

# Talking turkey

Twisting tradition with culinary tricks

TASTE, PAGE B7



# Cheerleaders fire up the Thanksgiving Day parade

FILTER - INSERTED SECTION



# Christmas in the village

AT HOME, SECTION B



THURSDAY  
November 17, 2005

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Fourth-graders Kelly Teschke (from left), Lauren Kleffman and McKenzi Paciocco hold up their signs as the fourth-graders sing *The Great Defenders*.

# Gunshots rock neighborhood

## Police look for information about 2nd drive-by shooting

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Gunshots rang out early Sunday on Westland's north side, spraying an occupied house during the second drive-by shooting since Sept. 15 in the same neighborhood, police confirmed.

Authorities aren't sure whether the two incidents are related. Police Lt. James Ridener said an investigation is continuing.

No one was injured during either of the drive-by shootings, which occurred in a usually quiet residential neighborhood near Middlebelt and Ann Arbor Trail.

The latest incident occurred about 6:35 a.m. Sunday when someone, possibly in a dark sport utility vehicle, fired multiple shots from a handgun, hitting a house and garage in the 8200 block of Hugh, Ridener said.

A car parked on Merritt west of Hugh also was hit, he said.

The house was occupied by four women - two of them in their 20s, a grandmother and a 90-year-old great-grandmother, according to police.

Deputy Police Chief Mark Stobbe said a reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest in the shootings. Tips can be made anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers of Michigan at (800) SPEAK-UP, or (800) 773-2587.

The latest gunfire followed incidents that occurred early Sept. 15, when shots rang out about 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. in the area of Fremont, Beatrice and Gladys.

Bullets struck a house, parked cars and stop signs during the September shootings.

On that morning, shots also rang out at Pierce and Moeller in Garden City.

Residents are becoming increasingly concerned about gunfire in their neighborhood. One mother told the *Observer* in September that she feared for the safety of her children after her house was struck by bullets.

The incidents have proved frustrating for police. Partly due to the early-morning timing of the shootings, authorities haven't been able to find witnesses who can give a precise description of any suspects.

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# 'Honored': Kids remember their veterans

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

It may have been an attempt to help children learn how important freedom is, but it was much more for the guests of a veterans assembly at P.D. Graham School Monday.

The program was filled with patriotic songs, skits and poetry, all meant to honor parents, grandparents, aunts and uncle who have served their country as members of the military.

"I was honored, I thought it was fantastic," said Tom Wyroba. "This was really great."

A member of the U.S. Marine Corps from 1995 to 1999, Wyroba was invited by his nephew who "asked if I'd bring my sword." Wyroba obliged, wearing his Marine Corps dress uniform complete with the ceremonial sword for the program.



Savana and Anton Nicosia hand a red rose and certificate to their grandfather, David Marshall, a veteran of the U.S. Marines, during the veterans program at P.D. Graham Elementary School.

PLEASE SEE VETERANS, A7

# 28 teens set sights on Junior Miss title

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

John Denver's *Country Boy* blared out of a boom box as 28 young women, straw cowboy hats in hand, two-stepped and sometimes square danced their way around the dance floor at the Dyer Senior Center Sunday evening.

Rehearsal time was running out for the group as it prepared for Saturday's 2006 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Program Saturday evening at Wayne Memorial High School's Stockmeyer Auditorium.

"Best in the West is the theme this year, can you tell?" asked Pat Hertz, who oversees the program as co-chair of Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Inc.

The young women, seniors at John Glenn, Wayne Memorial and Livonia Churchill High schools, are vying for the opportunity to represent the two communities at the state program in

Alpena in March and hopefully represent the state at America's Junior Miss program in Mobile, Ala., in June.

Starting at 8 a.m. Sunday, the contestants sat down for personal interviews with the six judges who have the task of selecting the next Wayne-Westland Junior Miss and the runner-up who, depending on where she lives, will be either the Westland or Wayne Junior Miss. Both will advance to the state competition.

## ACADEMICS COUNT

Judging is based on the young girls' scholastics which make up 20 percent of their total score. The judges' interview and a talent routine that will be performed as part of Saturday's program are each worth 25 percent. The almost nine-minute long fitness routine they perform during the program

PLEASE SEE JUNIOR MISS, A7



Lauren Perry will see her time as the 2005 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss come to an end at this year's program Saturday evening.

FILE PHOTO

# Driver in fatal accident faces delayed sentence

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

The daughter of an 82-year-old woman who was struck and killed in the Westland Meijer parking lot is frustrated by what she considers a lack of justice.

Anita Gillman questioned the fairness of a postponement in the sentencing of George Gerald Kosmyrna, 88, a Livonia man who has pleaded no contest to negligent homicide.

Kosmyrna's car spun out of control June 2, injuring one woman and killing Gillman's mother, 82-year-old Josephine Gregory of Westland.

"Here my mother was the victim, and the person who did it is walking around," Gillman said Monday by tele-

phone from her Long Island, N.Y., home. "He took the last person in my family away from me."

Kosmyrna has surrendered his driver's license and will return to Wayne County Circuit Court next August for a review of his case, according to Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Steve Taratuta.

Negligent homicide is punishable by penalties ranging from probation up to two years in prison and a \$2,000 fine.

Kosmyrna's attorney, Thomas Strauch, indicated Tuesday that the defendant has shown regret for the accident. Gregory survived for nine days before she died at the University of Michigan

PLEASE SEE FATAL, A6

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Volume 41 Number 50

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## Coming Sunday in PINK

Delightful Denim. Jeans are hot, and oh so comfy!

# Livonia ed board hears plan, objections

BY DAVE VARGA  
STAFF WRITER

Words like "drastic measures," "experimenting with our kids," and "disenfranchised from this whole process" were among the barbs tossed at the Livonia school officials Monday.

Eighteen people offered comments about the district's controversial and expansive Legacy Initiative before and after it was officially presented to the school board. Only two were mostly supportive.

The proposal would close six buildings, add a new level of upper elementary (grades five-six) schools, and save the district \$1.5-\$2 million a year to deal with declining enrollment and increasing costs.

In response to more than 1,100 written comments, the district's Demographics Committee, which crafted this proposal together, did make several small changes to the plan. Supt. Randy Liepa outlined the plan and the changes, including grandfathering in current students in more areas.

Those changes weren't enough for many in the standing-room crowd.

One of the most pointed, and applauded, comments came from Larry Bernhardt, a parent who urged an alternate K-5 plan that would move sixth-graders to the middle school, because it provides fewer transitions for kids. "Shove this plan down our throats," he pledged, "and I will personally invest my time and money to recall each and every one of you."

Many parents questioned

the methods used to gather input before the committee made its decisions. Julie McCreadie said of the hundreds of parents in the PTA at Adams Elementary, only about 10 attended the particular meeting where they were surveyed.

She objected to putting her 10-year-old in a huge building of 900 students, and the long bus rides. "Can't we have a five-year plan?" she asked, "...instead of making our children today handle all the burden of this."

### WORTH THE INVESTMENT?

Another parent, Denise Beaudoin, supports closing schools by using a K-6 option, not the current plan. She questioned the advantages being touted for grades 5-6, such as adding a foreign language class of 45 minutes for only one day a week.

"It's not worth investing in the program," she said. School board members thanked the demographics committee for their work and speakers for their input.

Several board questions asked Liepa to repeat information already presented - yes, class sizes would be maintained; younger students wouldn't be crossing main roads; and some other districts do have separate upper elementary schools for grades five-six. Another answer reiterated that sixth-graders, if moved to the middle schools under that option, would be required to change classes every hour, just like older middle schoolers.

Liepa also shared the research used by the commit-

tee. Studies show that academic progress is lost in the first year of a transition between schools, and by creating an extra transition, the K-4 proposal raises concerns. Helping to ease those transitions, Liepa said, would be the fact that school communities are kept together and, he added, other efforts like open houses would be used.

Liepa outlined the benefits and drawbacks of the three proposals considered by the committee - a K-5 plan that closes six elementary buildings and keeps four middle schools; a K-6 plan that closes five elementary buildings and one middle school; and the K-4 plan that closes seven buildings.

Cost savings would be similar in each. The K-4 plan saves around \$1.9 million (Liepa estimated that more precise figure); the K-5 model saves \$1.8 million; and the K-6 model saves \$1.5 million. However, both K-5 and K-6 plans would save much more if the district didn't increase costs by hiring more teachers for adding instrumental music, foreign language and technology classes for grades five-six.

### PROPOSALS WEIGHED

Liepa noted the research showed the grade configuration was neutral when it comes to education. However, he said the K-4 proposal is more efficient for support resources, professional development and balanced class sizes. Moving to a K-5 program would put 1,278 students in Frost Middle School (based on this year's numbers), and

that would be too large, Liepa said.

The community has offered other cost savings ideas, Liepa said. They were presented to the committee and, he said, they should be looked at - in addition to this plan.

Several parents noted the board members' roles in the committee. Salem Samaan said that the board had surely been updated on the progress of this proposal, but the community wasn't.

"We're being asked to digest in a short two or three weeks what took them a year and a half to come up with," Samaan said. "I don't think that's appropriate and I don't think that's fair."

Other issues raised focused on overcrowding of buildings, length of bus rides, the loss of neighborhood schools for the community, and the lack of input by non-parents in surveys.

Liepa said making a decision but delaying action would create lame-duck schools; he also noted that the board's decision on a plan is needed to decide how to staff the schools.

Board President Dan Lessard said that the board was there to listen "and we do listen." Earlier, he had told the audience that "some of you are upset about things that are just not so."

The board hosts a public hearing on the proposal Monday, Nov. 21, at Churchill High School; a regular board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. the following day, Tuesday, Nov. 22, at the board office.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Norman Haro and daughter, Allison, carry signs protesting the proposed school changes of the Legacy Initiative. The Haro family has students at Roosevelt and Riley.

