

Hear transplant patient keeps his optimism



HEALTH - PAGE C6

Service helps seniors maintain their independence



OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C

Super rally



LOCAL NEWS - PAGE A3

SUNDAY
January 22, 2006

WESTLAND Observer

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'We cannot live like this'

Residents question hikes in water rates

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Angry that their water bills are rising like floodwater, local residents demanded relief Friday morning during a town hall meeting in Westland.

State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, called the meeting to hear concerns from her 6th District constituents in Garden City, Livonia, Redford and Westland. She has proposed new legislation for a regional authority that would oversee such issues as rate hikes imposed by Detroit.

Retiree Butch LeVeck of Garden City brought a \$181 water bill that he received last summer for a two-month billing period.

"That's more than I pay for electricity," he said, during the meeting attended by about 50 people at Westland's Bailey Recreation Center.

The Detroit Water & Sewerage Department has slapped Garden City with a 19.3 percent rate increase starting July 1. That compares to 9.5 percent for

Livonia and Redford, and 5.9 percent for Westland.

"We cannot live like this," LeVeck said. "Garden City is a hurting city right now."

Local officials have accused Detroit of raising rates based on studies on summer days when residents are using more water. Moreover, Toy has criticized Detroit officials for not being financially accountable.

Toy, who hosted Friday's meeting with Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and Garden City Manager David Harvey, criticized the current system as "taxation without representation" for suburban communities.

Westland retiree Wayne Mirth received a \$126 water bill for a two-month billing cycle.

"People on fixed incomes cannot keep on affording this," he said.

Mirth didn't just take aim at Detroit, though. He also advised Westland officials to stop depleting the local water-sewer fund by shifting



State Sen. Laura Toy speaks out at the Town Hall meeting on the water rates. Beside her Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli (center) and Garden City Manager David Harvey.



Mei Tochstein of Westland makes a point to Sen. Laura Toy during the meeting.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLEASE SEE **WATER, A2** Westland resident Elnora Ford listens to Sen. Laura Toy's response to the question she posed during the town hall meeting.

Annapolis Park gets closer to historical designation

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

In a landmark decision for Westland, state historic officials will decide in February whether a predominantly African-American neighborhood should receive a national honor.

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Board will decide whether Annapolis Park subdivision, on the city's far southeast side, should be placed on the distinguished National Register of Historic Places.

"This is important for Westland because it would be the city's first listing on the national register and our first historic district," local historian Ruth Dale

said.

The state decision would be reviewed for ultimate approval by the National Park Service, which, according to Lansing officials, generally accepts state recommendations.

The neighborhood, southwest of Annapolis and Middlebelt roads, gained attention in the 1950s when it became one of the nation's first suburban communities settled by black homeowners.

Those who marketed the neighborhood made a direct appeal to African-Americans - particularly servicemen - to buy houses in Annapolis Park in 1953-57. Many original residents or their surviving spouses still live in those homes.

Annapolis Park would be listed on the

National Register of Historic Places not for its architecture, but for its social and cultural significance, according to local historians.

Dale and longtime Annapolis Park resident Edna Parker are spearheading the effort along with the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association, one of the Westland area's oldest and most active neighborhood groups.

Historians collected such information as neighborhood maps and historical documents, and they taped formal interviews with longtime residents to help convince state officials to support the proposal.

PLEASE SEE **HISTORICAL, A2**

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Dear Readers,

The O&E's Web site at www.hometownlife.com continues to improve and expand and is the best source of community news and information. Nearly all local content and photographs contained in the print edition are now available online. And the addition of career-builder.com, apartments.com and homescape.com is a great opportunity for readers and advertisers alike.

Although print editions of your hometown Observer/Eccentric are delivered Sundays and Thursdays, visit hometownlife.com daily for local news and prep sports updates.

Over the next few months, hometownlife.com will expand to include an interactive PINK site (O&E's monthly fashion section) and local photo galleries including sports, school and community events.

I welcome your comments via e-mail (srosiek@hometownlife.com), on the Web (click on Contact Us) or by mail at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Susan Rosiek

Susan Rosiek
executive editor

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Number 69



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Coming Thursday in Filter



There's plenty to do in the Super Cities.

