

3/21

Student helps others to help themselves

hometownLIFE - SECTION C



Skin cancer prevention campaign offers free screenings

HEALTH - PAGE C4



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Man charged in child pornography case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man, accused of having a hidden room where he kept child pornography, was arraigned Friday on multiple charges of having sex with a 13-year-old boy.

Daniel Eric Greene, 39, was jailed on a \$1 million bond for allegations he had sex with the boy and had him pose for pornographic videos, police Lt. James Ridener said.

The charges against Greene stem from incidents that police say happened from January 2002 through



Greene

December 2005 at Greene's then-residence, in the 31000 block of Avondale near Merriman.

Greene now lives in the Palmer-Hambleton area east of Wayne Road, where police executed a search warrant on Thursday morning and confiscated hundreds of pornographic materials, Ridener confirmed.

The victim was 13 at the time, but he is now in his late teens and living in the Grand Rapids area. He men-

tioned the incidents during a counseling session, leading to a tip to Westland police, Ridener said.

An investigation is continuing, and parents whose children had contact with Greene are asked to call Westland police at (734) 722-9600.

Greene was arraigned Friday by Westland 18th District Magistrate Donald Vandersloot on five counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct involving the boy, one count of second-degree CSC, two counts of child sexual abusive activity, one count of being a felon with a firearm, and one count of felony firearms.

Police found a gun at Greene's residence, but it wasn't used against the boy, Ridener said.

Greene is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Thursday in district court, and a not-guilty plea has been entered for him.

Police searched Greene's home on Thursday morning while he was away, confiscating video tapes, magazines, computer zip disks and CD-ROMs, Ridener said. He is accused of creating some materials with the 13-year-old boy.

Greene is a prior sex offender who had received probation, although offi-

cial didn't immediately have details of the earlier case.

While searching Greene's house, police found a hidden door inside a closet that opened into a room where he kept pornographic materials, Ridener said.

"It just looked like the closet wall," Ridener said, referring to the hidden door.

Police also seized computers from Greene. They arrested him when he came home while they were still at his residence.

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Westland Councilman Michael Kehrer (from left) and Wayne Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Dobrowski get a lift on a new SMART Nankin Transit bus from by Nankin Transit Director Richard Fernandez. Watching are Tom Kelly and Garden City Councilman Richard Gora.

SMART, Nankin Transit mark milestone

10-year partnership is good for senior, handicapped riders

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

A decade-long partnership providing rides to local senior citizens and handicapped residents was cause for celebration last week.

After the 1995 Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation millage was approved, SMART joined forces with the Nankin Transit Authority for a community partnership program.

"Looking at it, the best thing for seniors and the handicapped was to provide transportation services locally," said Ron Ristau, SMART director of service development. "This was a way to provide millage back to the community."

At the same time, partnering with SMART, which covers 95 percent of costs for vehicles and provides free vehicle maintenance, allows local organizations, such as Nankin Transit, to benefit from economy of scale.

"Nankin Transit is our biggest and best community partnership. Of 3,000 rides

The SMART millage helped stabilize funding for Nankin Transit which provides rides from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays.

provided daily, 350 are here," said Ristau, who noted Nankin Transit also has the largest fleet with 12 buses in use each day.

In operation since 1970s, Nankin Transit serves Garden City, Westland, Wayne and Inkster. The SMART millage helped stabilize funding for Nankin Transit which provides rides from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays.

Senior citizen and handicapped residents utilize the transportation for medical appointments, banking, shopping, restaurants and movies.

Part of the program included Ristau turning over the keys for a new bus - the first of 12 Nankin Transit will be receiving.

"I accept the keys for all the cities of Nankin Transit. This is a service that is sorely needed," said Nankin Transit Director Richard Fernandez. "I couldn't do it myself. The drivers are ambassadors for Nankin Transit."

Nankin Transit board members attended with local officials, including Garden City Mayor Jaylee Lynch, Westland Mayor and SMART board member Sandra Cicirelli and Inkster Councilwoman Wanda Harris Foster.

"We are really happy about the service. I talk to a lot of seniors and they always comment about the drivers - how polite they are. I'd like to give kudos for that," said Foster. "We look forward to continuing with Nankin Transit in the future."

Nankin Transit requires ride reservations one day in advance or two days notice for wheelchair users or medical appointments, including prescription pickup. Make reservations 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays by calling (734) 729-2710.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2103

Police charge teen with hacking into computer network

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

An 18-year-old student is accused of hacking into the Wayne-Westland school district's computer network - crashing 5,000 computers in 29 buildings and forcing thousands of dollars in repairs, police said.

Wayne-Westland school officials confirmed "dozens" of computer system crashes between March 6 and May 8, but they don't believe the hacker obtained any personal or sensitive information, police Sgt. David Heater said.

"It appears to me that he did this just to sort of show that he could," Heater said.

David Randall, a Belleville teen who takes computer classes at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, faces a hearing Thursday in Westland District Court on a charge of having unauthorized access to a computer.

If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison. Moreover, he could face disciplinary action by Wayne-Westland school officials, and his graduation could be threatened, Heater said.

"He's denying any of this," the detective said. "He's sticking to his guns that he didn't do any of this."

PLEASE SEE HACKING, A7

Senior Expo resource for older consumers

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Schoolcraft College present the third annual Senior Citizens Expo 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the college's VisTaTech Center.

More than 30 exhibitors of products and services aimed at consumers age 55 and older along with fitness sessions featuring strength training and yoga are on tap.

"Although designed for consumers age 55 and older, it's also a resource for the younger - sandwich - generation," said Cathy Young, O&E promotions manager and coordinator of this year's event.

Expo visitors can also enter to win a seven-night cruise western Caribbean for two on board the Royal Caribbean Voyager of the Seas courtesy of the Exchange Club of Livonia Fundraising Cruise. The ship

sails from Miami Jan. 13. Stops include Grand Cayman, Cozumel and more.

Reservations are handled by CruiseOne.

Expo admission and parking are free. Entertainment by the Cliff Moner Trio with jazz vocalist Barbara Ware and The Car Tunes Barbershop quartet starts at 10:30 a.m.

Fitness and wellness sessions planned include Forever Fit for Seniors taught by Mindy Hopkins at 9 a.m.; Yoga Chair Exercise taught by Karen Farkas at 10 a.m.; Senior Strength Training by Nancy Klein at 11 a.m. and Tap Dancing taught by Shirley Rebeck at 11:45 a.m.

A moderately priced breakfast and/or lunch will be available in Henry's Cafe in the

PLEASE SEE EXPO, A6

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Volume 41
Number 103



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<p>Delicious • Kosher Corned Beef</p> <p>WOW</p> <p>LEAN ROAST BEEF</p> <p>FRESH SLICED</p> <p>\$4.99</p> <p>Only 1 lb.</p>	<p>Delicious • Kosher Corned Beef</p> <p>WOW</p> <p>LEAN ROAST BEEF</p> <p>FRESH SLICED</p> <p>\$4.99</p> <p>Only 1 lb.</p>
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Peer has June 7 hearing date on charges in fatal accident

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland teenager, accused of fleeing the scene of a fatal accident while on spring break in Florida, faces a June 7 pretrial hearing in Panama City Beach.

Jeremy Peer, 18, faces the hearing after a not-guilty plea was entered for him Thursday in the Bay County Courthouse.

Peer, who has returned to his Livonia Franklin High School classes after his parents secured his release from jail, didn't have to appear in the Florida court when the not-guilty plea was entered, according to state attorney's office spokesman Joe Grammer.