# Committee makes slight changes to its proposal

Changes in the Livonia Public Schools' Legacy Initiative will allow more students to be grandfathered in with their current school community, and give students who live closest to Riley the priority for schools of choice placement.

Those were two of the major changes made by the Demographics Committee before the final draft of the plan was proposed to the school board Monday, in light of written concerns by parents.

Another school attendance area - a small section just east of Wayne Road and just south of Joy Road - was shifted from the Hayes, Cooper, Emerson, Franklin path to the Garfield, Johnson, Frost and Churchill area. It was shifted, officials said, due to its geographical isolation. Current students in that area will, however, be allowed to be attend Hayes

through the 4th grade.

Three other groups of students shifted from the rest of their current school communities will also be grandfathered back into their old boundaries for their time in elementary school. Those areas include a one-mile section east of Middlebelt and north of Five Mile; an area between Farmington and Wayne, south of Plymouth; and the Quakertown subdivision, south of Six Mile, east of Haggerty.

Meanwhile, a big issue for many parents with the upper elementary schools is that those students who live just south of Five Mile - and within sight of Riley School - would be bused around five miles to Cooper School for grades 4-5. Students close to Riley will get preference for schools of choice requests to attend Riley rather than Cooper.



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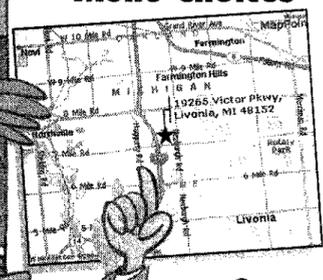
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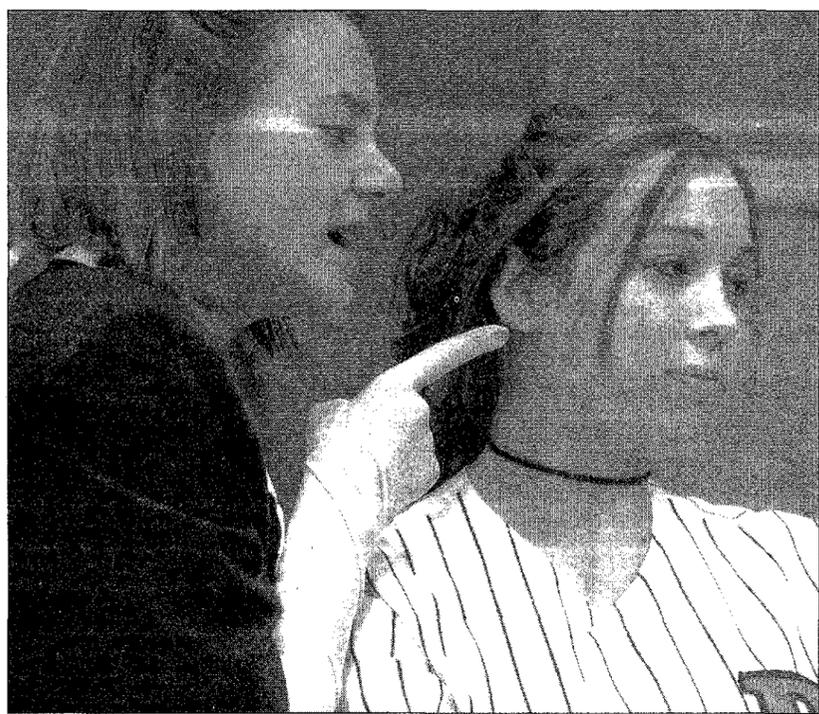
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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Laugh with 'The Odd Couple'

Livonia Franklin seniors Kristin Seaman, left, and Jamie Volk rehearse for the school's production of *The Odd Couple* (female version), which hits the stage at 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday, Nov. 17-19, at the school. Tickets are \$7 and may be purchased in advance or at the door. Other performers include Janina Pesys, Leanna Montagna, Rachael Dilworth, Heather Viland, Geoff Mehl and Patrick West. Director is Jami Krause.

## Grand new flag

### AMVETS comes to aid of school after theft

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

It seemed fitting on Veterans Day that a flag helped unite a Westland AMVETS group with a Canton elementary school.

But, the patriotic pairing during a Friday flag-raising ceremony at Walker-Winter Elementary School actually started with a crime.

Days before Veterans Day, the school's flag was stolen when it was mistakenly left flying on a flagpole overnight.

"I couldn't believe it," Principal Pauline Koulouberif said.

When she contacted Wayne AMVETS Post 171, on Merriman Road near Avondale in Westland, veterans dug into their own pockets, collected about \$70 and bought a 5-by-9-foot flag for the school.

"I thought it was disgusting that somebody would steal their flag," said Jon Wilson, corporate officer and banquet hall manager for AMVETS Post 171.

A group of veterans joined the 340 students at Walker-



Veterans stand outside of Walker-Winter Elementary School, where they replaced a stolen flag. They are (from left) Jon Wilson, Leroy Brennan, Jerry Steller, Adam Hostrawser (holding daughter Emma), Dan Bush and Jim Meloche.

Winter last Friday for a flag-raising ceremony for the school's new Old Glory.

Veterans, students and school employees said the Pledge of Allegiance and sang patriotic songs during the event.

"It was wonderful," Koulouberif said. "We felt privileged to have these veterans at our school. It was a great way to help students recognize what veterans do, and they got to experience

the patriotism of raising the flag and connecting with real veterans."

Students raised the flag as veterans looked on, knowing they had helped keep the flag flying in front of Walker-Winter Elementary School.

"It's part of what we're here for," Wilson, a Vietnam veteran, said. "We not only take care of vets, but we do community service, too."

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## Salvation Army puts out call for bell ringers

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Jade Smith is looking forward to ringing the bell at the red kettle for the Salvation Army for the first time.

"My kids have always gotten such a kick out of putting money in the bucket," said Smith, bank manager for LaSalle Bank on Wayne Road at Nankin Boulevard in Westland. "It'll be nice to be on the other end."

He'll ring for the Salvation Army's Wayne-Westland Corps through Rotary and plans to present the idea to his staff as well. Local Army leaders are busy these days recruiting volunteers to cover the 18-20 sites in Wayne and Westland.

"I'm trying to concentrate on a lot of community support," said corps commander Capt. Matt O'Neil. "It'll be great if we get a lot of volunteers this year."

He's already filled the paid positions.

Having volunteers means the Salvation Army has more money to give to needy people this time of year. Those who would like to volunteer can visit [www.ringbell.org](http://www.ringbell.org) online or call Matt or Mindie O'Neil at (734) 722-3660.

Christmas assistant Sandra Kollinger also has information on volunteering in the Wayne-Westland area.

Last year's local goal was \$125,000, but Matt O'Neil is thinking it will be a little lower this year. He acknowledged people have been asked to give a lot following last December's tsunami and the hurricanes this year, along with other natural disasters.

"It's hard to tell at this point," he said. "A lot of people have already given. Hopefully the Christmas spirit will come in."

Checks, made payable to the Salvation Army, can be sent to 2300 Venoy, Westland, MI 48186. Contributions are tax-deductible.

## Tickets are going fast for annual Taste Fest

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Bargain hunters who like to eat are gobbling up tickets to this year's Holiday Taste Fest, which will feature food from more than a dozen restaurants for just \$20.

Only 160 tickets remain of the 500 being sold by the event sponsor, the Westland Chamber of Commerce. Holiday Taste Fest is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road east of Newburgh.

"We're surprised at how fast tickets are going," chamber President Lori Brist said.

"Everyone saw how successful the event was last year, and they're telling their friends. We're getting people who said their neighbors went last year."

When going to Holiday Taste Fest, go hungry.

Toarina's Pizza and Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe have been added to an earlier list of participants including Fire Mountain, Le Cakery Bake Shop, LongHorn Steakhouse, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Max & Erma's, Red Robin, Souper Sandwich Carver, Westland Big Boy, UNO Chicago Grill, Applebee's, La Shish, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center culinary arts

program, the Hellenic Cultural Center's cooking staff and, from Canton, Taj Mahal.

O&W Inc. and Vintner's Cellar, distributors of beer and wine, also are on the list.

Interest continues to grow for the food festival, now in its seventh year, Brist said. More companies also are buying tickets for tables of 10, she said.

Brist has described the event as a way to showcase local restaurants while offering participants an inexpensive evening of sampling food.

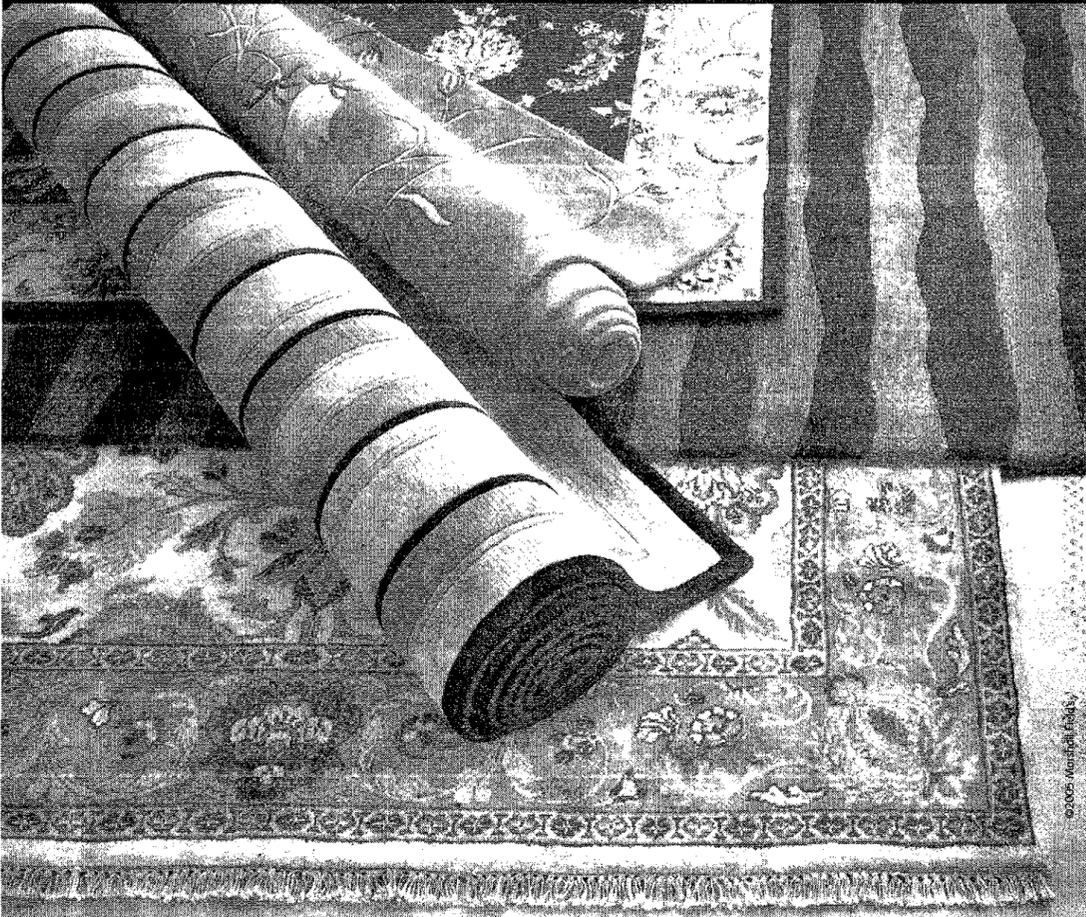
This year's Taste Fest will include entertainment by R.C. DJ & Video Productions and Ms. Helen's Westland Dance, according to Brist.