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

money to the city's general fund. Some area residents also have said that their local officials in past years imposed rate hikes beyond the increases charged by Detroit. That hasn't happened in recent years, Cicirelli said. Residents like Mel Tochstein of Westland and Mary Smith of Garden City blamed Detroit for wasting water by ignoring timely repairs to ruptured water mains. "We're not going to fix the city of Detroit," Smith said, "and the city of Detroit is the problem." Russell Bellant, a Detroit resident and former Detroit water plant operator, reminded suburban officials that it was their cities that years ago demanded water service from Detroit. Bellant defended the Detroit water system and compared Toy's bill to an attempted takeover - a move that he said would further complicate the situation. Bellant also accused local officials of grandstanding. "It's good for vote-getting," he said. "It's good for getting



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cable Director Craig Welkenbach and his crew broadcast the meeting.

anger out." Toy has proposed SB 372 to create a regional authority with representatives not only from Detroit, but from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Genesee counties. She called for fairness on water rates for residents already struggling to pay higher costs to heat their homes and gas up their vehicles. "People are strapped and frustrated," Toy said. She called on local residents to "rise up" and make their concerns known by contacting their elected leaders in Lansing. Local officials and residents appeared supportive of Toy's legislation. "This is a good bill," Cicirelli said, adding that suburban officials don't want to take over the Detroit water system. "We just want fair

representation in what happens." Garden City Councilwoman Diane Webb urged residents to mount a letter-writing campaign to state officials and newspapers. Toy had proposed similar legislation three years ago, but Gov. Jennifer Granholm ultimately vetoed it. "The governor does have that final pen," Toy said, "and she had some concerns." According to documents brought by Toy to the town hall meeting, the area has seen startling rate increases since 1994: 91 percent in Westland, 113 percent in Redford and 85 percent in Livonia. Garden City has had a 63 percent rate increase since 2002. dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Incinerator land sale could attract 3 development plans

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Three proposals are expected for the purchase and development of the former site of the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority incinerator. Demolition of the CWCSA facilities on Inkster Road in Dearborn Heights was completed last year clearing the 32-acre site. A Request for Proposals for the property included a \$2.7 million asking price and other criteria, including a \$500 non-refundable deposit from interested parties. "We wanted to weed out the casual lookers. Three parties have submitted letters and the deposit," said CWCSA Executive Director Steven Aynes. "We've met with each of those. We had hoped for more bidders but it's a pretty good response if all three follow-up and make proposals." As a result, purchase and development proposals are expected to be submitted by the Real Estate Interest Group of Bloomfield Hills, Triangle Development of Farmington Hills and Fakhoury Ventures of Wyandotte, working with partners including Ferlito Construction of Roseville. At the requests of the bidders, the CWCSA board extended the deadline to submit proposals one month, pushing it back to Feb. 20. "They will detail what they would like to do with the property - they have to come in

with a plan showing what they plan to do with the property," said Aynes. "Our criteria was more than the price. All of the board wants to see a nice development, Dearborn Heights especially does. They want an asset to the community." The location of the CWCSA also directly impacts Westland which is on the west side of Inkster Road and Inkster which is slightly north. "This project will have a major impact on all three communities. The board felt like they didn't want to sell the property and walk away," said Aynes, adding criteria would include a bidder's experience and success completing similar projects, staff qualification, financial ability to complete the project and timeliness of the plan. Once an offer is accepted, Aynes said the developer would have 120 days to complete due diligence and obtain appropriate rezonings through Dearborn Heights. A subcommittee of Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and Wayne City Manager John Zech will review the proposals submitted and make a recommendation to the CWCSA board. Along with the incinerator property, the adjoining 4.5-acre site of the now-closed Federal Elementary Schools also is being offered for sale by the Taylor school district. "They closed their doors in June. The school offering makes us more attractive. All

three (bidders) are interested in the school property also," said Aynes, adding that officials from the Taylor school district and the City of Dearborn Heights have attended meetings with the three firms. Environmental testing has identified 4.5 acres on the CWCSA property - the actual site of the plant - as an area possibly needing remediation for mild contamination. "We're looking for the developers to tell us what they want to do with that area. It could be left vacant, developed as multiple family or commercial, a parking area or a storm water retention pond," said Aynes. Once any sale is completed, it will be up to the CWCSA board to determine what should be done with the proceeds. The demolition of the plant following the failed waste-to-energy partnership came in under budget and was offset by proceeds from the sale of equipment. "The board could decide to divvy up the money and give it back to the communities, make an allocation towards future tipping fees or a combination of those," said Aynes. "It wouldn't be decided until the money is in hand. It will definitely be a benefit to the communities." "If the property can be sold, it will eliminate the maintenance and liability on the property. The \$2.7 million will be a big help." frogers@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2103

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HISTORICAL

FROM PAGE A1

The state board will decide the Annapolis Park issue during a meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing. A decision to place Annapolis Park on the national register would pave the way for local officials to seek state historical markers that would be placed at two entrances to the 355-home, mostly brick subdivision.