Peer is accused of fleeing the scene after driving off a Florida road on April 17 and hitting a



Peer

Pennsylvania couple as they walked along the roadside, Panama City Beach Deputy Chief David Humphreys has said.

Colleen Martin, 33, was killed. Her husband, Montey, was injured.

Peer is accused of fleeing the accident, which happened about 10 p.m., but he was arrested several hours later after a motel clerk saw the damaged Jeep Commander and notified police, Humphreys has said.

As of Friday, Panama City Beach police still hadn't received a toxicology report that will show whether Peer had been drinking or using drugs.

From the time of the acci-

dent, it could take 12 weeks or longer to receive the results, police officials have said.

Peer - a star athlete involved in football, basketball and track - returned to school one week after the accident. His parents made arrangements with a surety company for his release from jail on bonds totaling \$175,000.

On Friday, his mother, Janet Peer, said the family has been advised not to talk with the press about the case. In April, she had told the *Observer* that the family was asking for prayers for her son and for the Martin family.

Peer is charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving a death and with leaving the scene of an accident involving an injury. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Applications accepted for WOW scholarships

The Women of Westland is offering three \$1,000 scholarships to women ages 21 or older who live or work in the city of Westland and are seeking financial assistance to attend college for undergraduate credit or a trade school.

In its fourth year, the scholarships are dedicated in the memory of Barbara Douglas, one of the Women of Westland's founding members who was an active leader and successful businessperson in the Westland community.

Interested individuals are asked to submit a letter of 500 words or less describing themselves, their educational/professional goal or goals, community involvement and where and when they plan to attend school.

The letter should clearly state the reasons the applicant feels she deserves consideration for a

scholarship. Whenever possible, application letters should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation and/or transcripts demonstrating academic performance. Scholarship recipients will be selected based on academic performance, educational goals, community leadership/volunteerism, financial need and residential requirements.

Applications should be mailed to the Women of Westland Scholarship Committee, c/o Diane Browning, Secretary, 35331 Hazelwood, Westland, MI 48186. Applications must be postmarked by June 1.

Women of Westland is a non-profit organization of professional women. Questions regarding the scholarship application process should be directed to Joy Ebel, vice president, at (734) 467-9113.

CORRECTIONS

To correct a recent story on the mental health board in the *Observer*, the Wayne County Mental Health Board has 12 members. The mayor of Detroit appoints six members. He is not required to receive Detroit City Council approval for his selections. The Wayne County executive appoints six members, with the approval of the county commission. Teresa Blossom is quoted as saying legislation introduced two years ago was punitive. On Monday, she said she was referring instead to current legislation which could cost the county as much as \$50 million if an independent authority isn't created by the county commission.

A photograph on the front of HometownLife.com on Sunday, May 14, incorrectly identified Robert Zimmerman as John Gajek, the longtime conductor for the Redford Civic Symphony. Gajek, who founded the orchestra, was correctly identified on page C3.

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Council OKs Cooper school rezoning, preliminary plan

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

In a vote that ended a 15-year stalemate, the Westland City Council has approved a rezoning and preliminary plan to redevelop the contaminated Cooper School site.

"I think this is the first time we've gotten this far," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said Thursday, three days after the council cast its long-awaited votes. "I think this is really a milestone for the site."

Other critical steps remain before developers will move ahead with building four medical office buildings and senior citizen housing on the site, on Ann Arbor Trail east of Middlebelt.

For one, plans to haul away 45,000 cubic yards of soil to a landfill will require further review by state officials. But, developers hope to get the work done while students are on summer break at the newer Cooper School, on the north

side of Ann Arbor Trail.

On Monday, the seven-member City Council voted unanimously to rezone the 37-acre site from townhouse residential to a planned unit development. Essentially, that clears a hurdle allowing developers to build four single-story, 12,350-square-foot medical office buildings and a four-story, 136-unit independent living facility for seniors.

The council also supported a separate preliminary plan for redeveloping the Livonia Public Schools property, which was fenced off in 1991 amid concerns for student safety.

"This is definitely significant," Cicirelli said. "It's the culmination of many years and a lot of hard work."

Some viewed the council's votes as particularly significant because they were unanimous, drawing support from long-time Cooper site watchdog and Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt.

"This is a really important

vote for me," she said. "It's not just about developing something that was a thorn in our side."

Graunstadt commended developers for revising earlier plans and making them more palatable, although she cautioned that she will continue to carefully weigh each step in the process before giving her support.

Developer Frank Jonna indicated that, barring any unknown obstacles, the first phase of redevelopment would include two medical office buildings near Ann Arbor Trail.

The second phase would center on two other medical buildings behind those, and the final phase would include the senior housing complex even further back from Ann Arbor Trail.

Jonna conceded that market conditions will dictate how quickly the overall project can be finished.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

County gives city Eloise fire truck

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland's historic village will be home to a 1919 Model T fire truck once used on the old Eloise Hospital site at Michigan Avenue and Merriman Road.

The county-owned hospital served as an infirmary and housed psychiatric patients. In its heyday, Eloise served thousands of people.

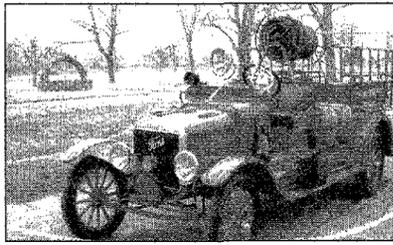
Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano signed an agreement Monday with Westland Historical Commission Chairwoman Jo Johnson to bring the old fire truck to the city's historic village, on Wayne Road south of Marquette.

"It's just a wonderful thing," Johnson said. "We're very happy to receive this, and we'll take very good care of it."

The fire truck, with its pump mounted on the front of its crankshaft, will be on display along with historic buildings at the village site.

The truck also will be displayed during local parades, said Johnson's husband, Ernie, vice president of Friends of the Westland Historical Museum. Although the Model T still runs, it will be towed or hauled on a flatbed truck to protect it, Ernie Johnson said.

He recalled that a blacksmith shop on the



This 1919 Model T fire truck, used to fight fires on the old Eloise Hospital property, will soon have a new home at the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

Eloise property burned in 1919 - the year the fire truck was made. Historians haven't yet been able to confirm that the Model T pumper was bought in response to that fire.

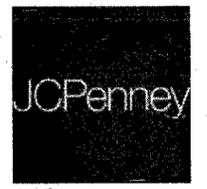
Ultimately, the Eloise complex was so large that it had its own fire department, Ernie Johnson said.

It wasn't known this week when the fire truck will be delivered to the historical museum site, which is open to the public 1-4 p.m. Saturdays.