A silent auction also will be held, including such items as tickets to see the Detroit Pistons basketball team and the Red Wings hockey team.

Tickets are \$20 except for seniors over age 55 and children 12 years and under, who will pay just \$15. They are available at the chamber office, 36900 Ford Road east of Newburgh.

For more information, call (734) 326-7222. Holiday Taste Fest serves as a fund-raiser for the chamber and for the Joseph Benyo Scholarship Fund, in honor of the late community volunteer who served Westland in many capacities.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean tried to rally the party faithful at a fund-raiser at Ernesto's in Plymouth Tuesday.

## Dean takes aim at Michigan GOP

Party chair calls state delegation 'vulnerable'

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

Michigan Democrats believe state Republicans are vulnerable in the 2006 elections, and Tuesday night they brought out the party's biggest hammer to drive home the point.

In a speech at a Michigan Democratic Party fund-raiser at Ernesto's in Plymouth, former presidential candidate Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, tried to rally state Democrats, pointing the party's guns directly at Michigan's Republican representatives, national and statewide.

And he called on local party members to reach out in a grassroots campaign he said the party needs to regain control of both the U.S. and state legislatures.

"We need some work out of you," he told some 500 Democrats jammed into Ernesto's. "What we need you to do is reach out to people who didn't vote the way we did. That's how you build coalitions to win elections. We need to



Plymouth resident Alicia Van Pelt greets Howard Dean at a Michigan Democratic Party fund-raiser Tuesday at Ernesto's.

reach out and knock on doors."

As he has in recent speeches and television appearances, most recently on NBC's *Meet the Press* Sunday, Dean talked about "truth," seizing on the dwindling poll numbers of President George Bush as evidence Americans "want change" in Washington.

He invoked the CIA leak scandal, in which vice presidential chief of staff I. Lewis Libby was indicted on perjury charges and for which senior presidential adviser Karl Rove is still being investigated; the indictment of former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay on campaign finance violations; and the investigations into Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, using them to accuse the president of fostering a "culture of corruption" in the country.

"We need to end the culture of corruption (Bush) has brought to Washington," Dean said. "We're going to tell the truth to our people, we're going to tell the truth to our troops, and we're going to tell the truth to our allies."

### TAKING AIM

That's when Dean aimed the party's guns at the Michigan congressional delegation, chiefly 11th District U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and 9th District Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township.

Dean said McCotter and Knollenberg each took thousands of dollars from DeLay's political action committee, and have voted with DeLay more than 90 percent of the time.

"The culture of corruption has reached Michigan," Dean said. "(McCotter and Knollenberg) have refused to give that money back. These people may represent Tom DeLay's values, but they don't represent Michigan's values."

The vulnerability of state Republicans is a viewpoint with which Steven Reifman of Farmington Hills agrees. Reifman, who lost to Knollenberg in 2004 and is considering challenging him again, is a key figure in the formation of the group Michigan Congressional Challengers' Coalition - MC3 - formed to organize a strategy for winning statewide and national offices.

He hoped Dean would show a willingness on the part of the national party to support local candidates, and he liked what he heard.

"(McCotter) is vulnerable; he's independent in a way, but he's also a true Republican,"

Reifman said. "We're not supporting any particular candidate. We think it's important for the national party to groom national leaders."

### RECENT VICTORIES

Reifman painted Knollenberg as "a mundane guy with no real leadership" skills, points Reifman said make Knollenberg "very vulnerable."

"He's tied at the hip to President Bush; he's an arch-conservative," Reifman said. "We don't have an arch-conservative district, and we need to educate the voters on that."

Dean trumpeted recent Democratic victories, including gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia (despite a last-minute campaign stop by President Bush), and the defeat of four initiatives sponsored by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger - "Maybe we can turn (Schwarzenegger) into the 'One-Terminator,'" Dean joked - as evidence the Democrats are poised to "take back the country."

He also urged Democrats to support minority candidates, including African-Americans, for both state and national races.

"Why do I bring up uncomfortable subjects like race?" Dean asked. "Because the only majority in the party is women. Each of us is a minority, and the only way we win is by sticking together."

Dean also hit the high points for Democrats:

■ On jobs - "We're going to have jobs in America, and we're going to have jobs that stay in America."

■ On industry - "We need a new industry, and I think it's going to be renewable energy."

■ On health care - "We need a health care system that does what 36 other countries do, and that is cover everybody."

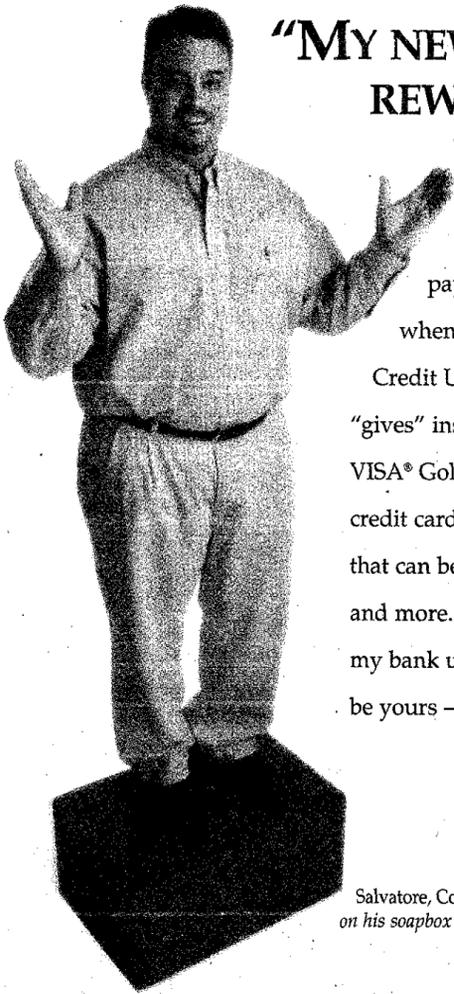
■ On education - "We need a strong public education system, because a strong public education system is what made everything possible in America."

As might be expected, Dean's message resonated with the throng jammed into the restaurant.

"I was quite impressed," said state Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills. "I supported him (for party chair) because he has the ability to rally people and he has the issues to talk about. I think we have to be aggressive, and stress the issues people care about."

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## AROUND WESTLAND

## Feeding the needy

The Wayne Ford Civic League has partnered with Gordon Food Service to provide 450 Thanksgiving celebratory meals to the most needy in the community on Nov. 23.

According to Vic Barra, the civic league has been in contact with St. Theodore Church, Veteran's Haven and the Wayne County Family Center to assess the needs of those organizations in hopes of helping this holiday.

As of Wednesday, 200 meals were still available. Any organization wishing to participate can call Barra at (734) 728-5010.

## Membership meeting

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will hold its annual general membership meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 1. The meeting will be held at the WYAA Lange Compound at 6050 Farmington Road, Westland.

For more information, contact the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 or electronically at wyaa@wyaa.org.

## Coffee hour

State Rep. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour for 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 21, at Westland Big Boy Restaurant, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter. Citizens are welcome to visit with Anderson and discuss issues and/or concerns.

Anderson holds local coffee hours third Monday of each month.

## '50s Night

The Hellenic Cultural Center will be the place to be on Friday, Nov. 18, to catch up with friends, support local non-profit charities, and reminisce the 1950s with music and fun.

Sponsored by the Women of Westland and the Westland Jaycees, '50s Night with a Mission will feature music by The Reflections, a 1950s style at "The Diner" with a menu of sliders, Coney island hot dogs, french fries, beverages and a cash bar. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with entertainment starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland, or by calling (734) 261-3680.

## Shopping event

The Westland Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with Westland Shopping Center and Marshall Field's to sponsor an exclusive half-day shopping event Friday, Nov. 18.

Participants will enjoy discounts and give-aways at participating stores and will be able to sign up for a free holiday eye makeover by Clinique. Clinique also will do a holiday makeup presentation during the continental breakfast.

The day starts with the continental breakfast, provided by Panera Bread, at 9:30 a.m. at Marshall Fields. It will end at noon with lunch and door prizes at the Lakeshore Grill.

The shopping extravaganza costs \$25 per person and is limited to the first 100 people to respond. To reserve a spot, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

## Holiday party

Westland senior citizens are invited to the Holiday Extravaganza, a Christmas party, at the Westland senior Friendship Center, Thursday, Dec. 15.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., with the "fabulous feast" will be served at noon. There will be a chance to have pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, dancing to the music of the Tommie James Trio and

gifts galore.

