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Board statement lists causes for Patane firing

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland library officials on Monday issued a statement accusing fired Director John Patane of mishandling his duties.

But some elected officials have indicated privately that the blame for the upheaval could rest with a library

board that is abusing its authority.

The new statement, released by library board attorney Michael McNamara, took aim at Patane for "the deletion of accrued patron fines from the library records, use of the library's credit card, the proposal of (employee pay) raises in excess of budgeted amounts and the filling of positions without advertising."

The statement didn't elaborate on the allegations or indicate how much money may have been involved.

Board President Michael Rintz authorized McNamara to issue the one-paragraph statement, which Rintz said pertained to a discussion that occurred during a May 10 library board meeting.

In conclusion, the statement read, "The board voted to terminate the serv-

ices of the library director, who had been previously advised of the importance of following library policies."

McNamara issued the statement after the board voted 3-2 earlier this month to fire Patane, just 18 months after he started his job at age 60.

Patane was fired from his \$70,000-a-year job less than two years after the board dismissed his predecessor, for-

mer Director Sandra Wilson.

Some local officials have called Patane's firing shocking and disappointing.

Moreover, some elected officials have indicated privately that Patane may have fallen victim to a library board that is exerting too much control over

PLEASE SEE LIBRARY, A6

RICKY'S DOG HOUSE

You can find Ricky's Dog House at 1367 S. Wayne Road, south of Avondale in Westland.

It's open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

The menu includes 15 varieties of hot dogs, brat, red hots, Italian sausage and barbecued pulled pork sandwiches, chips and beverages.

You can dine in your car, at picnic tables or call ahead at (734) 326-6600 for carryout orders.

Ricky's Dog House serves up hot dogs with carhop service

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

You could say Ricky's Dog House has fired a shot over the bow of hamburger franchises like McDonald's and Burger King and is giving local Coney Island restaurants a run for their money.

With a menu filled with ... hot dogs ... and carhop service, the newest eatery in the south end of Westland is attracting customers in ever-growing numbers.

Bringing back the past



Nancy Young of Westland is becoming a regular at Ricky's Dog House. She's sampled the chili dog and New York style kraut dog. On Tuesday she was getting a slaw dog from employee Bruce Bake.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"We figured that if we sold 200 hot dogs a day, the business would pay for itself and make a small profit," said co-owner Patricia Peltó. "We exceeded that on opening day."

Peltó and Rick Wilsdon opened up their business March 3 in a 480-square-foot cinder block building on Wayne Road south of Avondale.

The building had been an insurance office, gold store and art gallery

before Peltó spotted it while driving around last year and called Wilsdon. Over the summer, they cleaned up the property, gutted the interior and moved in shelving, stainless steel sinks, steamers and a three-tier counter.

The building is too small for dining in, so there are picnic tables outside and carhops to take orders and deliver the food.

Peltó works for the city of Westland's Water and Sewer Division. Wilsdon works at the Michigan Truck Plant in Wayne. She's always had a home-based business; he always talked about a restaurant, a hot dog and root beer restaurant.

"It's such a hamburger area that I

PLEASE SEE HOT DOGS, A4

District set to cut \$700,000

Budget plan includes using fund equity

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools will cut \$700,000 in order to balance its budget next year.

The recommendation comes on the heels of \$1.8 million savings anticipated under the district's Legacy Initiative - a plan to close and reconfigure schools next fall - and the plan to use about \$1.16 million of fund equity.

Supt. Randy Liepa said he was pleased with the budget recommendations the administration brought before board trustees Monday night.

"Because of the anticipated savings from school closings, our reductions will be much smaller this year compared to prior years - unlike some of our neighboring districts," said Liepa. "We hope it will involve very few staff."

Lisa Levesque, director of finance, estimated the district would likely reduce staff by six to eight teachers, though the average staffing levels per pupil will remain the same.

"Our class size will remain the same," added Joanne Morgan, trustee. "We have fewer children as a result of declining enrollment."

The district is expected to announce any teacher layoffs around June 5, as specified in the Livonia Education Association's collective bargaining agreement.

"There will be layoffs due to a variety of reasons," said Liepa. Among those reasons he named: declining enrollment; the need for fewer media specialists and learning specialists - due to fewer schools; and the shifting of assignments based on staff returning from a leave of absence or staff retiring.

Levesque said not all layoffs will be absorbed by attrition.

RIISING REVENUE, COSTS

Levesque said the district anticipates it will receive an additional \$200 per pupil from the state's foundation allowance next year. She projects that will increase revenue by \$3.49 million.