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26 **EDDIE MONEY** wsg AZURI
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

27 **EDDIE MONEY** wsg PAT ROBITAILLE
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

JUNE

3 **THE KNACK / THE FIXX / TOMMY TUTONE**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

6 **DAVE MATTHEWS BAND**
wsg G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

9 **THE GUESS WHO / BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

9 **LORETTA LYNN**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

9 **RASCAL FLATTS** wsg GARY ALLAN
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

15 **ROB THOMAS / JEWEL** wsg TOBY LIGHTMAN
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

15 **ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA** starring DWEEZIL ZAPPA
wsg STEVE VAI, TERRY BOZZIO, NAPOLEON
MURPHY BROCK & OTHERS!
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

16 **RINGO STARR & HIS ALL STARR BAND**
featuring RICHARD MARX, BILLY SQUIER, EDGAR WINTER,
SHEILA E., ROD ARGENT and HAMISH STUART
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

17 **BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN**
with THE SEEGER SESSIONS BAND
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

21 **GIN BLOSSOMS**
wsg PAT MCGEE BAND, SEVEN MARY THREE and SPONGE
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

22 **PAT BENATAR & NEIL GIRALDO**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

23 **AL GREEN**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

24 **JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

25 **NINE INCH NAILS** wsg BAUHAUS and PEACHES
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

28 **BLUE OYSTER CULT / FOGHAT**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

29 **THE TEMPTATIONS REVUE** featuring DENNIS
EDWARDS, THE MARVELETTES and THE CONTOURS:
THE LEGENDS OF MOTOWN
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

29 **TAKING BACK SUNDAY / ANGELS & AIRWAVES**
wsg HEAD AUTOMATICA and THE SUBWAYS
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

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MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY

1 **BOWFIRE!**
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MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

2 **CHICAGO / HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

5 **ABBA THE MUSIC**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

6 **1964 THE TRIBUTE**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

8 **SAMMY HAGAR & THE WABOS**
wsg THE OTHER HALF
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

8 **BO BICE** **ON SALE 5/26**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

9 **THE MUSIC OF LED ZEPPELIN**
A ROCK SYMPHONY
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

12 **CELTIC WOMAN** **ON SALE 6/5**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

12 **BONNIE RAITT** wsg KEB' MO'
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

14 **O.A.R. (... OF A REVOLUTION)**
wsg JACK'S MANNEQUIN
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

15 **BRAD PAISLEY** wsg ERIC CHURCH
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

15 **RHONDA VINCENT AND THE RAGE** wsg PINEROSS
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

17 **HEART** **ON SALE 6/3**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

18 **REO SPEEDWAGON** **ON SALE SOON!**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

19 **OZZFEST** wsg AVENGED SEVENFOLD
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

20 **TESLA** wsg SKID ROW and SLAUGHTER
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

21 **COUNTING CROWS / THE GOO GOO DOLLS**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

21 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
A SUMMER LOVE featuring ADAM JAMES
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

22 **ANITA BAKER** **ON SALE SOON!**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

22 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
UNDER THE STARS featuring "THE PLANETS"
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

23 **RANDY TRAVIS**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

23 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
A BIG BAND TRIBUTE TO BENNY GOODMAN
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

24 **DEF LEPPARD / JOURNEY**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

26 **THE BLACK CROWES**
wsg ROBERT RANDOLPH & THE FAMILY BAND
and DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

26 **GUSTER** wsg RAY LaMONTAGNE **ON SALE SOON!**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

27 **GORDON LIGHTFOOT**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

28 **POISON** wsg CINDERELLA
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

28 **IAN ANDERSON**
PLAYS ORCHESTRAL JETHRO TULL WITH THE
MEADOW BROOK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

29 **ASHLEE SIMPSON** **ON SALE 5/26**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE



DTE Energy
music theatre

at oakland university
MEADOW BROOK
music festival



2 0 0 6

- 29 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
MOZART 250TH BIRTHDAY BASH
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 30 **BEACH BOYS 2 SHOWS!!! 2 PM & 7:30 PM** ☼
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 30 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
WITH SMOOTH JAZZ SUPERSTAR
TRUMPETER CHRIS BOTTI
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

AUGUST

- 1 & 2 **DOOBIE BROTHERS** ☼ 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 3 **SOUNDS OF THE UNDERGROUND**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 3 **TRISHA YEARWOOD**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 4 **EARTH, WIND & FIRE** **ON SALE SOON!**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 4 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
CLASSICAL SUPERSTARS
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 5 **BOYS II MEN** wsg EN VOGUE **ON SALE SOON!** 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 5 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
TCHAIKOVSKY SPECTACULAR
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 6 **THE TEMPTATIONS / THE FOUR TOPS** ☼ 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 6 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
CALIENTE featuring BOLERO!
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 8 **TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS**
wsg TREY ANASTASIO **ON SALE 6/2**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 10 **311** wsg THE WAILERS and PEPPER
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 11 **THE WIGGLES** **ON SALE SOON!**
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS
- 11 **MICHAEL W. SMITH** **ON SALE SOON!**
wsg THIRD DAY and JARS OF CLAY
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 11 **CHRIS ISAAK** **ON SALE SOON!**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 12 **GET BACK! CAST OF BEATLEMANIA** ☼ 🍷
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 13 **BROOKS & DUNN**
wsg SUGARLAND and JACK INGRAM
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 15 **THE JAMES GANG**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 17 **TED NUGENT** **ON SALE SOON!**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 17 **BILLY RAY CYRUS** ☼ 🍷
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

- 18 **JOHN FOGERTY / WILLIE NELSON & FAMILY**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 18 **TED NUGENT** **ON SALE SOON!**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 19 **RICHARD JENI** ☼ 🍷
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 20 **MARY J. BLIGE** **ON SALE SOON!**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 22 **REGGAE SUNSPASH:** **ON SALE SOON!**
UB40 wsg TOOTS & THE MAYTALS, THIRD WORLD,
MAXI PRIEST and RICK ROCK
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 23 **KC & THE SUNSHINE BAND** **ON SALE SOON!** 🍷
wsg GLORIA GAYNOR, SISTER SLEDGE and TAVARES
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 24 **THE STYLISTICS, THE DELFONICS,**
CUBA GOODING SR. OF THE MAIN INGREDIENT:
70'S SOUL JAM ☼
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 25 **PRO BOXING** ☼
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 26 **LASER SPECTACULAR**
featuring **THE MUSIC OF PINK FLOYD** ☼ 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 26 **GILBERT GOTTFRIED** ☼ 🍷
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 30 **BUDDY GUY** wsg KOKO TAYLOR and JAMES HUNTER
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL ☼
- 31 **AN EVENING WITH**
CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **HANK WILLIAMS, JR.** **ON SALE SOON!** 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 1 **BEN HARPER & THE INNOCENT CRIMINALS**
wsg DAMIAN "JR. GONG" MARLEY
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 2 **STEELY DAN / MICHAEL McDONALD**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 2 **AMY GRANT & ORCHESTRA** **ON SALE SOON!**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 3 **DENNIS MILLER** **ON SALE SOON!** 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 6 **HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH** **ON SALE SOON!**
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 7 **STYX / FOREIGNER** **ON SALE SOON!**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 8 **HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH** **ON SALE SOON!** 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 8-10 **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW** ☼
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

- 9 **FAMILY VALUES TOUR 2006** **ON SALE SOON!** 🍷
performances by **KORN, DEFTONES, STONE SOUR,**
FLYLEAF, DIR EN GREY & MORE!
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 9 **MARIAH CAREY** **ON SALE 6/2**
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS
- 12 **JIMMY BUFFETT** **ON SALE 6/19**
& **THE CORAL REEFER BAND**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 15-17 **WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL** ☼
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 16 **CHRIS BROWN / NE-YO** **ON SALE SOON!**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 17 **LAUGH-A-PALOOZA @ 7 PM** ☼
THE BEST IN DETROIT COMEDY
featuring **MIKE GREEN, DAVE LANDAU,**
JOEL FRAGOMENI AND MUCH MORE!
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 18 **ROGER WATERS "DARK SIDE OF THE MOON"**
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS
- 22 **PETER FRAMPTON** 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 23 **ALAN JACKSON** **ON SALE SOON!**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 23 **ERIC CLAPTON** wsg THE ROBERT CRAY BAND
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS **ON SALE SOON!**
- 30 **CLAY WALKER** ☼ 🍷
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- TBA **GIGANTOUR**
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

OCTOBER

- 7 **99.5 WYCD'S OCTOBERFEST** **ON SALE SOON!**
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INFORMATION CENTRAL

Hello, You Have Reached the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland ...

