarded scholarships to this year's Miss Westland Leah Potvin, who was crowned during the Westland Summer Festival, and to first runner-up Kimberly Hagelthorn and second runner-up Alexa Larimore.

'Turn Off Violence' event gets a new name

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

"Turn Off the Violence," a longtime fall program held in Westland, will have a new name this October, "Stepping Up the Help."

The family-oriented event is set for 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Bailey Center on Ford Road.

Bob Kosowski, city parks and recreation director, is working on the event, including seeking grant support.

FOR FAMILIES

"It's really a good event for the family," Kosowski told Westland Rotarians at their July 21 meeting at Joy Manor.

The event originated locally with Rotary in the early 1990s.

"We thought it'd be a good idea," said Kim Shunkwiler, a club member and local chiropractor.

He recalled how well the evening went that first year.

Kosowski's hoping for grant support, which could cover the estimated \$6,500 cost, and also hopes to boost Rotary's involvement.

He thanked club members for their efforts, including at the city's Rotary Park.

"Stepping Up the Help" organizers are seeking to make the Oct. 13 event the best yet, with new features.

"We have stuff like human bowling, where you're actually a pin," Kosowski said.

There will be an emphasis on family learning, and continued involvement of local public safety personnel.

Organizers estimated last year's attendance at more than 2,300.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chuck Sullivan belts out *Georgia* by Ray Charles during the finals of this year's Westland Idol competition. Sullivan finished third overall.

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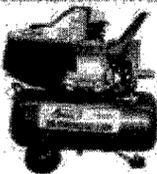
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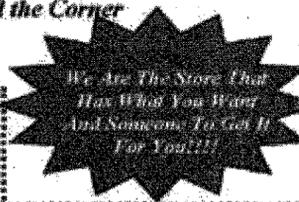


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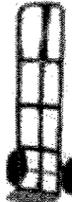
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AID

FROM PAGE A1

receive automatic aid from the other member communities whenever there is a working structure fire.

"We've always had Mutual Aid, but we have to expend all local resources before calling for Mutual Aid," said Forbush. "With this, once we get a working fire, the other departments are in gear and head out without sirens. They will listen on the radio for a size-up from the scene."

Once the local firefighters have made an assessment at the scene, firefighters from the other departments will be notified whether to continue to the scene or be called off.

With two members from each neighboring department responding, to a working structure along with, in Garden City's case, a full shift of five firefighters, the manpower would increase to 13.

That number would not only increase safety at the scene, Forbush said, but also meet the

national industry staffing standards and state safety regulations.

"Obviously, we can't go out and hire a bunch of new firefighters, but we can work together," said Forbush. "This paves the way for increased cooperation, joint training and equipment standardization."

If a major incident does occur, he said the fire departments will be able to respond more effectively due to the ongoing efforts of working together.

"We're all part of Mutual Aid and will continue that. This is more advantageous and will save time if there is a large fire," said Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli. "I think it's great. It shows we can work together. It will work well for all the communities."

The Garden City council voted last week to approve an agreement for the automatic aid. Cicirelli said the Westland Fire Department is participating as the city attorney reviews the matter and decides if council ratification is needed.

"I was worried that we might need a fire services district for safety and that with the local politics that could take 10 years," said Garden City Councilman Ronald Showalter. "The chiefs have come up with something that instead of taking 10 years will be there by Labor Day."

In looking at the issues, Forbush said the chiefs tried to take good aspects of a multi-community fire district without including any of the negatives.

"This is most definitely the wave of the future, especially with cuts to the state funding levels," Cicirelli said. "We keep hearing from Lansing about regionalization. We have made cuts locally."

Local communities have worked together to get a cheaper price on bulk road salt, for example. Westland and the city of Wayne also have been discussing the joint purchase of a fire aerial truck, Cicirelli said.

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RABIES

FROM PAGE A1

capture the animal and have it tested for rabies, Stobbe said.

The police department's telephone number is (734) 722-9600.

Treatment in humans

involves taking five doses of rabies vaccine over a 28-day period.

Meanwhile, Stobbe warned that Westland has a city ordinance that prohibits cats and other animals from running free. Pets should be restrained on a leash, tied up or kept indoors, he said.

Pet owners who violate the

ordinance can be cited for a misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Residents who have more questions about rabies may call the Wayne County Public Health Department at (734) 727-7000.

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MARATHON

FROM PAGE A1

surpassed her goal.

"I took pledges around the city and just raised money wherever I could," she said. "I pretty much left no stone unturned."