Meanwhile, the district stands to lose 160 students, at a cost of \$1.33 million next year. By adding in the \$275,000 the

PLEASE SEE BUDGET, A9

Concert series is back for its 21st season

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A popular concert series spanning such musical genres as big band, country and western, rhythm and blues, Dixieland and easy listening will again come to Westland this summer.

And, just as Martha Reeves & the Vandellas didn't forget the Motor City when they sang *Dancing in the Street*, concert organizers will add Motown to the mix.

Mark the calendar, dust off the lawn chairs, or pack a picnic basket and spread a blanket on the ground.

The Westland Cultural Society's 2006 summer concert series will run June 11 through Aug. 20 - and it's free.

In its 21st year, the series will be featured in a performance pavilion behind the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, on Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford. All performances will be at 6 p.m. Sundays.

Some concerts draw as many as 200 people, said Jo Johnson, who helps organize the series with husband Ernie and other volunteers. The city of Westland sponsors it.

Attendance was low when the concerts started 21 years ago, traveling among the city parks. But, interest has grown since organizers found a home in a shaded area behind the library.

"I think people like the live music, and attendance has really improved with our location now," said Ernie

Johnson. "There's shade there, and even on a hot day it's not overbearing."

The library pavilion has a place where concert-goers can dance. Interest also has picked up among performers, who start inquiring as early as January in hopes of getting in the lineup, Jo Johnson said.

What follows is a list of this year's shows:

On June 11, the Tommy James Orchestra will play big band music.

On June 25, the Waco Country Band with Dean Stacy will perform country and western.

On July 9, the Chautauqua Express with Guy Louis will provide an interactive musical program for children and the young at heart. Louis has been lauded as one of the state's best

touring artists by the Michigan Touring Arts Agency.

On July 16, Pam & Scott will play easy listening tunes.

On July 23, the Birmingham Straw Hat Band will perform Dixieland, polka and marches.

On July 30, the Novi Concert Band, with some 30 musicians, will perform a variety of music.

On Aug. 6, Tyrone Hamilton will feature rhythm and blues, along with light rock, during his concert.

On Aug. 13, the Johnny Danger Band will play oldies and "rock-a-billy."

Wrapping up the series on Aug. 20, Trilogy II will perform Motown and other oldies.

For more information, call (734) 722-7620 or (734) 522-3918.

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Coming Sunday



County medical examiner expecting deadly weekend

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County Medical Examiner Dr. Carl Schmidt worries that the Memorial Day weekend could be deadly for drug users in Wayne County. From Thursday, May 18, to Sunday, May 21, of the 19 people who died of drug overdoses all had fentanyl in their blood. Schmidt says, fentanyl is a very powerful opiate which is potentially fatal. Although typically used as a patch to treat pain in terminal cancer patients over a period of hours, the street drug is mixed with heroin or cocaine and the combination can cause users to stop breathing.

"We started seeing fentanyl in significant numbers of people with drug related deaths in September," said Schmidt.

From September 2005 to March 2006, the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed 106 deaths associated with drug use. All had fentanyl in their blood.

Schmidt is unsure if the death toll will continue to rise since the number of people dying from drug overdoses started to peak only in late March and early April. So far, individuals from Detroit, Lincoln Park, Dearborn Heights, Redford, and Westland have died. According to Schmidt drug use tends to be concentrated in certain areas and includes communities ranging from Flat Rock to Northville.

"Drug users dying in twos and

threes has never happened before. Up until late February or March that hadn't happened," said Schmidt. "The total drug deaths for 2005 remained the same for 2004. That's changing this year."

Schmidt warns users and addicts that if they do drugs, they could die. The best solution is to quit. He offers this advice to users and their family members and friends. Schmidt says, drug use is a complex as well as a social issue. "If you're addicted it's very hard to stop."

"The problem with fentanyl is it's taken with other drugs, most often heroin," said Schmidt.

"People often shoot drugs and drink alcohol. This is often lethal. Many of the deaths had alcohol in the blood. If you have to do some kind of drug because you're addicted, don't drink."

"Keep in mind the drug you may be buying may not be what it is. All white powders look the same. If you know someone who uses drugs, especially individuals who have been using drugs for some time, life is focused on where they're going to get their next drugs. You should apprise them of the potential of buying something lethal."

Dr. Cheryl Loewe believes the reason fentanyl is so deadly is because it was designed to be released and absorbed into the skin in 72 hours.