"It would just be so wonderful," said Parker, who moved to Annapolis Park with her late husband, Thomas, in 1954. "This would make me so happy that I would hardly know what to say. We're very proud of our neighborhood." Many Annapolis Park residents became highly educated and made groundbreaking achievements. "This community had more degrees than most colleges had," said Reasther Everett, area representative for the southeast homeowners association. Among the other achievements of Annapolis Park residents: Annie Gilliard was the first black woman to enlist in the U.S. Marines. Yale football captain Levi

Alexander Jackson became the first African-American executive for Ford Motor Co., according to local historians. James W. Nelms Jr. was the first black man to teach in what was then the Wayne school system. Bill Anderson served on the first city council after Westland became a city. Anderson, who has since died, remains the only African-American ever elected to a Westland city office. Some local historians and residents plan to attend the Michigan State Historic Preservation Board meeting to support the Annapolis Park proposal. They are optimistic of a supportive vote. Said Dale: "It's very deserving." dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

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Rally inspires

Volunteers ready for Super Bowl XL guests, fans

They are pumped up and ready for Detroit's big test — Super Bowl XL.

Ambassadors, some 8,000 volunteers primarily from Oakland and Wayne counties, will be stationed at airports and hotels throughout the region and the Motown Winter Blast or NFL Experience in downtown Detroit.

Volunteers got one last group pep talk Jan. 14 at a rally designed to reinforce the WORLD message — Welcome warmly, Offer to Help, Really knock their socks off, Listen actively, Directions and Information.

Roger Penske, chairman of Detroit's Super Bowl XL Host Committee, told volunteers they will "create that lasting impression in how you treat our guests and our fans."

Dan West, 33, an ambassador from Livonia, says he's "looking forward to being a part of the opportunity."

West, who attended a training session last November in Canton, said he volunteered because he was "interested in how massive an effort it is to bring a Super Bowl game to Detroit."

West's post is the Fairfield Inn in Livonia, where media covering the game and other events will stay. That's a perfect combination as far as he's concerned because when he's not volunteering West is a reporter for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Darlene Makarski of



Bloomfield Hills, an SBXL super captain, is scheduled at the GM Marriott — media headquarters — all week.

Makarski staffed the registration table at the rally, handing out information packets to ambassadors. After picking up packets (assignments and relevant information), they received parking passes and finally their Super Bowl jackets.

"Everyone loved the red jackets. If you volunteered for one assignment or 10, each person received the same jacket," Makarski said.

"Super captains and lead captains and the host committee will wear navy blue Super Bowl jackets. If there is a problem or question, the volunteers can look for a captain or someone wearing a blue jacket for assistance."

Makarski didn't get to hear all of the speeches at last week's rally, but she's ready and armed with a positive attitude. The veteran of three Super Bowls promises that "this one, Detroit Super Bowl XL, will be the best. When visitors see what Detroit has to offer, they will definitely want to come back."



Anne Ziaja, an ambassador from Beverly Hills, attended the Jan. 14 rally at Ford Field.



Volunteers at the Jan. 14 pep rally at Ford Field were told they will 'create the lasting impression' about Detroit and Super Bowl XL for guests and fans.



Dera Richardson, an ambassador from Southfield, picks up her packet at the registration table.



Lem Barney, a former Lions great, fires up volunteers by talking about the power of a smile.



Louis White of Southfield and Lisa Sasaki of Canton pass information packets as volunteers check in at registration.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Deadline nears for ATHENA nominations

On Saturday, Feb. 11, some of Westland's most influential individuals will be recognized for their business excellence, their efforts toward improving the quality of life in the community and for their dedication to assisting women in realizing their full leadership potential.

The occasion will be the second annual Chocolate Fantasy Ball, where one of those individuals will be awarded the ATHENA Award.

But time is running out to nominate a man or woman for the prestigious award.

"We're still accepting nominations until Jan. 27 and look forward to another superb group of finalists," said Mary Denning, Women of Westland president and owner of Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe. "An impartial selection committee, chaired by Westland's first ATHENA Award winner Margaret Harlow, owner of Harlow Tire & Service, will have the challenge of review-

ing this year's nominations and selecting the 2006 ATHENA Award recipient."

The winner and all of the nominees will be recognized at the Chocolate Fantasy Ball, which will feature a strolling dinner, live music, silent auction and "lots and lots of chocolate."

"Last year's guests can vouch for the opulence of the evening," said Denning. Sponsored by the Women of Westland, State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, and Mayor

Sandra Cicirelli, the semi-formal charity event will be held at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club on Merriman north of Warren, Westland.

Tickets cost \$75 and are available at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe - (734) 261-3680 - or through the mayor's office at Westland City Hall - (734) 467-3200.

Nomination forms and instructions can be requested through WOW at (734) 467-9113 or are available online at www.WomenofWestland.com.

FOR THE RECORD



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page C4.