Ever since Alexander Graham Bell spoke the infamous words, "Mr. Watson - come here - I want to see you," proper telephone etiquette became an issue.

In honor of National Etiquette Week, May 21-27, the William P. Faust Public Library would like to share some tips for proper usage of the

telephone.

Many of the comprehensive etiquette books have chapters devoted entirely to the proper and polite use of the telephone. The library owns books written by etiquette experts, such as Miss Manners and Emily Post, as well as items specifically dealing with telephone etiquette.

Some of these titles include *Phone Tactics for Instant Influence* by John Truitt, *What Do You Tell a Phone?: the Proper and Safe Way to*

Answer the Door & Telephone (videorecording), *Manners on the Telephone* by Terri DeGezelle, *Great Customer Service on the Telephone* by Kristin Anderson, *Telephone Skills at Work* by Judith E. Fisher, and *Powerful Telephone Skills: A Quick and Handy Guide for Any Manager or Business Owner*.

Most books and professional organizations agree that the following habits are the best to follow when using the telephone, whether at home or in the office.

■ Always start a phone conversation by saying "hello" and giving your name.

■ Make sure of the correct number so as not to risk disturbing strangers.

■ Make sure that your conversations with busy people are as brief as possible.

■ Phone calls generally should not be made before 7 a.m. in the morning or after 9:30-10 p.m. at night. Try to avoid mealtimes.

■ Make business calls well before the close of the office hours.

■ After dialing a wrong number simply say, "Sorry, wrong number."

All of these ideas translate to the use of the cell phone as well. Just remember, since you can't be seen, what you say and how you say it may be the only impression that you give someone.

The William P. Faust Public Library is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Just a reminder: The library will be closed on Sundays beginning May 28 through Sept. 3.

Essential Oils 101: 7 p.m. May 23. Learn about the vital power of plant and flower essences to heal the body. Ilka Handshaw, Aromatherapy Consultant, will help you discover the therapeutic benefits of aromatherapy.

Internet 101: 7 p.m. May 24. For the very beginner. What the Internet is and how to get there.

The library is looking for volunteers to deliver books to our Homebound patrons. Contact the Homebound Coordinator at (734) 326-6123, if you're interested.

Information Central is compiled by Bridget Sturdy, reference librarian, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Open House

St. Damian Catholic School is having an open house 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. Registration for preschool through eighth-grade will be accepted. The school is at 29891 Joy, Westland. For more information, call (734) 427-1680.

Rummage sale

St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School will host a rummage sale 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, May 25-26, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 27, at the church, 5885 Venoy Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-0260.

Outdoor flea market

Harris Kehrler VFW Post 3323 is holding an outdoor flea market 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at the post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Spaces cost \$25 each, with tables are available for an additional \$10. To reserve a spot, send you name, address, phone number and number of spaces and tables needed as well as a check for the amount payable to VFW Post 3323, to VFW 3323, 10055 S. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48186, attn. Flea Market.

Contact Richard Eberhart at (734) 812-7978 for more information.

Spaghetti dinner

The friends of Ruth Schultz will hold a fund-raising spaghetti dinner 5-11 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Romanowski VFW Post 6896, 28945 Joy Road, Westland. Tickets cost \$10 each and include spaghetti, salad, rolls, desserts and beverages. There also will be entertainment and raffles.

Schultz was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and family and friends are staging the benefit to help defray medical expenses.

Monetary donations or gifts for the raffles can be dropped off at Lane Plumbing, 6738 Middlebelt, Garden City. Make checks payable to Ruth Schultz.

Blood drive

Hayes Elementary School in Westland will sponsor its last blood drive of the school year 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. Anyone who wants to donate blood may show up or call

AROUND WESTLAND

ahead to schedule an appointment at (734) 744-2725.

Hayes is located south of Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Middlebelt. To get there, turn south on Hillcrest off of Ann Arbor Trail and then right on Louise.

Summer camp

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registration for 2006 Summer Day Camp at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne. Registration will be accepted in person 4-6 p.m. May 23 and 25 and June 6, 8, 12 and 13. For an appointment, call (734) 721-7400, Ext. 1306.

Day Camp begins June 14 and runs through Aug. 25. It will be 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday for children ages 5-13. Daily, weekly and full season rates are available.

Daily activities include swimming, ice skating (August only), arts and crafts, sports and board games, wallyball, outdoor play and more. There also will be field trips every week and special events.

Weekend Carnival

The Wayne Ford Civic League is hosting the Skerbeck Bros. Carnival on it grounds at 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland, starting May 25. The carnival will be operation the entire Memorial Day weekend including Monday, May 30. There will be a beer tent with a variety of entertainment, including a battle of the bands event Friday night with first-, second and third-place cash prizes.

The civic league will donate 10 percent of the proceeds from the rides and concessions and 25 percent of the proceeds from the beer tent to the Westland Historical Commission.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Dyer Senior Center at 36745 Marquette, Westland, invites you to the best Spaghetti Dinner in Westland.

The dinner will be served 4-7 p.m. Friday, May 26. Enjoy spaghetti, salad, desert, entertainment and dancing for just \$6.

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

Senior Dinner Dances

The Wayne Ford Civic League is offering a dinner for seniors on Sunday, May 28,

and June 11. The dinner will be noon to 3:30 p.m. at the league at 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Price is \$8 for league members and \$10 for non-members. There is a full buffet dinner with beer, wine, pop, and dancing to live entertainment. The dinners are for people age 60 and older. Call (734) 728-5010 for more information.

Good-bye Tea

Schweitzer Elementary Principal Diane Nichols and third-grade teachers Pat Colligan and Carole Osterling will be the guest of honors at a good-bye tea will be held 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 31. The tea will be held in the gymnasium of the school at 2601 Treadwell, Westland.

Former students and staffers and friends are invited to come a wish them farewell and good luck. Tea and cookies will be served.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford.

The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available.

Eclectic Crafters

Ever thought of trying a craft but were afraid of investing too much before you knew if you were going to like it? Ever wanted a quiet place to do your scrapbooking?

Ever wonder if there are others as crazy about art and crafts as you are?

The answer to those questions could be the Eclectic Crafters which meet 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the second and third Monday of every month and 5:30-8:30 p.m. the first Monday from at the Bailey Center in the Westland Civic Center Complex on Ford Road west of Carlson.

The program is offered in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department. For \$3, participants can try out different crafts, art materials and tools or bring their own project to work on. There will be inexpensive make-and-takes available.

For more information, call (734) 620-3938.

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HOW TO REACH US

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
(734) 953-2100
srosiek@hometownlife.com

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor
(734) 953-2149
hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Sue Mason
Community Editor
(734) 953-2112
smason@hometownlife.com

Frank Cibor
Retail Sales Manager
(734) 953-2177
fcibor@hometownlife.com

Cathy White
Retail Advertising Rep.
(734) 953-2073
cwhite@hometownlife.com

Newsroom (734) 953-2104 **Fax** (734) 591-7279
Sports Nightline (734) 953-2104
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EXPO
FROM PAGE A1

VisTaTech Center. Exhibitors scheduled to appear include: Allied Home Mortgage, American Diabetic Supply, Atlas Gutter Helmet, Botsford Senior Community, Canadian Drugs USA, CruiseOne, Estate Planning Legal, Erickson Communities/Fox Run and Henry Ford Village, Evola Music, Exchange Club of Livonia, Gregg Chiropractic,

Hear USA, Hearing Centers of Marshall Field's, Heartland Health Center-University, Heartland West Bloomfield, Home First Certified Communities, Hugg Center for Hearing/Personalized Hearing Care, Hutcheson Manor Residential Care Inc. Also, Medlodge Group, Michigan Heritage Bank, Mosa Audiology, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Rent A Tradesman, Sears Home Health Care Solutions, Senior Resource Alliance of Greater Michigan, S. Keith-Flanagan Agency/Farm Bureau Insurance, Singh/Waltonwood, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Stu Evans Lincoln-Mercury, Sunrise Medical Equipment Inc., Sunrise Senior Living, University of Michigan Eye Center, United Way of Southeast Michigan and West Haven Manor. Schoolcraft College and the VisTaTech Center are at 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information, visit the Seniors Expo site at www.hometownlife.com.