"It's typically administered in a patch form," said Loewe, deputy chief medical examiner for Wayne County. "We feel the

gel from the patches is getting into the street drug."

According to Loewe the bodies of individuals dying from drug overdoses are coming into the medical examiner's office without patches. They won't be sure if fentanyl caused the recent deaths until tests that check for the presence of the drug in the blood return in about 4-weeks.

"How the drug is getting into the heroin we don't know," said Loewe. "We have the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the narcotics division of the Detroit Police Department, and the Wayne County Sheriff working to pinpoint the geographic areas and the source, how the drug is getting into the mixture."

Like Schmidt, Loewe's recommendations to drug users is to stop.

"There are drugs they can give people with drug addiction, but if they can't quit to be suspicious of any white powder or street drugs because you don't know what is being mixed with it."

For more information about fentanyl, call the Neighborhood Services Crisis Line for Wayne County at (313) 224-7000 or 1-866-289-2641.

For additional assistance with substance abuse in Wayne County outside of Detroit, call 1-800-686-6543, inside Detroit call 1-800-467-2452. lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Churchill junior debuts his original musical comedy this weekend

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Students - some dressed in suits and ties, others in brightly-patterned tourist attire - shuffled about the back halls of Churchill High School long after the final bell rang. They searched for costume accessories and they disassembled remnants of a previous production at the school's Black Box Theater.

It was all part of the final week of preparation leading up to Kristofer Wellman's original musical comedy debut, *Slander is Grandeur*.

Wellman, a Churchill junior and member of the Creative and Performing Arts program, is an aspiring playwright, composer and screenwriter. To date, he's written three full-length films, one full-length play, seven one-act plays, numerous independent film scores and a Web-television pilot.

His current production is two years in the making. Wellman said he hones his writing at Interlochen Center for the Arts Summer Arts Camp, where last year he completed a film entitled *Citizen Kane: The Musical*. Throughout the process, he became intrigued with the life of media mogul William Randolph Hearst. Taking cues from his studies, Wellman wondered what it might be like if a Hearst-like character were actually a coffee tycoon - trying to take over the world.

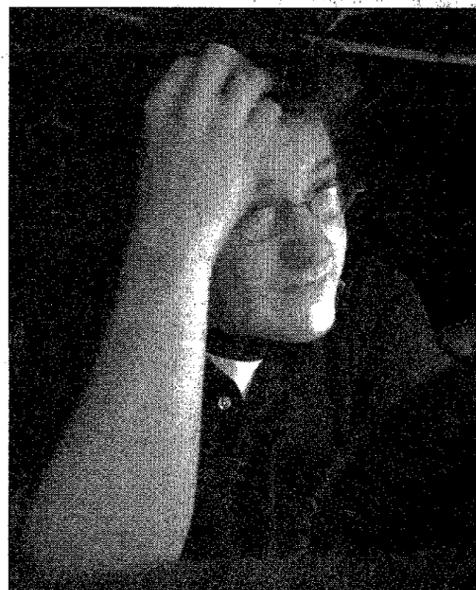
Building on the that idea of corporate greed, the story of *Slander is Grandeur* revolves around a tabloid publication called the *Daily Pry*, and its editor, Janet Steed. When a new reporter joins her staff, Janet finds herself in the middle of a maniacal plot concerning a coffee mogul named Cosmo Empire. Empire is brought to life by Matt Weiss, a CAPA veteran and Churchill graduate.

WORDS AND MUSIC

In addition to the script - and inspired by legends like Cole Porter and Irving Berlin - Wellman wrote more than 20 original songs for the show. Some cast favorites include *Hearst vs. Welles*, *Expletive Deleted*, and *Time To Switch to Decaf*.

Wellman considers himself a fan of musical comedies, and of film noir in general. He particularly enjoys the work of movie masters like Orson Welles, Woody Allen and, perhaps more recently, Joel and Ethan Cohen (*Blood Simple*, *Fargo*).

Wellman showed an early version of his own musical to Gail Mack, CAPA director. He was given the green light to take an independent study course and transform his idea into a spring



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kris Wellman will present his original comedy musical, *Slander is Grandeur*, this weekend at Churchill High School's Black Box Theater.

production. He cast the show in February, with 15 actors and five crew members.

This won't be the first time Wellman has seen his words acted out on stage, though.

Earlier this year, two of his one-act plays were performed at Michigan State University's *Young Playwright's Festival*, earning Wellman top honors. "It was pretty amazing," he said.