B
Eleanor Ruth Bank
 Bank, 70, died Jan. 18.
Lois Willie Beatty
 Beatty, 96, of Westland, died Jan. 11.
Robert O. Bruner
 Bruner, 70, died Jan. 14.
Lorna H. Burnam
 Burnam, 95, of Lake Orion, died Jan. 16.

E
John C. Earle
 Earle, 77, died Jan. 17.
Margaret D. Erickson
 Erickson, 94, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 31.

H
David C. Hall III
 Hall, 37, died Jan. 9.
Winifred M. Hall
 Hall, 71, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 5.
Vanda Hasynic
 Hasynic, 82, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 15.

J
Charles Jetchick
 Jetchick, 81, died Jan. 19.

K
Clarence A. Kaechle
 Kaechle, of Beverly Hills and Siesta Key, Fla, died Jan. 5.
Elton Raymond Kerr
 Kerr, 80, of Orchard Lake, died Jan. 13.
Richard Charles Knapp
 Knapp, 82, of Orchard Lake, died Jan. 13.

L
Richard R. (Dick) Lannin
 Lannin, 70, of Garden City, died Jan. 18.
Michael J. Laursen
 Laursen, 44, of Auburn Hills, died Jan. 8.

Daniel LePore
 LePore, 72, of Livonia, died Jan. 17.
Anna Londeau
 Londeau, 83, of Westland, died Jan. 12.

M
Clyde W. Mitchell
 Mitchell, 70, of Rochester Hills, died Jan. 5.

N
Kenneth Frye Nagley
 Nagley, 81, of Birmingham, died Jan. 17.

14.
Caroline Hasbrouck Nagengast
 Nagengast, 82, died Jan. 14.

O
Don J. Otto
 Otto, 76, formerly of Farmington, died Jan. 6.

P
Anthony Pietrzak
 Pietrzak, of Livonia, died Jan. 11.

R
Sister Mary Cecile Ripslinger, RSM
 Sister Ripslinger, 90, of Farmington Hills, died Jan. 18.

S
James F. Schuneman
 Schuneman, 64, formerly of Oakland Township, died Jan. 14.

Frances F. Shettel
 Shettel, 78, of Bloomfield Hills, died Jan. 14.

George D. Smauder
 Smauder, 72, of Farmington Hills, died Jan. 12.

V
Bruna Vannelli
 Vannelli, 84, of Southfield, formerly of Beverly Hills, died Jan. 14.

W
Barbara J. Weidemann
 Weidemann, 80, of Rochester, died Jan. 11.

Dorothy C. Woodward
 Woodward, 80, of Livonia, died Jan. 17.

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Spaghetti dinner

The Dyer Senior Center at 36745 Marquette, is inviting the public to the "best spaghetti dinner in Westland" 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24.

Get spaghetti, salad and dessert, entertainment and dancing, all for \$6.

For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Open House

St. Michael Lutheran S has two open houses planned for February for parents interested in enrolling in the preschool and/or school.

The preschool open house is 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, while the school open house and registration will be 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23.

For more information, call (734) 728-3315.

Spaghetti dinner

The Westland Youth Athletic Association U14 Lightning softball team will hold a fundraiser spaghetti dinner 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, at the AMVETS Hall, 1711 Merriman, Westland. Cost is \$7 for all you can eat.

There also will be a raffle, drawings and bake sale.

Charity bowling

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold 2006 Winterfest charity bowling event 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road. Partial proceeds benefit the Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship Fund.

Registration is at 12:30 p.m. with the tournament starting at 1 p.m. Four-person teams will bowl, alternating every fourth frame. Cost is \$120 per team or \$30 per person. Price includes bowling, two well drinks and dinner buffet after the tournament at Marvaso's

Italian Grille, 6569 N. Wayne Road. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Vegas Nights

St. Theodore Parish's Confraternity of Christian Women and Men's Club will have Vegas Nights 6 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, Feb. 3-4, at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

There will be 50/50 drawings and tear-offs every hour, black jack, easy craps and Let It Ride. Wine and soft drinks will be available. Maximum win will be \$500 per person. For more information, call (734) 425-4421.

Help wanted

The YWCA of Western Wayne County is looking for several new staff members and volunteers to join their team and help the youth in the community.

Several openings are available to work directly with youth through in school and after school support groups. Latch key leaders also are needed.

Support group leaders need a minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work, education or psychology. Latchkey leaders must have previous experience working with children.

For more information

about job openings, volunteering, or any other programs or services offered by the YWCA of Western Wayne County, call (313) 561-4110.

Legion meets

American Legion Westland Post 251 meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Westland V.F.W. Post 3323 at Wayne Road and Avondale just north of Palmer Road.