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	Old Time Deli Co-Jack Cheese \$3.49	Bud & Bud Light 24 Pk Can Only \$18.99 +Tax +Dep.
		Extra Large Special Pizza One Free Topping Only \$5.00 LB.

HACKING

FROM PAGE A1

Randall attends the Academy for Business and Technology in Melvindale, but he takes special computer courses in Westland.

The computer network crashed each time during the early hours of the school day, affecting classrooms and administrative offices alike, Heater said.

District technology employees, with outside help, managed to get the system running again after several hours.

"They began to get better and faster at responding to it," Heater said. "They began to realize this was a deliberate attack on the system. They ruled out mechanical or technical problems."

District technology employees gradually traced the problem to the career technical center by unhooking computers in certain geographic areas of the district - and then by narrowing their search on a building to building basis.

After they pinpointed the career technical center, workers did some rewiring during spring break week in April so that they could isolate the classroom where the attacks originated, Heater said.

Ultimately, they traced the problem to a specific computer lab, and they confronted 15 students in the room after the last attack occurred on May 8, he said.

All students denied any knowledge of the attacks, but witnesses eventually came forward and pointed blame at the suspect, Heater said.

Police and school officials hope that Randall's arrest will send a strong warning to students that they can get into serious trouble for such offenses.

"Anyone with a criminal mindset can obtain the tools to do this kind of thing from the Internet," Heater said. "It's important to send a message that this is a stupid thing to do, and you can go to prison for this, because it's serious stuff."

Randall was arraigned Wednesday in Westland District Court, and Judge Gail McKnight released him on a \$50,000 personal bond. He has no criminal history.

During their investigation, police seized several computers from Randall's residence in Belleville, although authorities believe that all of the hacking occurred from the career technical center.

"It appears that this whole problem came from within the school system's network," Heater said.

On Thursday, Wayne-Westland school officials confirmed that they have a system in place to catch computer hackers - a system that ultimately led them to the career technical center.

School officials also said they don't believe that any sensitive information was obtained during the computer system crashes.

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LIKE NUMBERS?
there are a pile of them in today's **SPORTS** section



Annual duck march draws attention

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

They call it The March of the Ducks.

Each spring, ducklings hatch in the courtyards around the Village of Redford.

Ducks lead their young across Six Mile Road, where they enter Glenhurst Golf Course in search of water and a suitable habitat.

"Years ago, the ducks started flying into the inside courtyards," said Greg Babb, director of marketing. "Every apartment looks onto a courtyard. It's closed off, so there are no predators."

Each year, the Village of Redford is home to at least one family of ducks, but Babb said this year four families have emerged from courtyards on the residential campus east of Beech Daly Road.

"When the ducks are ready to leave," Babb said, "the mother duck pecks on the door."

That's when Frank "the duck-meister" Allen swings into action.

"The employees all play a part," said Allen, who works in the maintenance department. "They keep me informed. (The ducks) come to the door, and maids or nurses call it to my attention."

Allen opens the door and helps the ducks and ducklings along as they head toward Six Mile Road.

Then, calling in reinforcements like Terry Karawan, Ray Quainance, Bruce Bilbrey and Babb, employees halt traffic as Allen herds the duck and her ducklings safely across the street.

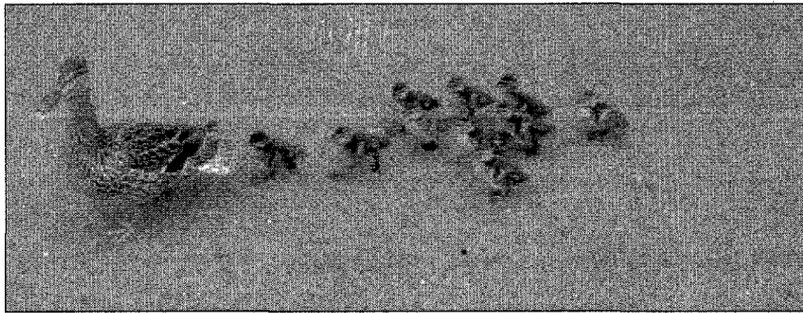
"They waddle along behind him," Babb said.

He refers to Allen as "the leader of the ducks."

Crowds of residents gather to watch the duck march each time it happens - usually in April or May. The ducklings leave the nest just after hatching.

"It's a real sight," Babb said.

When Allen began working at the Village of Redford eight years ago, he often found



This mother and her ducklings represent one of at least four families of ducks traveling from the Village of Redford retirement community across Six Mile Road to Glenhurst Golf Course.

ducks in the middle of the road. It didn't take long for him to uncover their path.

"Everyone loves to watch the ducks," he said.

Dennis Goetz, director of environmental services, said the shuffle across the residential campus and onto the golf course is "the biggest jaunt they have." It takes at least 20 minutes for their little webbed feet to go the distance, lined up one after the other.

"It's good for the community," Goetz said. "Frank took it upon himself to start this. The whole campus looks forward to it."

As for the ducks? "They know it's a safe haven," Goetz said.

There have been a few bumps in the road, according to Sherry Prokes, marketing operations manager.

Two years ago, a couple of ducklings fell into a sewer, causing the mother duck to squawk persistently.

She said employees had "a regular production trying to get those babies out of the sewer." But they were successful. And it caused Allen to alter the ducks' route.

Prokes said she loves the ducks, and it's sad to see them go.

Babb had a different take on their annual trek.

"Being a retirement community, as the ducks get older they may come back," he said.

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These duckling eggs hatched in one of the courtyards around the Village of Redford earlier this spring. The residents eagerly await the arrival of ducklings on the retirement community's campus.



Frank Allen, known as the duck-meister of the Village of Redford, ensures this young family of ducks can cross the road safely as they search for water and a safe habitat.

Coldwater Creek sponsors Sunday fund-raiser for Race for the Cure

Coldwater Creek in Rochester, Livonia and Ann Arbor is hosting a fund-raising event 6-8 p.m. Sunday at The Village of Rochester Hills store, the Laurel Park Place store and the Briarwood Mall store.

The fund-raising event for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure includes a wardrobe party, door prizes, and catered food. Coldwater Creek will also offer shoppers a 10 percent discount during the event and donate 10 percent of the event's sales to the Komen Detroit RFTC Affiliate. A breast cancer survivor will share her story of survival.

Coldwater Creek, which specializes in women's apparel catalogs and retail stores, is a 2006 National Series Sponsor for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure®. Coldwater Creek offers a new IN PINK Collection, an exclusive pink ribbon apparel line consisting of novelty T-shirts and tanks, sport sets, crop pants and jackets along with the IN PINK gift card. By purchasing any item from the IN PINK Collection, Coldwater Creek will donate 10 percent of the purchase price to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The IN PINK Collection is available in Coldwater Creek stores nationwide, or by calling (800) 325-0265 or online at coldwatercreek.com.