His creativity comes as little surprise among classmates at Churchill. In fact, that's what drew many of *Slander's* cast members to audition. Lena Drake said she's "always thought Kris is a genius" and she wanted to be part of his show.

Drake said Wellman was "generous" with casting. He gave her four parts as a chorus member - with plenty of stage time.

"It boggles my mind that he wrote it," added Mallory Waterman, a senior who portrays love-starved leading lady Janet Steed.

Churchill senior Jennifer Koralewski directed and choreographed the entire show. Her dance experience, according to Wellman, brought new life in movement to his characters.

"Kris puts a lot of time and pride into everything he does," added Brittany Matthews, a cast member.

NO ROLE FOR TEACHERS

For this show, Wellman said, "There are no teachers involved whatsoever. It's completely student-directed and student-produced."

Audience members will also find the playwright-composer acting in the production, after a cast member withdrew from the

show. Due to the last-minute change, Wellman said he took over and is now playing a part he wrote as an overly-neurotic version of himself. Think Woody Allen.

David H. Shapiro is also acting in the show. Of his character, he said, "I feel like I know who I am more, when I'm acting as this guy."

Jon Sprow, a junior, said the production was large enough to encompass "every element" of Wellman's creativity. "This is going to be his calling card," said Sprow.

Siera Salisbury agreed. She's also Wellman's girlfriend. "He's so talented," she said. "This shows how much creativity he has."

Wellman is already hard at work on another project, a play called *Ponderosa*. Set in the 1930s the story deals with the history of Michigan's transportation as streetcars gave rise to highways, and the hope of public transportation died.

Wellman plans to pursue his studies at Purchase College at the State University of New York, after he graduates next spring.

For now, play goes on catch Wellman's work in *Slander is Grandeur*, scheduled to open at 6 p.m. Friday, May 26, in The Black Box Theatre at Churchill High School. Additional performances are set for 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 27, at the school, 8900 Newburgh. Showtimes are subject to change. Visit the Web at starringcapa.com for more information. Tickets cost \$5 and are available at the door.

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Livonia provides countywide preschool for visually-impaired

Children with visual impairments come from across western Wayne County to attend preschool programs at Perrinville Early Childhood Center in Westland.

The program, run by Livonia Public Schools, was created in the 1950s. According to Kathy Donagrandi, principal at the school, it is one of three programs funded by the county. Others include preschool classes for children with autism and with cognitive impairments.

Students can enroll in the preschool program for children with visual impairments from ages 3 to 6. The district also operates programs for the visually impaired at the elementary, middle and high school

levels, Program Specialist Sheila Byrne said.

Teachers in the program are certified to teach visually impaired and early childhood programs. Students are legally blind, have degenerative impairments or significant vision loss. The curriculum has a pre-academic focus and teachers take a multi-sensory approach to teach children speech and language skills, as well as sensory and motor skills.

"I've been in the building and I was amazed," Trustee Rob Freeman said, "at what you can do with these kids."

Students learn pre- and beginning Braille. They are taught basic life skills such as

dressings, eating and folding laundry.

Board President Dan Lessard shared the story of a young visually impaired student who led a tour through Perrinville Early Child Care Center when he visited more than five years ago. "He was so self-assured, and so in charge in sixth grade," Lessard said. "I was amazed."

He noted that programs like this one are supposed to receive 40 percent of their funding from the federal government, but they only receive 23 percent currently. "That's a tremendous injustice to these kids," he said.

By Stephanie A. Casola

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<p>Susan Rosiek Executive Editor (734) 953-2100 srosiek@hometownlife.com</p> <p>Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor (734) 953-2149 hgallagher@hometownlife.com</p> <p>Sue Mason Community Editor (734) 953-2112 smason@hometownlife.com</p>	<p>Frank Cibor Retail Sales Manager (734) 953-2177 fcibor@hometownlife.com</p> <p>Cathy White Retail Advertising Rep. (734) 953-2073 cwhite@hometownlife.com</p>
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Old friends connect at city's '60s dance

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

These Westland dancers didn't need the television spotlight of *American Bandstand* or *Hullabaloo* to party 1966-style.

They just needed a Second Wind, and they got it – the band, that is.

The celebration of Westland's 40th anniversary as a city continued Saturday with a 1960s-style dance inside the Friendship Center, on Newburgh south of Ford.

Organizers had hoped to draw more than an estimated crowd of 125, but the people who showed up didn't regret it.