Tickets cost \$8 for members and \$10 for guests. They're available at the Friendship center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

## Taste Fest

Tickets are on sale for the Westland Chamber of Commerce's seventh annual Holiday Taste Fest which will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Hellenic Cultural Center at 36375 Joy Road, east of Newburgh.

Participants for this year's Holiday Taste Fest, including Fire Mountain, Le Cakery

Bake Shop, Long Horn Steakhouse, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Max & Erma's, Red Robin, Souper Sandwich Carver, Westland Big Boy, UNO Chicago Grill, Applebee's, La Shish, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center culinary arts program, the Hellenic Cultural Center and, from Canton, Taj Mahal.

Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for senior citizens (55 and over) and children (12 and under). Tickets are on sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the chamber office, on Ford Road east of

Newburgh.

## Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Men's Club is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Dec. 2 and 16, Jan. 6, 13 and 27 and Feb. 3, 17 and 24, at the church, southwest corner Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland.

Participants don't need a partner to play. Snacks and soft drinks are included in the \$5 charge. Games start at 7:30 p.m.

## Craft shows

The Village of Westland will

be having its Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at complex, 32001 Cherry Hill between Venoy and Merriman in Westland.

The Wayne Ford Civic League will have an indoor fall craft show Saturday, Nov. 19, at the league, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 728-5010 and speak with Terri for more information.

Crafters are needed for the annual Holiday craft show at Hawthorne Valley on Nov. 27. For information, call Sue or Paul at (734) 844-3128.

## Car donation

People with a car to donate can give it to Veterans Haven. The organization is accepting cars, running or not running, that are given to veterans to provide them with transportation to work, school of medical needs.

To date, the agency has given away more than 250 vehicles and three fully furnished mobile homes to needy veterans. To donate, call Veterans Haven at (734) 728-0527 or go to vetshaveninfo.org on the Internet.

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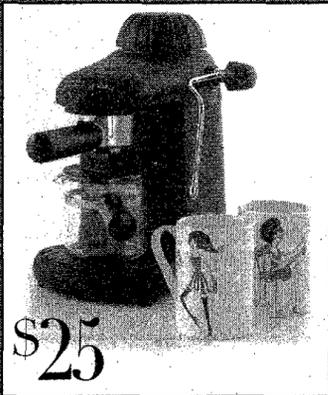
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# Program lets public recycle computers

BY WAYNE PEAL  
STAFF WRITER

Plenty of people will get new computers as gifts this holiday season and plenty of small businesses will upgrade their computer systems for the new year.

But what to do with those old PCs, laptops and monitors?

A southeast Oakland County recycling agency and a Wayne County computer company believe they have the answer.

Now though Nov. 30, the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County and Classic Computer Recovery Inc. of Garden City will accept unwanted computers.

Computer equipment, including keyboards, mice, cables, CD-ROMs, modems and motherboards, can be dropped 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the backdoor of CCR's warehouse at 32400 Ford, Garden City and at RRRASOC offices, 20000 W. Eight Mile in Southfield.

"They can come in 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Laura Charnota, who is coordinating pickup for Classic

## Computer Recovery.

Both the company and the recycling authority aim to keep computers out of landfills.

"This is a two-week pilot program, but we're hoping to turn it into something that could go year-round," RRRASOC General Manager Michael Csapo said.

"There are environmental concerns, especially with the lead based glass in monitors and the heavy metals in computer boards," Csapo said. "Beyond that, these are items which can still have value."

Classic Computer Recovery refurbishes whatever computers it can for re-sale, "harvest parts" from others or, in the worst case "demanufactures" computers to have their parts sold as raw materials.

"What we do fits in with the recycling concepts of reduce, reuse and restore," company CEO Linda McFarland said.

"We're reducing landfill waste, promoting re-use of computers and restoring computer parts."

Volume, she said, is the key. Information is available by calling CCR at (734) 732-1192 or (734) 732-1139.

Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Holiday bazaar

Get your holiday gifts at the Wayne County Commission's eighth annual Holiday Bazaar at the Wayne County Building in downtown Detroit on Friday, Dec. 9. Jewelry, unique crafts and clothing will be on display 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the atrium of the building at 600 Randolph. Proceeds from vendor booth rentals to benefit local non-profits.

### Bowl with Santa

Santa is making an early stop in Livonia to help raise funds for O.U.R. Camp, a summer day camp for children with special needs. The "Bowl with Santa" event takes place 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Merri-Bowl in Livonia. Parents can bring their kids to enjoy an afternoon of bowling with Santa. Cost is \$10 per bowler or \$35 for a group of four. Fee includes two games of bowling (bumpers available), shoes, hot dog and pop. Pre-registration recommended, space is limited. All proceeds benefit O.U.R. Camp. Merri-Bowl is located at 30950 Five Mile Road at Merriman. For more information or to register, call Jan Slattery, (734) 414-0231, or write Bowling with Santa, P.O. Box 6059, Plymouth, MI 48170.

### Craft show

Reserve a table now for the Wayne Senior Activity Center pre-holiday arts and crafts show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at the senior center, 35000 Sims, Wayne. Cost is \$25 per table, electricity provided. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 721-7460.

### Starfish programs

Starfish Family Services Great Parents, Great Start teachers help prepare children, ages 2-4 years for preschool and school in their own home. Fun, learning activities help children grow and learn and parents learn tips, too. The program is open to families in western Wayne County, if they qualify. Call (734) 595-0411, Ext. 104, for more information. Starfish also has an ongoing, free Pregnancy Support Group, offering pregnant women a chance to talk with other pregnant women, meet with a prenatal nurse, hear baby's heart beat and learn about nutrition, pain management and other topics. Groups to be held in Wayne, Westland and Inkster areas. To register, (734) 595-0411, Ext. 104.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FOR YOUR HEALTH

#### TOPS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Wednesday at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6:30-7:15 p.m., with the meeting 7:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299.

#### Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

#### Support group

A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

#### AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

#### Grief support

Angela Hospice offers ongoing grief support groups every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. All groups are free of charge and open to the community. Call bereavement coordinator Ruth Favor at Angela Hospice, (734) 464-7810.

#### Childbirth classes

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

#### Childbirth Association

Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

#### Fibromyalgia

The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month

at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

### HISTORIC

#### Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. Call (734) 326-1110.

#### Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

#### Friends of Museum

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome. welcome.

### BINGO

#### VFW Bingo

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

#### Dems hold bingo

The Metro Wayne Democratic Club has bingo 10:45 a.m. every Monday at the Wayne Ford Civic League, on Wayne Road south of Ford in Westland. For information, call Jan or Cliff at (734) 591-1694 or Cliff at (734) 729-8681.

#### St. Mel Church

Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

#### Shamrock Bingo

Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

#### K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth\* Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

#### Metro Wayne

The Metro Wayne Democratic Club offers a bingo at the Wayne-Ford Civic League on Fridays. Doors open at 9 a.m. with bingo starting at 10:45 a.m. An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet is available for \$3. For more information, call Cliff Johnson at (734) 729-8681.

### FOR SENIORS

#### Friendship Center

The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

#### Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

#### Visually impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

#### Choir

The Senior Choir, under the leadership of Robert Cassidy, is open to those who like to sing. It meets 9:30 a.m. Thursdays. For information, call the Friendship Center, (734) 722-7632.

#### Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

#### Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or

jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

### Travel Group

The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

### Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m.; bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

### ORGANIZATIONS

#### Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVA for more information.

#### Friends of library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular hours at the library.

#### In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

#### Civil Air Patrol

Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capliberators/.

#### Habitat help

The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

#### Veteran's Haven

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

#### Pet-A-Pet

The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Marie Johnson, (734) 326-1200), and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

#### Zonta Club

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month on the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920.

#### Franklin PTSA

The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

## FATAL

FROM PAGE A1

### Hospital.

"Everybody understands it was a very tragic circumstance," Strauch said.

Gillman has called for more stringent testing of elderly drivers in the aftermath of her mother's death. Moreover, she said existing laws should be better enforced.

"I think the state of Michigan, along with some other states, should step up to the plate here and do something besides postpone a sentence," Gillman said. "If this was a 24-year-old driver or a

36-year-old driver or a 50-year-old driver, would they get their sentence postponed for a year? I think they would be in jail."

Gillman said her mother's death is particularly difficult with the coming holiday season.

"I just feel helpless," she said. She voiced disappointment that Kosmyna, despite his age, has received a delayed sentence.

"I don't care that he's 88. My mother was 82," she said.

Strauch declined to comment at length on Kosmyna's behalf, other than to say the defendant has shown remorse for what happened.

## STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,  
as Trustee,  
6th Street and Marquette Avenue,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55479

Plaintiff,

vs.

Case No. 05-CV-008618  
Code No. 30404  
Foreclosure of Mortgage  
Dollar Amount Greater Than  
\$5,000.00

NATALIE R. TANDY-TRICE  
and JOHN DOE  
unknown spouse of  
Natalie R. Tandy-Trice  
26029 Continental Circle  
Taylor, Michigan 48180

The Honorable Michael D. Guolee

JANE DOE and/or JOHN DOE  
unknown tenants  
2617 West Medford Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53206

Defendants.

### FORTY-FIVE DAY SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO NATALIE R. TANDY-TRICE and JOHN DOE unknown spouse of Natalie R. Tandy-Trice, 26029 Continental Circle, Taylor, Michigan 48180; and P.O. Box 100913, Milwaukee, WI 53210; and 2617 West Medford Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53206;

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is also served upon you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 45 days after November 3, 2005, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is:

Clerk of Circuit Court  
Milwaukee County Courthouse  
901 North 9th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

and to O'Dess and Associates, S.C., Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is:

O'Dess and Associates, S.C.  
1414 Underwood Avenue, Suite 408  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213

You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 45 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

O'DESS AND ASSOCIATES, S.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: M. ABIGAIL O'DESS  
Bar Code No. 1017869

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Publish: November 3, 10 & 17, 2005

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**JUNIOR MISS**

FROM PAGE A1

as their poise are another 15 percent each.