For more information, visit www.komen.org.

filter
PURE ENTERTAINMENT
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DEATHS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>B</p> <p>Lois M. Beech
Beech, 80, of Rochester Hills, died May 7.</p> <p>Carl W. Bower
Bower, 64, of Auburn Hills, died May 7.</p> <p>C</p> <p>Mary E. Cercena
Cercena, 77, of Rochester, died May 9.</p> <p>Carolyn J. Cragen
Cragen, 73, of Rochester Hills, died May 10.</p> <p>F</p> <p>Albert B. Firth Jr.
Firth, 83, of Rochester Hills, died May 16.</p> <p>Daniel P. Fons
Fons, 82, of Bloomfield Township, died May 11.</p> <p>K</p> <p>Raymond L. Kizer Jr.
Kizer, 61, of Rochester, died May 15.</p> <p>M</p> <p>Fred G. Myers
Myers, 87, of Canton, died May 16.</p> | <p>P</p> <p>Dorothy E. Payne
Payne, 73, of Rochester Hills, died May 15.</p> <p>S</p> <p>Robert S. Smigiel
Smigiel, 54, formerly of Rochester Hills, died May 4.</p> <p>Virginia M. Szumlinski
Szumlinski, 67, of Rochester Hills, died May 14.</p> <p>W</p> <p>Kimberly S. Wall-Aldrich
Wall-Aldrich, 34, of Shelby Township, died May 14.</p> <p>Mary Frances Wattles
Wattles, 79, of Lapeer, died May 17.</p> <p>Maryknell Anderson Williams
Williams, 74, of Bloomfield Hills, died May 16.</p> |
|--|--|

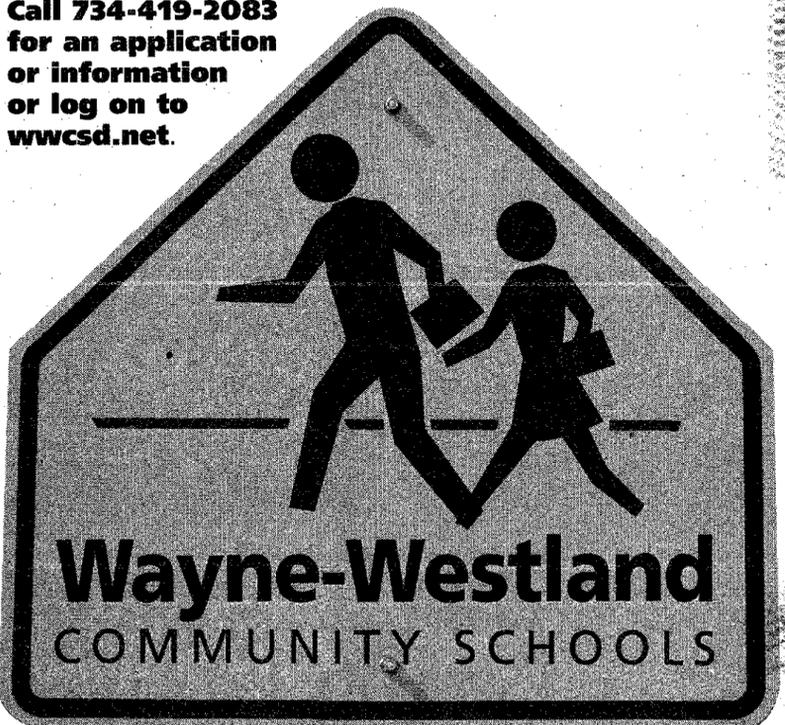
Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C8.

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I did it!

I seldom wore my better jewelry, and I wasn't so sure my children were that interested in it. I couldn't figure out how to divide it fairly among them either. So I decided to sell most of it and divide the money instead. It was really very simple. Now that this is resolved I feel much better.



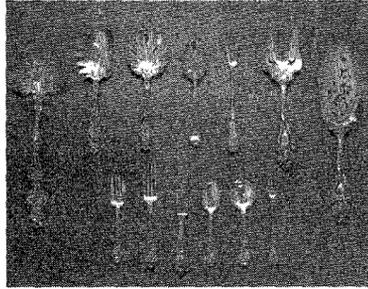
I did it too!

After my wife died, I went through her jewelry, our family silver and watches. I offered some to my children and decided to sell the rest. The consultants sorted through everything and found that many items were more valuable than I thought. Now I have some extra cash for myself and to help with my grandson's tuition.



So did we!

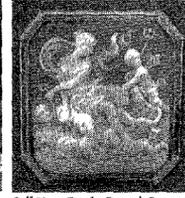
We were moving to a smaller home since the kids are gone. We were ready to sell most of our old oil paintings, silver, jewelry and the coins our parents had tucked away. We were very grateful to be able to sell it all at one time, in one place and in the comfort of a reputable establishment. It sure simplified our life. Now those things that were just collecting dust are collecting interest.



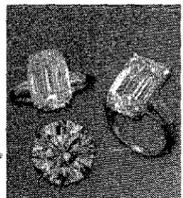
Sell Your Ornate Sterling Flatware



Sell Your Oil Paintings



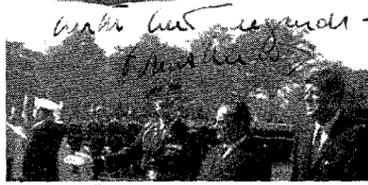
Sell Your Finely Carved Cameos



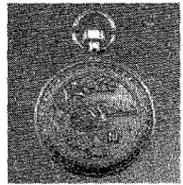
Sell Your Diamonds



Sell Your Sterling Items



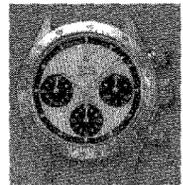
Sell Your Autographs of Famous Persons



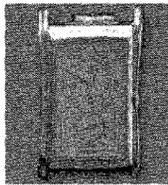
Sell Your Pocket Watches



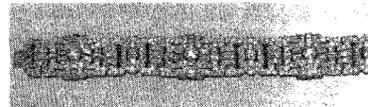
Sell Your Railroad Watches



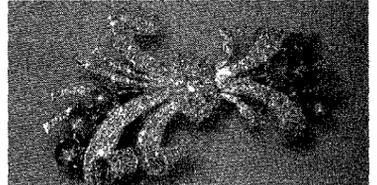
Sell Your Rolex Watches



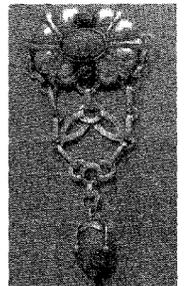
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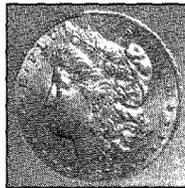
Here's How It Works

1. Review the checklist shown at right. Use it to look through your home and check your safe deposit box for items you no longer need or wear.
2. Bring those items in to our comfortable and safe surroundings.
3. Kind, considerate consultants will be on hand to examine your items at no charge.
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Our Sell Us Your Valuables Checklist™

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- Older Cut Diamonds
- Cartier & Tiffany Items
- Diamond Bracelets
- Gold Jewelry of all Kinds
- Fine Large Old Cameos
- Diamonds over a Carat
- Diamond or Gold Earrings
- Locketts, Necklaces, Pendants
- Old Gold, Medals and Frat Pins
- Georg Jensen Jewelry
- ☆ No Costume Jewelry.