Membership is open to all veterans, providing they meet the eligibility dates.

For information call 734-326-2607.

The Post 251 also will be presenting its Blue Star Banner to families who have a member currently serving in the Armed Forces.

The banner will be presented at the Westland City Council meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6.

Families in the Westland and Canton areas who have members currently serving in the Armed Forces to contact the post at (734) 326-2607 for more information.

Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Men's Club is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Jan. 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.

Singers needed

Do you like singing religious music, Kirk of Our Savior on Cherry Hill west of Wayne Road, Westland, is looking for singers for its adult (ages 13 and up) traditional choir. All Christian faiths and all voice ranges are welcome.

Rehearsals are at 7 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Tim at (734) 718-8733 or the church at (734) 728-1088.

Car donations

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.

Chamber chief: Change is good

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Lori Brist is an advocate of change.

"We're seeing a change in our leadership on the board," said the president of the Westland Chamber of Commerce. "We're doing a lot of new things."

Brist spoke last Thursday to members of the Westland Rotary at Joy Manor. She urged them to reinvent their organization, including working with other nonprofits.

She described the chamber's Networking at Noon luncheons at different locations which have proven successful. The Restaurant Rally and Taste Fest sponsored by the chamber draw big crowds, Brist said. The chamber raises about \$70,000 a year in events, half its annual budget.

"We're drawing the community in more than we ever did before," she said.

Keeping costs down helps to draw participants, Brist said. "There's so much potential to get people involved."

She asked Rotarians what they do to attract members. "The projects that we do within our community," said Margaret Harlow of Harlow Tire, past club president.

The chamber keeps busy with many events, Brist noted, including a Job Shadowing program for local students on Feb. 9.

"We need people to help us out," Brist said. "Students will be placed with you to shadow you for half a day."

To help out with Job Shadowing, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

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Drug expert urges parents to keep eyes open

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

What filled much of the four eight-foot long tables were common everyday items – a feather boa, sports goggles, cans of Lysol and AquaNet, Crayola fun scent markers, vanilla extract, Pixie Stix and over-the-counter products like Robitussin and Benadryl.

But according to former Detroit Police Officer Kenneth Krygel, they're the tools of drug and inhalant abuse and the "pass out" game.

"Your kids' bedrooms are where you need to go," Krygel told more than 60 who gathered at Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium last week. "You should go in their rooms and look around. In my house, the locks on the rooms are disabled. My kids know if I knock, I'm coming in."

Krygel, a drug and alcohol recognition expert with the Macomb Community College Criminal Justice Training Center, spent two hours showing his audience the drug paraphernalia available in their homes and at places like the

corner gas station. His presentation was like a travelogue of southeast Michigan as he tied in stories of abuse with communities and school districts like Birmingham, West Bloomfield, White Lake, Flint and Howell.

Krygel told parents to watch and know where their kids are going and know what's going on.

"If your kids go to a friend's home and they won't let you in the front door to see what's going on, then ask yourself, is this somewhere my child should be?" he said. "In Utica, a parent wanted to be a friend with the kids and threw a party where alcohol was served and there was sex."

WHAT TO DO

He gave parents several tips for parties: Make sure to serve all the beverages and, if it's an underage party, if someone leaves, don't let them back in.

"In Birmingham, a kid left and came back in with a bottle of water, but it wasn't water, it was full of vodka," he said. "Tell your kids, 'If you make a mistake, call me. I'll come, no questions asked.'"

Krygel also passed around handbills advertising parties, or raves, which stressed that they were drug and alcohol free. But a clue to what would be allowed was in the lettering, he said. The backwards lettering is saying that if you bring drugs, we'll look the other way,

he said.

Popular club drugs are Ecstasy, ketamine (a veterinary anesthetic), nitrous oxide, LSD, marijuana and GHB, which has been tied to date rapes.

A sign a person is doing Ecstasy is what they wear around their neck – a pacifier. According to Krygel, people doing the drug need something to chew on so they don't ruin their teeth.

Drug paraphernalia can be disguised as many things. Holding up a glass ballpoint pen he bought at a gas station in Dexter, Krygel pointed out that the insides can be stripped out to form a crack cocaine pipe.

But the paraphernalia isn't always purchased. At the University of Michigan, a student used a toilet paper tube and in Fenton, a pop can was crushed and shaped into a pipe, both to smoke marijuana.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Kids also can find plenty to drink and inhale around the house. Vanilla extract, mouth washes and one brand of liquid cold medicine are heavily laced with alcohol.

Herbs like St. John's Wart when crushed and taken with a can of beer can make the person feel like they've drunk a six-pack, Krygel said. Blue morning glory seeds are a hallucinogenic, and catnip and poppy seeds can be made into

tea that produces a high. And the mace cooks have in their cupboards is "like cheap LSD" and ginger root can produce an ephedra high, Krygel said.