Michigan raised about \$380,000 for this

year's Train To End Stroke event, Davis said. Nationally, the figure was \$3 million.

Said Stephens: "It's a really worthy cause."

When she talked about the marathon, Stephens good-naturedly emphasized the entire 26.2-mile distance that she walked.

"Don't forget the .2," she said with a laugh. "My feet felt every bit of it."

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Pooches take to streets for annual walk

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Paws With a Cause is a national group whose mission is to help make life as normal as possible for people with disabilities.

Next week, dog owners and other residents in the Plymouth community get a chance to help the group accomplish that goal.

Paws With a Cause sponsors its fifth annual "Laps for Learning" walk in downtown Plymouth at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 30, beginning at Kellogg Park.

All dogs are welcome with their owners, but residents need not have a dog to help. Pledges can be made in advance, or donations can be made the day of the walk. "The money we raise from

the walk goes to our educational program," said Sue Brooks, development representative in the Paws With a Cause Southeast Michigan Regional Office in Auburn Hills. "We do hundreds of presentations to adults in corporate settings, as well as to kids, that talk about people with disabilities, and talk about the roles the dogs play in their lives."

Paws With a Cause was founded in Michigan in 1979. The group trains assistance dogs to help people with disabilities try to live independent lives. The dogs, according to Brooks, are mostly labradors, golden retrievers or a mix, function as service dogs, hearing dogs, seizure response dogs and "combo" dogs for people with multiple disabilities. A demonstration of those

abilities will be part of the July 30 walk, which will also feature activities such as "bobbing for tennis balls," an agility obstacle course, a dog/human relay race and a "Smooch the Pooch" booth.

Service dogs, which Brooks said are "probably the most common," can open doors both literally and figuratively, she said.

"They're very socially acceptable dogs," Brooks pointed out. "If someone had previously been put off by someone in a wheelchair, they might smile at them if they have the dog. That's one way they open doors."

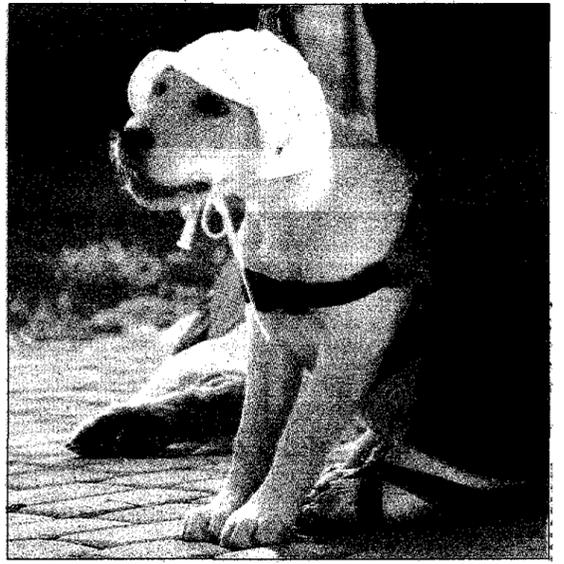
Some of the other functions these dogs provide include, but aren't limited to, retrieving fallen objects, turning lights on and off, helping with laundry and grocery shopping and even

waking them for work.

"The dogs make life as normal as it possibly can be for them," Brooks said. "The dogs give people - not only the disabled, but their families - back some independence they might have lost."

While Paws With a Cause doesn't necessarily have a target fund-raising goal for the walk, Brooks said the group has raised an average of some \$11,000 per walk. To help raise money, the Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club hosts an all-you-can-eat breakfast (\$6 for adults, \$3 for children) at the Masonic Temple from 8-11 a.m. July 30.

Dog owners can register in advance by e-mailing Brooks at pawsemisue@yahoo.com or call (248) 844-5656.



'Cruiser,' a soon-to-be Paws dog, huddled at the feet of Gail Montgomery at last year's walk.

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY

NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Election shall be held in the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., at which Special Election there will be submitted to vote of the qualified electors of the City the following proposition:

PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL

To renew the millage authorized in 2000, shall Wayne County continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2005 rollback rate of .2459 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2006 through 2010) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including major improvements to Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park and Fort Wayne on the condition that, for any year for which this increased levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-96 fiscal year appropriation for Parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$11,879,207 in 2006.

YES

NO

All qualified and registered electors of the City may vote on the above proposition.