Sell Your Watches & Clocks

- Pocket Watches
- Railroad Watches
- Men's Older Wristwatches
- Rolex Watches
- Patek Philippe Watches
- Watches with Extra Buttons
- Small Fine Desk Clocks
- Vacheron & Constantin
- LeCoultre or Breitling
- Chiming Watches
- ☆ We Seldom Buy Ladies Watches
- ☆ Watches need not be running.

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- Ornate Sterling Bowls & Vases
- Antique Sterling of all Kinds
- Tiffany & Georg Jensen
- Souvenir Spoons
- Georgian & Victorian Silver
- Coin Silver
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- ☆ No plated or weighted items
- ☆ No need to polish your silver.

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- Nudes & Portraits
- Interior Scenes
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- Still Life Paintings
- Paintings in any Condition
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- ☆ More for Unusual Subjects

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- Civil War Items
- Avri Rand Items
- Mary Baker Eddy items
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Mental health consumers should be the top priority

On Wednesday, speaker after speaker came forward to support the creation of an independent Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Authority.

County Commissioner Phil Cavanagh brought the second of three public hearings by the Wayne County Commission Task Force on Mental Health to the Livonia Civic Center.

The Task Force is getting public response to creating an independent authority in the hopes of preventing the state Legislature from cutting anywhere from \$30 million (Senate bill) to \$50 million (House bill) in state and federal funding for the county's Mental Health Agency.

Cavanagh expects the commission to move forward with an authority.

Task Force members Laura Cox, Bernard Parker and Moe Blackwell attended the hearing.

County Executive Robert Ficano is opposed to an independent authority and favors changing the composition of the current Mental Health Board.

Currently the county Mental Health Board has 12 members, six appointed by the mayor of Detroit and six by the county executive (with approval of the commission).

Ficano wants the county to have an extra seat on the board and final authority over the operations of the Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Agency. He argues that the county puts up matching funding and has fiduciary responsibility.

Meanwhile, "transitional executive director" Richard Visingardi is on "administrative leave" until his contract runs out in June following a public disagreement with Ficano about how much money is at stake because the county failed to spend state and federal monies. That figure runs as high as \$228 million to as low as \$8 million.

As several speakers mentioned, the director's position has been a revolving door with eight directors in 10 years under Ficano and former County Executive Edward McNamara.

The two sides in this political debate were represented by two Mental Health Board members.

Gary Burtka, an Allen Park councilman, was appointed to the board by Ficano 10 months ago. He praised the "hard work" of the agency.

"An authority is not necessary," he said. "There are ways to make improvements without an authority. An authority does not ensure that checks and balances are in place."

His was the minority view Wednesday. Constance Rawley was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 1998 by then Mayor

Dennis Archer and reappointed by Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick (whose father, Bernard Kilpatrick, is the chairman of the Mental Health Board).

"When leadership changes, it creates uncertainty," she said. "We're not dealing with widgets, we're dealing with people. An authority is the one solution for this community."

Advocates and consumers of mental health programs rose to support an authority and the work of Visingardi, including his plans for streamlining operations at the agency.

One mental health professional said, "A highly qualified person would have to think long and hard before taking the job of director of the agency."

But the most poignant comments came from those who need the mental health agency and the services it provides.

"How is it going to work for us?" one asked. "Is it to be allocating the money for the things people in mental health need?"

A man who's mother and child had both been mentally ill said, "When you use the services, you feel you're begging."

Teresa Blossom, spokeswoman for the Mental Health Agency, said in an interview last week that Ficano "wants the system to be the best that it can be."

In 2003, Ficano worked with Kilpatrick and Gov. Jennifer Granholm in creating a Detroit Wayne County Health Authority to provide physical health care for the uninsured and the underinsured. It was a major goal early in his administration and it was the right thing to do.

The circumstances are different. Ficano is trying to protect control of county funds. There are also questions about what happens to county jobs under an independent authority.

It won't be easy for the commission to craft legislation that answers those ticklish problems.

But it seems that the state Legislature is not going to back away from this issue and that a governor caught between a Democratic mayor and a Democratic county executive in an election year is not going to be too happy about sticking her neck out with another veto.

Blossom said Ficano wants a "local solution." That solution cannot be to continue pushing for a county controlled department when the opposition to that plan is so overwhelming.

As Ficano knows, this is not and should not be about power politics. It's about people with serious needs.

They need the stability of a mental health agency that isn't constantly at the center of a political whirlwind.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149 or by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com.



Hugh Gallagher

There's another answer to the question of praying

There seems to be an awful lot of praying going on in Troy.

In the past few weeks, there have been three prayer ceremonies in the city and it has been a subject of controversy for months.

Prayer is a good thing, I guess. It can soothe the soul and provide comfort in times of need.

But I know an even better thing to do than pray. Try this:

Get off your lazy butt and do it yourself. Let me repeat that:

Get. Off. Your. Lazy. Butt. And. Do. It. Your. Self.



Greg Kowalski

Period. Now, before you swoon with furious un-Christian anger, let me explain a bit. I know something of prayer. I went to Catholic school for 12 years. We prayed a lot. We prayed for the pope. We prayed for the pastor. We prayed for the priests and nuns. We prayed for our parents. We even prayed for the type of person I grew up to be.

We went to church six days a week, including 7 a.m. Mass on Sunday, not to mention participating in the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent, May procession, Mass on various feast days and all manner of other occasions.

I prayed for the end of the school day every day.

We said the "Our Father" (The Lord's Prayer), Hail Mary, Apostles Creed and said the rosary piously.

If prayers were nickels, I'd still be living off the income generated all those years ago. But prayers aren't nickels. Nor are they something to be tossed around like loose change.

Prayers, from what I gathered over the years, really have no meaning unless they are treated as something special — not as tools of personal politics or philosophy or as a means of dividing people — but as a serious way of communicating with God.

Which brings me back to my proposed alternative. I think God is far too busy maintaining the vastness of the universe to listen to trivial prayers. Even more important, I think God really doesn't want to offer help unless we show good faith in ourselves. That means getting off your lazy butt and doing it yourself.

Don't pray for world peace. Do treat

Now, before you swoon with furious un-Christian anger, let me explain a bit. I know something of prayer. I went to Catholic school for 12 years. We prayed a lot. We prayed for the pope. We prayed for the pastor. We prayed for the priests and nuns. We prayed for our parents. We even prayed for the type of person I grew up to be.

your neighbors as God wants you to.

Don't pray for understanding. Do talk to each other in a civil and respectful manner.

Don't pray for the government. Do change it. Get out there and vote and recruit the candidates who will do the best job for all of us, even those who don't pray.

Don't pray for the forgiveness of your sins. Just don't sin, or at least make the best effort you can not to.

There is a place for prayer. When you're waiting for the results of your biopsy, prayer seems perfectly appropriate. There are things that are totally out of our control that could warrant God's intervention.

But the reality is that we control our destiny for the most part. We choose to do right or wrong, and prayer has nothing to do with those choices. And if we make a bad choice, we have the obligation to live with the consequences, not pray for God to fix the mess we made.

As for prayer breakfasts, lunches or dinners and big public demonstrations of prayer and the National Day of Prayer, again I say: Get off your lazy butt and do it yourself.

Instead of devoting your energy to putting on a big show, do something truly meaningful. Live your life in the way God intended. That's far more important than mumbling words and showing people just how wonderfully pious you are.

I really don't think God is impressed with a big show. He/she can see through that.

So if you really want to live as God wants and fulfill the real meaning of prayer, get off your lazy butt and do it yourself.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.