Krygel told parents about one kid who was addicted to the sugar in Pixie Stix. He'd snort them and get high, he said, adding that kids also snort baby formula as an appetite suppressant.

"Why is inhaling so prevalent in the middle schools? Because it's easy to get," he said. "Middle school kids don't have a lot of money, so they get the stuff from around the house."

He added that kids shouldn't have cigarette lighters in school. They're drug paraphernalia. Kids will inhale the butane to get high. And such huffing can progress from butane to propane to freon to gasoline. Kids also will inhale Blaster, the spray used to clean computer keyboards, in place of freon.

"We just had two kids die after huffing gasoline in an abandoned house next to where they lived," Krygel said. "They needed a smoke."

Kids are also choking themselves and cutting off oxygen getting to the brain. Called the "pass out" game, the resulting adrenaline rush produces a high of sorts.

A former Boy Scout leader, Krygel found out about the game when one member of his troop introduced other Scouts



Paraphernalia used for inhaling, or huffing, and the 'pass out' game, line a table that Kenneth Krygel sets up for his presentations.

to it.

"Most of the kids who do this don't do drugs," he said. "They hear about and think it's cool. But each time they do it, they're killing off brain cells."

Warning signs of playing the "game" are marks on the neck, dark circles under the eyes and unusual things that are twisted and knotted. One of the most dangerous ways is to use a noose or a bag and do it alone. There's no one there to help, if they pass out, he said.

"Don't bury your head in the sand," he told the audience. "Their room is where you need to go. I can't emphasize it enough. Keep your eyes open. You never can tell what you'll find."

Parents found Krygel's presentation eye-opening and, in the case of Tina Luisi, surprising.

"I think the thing that sur-

prised me the most was sniffing sugar," said Luisi. "Parents need to tell their children the consequences, they need to tell them about the brain cells they're losing."

"The kids at the high school call it poor man's cocaine," another parent said. "They joke about it."

Melissa Freeman admitted that she knew a little bit coming into the presentation, but having specific examples was a help.

"It was an opportunity to learn the signs of drug abuse," she said. "I have a freshman at the high school, so this was very informative."

She added that if she discovers her son is using drugs or inhalants, she'll take him to the doctor.

"He can explain to him about the brain cells, it's the only way he'll understand."

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5:05, 9:10
FRISAT LS 11:15

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12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
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12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00
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ACHIEVERS

Leonard Poger of Westland recently received his master of liberal studies degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

He received his bachelor of general studies degree with high honors from the same university 2½ years ago and his associate degree from Schoolcraft Community College in 1998.

Poger is a former *Observer & Eccentric* community editor.

Lisa Vacca has been named to the Albion College dean's list for the fall 2005 semester.

Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester.

The GPA must be based on at least three units in graded courses and a minimum of four units completed.

Vacca is a sophomore majoring in economics and management and is a member of the Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Program in Professional Management. She is the daughter of Vincenzo Vacca and Deborah Vacca of Westland and a graduate of John Glenn High School.

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As good old days fade away, schools must demand more

Last week, Mike Flanagan, the state's superintendent of public instruction, told an audience of educators at Schoolcraft College about coming to Michigan for the first time and meeting his future in-laws.

He said they were intelligent people, but many of them had dropped out of high school.

"They all had jobs on the line at the auto plants and every summer they went to their cottages up North, wherever that was," he said. "And they were all making more money than I was in education."

Those were the days, my friend. Michigan was a job beacon. The state's three auto companies were putting the world on wheels and their factories were humming to meet the pent up post-World War II demand.

The UAW fought for and won lucrative contacts that the industry was willing to pay to keep production moving. The contracts even provided for workers in the lull periods of the notoriously cyclical industry and for long after they retired.

But times have changed. Foreign competition has cut into the Detroit share of the auto market and new technologies demand fewer and more highly skilled workers.

Much to Flanagan's frustration, many lifelong Michigan residents don't seem to understand that more than a high school education is needed. He said surveys show that only 23 percent of Michigan parents believe their children need more than a high school education to get a good job.

The reality is that two years of post-high school education will be essential for holding down any decently paying job. And only a rigorous K-12 education will give graduates a chance to succeed at the college level.

This was the message that Flanagan delivered in support of the state Board of Education's adoption of his proposal to require 18 high school credits in math, science, English, social science, physical education, the arts and foreign language. Currently the state requires only a civics class.

If the proposal is approved by the state Legislature by March, it could begin being phased in with the 2006-07 freshman class.

While most of our suburban school districts already require these components or come very close to the recommendation, many school districts do not.