I, **RAYMOND J. WOJCIWICZ**, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of May 25, 2005 the total of all voted increases in excess of the Constitutional fifteen mill tax rate limitation and the years such increases are effective are as follows affecting the taxable property of Wayne County:

WAYNE COUNTY			
Local Unit	Date of Election	Yoted Increases	Years Increases Effective
County of Wayne	08/08/2000	1 mill	2005 thru 2009
Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency	08/06/1974 11/08/1988 08/06/2002	1 mill 1 mill 1.5 mills	2005 indefinitely 2005 indefinitely 2005 indefinitely
Wayne County Jail	08/06/2002	1 mill	2005 thru 2010
Wayne County Parks	08/08/2000	0.25 mills	2005
Wayne County Comm College	11/06/2001	1.5 mills	2005 thru 2010
OTHER TAXING AUTHORITIES			
Schoolcraft Comm College	10/07/1985	.05 mills	Unlimited
GARDEN CITY SCHOOLS			
Garden City Schools	08/08/2000 06/11/2001 06/10/2002 06/10/2002	1 mill 3.1 mills 18 mills 2 mills	2005 thru 2011 2005 thru (not to exceed 30 years) 2005 thru 2012 2005 thru 2012

The places of voting for the Special Election to be held on August 2, 2005 will be as follows:

Precinct	Location
Precinct 1	Farmington School 33411 Marquette
Precinct 2	Memorial School 30001 Marquette
Precinct 3	Lathers School 28351 Marquette
Precinct 4	Lathers School 28351 Marquette
Precinct 5	Memorial School 30001 Marquette
Precinct 6	Garden City Middle School 1851 Radcliff
Precinct 7	Maplewood Center 31735 Maplewood
Precinct 8	Henry Ruff School 30300 Maplewood
Precinct 9	Civic Center 6000 Middlebelt
Precinct 10	Douglas School 6400 Hartel

All polling places are handicapper accessible. If you anticipate difficulties at your normal polling place please phone the City Clerk's Office to arrange an alternate location. Absentee Ballots for this Election are available at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, through 4:00 P.M., Monday, August 1, 2005, to anyone who meets one of the following requirements: Electors age 60 or older; Electors who expect to be absent from Garden City the entire time the polls are open on Election Day; Electors who are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; Electors who cannot attend the polls due to tenets of their religion; or Electors who are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial. Furthermore, any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

In addition to our regular hours, the City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, July 30, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of absentee voting.

ALLYSON BETTIS, City Clerk,
City of Garden City

Publish: July 21 and 24, 2005

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Education needs to start long before kindergarten

Aidan is a sponge. My almost 2-year-old grandson absorbs words and actions. Everything he sees has a name. He's started connecting words to form primitive sentences. He knows how to click on a TV, listen on a cell phone, type on a computer, scoot around in a push car, toss a ball, play with a finger puppet.

He's quick and agile. His parents spend time with him. They read to him. They listen to music. They take him to shows, festivals, ballgames.

This is a critical time in his life. This is when he'll learn more than he'll ever learn again. This is when his mind and body first begin to flex their different muscles. This is when he first begins to make friends and show feelings. This is when he begins to discover who he is and how he fits into the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, not all children have Aidan's advantages. They aren't read to, they aren't played with, they aren't exposed to a word for everything. This most crucial time is when they are neglected without the right stimulus, the stimulus that will determine their future.

At a time when measuring educational success has become so essential, we are coming to appreciate how far behind some children are when they first come to a classroom. Education doesn't begin in kindergarten or even in preschool, it begins when a child first opens his eyes and ears to the world around him.

A new understanding of how children develop has made early childhood education a priority for many in education.

The Michigan In Brief Web site, a helpful nonpartisan discussion of major policy issues sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association and the Council of Michigan Foundations, notes: "Brain research shows that the young children warranting the greatest concern are those who (1) fail to get adequate nutrition; (2) do not receive physical, emotional and intellectual stimulation; and (3) are emotionally or physically neglected or abused. Fortunately, research also demonstrates that children have a remarkable capacity to recover from the devastating effects of early deprivation and maltreatment if a nurturing environment is provided as early as possible."

When MEAP scores roll out every year, it is obvious that some children start with a deficit that only increases with time. Poverty, violence, neglect from an early age make it difficult for even the hardest of children to compete with children who never face these challenges.

In recent decades, with more two-income

At a time when measuring educational success has become so essential, we are coming to appreciate how far behind some children are when they first come to a classroom.

families, more children are attending child care centers. These vary from innovative socially and intellectually stimulating preschools to organized baby-sitting arrangements.

Some educators have suggested that we need to look critically at early childhood education as the key to improving all levels of education. In a recent interview, the new state superintendent for public instruction, Michael Flanagan, suggested that maybe we should be taking some resources that now go to secondary education and spend it instead on early childhood education.