"It was an excellent night," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski, who helped plan a series of events marking the city's 40th anniversary.

The '60s dance came four days after a similar crowd attended a breakfast ceremony marking the day Westland became a city on May 16, 1966.

Local historians Jo and Ernie Johnson enjoyed the dance, saying they ran into old friends and enjoyed the displays of 1960s-era newspapers and pictures.

"We saw people that we haven't seen in a long time," Jo Johnson said, mentioning Vera Lev, former secretary to ex-Mayor Tom Taylor, and Lev's husband Eric.

Former City Clerk Diane Fritz, who chaired the city's 40th anniversary committee, said the crowd lauded the '60s decor, old photographs and oldies music.

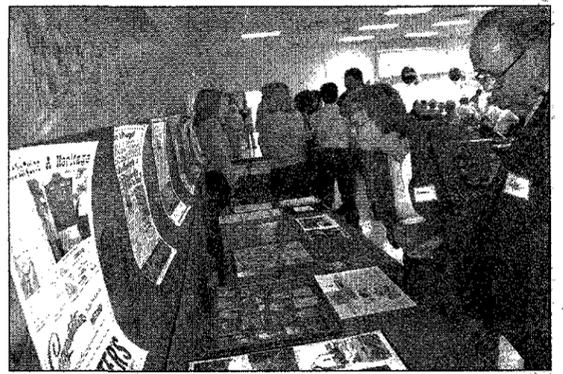
"It went very well," she said. "The band was awesome."

Dancers who worked up an appetite dined on cheeseburgers, chili dogs, french fries, root beer floats, Boston coolers and – for those who've sworn off such delights – fruit.

Marquis Food Service, a local company that drew national attention by catering *Playboy* mogul Hugh Hefner's Super Bowl party this year,



Lee and Andy Spisak, Westland residents since 1967, celebrate the city's 40th anniversary by dancing during a 1960s bash at the Westland Friendship Center. Spisak is a former deputy mayor, one of the original city police officers, a former Wayne Westland school board member and a former Westland District Court officer.



Marianne and Larry Pawczuk, Westland area residents for 45 years, look at old newspaper clippings and photographs from Westland's early days as a city. The historical items were on display during a 40th anniversary dance.

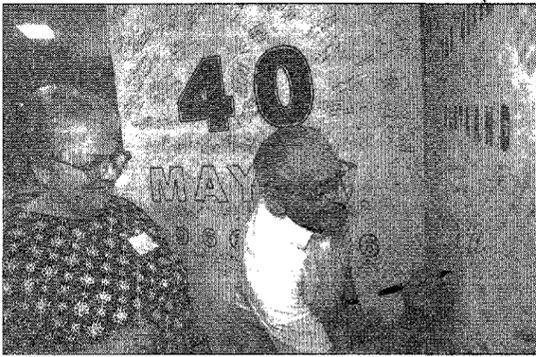
turned over to the Westland Historical Museum. First, though, it will be taken to the third leg of the anniversary celebration – an ice cream social that will coincide with the Westland Summer Festival.

The ice cream social will be 1-4 p.m. Sunday, July 2, in Central City Park, and Fritz said sundaes will be sold for 40 cents in honor of the 40th anniversary. Residents who

have lived in Westland since it became a city will receive certificates during the event.

Already, anniversary organizers know of some 60 people, and others who qualify for certificates are urged to call the mayor's office at (734) 467-3200, the city cable-TV department at (734) 467-3198, or the parks and recreation department at (734) 467-3256.

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



Anna and Sam Marderosian sign a 40th birthday card that honors the city of Westland. The card eventually will be placed at the Westland Historical Museum site.

provided the food.

"Everybody loved the food," Fritz said.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli gave certificates to local businesses, including Harlow Tire & Service, Red Holman Pontiac and Independent Carpet, that have been in Westland from

the start.

In honor of the city, a giant 40th birthday card that was unveiled during the breakfast ceremony was brought to the dance, and Fritz said some 200 people have now signed it.

The card eventually will be

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Sunday, June 4, 1pm at Northland, Eastland, Westland and Oakland

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A Rosie by any other name ...

At 107, she may be oldest living World War II female riveter

BY M.B. DILLON
CORRESPONDENT

She's never been one to draw attention to herself, but a national treasure lives in our midst: 107-year-old Mary Josephine Kenzie. The Westland resident just might be the oldest living "Rosie the Riveter" in the United States.