Some have complained that the requirements might prove so rigorous (or onerous) that the proposal will increase the state's high school dropout rate. But the state education depart-

Much to Flanagan's frustration, many lifelong Michigan residents don't seem to understand that more than a high school education is needed. He said surveys show that only 23 percent of Michigan parents believe their children need more than a high school education to get a good job.

ment's Web site includes a Q&A on the proposal that reprints a survey on the "reasons teens leave high school." No. 1 reason is "not learning anything" cited by 36 percent of the dropouts, followed by the always popular "I hate my school." Way down at the bottom of the list is "school work too hard," which is cited by only 13 percent of the dropouts.

"More rigor equals better scores on the ACT — better scores get kids into community colleges," Flanagan said.

The ACT is the national test that will replace the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test for high school students next year. It has been the test of choice for Michigan colleges for many years.

Flanagan also told the audience that "rigor without relevance is meaningless" and that students won't be graduating "to work in verb conjugation factories." It's important that Algebra II be more than a painful academic experience and have some tangible relationship to the real world. Flanagan even suggests that career tech programs that integrate the principles of Algebra II would be a better approach than your standard math class.

Yet, when someone in the audience asked Flanagan for his view of what made an "educated person," he spoke with a certain nostalgia for a classic education, one that was not career-motivated or -centered, one that drew heavily on the classic works of literature, history and science. That education was based on the premise that exposure to ideas stimulated higher levels of rational thinking, better problem-solving and a more broad-minded understanding of other points of view.

Both types of education are important and all children need to have a combination of the two. But certainly in these competitive and swiftly changing times, the state of Michigan should demand nothing less than a well-rounded, rigorous curriculum.

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



Hugh Gallagher

Super Bowl gives all of us a chance to boost region's image, economy

There will be about 8,000 metro Detroiters who will be nowhere near Ford Field Feb. 5 for Super Bowl XL, but they will be counted on to provide a lasting positive image to promote this area to the thousands of movers and shakers who will be here for the big game.

The 8,000 ambassadors are volunteers who will provide hospitality at numerous venues across metro Detroit to help the expected 100,000 guests who will spend several days here for the Super Bowl and other events leading up to the game. I am one of the ambassadors.

Ambassadors will work a series of four-hour shifts at the Motown Winter Blast in downtown Detroit, the NFL Experience at Cobo Hall, at Metro Airport, on shuttle buses and at numerous hotels housing media members and other dignitaries — including several hotels along the I-275 corridor.

We had to go through two training sessions in which Super Bowl Host Committee organizers reminded us of some Detroit history, landmarks, social attractions and other Super Bowl information that may interest guests.

The most important part of our instructions centered on how important it is for all of us to be smiling and enthusiastic.

"You need to create that lasting impression in how you treat our guests and our fans," Roger Penske, chairman of the host committee, told volunteers at a rally at Ford Field last weekend. "This is our chance to show the world what Detroit is really about."

In so many words, we are expected to be upbeat cheerleaders who promote our area to all Super Bowl visitors, the majority of whom have money to spend and influence other spending decisions.

According to the Host Committee, here's a breakdown of some key traits of a Super Bowl ticket holder:

- 80 percent are in executive, management, professional or sales positions.
- 35 percent attend the game on corporate expense accounts.
- 27 percent own their own companies.
- 25 percent are corporate officers.

When the game is over and the next National Football League champion is crowned, the host committee estimates all the Super Bowl festivities will infuse \$302 million into the local economy. This is why there have been a few media reports about the extensive organization efforts that span

over six years and entail thousands of people.

With the struggling state economy, organizers hope all the effort will produce a well-received experience over the next couple weeks and provide a vital shot in the arm to the local economy. The belief is a good experience will move more decision makers to invest in this area with new developments and jobs. Also, local organizers want to use the Super Bowl to entice more industries to bring their conferences and conventions to metro Detroit.

"We get only one shot to do something like this and this is our shot," said Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

The 8,000 volunteers are being charged with providing smiling assistance from the moment visitors walk off the plane until they return to the airport. Organizers said these volunteers have an important role based on some simple statistics: If a visitor has a good experience, they will tell five people; if a visitor has a bad experience, they will tell 15 people.

The Super Bowl Host Committee is leaning on the volunteers to be a valuable resource in rebuilding the local economy. After a successful Major League Baseball All-Star Game in Detroit last summer, organizers hope a good Super Bowl experience will continue the momentum for this region that could be further fueled by other major sporting events coming to metro Detroit later this decade, such as the golf's 2008 PGA Championships and the 2009 NCAA Final Four for college basketball.

In western Wayne County, we may all have a chance to play a role in providing fine hospitality, and in the process, we might be able to correct some unfair perceptions about Detroit that are frequently repeated by some out-of-town members of the media.