It seems wrong-headed at first. High school is the time that students have to buckle down and master the skills that will get them into college. It's the time when they need all those electives that can be expensive.

But Flanagan has a point. Without that crucial first step, many won't be able to compete in high school, many will drop out or slide through the cracks long before they reach the secondary level.

Our already heavily burdened public school systems are reluctant to add early childhood education to their responsibilities. Their budgets are already strapped trying to meet the needs of the K-12 school population.

Still, evidence suggests that any attempts to "fix" our weakest school systems and improve student performance are destined to fail without addressing the needs of the youngest children. Prenatal care for mothers; strong, mandatory parenting classes; licensed, education-centered subsidized day care programs; and some form of early kindergarten are needed to reverse the trend.

In the 1960s, the Johnson administration recognized how important early childhood education was. The Head Start program ranks with landmark civil rights legislation as Johnson's greatest legacy. It is a legacy that looms even larger as we try to quantify the success of our school systems.

We now know that learning must begin long before kindergarten.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149, by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279.



Hugh Gallagher

Signaling is 'best' option, but certainly not 'favorite'

It's summer, and the livin' is easy. I've also got a few random thoughts rattling around my brain that need to be explored:

■ Is there anything simpler to execute, but that by not doing shows a greater disdain for those around us, than using a turn signal while driving? I'm sure this falls under the category of the deterioration of courtesy in our society, but I can't even begin to count the number of times each and every day when a car either turns in front of me or swerves into my lane with nary an attempt by the other driver to signal their intention. The effort required to activate a turn signal is only slightly greater than that required to draw breath, but to some it seems as difficult as moving a mountain - and just as rare.

■ Ever since I've wanted to be a journalist - which, for me, is pretty much since I began learning to read - I've been keenly interested in language and words. Specifically, how some words that have very narrow meanings can become twisted into having unintended definitions. A perfect example is the way many people have come to use "best" and "favorite."

Most anyone can immediately recite their "favorite" whatever - food, song, city, etc. But ask most of those people to name the "best" of that same category and chances are you'll get the same answer - and more times than not, they would be mistaken (or at least misguided).

Ask a football fan around here which is their "favorite" team and odds are it would be the Detroit Lions. But are they the "best"? Not in my lifetime. Perhaps that's not a great illustration, but many folks will go to their grave insisting that their "favorite" (fill in the blank) is also the "best" and no amount of persuading will convince them otherwise.

Another pet peeve of mine is the blurring of the difference between "entertainment" and "information." Each has its place in the world, but when I want to be informed, i.e. learn something useful or important, entertainment is not an essential requirement. Try telling that to the talking heads on the local television newscasts.

■ Every generation finds it necessary to break with previous ones and forge its own identity, however elusive that goal might actually be. In other words, if there is something a parent likes, by definition their children likely won't. But how does one explain the rejection of traditional team sports by most of today's youngsters and the meteoric rise in "extreme" activities like skateboarding, bicycle jumping and freestyle skiing?

When I was a child, we had behind our house an old meadow that at one time was used to grow corn. It was just a vacant field by the time I reached adolescence, but all us neighborhood kids expended considerable time and effort to carve out a usable baseball diamond, complete



Bill Emerick

Most anyone can immediately recite their "favorite" whatever - food, song, city, etc. But ask most of those people to name the "best" of that same category and chances are you'll get the same answer - and more times than not, they would be mistaken (or at least misguided).

with basepaths and a distant outfield boundary that marked a home run. Every summer, we would drag the (manual) lawnmowers out and lovingly recreate our own sandlot.

When my family moved into our current home six years ago, I was delighted to learn that a small baseball diamond was located at the end of our street. I was sure that my son and his buddies would derive the same pleasure from hours of endless play that my crowd did years before. I was right - to a point.

What was once a grass-covered infield has been transformed into a series of earthen ditches and moguls, perfectly suited for BMX-style bike racing. The local kids showed the same initiative in creating their own playground, but in my eyes destroying a beloved symbol in the process. Baseball? "It's slow and boring," according to my son. Sigh.

■ It's been said Michigan has four seasons: too cold, too rainy, too hot and too windy. This summer is certainly living up to that reputation. But why is it we hear about energy shortages and calls for conservation only when the thermometer inches its way above 90 degrees?

I understand that electric consumption skyrockets when everyone cranks up the air conditioning; doesn't it take just as much energy to fire up the furnace when the temperatures tumble? And since the days are much shorter in the winter, it would seem that lights are on much longer, requiring even more energy than in the summer. But when was the last time you heard a warning about brownouts in February?