According to Hermatz, girls will sing, play musical instruments, dance, and do poetry readings as part of the talent competition.

Following dinner provided by local businesses like Marvaso's Italian Grille, Red Lobster, Norm's Market, Marquis Food Service and Meijer, and a pep talk from Stephanie Orvis, the 2003 Westland Junior Miss, they started rehearsing the dance, physical fitness and evening gown routines that will be a part of Saturday's program.

"Relax and have fun, have the best time of your lives," Orvis said. "It's a really fun opportunity. I see people on campus (at Central Michigan University) that did Wayne-Westland Junior Miss with me, and I see people on campus who did state with me."

For the group, Sunday's long day was just a start of the grand finale. Friday evening there will be a dress rehearsal at the Stockmeyer Auditorium, an appearance in the Wayne holiday parade Saturday morning and more preparations before the 6:30 p.m. start of the program.

Giving up their titles Saturday evening will be Lauren Perry, 2005 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss, and Emily Brennan, 2005 Westland Junior Miss.

**SCHOLARSHIP MONEY**

While two contestants will win the Junior Miss bragging rights, there's even more to the program - \$20,000 in scholarship money that will be given out locally this year. That's up from last year's \$18,350.

Hermatz has been building the program since becoming co-chair with her husband, Dennis, 11 years ago. Under their leadership, the program has grown and the amount of scholarship money given out has increased each year. Four Wayne-Westland Junior Misses also have gone on to win the state title and advanced to the national program.

So committed to the program, Hermatz was prepared to rename the program to the Wayne-Westland Young Woman of the Year this year when, in April, it appeared that the national Junior Miss program was going to fold.

The national had lost several of its major sponsors - Coca-Cola,

**The 2006 contestants**

Twenty-eight high school seniors are competing for the title of Wayne-Westland Junior Miss for 2006. They include:

- Kelly Craig, Heather Ennis, Dafina Goci, Joy Jano, Sarah Layton, Heather Lindon, Stacy Luke, Annette Mihailovich, Chidinma Ogbuaku, Janelle Pangilinan, Rachel Piro, Kim Rutkowski, Jennifer Swartz and Kristeinok Tabangcura, all of John Glenn High School.
- Corisa Butler, Rena Butler, Kelly Doer, Mary Freeman, Jennifer Guthrie, Sharita Hudson, Carrie Laubernds, Alisha Schrader, La Tache Snell-Jones, Iyonna Smith, Jessica Stetler, Kristy Thullen and Jana White, all of Wayne Memorial High School.
- Heather Hawrylak of Livonia Churchill High School.

Tyson Foods, Seaworld and Busch Gardens - but a piece about Junior Miss on ABC's *Nightline* in August brought in new sponsors.

"They realized it was too good of a program to let fall through the cracks," said Hermatz.

She kept the Wayne-Westland program going, even when the state program said it was folding and the four other local programs were pulling out. As a result, Wayne-Westland is the only current local Junior Miss program in the state.

"I guess it was too long of a gap between April and August for the other locals to get it together," said Hermatz. "I decided I was doing it even if I had to change the name because my goal is to give out as much scholarship money as I can to girls."

The Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Program will be a 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Wayne Memorial High School's Stockmeyer Auditorium on Glenwood east of Wayne Road.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

**VETERANS**

FROM PAGE A1

"I almost started crying when the kids got to singing," added Sean Howell, who had served as a radioman second class in the U.S. Navy.

**DEFENDING FREEDOM**

Reading Recovery teacher Belinda Edwards and fourth-grade teacher Laura Williams put together the program to stress the importance of freedom and the need to defend it.

They sent home stars for children to fill in with the names of relatives who had served in the military as well as forms asking if they could attend the assembly.

"In this community, parents are involved in education and when you send home something, they will do whatever it takes to help students learn," said Edwards. "These kids will know about veterans."

Close to 20 parents, grandparents, godparents and uncles responded and sat in front of the student body for the program. They represented most of the branches of the military - Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines - as well as the National Guard and Reserves. Some wore their uniforms, some didn't. Michael Matthis couldn't wear his Army uniform, but brought it anyway.

"It was very good," Matthis said of the program. "It instilled the values of history and loyalty. Freedom isn't something you take for granted. You have to get up and get involved. You have to live and die for it."

Matthis was invited by his godchildren, Jessica and Kourtney Tatum, who asked their Uncle Mike to wear his uniform for the program.

"I told them I can't wear it anymore, so they told me to just bring it," said Matthis, holding his Army uniform in one hand and a rose and certificate in the other. "Then they wanted to know why I couldn't wear it."

David Wood did wear his uniform, but admitted he had to have it let out a bit. Wood served in the Navy



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The volume went up as students joined fifth-graders in singing Lee Greenwood's *God Bless the U.S.A.* to close the veterans program.

**Reading Recovery teacher Belinda Edwards and fourth-grade teacher Laura Williams put together the program to stress the importance of freedom and the need to defend it.**

during the Vietnam War as a airman aboard the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany.

"I'm the glad the kids are involved the way they are," he said. "It shows they know what veterans have done."

Students sang songs like Lee Greenwood's *God Bless the U.S.A.* and *The Great Defenders*, read the presidential proclamation for Veterans Day, recited poetry like *How Great Our Flag* and pointed out the fine points of emblem of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

And while their flag folds weren't quite as precise as done by members of burial details, they did explain what each and every fold meant, even what the final triangular shape meant.

"After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George

Washington and the sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today," the students told the audience.

**FAMILY THANKS**

The guests listened as first-graders read special messages to their own veterans, messages like "Thank you, grandpa, for serving in the Army during World War II," "Thank you, Papa, for serving in Vietnam," and "Thank you, Uncle Timmy, for serving in the Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom."

"I wouldn't have traded this for the world," said Howell, who has three sons who attend P.D. Graham.

Edwards was impressed with the response from parents. She had expected a few parents to attend, but as the day approached, more were able to commit to attend.

"We had a wonderful response," she said. "The children, parents, everyone wanted to be involved ... even the first-graders saying than you."

The intent was to honor the veterans, Wyroba felt it was for the veterans who have since passed.



P.D. Graham Elementary first-grader Justin Brown says the pledge with his classmates during the veterans program Monday.

"This is for those guys who didn't come back," said Wyroba who during his time in the Marines served on the burial detail at Arlington National Cemetery. "We did the job and came back. They didn't. That's why we're here today."

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## Seminar offers help for survivors on their journey through grief

It's trite but true: Life is a journey, and grief is part of the baggage.

Anyone who lives long enough will suffer the pain of losing a loved one.

My turn came a little over two years ago, when my husband Doug collapsed and died of a heart attack during Mass at St. Hilary Church in Redford.

For many months, grief engulfed me like raging floodwaters. Mostly, it was like being smothered in a thick fog. I cried every day. My emotions ranged from self-pity to anxiety. I marveled that the sun could shine beautifully while I was so lonely.



Arlene Funke

Organizations such as hospice or funeral homes often hold grief seminars in November, because the holiday season can be difficult. Today, I write about a workshop that will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Livonia is sponsoring a free seminar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. entitled From Grief to New Hope. The church is located at 39020 Five Mile Road, between Newburgh and Haggerty. I've been asked to be a discussion leader.

"I think it's going to serve a lot of people who are recently grieving, and people who haven't worked through their grief," said Marilyn Grable of Redford, a member of the church and one of the workshop organizers.

The seminar is free, but there is a \$10 donation for lunch. Depending on who attends, people will have the opportunity to spend time talking with others who experienced a similar loss, such as

**For many months, grief engulfed me like raging floodwaters. Mostly, it was like being smothered in a thick fog. I cried every day. My emotions ranged from self-pity to anxiety. I marveled that the sun could shine beautifully while I was so lonely.**

death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or another significant person. The seminar is for adults.

"I'm going to address the holiday issue," said Cathy Clough, director of New Hope Center for Grief Support, a Northville-based, non-profit organization which is presenting the workshop. "A lot of (grieving) people just want to run away. Grief is a journey."

New Hope Center is a Christian-based bereavement outreach center which provides grief support services through groups, individual support, seminars and other resources. For information or to register for the seminar, call Holy Trinity at (734) 464-0211 or Marilyn Grable at (313) 537-5519.

Ken Caeti of Livonia, formerly of Redford, was widowed in 2000 and is now remarried. "Your family and friends, your church - they help a great deal," he said. "It's an added benefit to be in a grief support group."

Cathy Clough of Plymouth has been a bereavement counselor for many years. She was widowed 22 years ago and remarried five years afterward. She believes that talking with people who are similar in age and circumstance is a key element of healing.

"That is how people work through their grief," she said.

Marilyn Grable and I have been friends for many years. We have laughed, cried and shared life's up and downs. My friend is no stranger to bereavement.

In 1986, her father, 81-year-old retired Lutheran bishop Frank Madsen, was murdered in his Southfield apartment. The crime went unsolved for six months.

"My daughter said, 'I thought I would never see my mother smile again,'" Marilyn told me.

Grief remained fresh through the lengthy legal proceedings. The perpetrator, a woman, had a prior prison record. She was convicted of first-degree murder and sent to prison.

After several years, her conviction was overturned on a technicality and she was granted a new trial. She pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, making her eligible for parole.

This past summer, Marilyn and her family appeared before the parole board, urging that the woman be kept in prison.

"The wound kept re-opening," Marilyn said. "Time does help. You can resume your life."

Ken Caeti and his wife, Anita, have made a fresh start. Ken was married for eight years before his wife died.

Anita, a nurse, was widowed after 22 years of marriage. The two married last year. Ken is 43, Anita, 45.

It's often a challenge for younger widowed people to find a support group, Ken said. Ken said. Most widowed people tend to be older.

"Grief occurs, regardless of how old you are, and how long you have been married," said Ken, a sales account manager.