Some 2,000 of the 3,000 media in town for several days to cover the game will be staying in hotels in Livonia, Farmington Hills, Plymouth, Canton and other western Detroit suburbs.

We all need to put on our best face and take a few moments to answer questions for our Super Bowl visitors. Let them know where to shop or dine, or share a little background about the area.

If we all take a few moments to provide a good exchange with those visitors, it could provide a long-term benefit for our region, which is good for all of us in the future.

Dan West is a staff writer for the *Livonia Observer*. He can be reached at dwest@hometownlife.com, or at (734) 953-2109.



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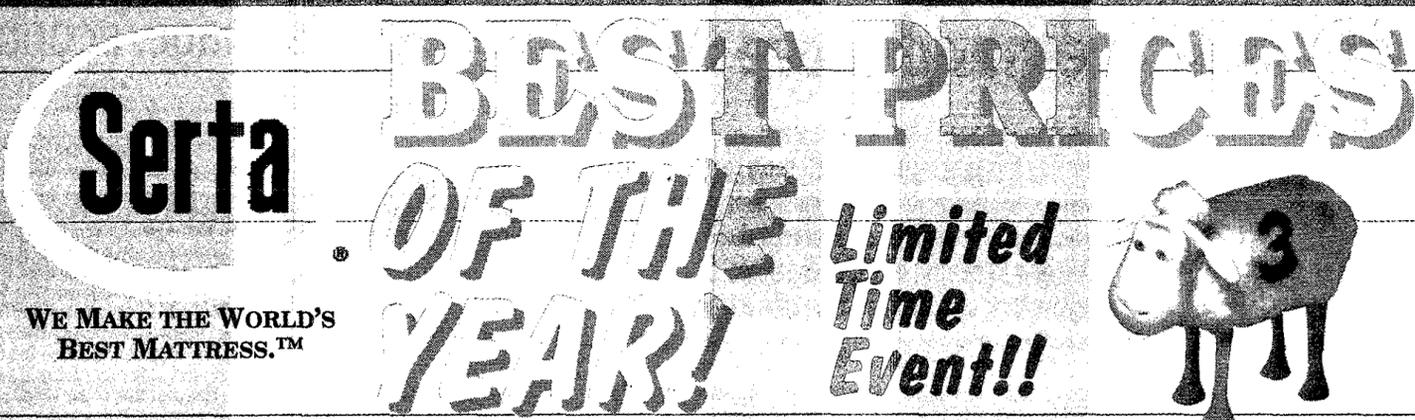
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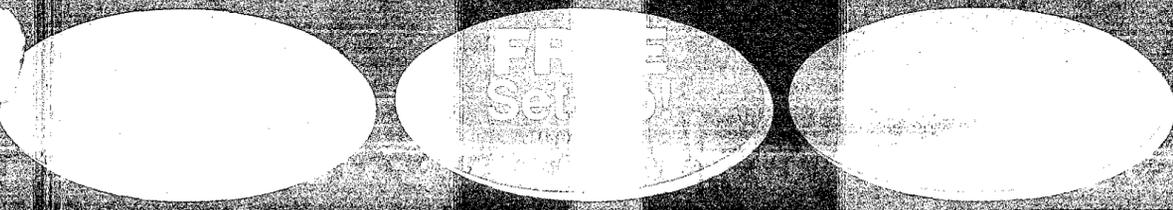
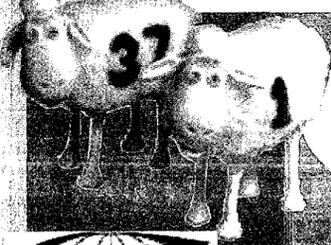
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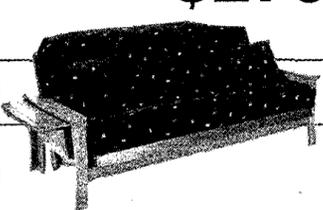
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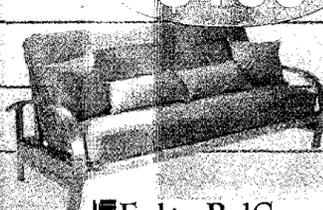
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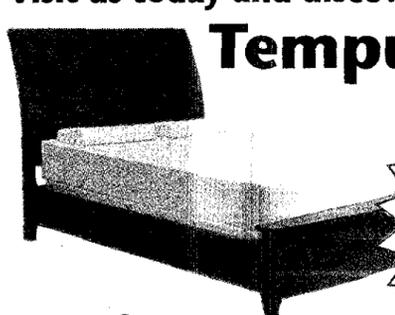
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