■ Speaking of driving, you can't get there from here - trust me. I grew up Downriver, where most of my family still lives, but now reside in northern Oakland County. Pick a route - any route - between those two points and I'll show you a traffic jam caused by construction. I-75 ... Telegraph Road ... M-39 ... the Lodge Freeway. For all the complaining local officials do about a lack of funding for road projects, I'd hate to see what it might look like if we ever got all the money requested from Washington. As Yogi Berra might say, the roads would be so good, no one would drive anymore.

Bill Emerick is a copy editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. He welcomes your feedback at bemerick@oe.homecomm.net.

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40th Anniversary

CELEBRATION

Thursday - Sunday, July 28 - 31

- ★ Savings Coupons up to **40% Off** (4 Days Only)
- ★ Free Gift with Purchase
while supplies last
- ★ Grand Opening of Play Area, July 30

KB TOYS
\$20 off
any Toy Purchase of \$100 or more

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

KB TOYS
15% off
any Toy Purchase of \$75 or more

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

ON TIME
40% off Watches and Clocks*
*some items excluded

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

COREY'S JEWEL BOX
50% off 14 Kt. Gold Earrings, Rings & Sterling Silver Jewelry
(Additional 10% OFF regular sale prices or an additional 5% OFF promotional sale items with coupon)

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

COREY'S JEWEL BOX
60% off 14 Kt. Gold Chains, & 55% off 14 Kt. Gold Charms & Pendants.
(Additional 10% OFF regular sale prices or an additional 5% OFF promotional sale items with coupon)

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

THE LOOP
50% off 14 Kt. Gold Earrings, Rings & Sterling Silver Jewelry
(Additional 10% OFF regular sale prices or an additional 5% OFF promotional sale items with coupon)

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

THE LOOP
60% off 14 Kt. Gold Anklets, Bracelets & Necklaces & 55% off Gold Charms & Pendants.
(Additional 10% OFF regular sale prices or an additional 5% OFF promotional sale items with coupon)

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

PRECISION WATCH & RINGSMITH
40% off All Nambe Crystal

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

PRECISION WATCH & RINGSMITH
40% off All Name Brand Watches, Crystal Figurines & Jewelry Boxes

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

July 29
Anniversary Celebration
sponsored by Marshall Fields
4 pm, East Court

- Drawing of grand prize for Enter to Win
- Recognition presentations
- Anniversary greetings from local & state dignitaries
- Cutting of the anniversary cake
- After Hours, Lakeshore Grill, 5 pm
- Entertainment by Benny & the Jets, 6 pm-8 pm

July 29
The Balloon Buddies
5 pm - 7 pm,
Play Area, JC Penney Court

Treat your child at our new play area to a balloon animal or any other shape they want, as the balloon buddies entertain with their colorful balloons and fun shapes they create.

July 30
Play Area Grand Opening
Sponsored by
ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL
11 am - 4 pm,
JC Penney Court

Events planned include:

- An outdoor safety talk from a park ranger
- Face painting
- Clowns
- Teddy bear clinic
- Giveaways* (*while supplies last)

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Enter to Win 14kt two tone pendant
with four round brilliant-cut diamonds
weighing approx. 1/7 ct. TW.

Name _____
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Telephone _____ Email Address _____

(No Purchase Necessary. See store for complete rules and regulations.)

SUNDRIE SHOP
20% off Humidors

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

FISCHER'S HALLMARK
Receive 40% off any one Regular Priced Item
(some restrictions apply)

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

LANE BRYANT
15% off Entire Purchase

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

JOURNEYS
FREE Gift with purchase
(while supplies last)

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

MY PHOTOGRAPHER
40% off a 20" x 24" Canvas Wall Portrait

Call (734) 513-6585 to schedule an appointment today. Your appointment must be scheduled or you must be photographed between July 28-31, 2005. Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

SPENCER GIFTS
40% off Selected Clearance Items

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

A & W RESTAURANT
Rootbeer Float - 20 oz. size \$1.49 (Regular retail value \$2.49)

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

SUNDRIE SHOP
Keychain, Money Clip Sets, Cufflink & Tie Bar Sets, and Watch & Keychain Sets all \$29.99

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

SUNDRIE SHOP
15% off all Cigars and Cigar Accessories

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.

SUNDRIE SHOP
30% off Mayford Crystal Teapots

Offer good with coupon July 28 through July 31, 2005. Valid at Westland Shopping Center location only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with prior purchases, layaways, or other promotions.