As for me - how am I doing these days? I took the journey. It was tough, but today I'm stronger. Life is sweet again.



### 'Beauty and the Beast' staged

Livonia's Creative and Performing Arts program will present Beauty and the Beast at 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday, Nov. 17-19, at Churchill High School. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students/seniors. They may be purchased online at [www.starringcapa.com](http://www.starringcapa.com). Shown during a rehearsal are Belle (Sarah Walls) and Beast (Vinnie Roberts).

### HURON VALLEY HIGH HONOR ROLL

Earning highest honors for the first quarter at Huron Valley Lutheran High School in Westland were;

■ Ninth graders Cheyanne Curry-Hendrix and Kayla Stockdale, both of Westland.

■ 10th graders Colin Beerbower of Livonia, Lauren Adlof of Plymouth and Emily Helwig of Livonia.

■ 11th graders Tod Bartholomew of Westland, Amanda Gruenewald of Livonia and Erin Henkel of Livonia.

■ 12th graders Lindsey Pyle, Michael Nocella, Brittany Hickman, all of Monroe, Jacob Ficken of Westland, Erik Gruenewald of Livonia and Jeremy Freimark.

Receiving honors were:

#### Grade 9

Samantha Barber of Westland, Kyle Tacia of Plymouth, Abby Hoff of Livonia, Lindsay Bushong of Livonia, Eric Schaffer of Westland, Aaron Howell of Westland, Katie Markham of Westland, Crystina Gutierrez of Livonia,

Lauren Lovell of Plymouth and Marrisona Stalker of Westland.

#### Grade 10

Katie Kipfmiller of Flat Rock, Catherine St. John of Livonia, Robert Russ of Livonia, Brandy Nocella of Monroe, Lauren LaManna of Plymouth, Kathryn Strauch of Livonia and Ryan Jones of Livonia,

#### Grade 11

Scott Hoff of Livonia, Eryn Van Patten of Howell, Kurt Metzger of Livonia, Melissa Bergemann of Livonia, Brandon Rader of Detroit and Emily Beerbower of Livonia.

#### Grade 12

Brad Schmidt and Matthew Frisco, both of Livonia, Zachary Mousseau of Milford, John Sharrow and Vincent Pelligrino, both of Livonia, Adam Kipfmiller of Flat Rock, Renee Wendland of Plymouth, Scott Ross of Livonia, David Block of Westland and Carmen Gutierrez of Livonia.

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# 'We did a lot of praying'

## Livonia couple survives torment of Hurricane Wilma in Mexico

BY DAN WEST  
STAFF WRITER

These days, Gary and Sandy Milis are simply happy to be back in their Livonia home.

The couple was trapped in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula for six days during Hurricane Wilma. The storm's treacherous aftermath left the Livonia couple in perilous situations where they didn't know if they would escape safely.

"I have a new appreciation for the people of New Orleans," Gary Milis said. "I saw the terror, horror and the terrible conditions that can occur after a hurricane."

The couple, who have lived in Livonia for all of their 28-year marriage, operate a travel agency, Joyful Journey Travel. They left Michigan on Oct. 19 for Cancun to attend a conference where travel agents can inspect hotels and resorts to make recommendations to clients.

When they left Detroit that Wednesday, Wilma was a tropical storm and its whereabouts were not certain. When they arrived in Cancun, Wilma developed into a hurricane that took aim on the eastern side of the peninsula.

"It changed so quickly and no one gave us any warning to stay away," Sandy Milis said.

After arriving at the Hyatt Regency hotel, the couple had just unpacked their luggage when they learned the conference was canceled and evacuations were ordered.

"We tried to get a flight out of there, but all the flights out of town were full," she said. "We were stuck."

They took a taxi to Hotel Kokai, a steel and concrete reinforced hotel further from the coast. This was one of the recommended evacuation areas and the Milises were for-



As the eye of Hurricane Wilma passes over, Sandy and Gary Milis step outside for a photo at their hotel in Cancun, Mexico.

lunate enough to secure a room.

### STORM APPROACHES

On Thursday, there were some peeks of sunshine through the clouds which enabled the Milises to purchase groceries, candles and bottled water. As the winds strengthened that afternoon, they took shelter inside the hotel where they befriended an international collection of tourists, including Israelis, Brits and Italians.

"We made some new friends because all we could do was sit there and talk," Sandy Milis said.

Conditions intensified early Friday morning as 150-mph winds ripped bark from trees. Electricity was knocked out and torrential rains seeped through windows and puddled on the hotel's marble floors.

Hotel guests used squeegees and towels to move the water.

"The wind sounded like you were standing behind a jet plane with the engine running, but the plane never left," Gary

Milis said.

The peak of the storm rattled the region for the entire day. In one instance, the winds fired an unknown projectile through a guest room window. The shattered glass seriously cut a man staying in the room. The winds blasted down the room's hallway door which also knocked down another door across the hall.

A nurse staying in the hotel stopped the man's bleeding with towels and duct tape. When the eye of the storm passed, he was taken to a hospital where he needed three pints of blood.

Guests in other rooms started putting bed frames and mattresses over their windows to prevent the same situation. They had to use pool water to flush their toilets since the water system was disabled by the hurricane.

That Friday night, the Milis' slept in the bathroom: Sandy in the tub and Gary on the floor. Periodically, they were able to take cat naps, but their worry and the storm's winds



The Hotel Kokai patio lounge was ripped apart by Hurricane Wilma while Livonians Gary and Sandy Milis took cover inside.

kept the couple up most of the night.

"We didn't sleep much, but we did a lot of praying," Sandy Milis said.

The hotel, however, was prepared. A back-up generator enabled the staff to prepare three meals a day and maintain some lights in hallways, kitchen and lobby.

More good news arrived with the eye of the storm, an eight-hour opening in the hurricane where conditions were calm enough that people could walk outside and inspect damage. The back of the storm brought more wind and rain, but they said it wasn't nearly as horrifying as the front of the storm.

### AFTER THE STORM

By Sunday morning, the storm passed and took aim at Florida, but fears remained in

Cancun, including concerns about riots and looting. The Milises were encouraged to drive west, across the peninsula to Merida.

The trip was expected to take three hours and entail a three-vehicle caravan. It ended up taking 11 hours and eight people squeezed into a Jeep Liberty to complete the final leg of the journey.

Massive floods on the toll road between Cancun and Merida disabled some vehicles — including one large military vehicle. At times, the passengers had to get out and push their vehicle through chest-deep waters and desperately search for gasoline. The Livonia couple had to ditch their luggage so they could fit into the Jeep Liberty.

"It was scary," Gary Milis said. "We didn't know if we were going to be stranded and

we were stuck in the middle of nowhere in Mexico."

Late Sunday, they finally reached Merida, where there were electricity, running water and hotel rooms available. After two days of rest, relaxation and some touring, they were finally able to secure a flight to Mexico City, then to Metro Airport on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

"We were relieved and pretty happy to be home safely," Sandy Milis said.

Gary Milis said last week the couple was a little anxious about receiving their next cell phone bill with all the calls made in Mexico to update relatives about their whereabouts.

"Really, I don't care about it too much," he said. "We're just happy we were able to return home safely."

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OUR VIEWS

## Alliance could save Rouge

Recently, Westland adopted the bylaws of the fledgling Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC), which is being created from the Assembly of Rouge Communities, that formed in 2002 after federal funding to clean up the Rouge River started to dry up.

Since that time, many more have joined, and a total of 21 of the 38 communities in the Rouge watershed have formally become ARC members, according to Wayne County Director of Environment Kurt Heise, who said the alliance needed only 20 members to be formally created. In fact, Heise says all of the watershed communities in Wayne County, except Detroit, will have either approved the ARC bylaws or will vote on the matter before Thanksgiving.

Westland officials should be commended for deciding to join this alliance. The success of the group will be instrumental if we are ever to see the effort to restore the Rouge River completed. Since 1992, the federal government has spent millions on the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project. Without question, major progress was made.

Sewage overflows and industrial dumping have nearly been eliminated, and dissolved oxygen, which living organisms need to survive, has improved dramatically in most areas of the Rouge, which drains one of the most urban areas in the state.

A new state law, which was sponsored in the state Senate by Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, allowed the formation of ARC, which is really a public corporation that can apply for grants, raise money and hire staff. Heise says the new alliance will look at the Rouge River through the eyes of an entire watershed, not as 38 individual communities, as was the case in the past.

ARC members will be able to pool resources, which can reduce local costs and increase the overall effectiveness of the group, because the only real way to restore the Rouge is to look at it as a single entity. What happens to the Rouge in one community, impacts all the communities downstream.

ARC also will be beneficial in informing the general public about Rouge River restoration efforts, and what role we all play in the health of the river. ARC will do everything from creating public relation packets about the river to distributing videos that teach homeowner associations how to maintain retention basins. Reaching the public is important because, ultimately, the health of the Rouge River will come down to the decisions we all make on a daily basis, such as whether or not we dump oil down a storm drain or overfertilize our lawns.

Now that federal money has dried up, the alliance may be the only hope the Rouge River has.

## Bridge gap between city and suburbs

We congratulate Kwame Kilpatrick on his re-election as mayor of Detroit. He overcame a troubled first term, opposition from both daily newspapers and an array of polls that gave the election to his opponent, Freman Hendrix.

It is now Kilpatrick's challenge to make good on his repeated promises to do better in his second term. Detroit faces a daunting list of problems that needs immediate attention, from a deteriorating infrastructure to an escalating migration of residents from the city to continuing problems of unemployment, poverty, crime and addiction.

None of those problems will be solved in a single four-year term, but the mayor is obligated to acknowledge the problems and make a strong effort toward dealing with them.

The mayor understands that he needs to reach out to the communities that surround Detroit. Those communities are important to Detroit's future and Detroit's future is important to those communities.

At his victory speech Kilpatrick said it best, "I'm going to communicate with you because you are going to help me solve those problems. We need each other in this city, in this region and in this state, more than we ever needed each other before."