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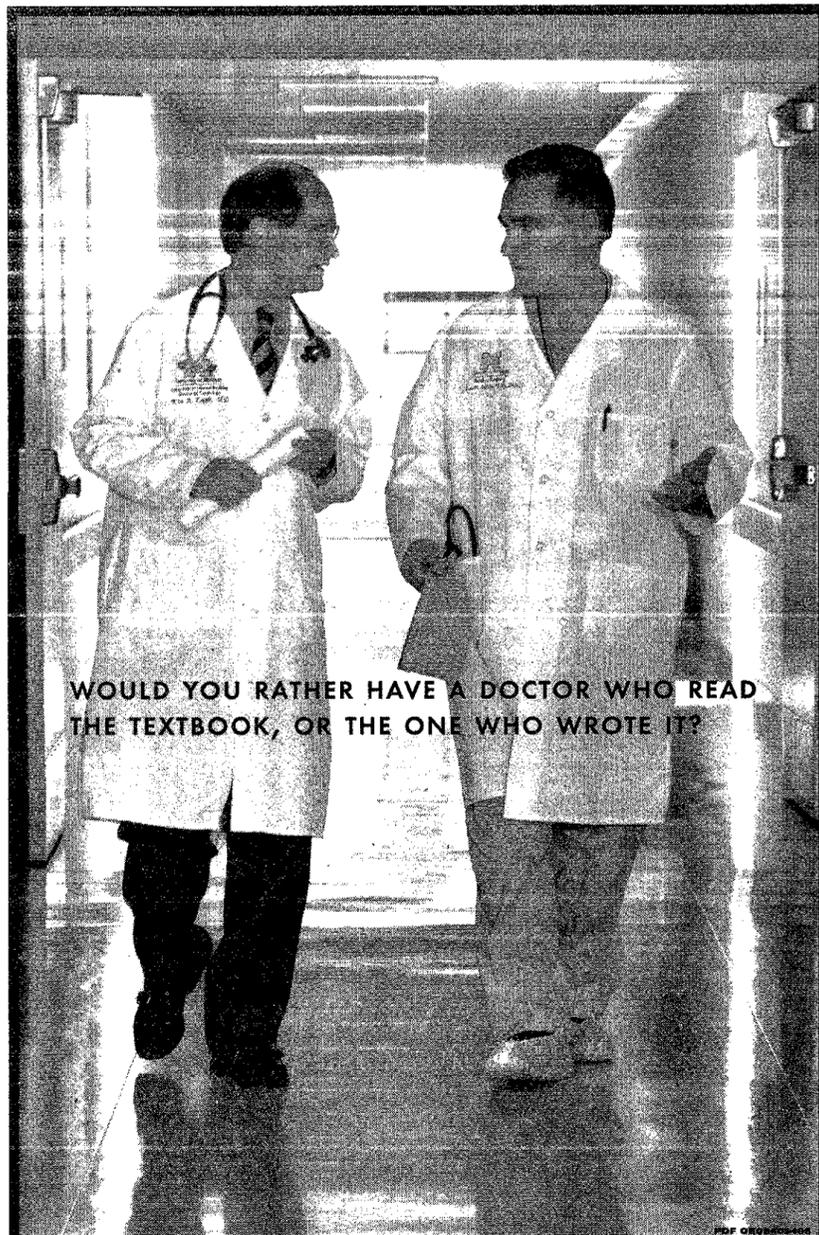
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Play golf today to benefit March of Dimes

The Shepard Family of Canton Township will host a golf outing fund-raiser for March of Dimes on Sunday, May 21, at Brae Burn Golf Club, 10860 W. Five Mile, Plymouth Township. Christian and Nicholas Shepard, (pictured here), the twin sons of Patty and Scott Shepard of Canton, were born three months premature and face lifelong medical problems. Premature birth is the leading cause of newborn death and lifelong disabilities. Since 2001, the Shepard family - with the help of family and friends - has raised more than \$40,000 for the March of Dimes. Funds are used to raise awareness and help prevent birth defects. Foursomes are still available at \$400. Individual golfers are welcome at \$100 per person. Golfers can also sign up the day of the outing. Shotgun start is 1:30 p.m. and includes 18-holes with cart, lunch at the turn and chicken or steak dinner along with other gifts and prizes. For more information, contact Patty or Scott Shepard at (734) 414-0696 or John Dean at (734) 728-5789. The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. "Prematurity takes a devastating physical toll on babies and robs families of the full potential of their beloved children," said Patty Shepard. "It places a tremendous emotional and financial burden on everyone, including our health care system, businesses and society as a whole."

Blue plate ending 24-year reign in Michigan

Michigan will discontinue its standard blue license plate and adopt a plate with improved features under legislation awaiting the governor's signature, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land announced last week.

The "Old Blue" plate design, as it is known, is used by 5.6 million motorists. It has been on Michigan vehicles since July 1982 and will cease being issued on Jan. 1, 2007. After that, the state will reissue new plates as they expire.

A new plate design has not been finalized but is expected to be similar to recently issued plates which have a fully reflective white background. There will be no extra cost to residents for a replacement plate.

"The Old Blue plate has had a good run in Michigan but it is time to move to a design that uses modern technology and improves visibility," said Land. "This change will also allow the state to use the same type of

material for all of its license plates, which makes production more efficient."

The legislative package includes House Bills 5607 and 5979, sponsored by Rep. Philip LaJoy, R-Canton, and House Bill 4437, sponsored by Rep. Scott Hummel, R-DeWitt. The legislation would provide the necessary funds to the Department of State to cover expenses incurred in re-issuing the estimated 6 million new plates needed.

Land expects compliance with vehicle registration laws to improve as a result of the move to a new standard plate. After the re-issue period is complete, those who are driving on expired license plates will be easy to spot by law enforcement officers. It is estimated that the additional revenue to the state generated from increased compliance would total at least \$15 million, which would more than offset

the costs involved.

LaJoy said the new license plates will be good for the state.

"From a public safety perspective, having license plates that are easier to read at night will assist law enforcement in keeping our streets safe," LaJoy said. "That is good news for our citizens."

Michigan is the last state still using the glass-beads manufacturing process by which the blue and white plates are created. During production, tiny crushed glass beads with the consistency of sand are sprinkled on the wet white paint to give the characters on the plate limited reflectivity. Law enforcement groups and others favor the modern design material, which is a highly reflective off-white graphic sheeting that is more visible at night.

For more information about available license plates or other department services, visit www.michigan.gov/sos.



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POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA

Polymyalgia rheumatica is an arthritic condition which occurs after age 50 and most commonly between ages 70-85. Polymyalgia has the following features: 1) it comes on you rapidly, even overnight, or over 2-3 days; 2) you feel extremely stiff, but not weak, in the shoulders and thighs, and 3) low doses of cortisone completely resolve the stiffness over 3 days to a week.

You might imagine that this condition, being so distinctive, would be readily identified and easily treated. Such is not the case. In many instances of polymyalgia you improve in the afternoon. This change for the better may lead you to believe that recovery is coming, and that no doctor's appointment is in order. Other times, the stiffness is not so intense, and you pass off the problem as being part of old age. Finally, you or your family may see your change in behavior and activity as a sign of an emotional problem not a physical condition.

Problems of diagnosis can arise in your doctor's evaluation. Often, a laboratory test called the westergeren sedimentation rate is extremely elevated in polymyalgia rheumatica. Presence of this high value is strong confirmation that you may have polymyalgia. However, a normal or slightly elevated westergeren sedimentation rate does not mean that you don't have polymyalgia. At times, too much faith is placed on the value of a normal test and the diagnosis of polymyalgia is dismissed when it should not be. Also, a misinterpretation of your muscle condition as inflammation may subject you to a higher dose of prednisone than is needed.

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Ann Arbor - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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