We can no longer continue our de facto apartheid and we urge our suburban leaders to join the mayor and begin a real dialogue on racial perceptions and real action on the inequities that have made metro Detroit a synonym for urban decay.

We believe that bridging this gap should be a top priority for both city and suburban leaders, because without this cooperation, those other problems will only grow worse.



### LETTERS

#### Thank you

I would like to thank the citizens of Westland for giving me another opportunity to serve on the Westland City Council.

I truly care about the community that my family has watched grow from my grandfather's small farm in a township of 8,800 people to the vibrant city of 88,000 that we have now.

Thank you to all the volunteers that spent many nights at my home stuffing, labeling and helping me prepare for my campaign. I could not have done it without you.

Thanks to all the groups, labor unions and trade organizations that supported my election and a special thanks to the Westland Firefighters and the Westland Lieutenants and Sergeants Associations for going that extra mile on my behalf.

Thank you to Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, not only for her support, but for being open and available to my ideas and plans.

My sincere gratitude goes to council President Charles Pickering for introducing me to leadership training in the Jaycees 20 years ago and his continuing support on the City Council.

Michael A. Kehrer  
Westland councilman

#### Thanks for support

I would like to congratulate Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and the incumbent candidates on their re-election.

I extend my sincere gratitude and thank each individual who supported me in my bid for a seat on the Westland City Council. I appreciate all the effort — those who put out lawn signs, passed out literature and, last but not most important, had faith in my abilities and showed that faith by voting for me.

I have learned being elected to City Council requires a broad cross section of support in our city and I have come away with valuable experience and insight. I worked hard, ran a clean campaign and adhered to an ethical standard — in the political arena that is something to be very proud of. I am still in a position to help bring about some positive changes in various areas and I intend to continue to work very hard for this community.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Lori Brist  
Westland

#### No losers in election

Well, the elections are over and once again it's shameful. In this country where the right to vote is sacred, so many of us neglect to vote. I know there's many reasons, but there really is no excuse. It should never be less than 80 percent, yet I know most if not all the cities in this area never hit anywhere near 50 percent even in a presidential election.

For this reason, how can anyone feel that it was a victory or loss? In Westland, less than 20 percent voted. How pitiful. If you didn't vote, don't complain. And that includes when I or others speak out at the council meetings.

If it weren't for the citizens who do take the time (and I do realize that many, many people can't) to speak, we would be less informed when we vote.

In my opinion, there were no losers, for

everyone who ran did something I couldn't do at this time and that's have the nerve to run. It's not easy to watch those returns and see the numbers climb for the opposition and your opinion stand still.

Judy McKinney  
Westland

#### Do more for our environment

This Tuesday, Nov. 15, marked the ninth annual celebration of America Recycles Day, a nationwide awareness event that encourages people to recycle and buy recycled products.

We are truly blessed to call the Great Lakes State of Michigan our home. Together we must work to preserve the many natural resources it boasts. Recycling helps protect our resources, environment and quality of life.

Whether starting the first recycling center in Livonia, or helping to establish one of the first ecology commissions in Michigan back in the early 1970s, the passion I developed for our environment as a young woman stays with me today.

While lawmakers continue to address issues such as the importation of foreign waste and out-of-state trash and invasive species invading our Great Lakes, every single Michigan resident must do his or her part to help protect our state's environment. Michigan unfortunately has one of the worst recycling rates in the nation. This November, and throughout the year, I urge my fellow residents to do their part to reduce, reuse and recycle.

There is more to recycling than putting your newspaper, glass, plastics and metals out on the curb each week or dropping them off at the local recycling center. Look for recycled content in the products you buy. Recycled items are high-quality, proven products that perform as well as their non-recycled counterparts. By using recycled materials, the manufacturers of recycled products create less pollution and use less energy.

I encourage everyone to learn more by logging onto www.americarecyclesday.org or by contacting my office at (517) 373-1707 to obtain a free copy of A Citizen's Guide to Michigan's Natural Resources and Environment.

This is our earth, our country and our Michigan. Let's do all we can to protect it for generations to come.

State Sen. Laura M. Toy  
6th District

#### Thank you, vets

To all the men and women in the armed forces, I want to take the time to thank you for all that you do for me and our country, the sacrifices you make so we all may live freely and have the choice to make decisions by being able to vote. Because of you we are able to live in a free country, the greatest in the world, because of the brilliant men and women like you!

You veterans risk your lives everyday so I can grow up feeling safe, without terrorism. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I hope you will come home safe to your family very soon!

Tara Dubois  
eighth-grader, Hilbert Middle School  
Redford

#### District leaders are capable

My wife and I attended the informational meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Franklin High School. Although our children are past the age where they will be affected by the Legacy Initiative, we attended because we are members of this community, and we wish to remain informed on, and to be a part of this important decision making process.

I am a 1974 graduate of Churchill High School, my wife the class of '76. We grew up in the Boulevard Gardens subdivision in Westland and are presently homeowners in that same sub. This sub was once part of the former Nankin Mills School District.

As I was growing up, I attended a total of five schools. K-3 at Perrinville, 4-6 at Nankin Mills Elementary, 7th at Nankin Mills Junior High, eighth at Whitman Junior High and 9-12 at Churchill, all while living in the same house. All of this moving around from school to school was due to a growing enrollment, which peaked at 38,000 plus students.

Moving around like that was very disruptive to the students and families involved and my friends and I didn't always stay together, but we made it through. This proposal, if implemented, will assure that the students stay together, K-12.

I have a niece who is a 2003 honors graduate of Franklin, attending MSU on a full scholarship, in the medical program. She was an AP student all her life, and chose Franklin over Churchill to be with her friends during her high school years. Children don't really care where their school is located, they want to be with their friends.

The problems facing LPS today are exactly 180 degrees from the problems faced in the '70s, but today, just as before, LPS is taking a proactive approach to the situation. They are attempting to make the best decisions they can, working to maximize the use of the resources at hand, while keeping the welfare of the students at the forefront.

The members of the LPS community are very fortunate to have such a very capable and dedicated group of people running our schools, and taking on such a dynamic project, which is why most of us bought our homes in the LPS community to begin with.

I commend the members of the Demographics Committee, and trust they will make the best recommendations for the community as a whole.

Dan Meloch  
Westland

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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WESTLAND  
**Observer**

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| Hugh Gallagher<br>Managing Editor | Peter Neill<br>General Manager         |
| Susan Rosiek<br>Executive Editor  | Richard Aginian<br>President/Publisher |

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

### QUOTABLE

"I was at the point where I knew he was guilty, but I wanted to know why. I worded the letters in a way that I could get some subliminal information from him."

— Author Robyn Stockwell, about writing letters to convicted serial killer John Norman Collins

## Time is now for election winners to act on campaign promises

The elections are over and either your candidate or proposal won or lost, but whatever the outcome, "It is what it is" and it's time to move on.

You can perform various analyses as to what happened and why, who voted and who did not, what was the issue that tipped the voters to one candidate or another or why they voted for the proposal vs. against, but at the end of the day the election is over and the voters have spoken. All the analysis does is allow the defeated and the consultants to figure out what they have to do differently next time to win.

Now it's time to govern. It's time for all the election promises to come to roost. Yes, all the campaign rhetoric, promises, plans, etc. must now be fulfilled. If past practice is any indication, the winners will ignore all the promises made. But in today's economic environment, it's important for the citizenry and this newspaper to hold those who made the election promises accountable. It's too important not to.



Richard Aginian

Let's look at two of our communities, Birmingham and Livonia. In Birmingham, there is a newcomer to the City Commission and a former commissioner elected to the Library Board; in Livonia, a proposal to stop funding SMART was passed.

### NEW IN BIRMINGHAM

Stuart Sherman is the newcomer to the Birmingham City Commission and now, as they say, "it's showtime." What and how will he do? Will he align himself with the majority that has moved Birmingham forward, erasing in some people's minds the nastiness of prior commissions and eliminating some of the unnecessary obstacles to allow for reasonable development or will he take us back to the past?

There are significant issues that need to be addressed in a thoughtful and proper fashion. We have been talking and studying them for a significant amount of time. It's now time for action. What is the plan for Shain Park? Many plans have been advanced, but let's get on with it. Solidify around a comprehensive plan, bring in the affected institutions and get it done. The Barnum facility land is in the same situation. Let's bring a plan forward that we can all embrace and move forward. Both of these projects suffer from what I and others call "paralysis by analysis."

There are other issues facing the commission as well. I don't always agree with Clinton Baller, the unsuccessful commission candidate, but he raised issues in the campaign that the commission should and must deal with.

**But in today's economic environment, it's important for the citizenry and this newspaper to hold those who made the election promises accountable. It's too important not to.**

The Library Board is a different story. In a campaign marked by alleged smears and half-truths, former Birmingham City Commissioner Seth Chafetz unseated incumbent Jan Bird. The onus is now on Chafetz to govern and rule with reason. Will he return to his days when he was on the city commission and nastiness and disrespect for the citizens appeared to be the norm?

Chafetz made campaign promises about prudent fiscal management, purchasing and the bidding process for contracts. Can he bring his expertise in a constructive manner to the Library Board or will the campaign rhetoric carry over? I hope it is the former vs. the latter.

### LIVONIA OPTS OUT

Livonians voted to eliminate funding for SMART, the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation. The withdrawal doesn't begin until the latter half of 2006, so Livonia officials have time to establish an alternative system. Campaign promises made to create an alternative system for Livonia now must become reality. Sometimes what you wish for is what you get and then reality sets in; what do I do now? The reality is here and time is running, so Livonia has to have a system in place by late next year.

This does raise the necessity on the larger scale of a regional transportation system. Light rail has been talked about and there is funding in place for a study linking Detroit and Ann Arbor along I-94, but I believe that's not the right place to start.

Kwame Kilpatrick, in his winning acceptance speech after his come-from-behind victory in the Detroit mayoral race, held out an olive branch to the region, especially after he bashed the suburbs with his drug use comments during the campaign. Let's take him at his word and convene Mayor Kilpatrick, executives Brooks Patterson of Oakland County and Bob Ficano of Wayne County and a representative from Macomb County to start working on a regional transportation system. The area needs a fiscally sound and well-functioning regional transportation system. It's never too late to start.

The election is over, so let's move on to govern. Your constituency needs it and demands it.

Richard Aginian is president and publisher of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. He welcomes your comments via e-mail at [raginian@hometownlife.com](mailto:raginian@hometownlife.com).

## Advertisers place kids squarely in their sights

It's unlikely more than a few readers will recall the movie *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, which was released in 1980.

The plot revolves around a nomadic tribe of people from Africa, of which one member one day finds an empty Coca-Cola bottle and has no idea of its meaning or significance. He takes it back to his people, who surmise it must be a gift from the gods, but mayhem soon ensues.

It's a classic tale of the clash between ancient ways and modern technology — and it would be completely unbelievable today.



Bill Emerick

The trademark Coke symbol is probably the most-recognized advertising image around the world. There's not a continent, a country, a town or even a hamlet where the familiar red-and-white lettering and distinctive can design would not be instantly identified. Show it anywhere, to anyone, in the world and the viewer would immediately make the connection to the ubiquitous soda.

Of course, that kind of brand recognition doesn't come without a price. The Atlanta-based company has spent untold billions of dollars over the years on advertising in every medium available — print, broadcast, billboards, even song ... who could forget *I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing*?

But a more accurate description of modern society's approach to marketing would be *I'd Like To Teach The World To Spend*.

Our culture places an artificial value on youth, in particular the unreasonable visage of nubile, sexually attractive teens. Why the fixation on all things young and beautiful? Because marketers want to sell you their products, and there is no more pliable audience than impressionable children.

Now, advertising is hardly a recent phenomenon. The first known ads appeared in English print magazines in the 1600s. The advent of radio, followed quickly by television and now the Internet, spawned new methods for companies to hawk their wares virtually non-stop.

But it's only in the past decade or so that children have become the target of more and more advertisements. Turned on the TV on a Saturday morning lately? It's difficult to discern when the "shows" end and the "commercials" begin.

Every animated movie worth its salt comes complete with an accompanying ad cam-

aign for action figures, clothing and kids' meals available at the fast-food emporium of your choice.

Ask any ad exec the reason for this and the answer will come quickly: Children are the one demographic that isn't set in its ways. If firms can snare kids at an early age, chances are brand loyalty will remain for life.

In and of itself, that's not necessarily a bad thing. But what is disturbing is that our young people are being damn near brainwashed into thinking they "need" products and services that are luxuries at best and useless at worst.

An example? Look into the bathroom of any house that has a teen-age girl. Odds are you will find countless bottles of shampoo, conditioner, moisturizer, lotion and fragrance, undoubtedly in several "flavors" or "scents." To what end? The eternal quest for beauty (and, by twisted reasoning, popularity).

Look at it another way. A few years back, when my children were young enough to be immune to such clutter (or so I thought), my daughter told me in the checkout line at the grocery store that I was buying the wrong chewing gum.

"What?"

"That one there, it has the longest-lasting flavor," she said proudly.

The pressure to turn kids into consumers is increasing by the minute, as companies compete with one another to make themselves the latest darling to a generation, convincing them that fame, fortune and happiness are attainable with the right clothes, the right makeup, the right gadgets.

Unfortunately, any right-minded person can see through the fallacy. But kids don't have the wisdom of age or experience to know any better.

I'll leave you with an interesting quote I found on the Internet the other day:

"Advertising is an essential factor in modern business methods, and to advertise wisely the business man must understand the workings of the minds of his customers, and must know how to influence them effectively — he must know how to apply psychology to advertising."

Those words were from an essay by Walter D. Scott, first published in *The Atlantic Monthly* — in 1904.

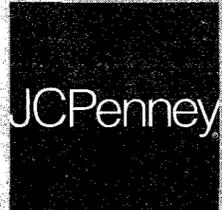
The more things change ...

Bill Emerick is a copy editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. You can contact him at [bemerick@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:bemerick@oe.homecomm.net).

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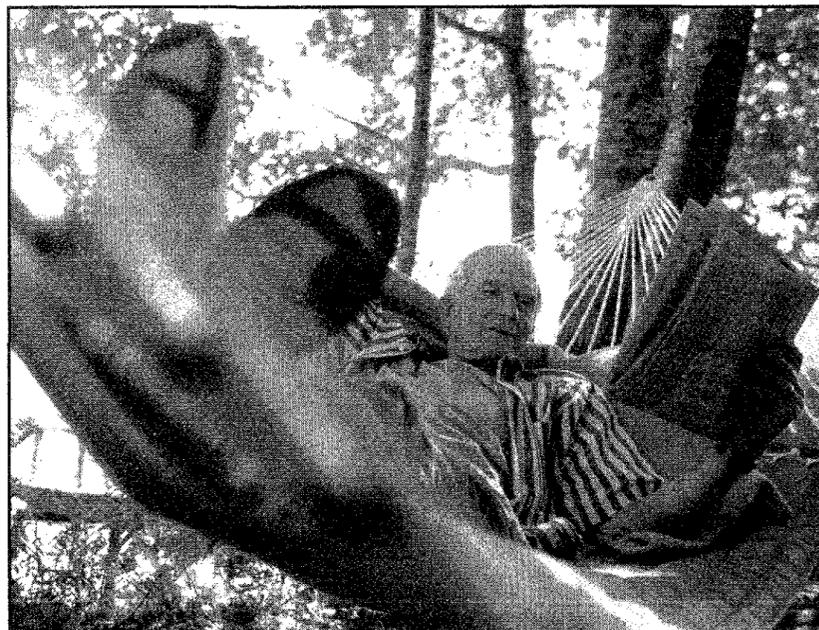
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# Fieger, Cox showdown far from over

BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

The dispute between Geoffrey Fieger and Attorney General Mike Cox may well shift to the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission, the agency that investigates complaints against lawyers.



Cox



Fieger

But the commission will not comment on complaints of misconduct by Fieger or Cox for months — if then — the deputy administrator said Wednesday.

"I saw the (televised) press conferences," Robert E. Edick, the grievance commission's second-in-command, said. But the commission has strict rules that preclude public comments or statements about cases that might be under review, he said.

"I can't even acknowledge any grievances have been filed," Edick said. "It makes us (at the commission) look stupid. But that's the way it is."

Fieger and Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorcyca both invoked the attorney grievance commission Tuesday in separate press conferences pertaining to allegations Fieger, through associate Lee O'Brien, was trying to blackmail the attorney general.

The press conferences were the latest developments in a bizarre case in which Fieger is accused of threatening to reveal Cox had an extramarital affair, something that would threaten his political career. In exchange, Fieger allegedly wanted the attorney general to discontinue looking into complaints Fieger had not reported contributions to the campaign to defeat a supreme court judge running for re-election.

Gorcyca, whose office investigated the attorney general's complaint, said he is confident Fieger and O'Brien conspired to blackmail Cox. But investigators had not turned up the evidence needed to file criminal charges, Gorcyca said. "I am duty-bound to submit the evidence (collected by sheriff's investigators) to the Attorney Grievance Commission," Gorcyca said. "The commission is less constrained by rules of evidence," he said.

At his own press conference hours later, Fieger immediately complimented Gorcyca for not bowing to pressure from the attorney general and filing criminal charges.

But he chastised Cox for making what he said were false accusations. "Not a word of what Mr. Cox told you (the media and the prosecutor) last week was true; Not a word," said Fieger.

Fieger said he had authorized filing a complaint against Cox with the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission as well as the U.S. Attorney detailing "his (Cox's) illegal and unethical conduct." Fieger, who last month said he would seek the Democratic nomination for attorney general in 2006, called upon Cox to resign.

"I forgive you for making false accusations against me," Fieger said. "But you have repeatedly shown yourself to be unworthy of being invested with public trust," he said, "and for that, you must resign."

The grievance commission's deputy said this is a very high-profile case with more public interest — and potential impact — than most of the 4,000 complaints against attorneys the agency typically gets in a year.

Most of those cases are resolved quietly, Edick said. But about 10 percent result in some kind of admonishment or sanctions. "It all depends on the individual case," he said, "and the facts involved."

If and when the commission actually gets complaints from Gorcyca and/or Fieger, each or both would be investigated,

Edick explained, "with additional action determined by the findings."

Should the commission determine there was merit to the complaints from Gorcyca or Fieger, Edick said, they would be presented to Michigan Attorney Discipline Board.

"At that point, our proceedings become public," Edick said. "But until then, we will

have no comment."

The discipline board could dismiss the complaints, the deputy administrator said, or, if warranted, it could impose penalties ranging from reprimand to suspension of the attorney's license to practice.

Gorcyca's complaint against Fieger could proceed more quickly, Edick said, because the prosecutor has

already done the initial investigation.

The commission wouldn't need to interview people or gather evidence, Edick said. So the process might not take that long, he said.

But thoroughness is more important than speed, Edick said. "There will be no rush to judgment," he said, "but a thoughtful, thorough investigation."

## MADONNA REGISTRATION

Madonna University's registration for winter 2006 term will begin Nov. 14 and continues through Tuesday, Dec. 22 for new and returning students. Office hours will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and until 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.

The office will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 19 through 22. All offices will be closed for Thanksgiving (Nov. 24 through Nov. 27) and Christmas (Dec. 23 through Jan. 2, 2006). Classes begin

the week of Jan. 9.

The convenience of fax-in registration for all students is available and will be accepted until Dec. 16. Web registration is also offered for returning students and will be accepted through Dec. 16.

Students may enroll in day, evening and weekend classes, and non-admitted students must obtain a permit-to-register from the Admissions Office. Transfer students are welcome.

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