During World War II, women collectively known as "Rosies" worked in factories and performed other jobs traditionally held by men.

"Mom fibbed a little about her age to get in at the Willow Run bomber plant in Ypsilanti," said son Bill Kenzie, 78, of Livonia. "Most of the girls were in their 20s and 30s, and their husbands were in the Army. Mom was in her 40s when she got a job there."

Gayle Roberts, director/curator of museum activities at the Yankee Air Museum in Ypsilanti, said most of the country's known Rosies are in their 80s.

"Mrs. Kenzie is clearly one of the oldest I have heard about; certainly the oldest one living that I am aware of," Roberts said.

Bette Watson, director of education at the Yankee Air Museum, visits schools with surviving Rosies, teaching children about women's roles in World War II. Watson knows a few Rosies in their 80s, but no one older.

"The Rosies I know are in their mid- and late 80s, and are pretty knowledgeable. They say Mrs. Kenzie would have to be the oldest living Rosie," Watson said. "They are totally amazed to hear that this woman is 107 years old. They think Mrs. Kenzie is the oldest one."

Bill Kenzie said his mother — born July 29, 1898, in Newfoundland, Canada — has a hard time conversing and sleeps a lot these days.

He recalled that "she was a real patriot. She wore dark navy blue, and never missed work. She didn't drive. It was



Kenzie

a little difficult. Dad (the late Wilbur Kenzie) took her up to Michigan Avenue to a certain place, and she found a way to get a bus up to the bomber plant, according to her son. You could depend on her to be at work every day.

"Mom worked on the leading edge of the wing of the bombers, riveting and bucking (moving and loading mechanical equipment)," Bill added. "They liked her, and when they were closing up in 1945, she was one of the very last people to work there. She helped them close."

ANOTHER MILESTONE

Kenzie, who lived in Livonia until her recent move to Westland Convalescent Center, also is the oldest parishioner in the 75-year history of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church. Kenzie lives on a fixed income, but still makes a church contribution every week.

"Until her health prevented it, Mom always went to Mass. She never missed," said her son, who joined St. Michael 30 years ago along with his mother.

Livonia's oldest Catholic church is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, and St. Michael pastor Rev. William Tindall is giving Mrs. Kenzie special recognition. At a special parish dinner-dance in October, Mrs. Kenzie will be honored with a certificate and hand-crafted statue of St. Michael the Archangel.

Kenzie's Catholic faith has always been of great impor-

tance in her life.

"Except for one sister, all of us went to St. Leo's School (in Detroit) for 12 years," Bill said. "It's something she has always believed in. She wanted all the kids to have a Catholic education."

Kenzie, soon to be the great-great-grandmother of three — a great-great-grandson is due in June — and her husband had three sons and three daughters. Sadly, in 1925, a daughter died after she was hit by a car at the age of 6. Mrs. Kenzie buried a son in 1999.

Her surviving children, in addition to Bill, are Geraldine, who lives in Dearborn; Jim, a resident of Kentwood; and Madeline of Florida. She has 20 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren. Four of her grandsons are physicians; two granddaughters served as Army nurses.

Her son notes that "there have been 10 Popes so far in my mother's lifetime — Pope Leo XIII through Pope Benedict XVI. Mother was 13 years old when the Titanic sank, and she is the oldest of five generations in our family."

FAMILY HISTORY

Kenzie attended school through 10th grade in St. Georges, Newfoundland, before moving to Ontario.

"She lost her dad (fisherman Augustus Oliver) in a boating accident," said Bill Kenzie, a retired pipe-fitter and machine builder. "He was directly from France."

Kenzie's mother, Mary Jane Oliver, was a Newfoundlander. She gave birth to four girls and six boys. Kenzie is the only one still living.

"My grandmother re-married in St. Georges and moved to Galt, Ontario," Bill said. "Her second husband died working on the railroad; he was hit by a train.

"When my Mom married my Dad, they moved to

Detroit for a better life. He was a truck driver and very smart mechanically."

For 27 years, Kenzie worked at Providence Hospital as a nurse assistant.

"She cared for newborns, worked in the operating room and prepped the patients," her son said. "She knew everyone by heart and used to love to work."

Her doctors marvel at the physical adversity Kenzie has overcome. Just before turning 100, she had a gall stone removed. "It was near her gall bladder, and they extracted it through her esophagus and mouth because of her age," said her son, who visits every day and tends to his mom's needs.

In a fall at a bingo hall at age 97, Mrs. Kenzie fractured her right femur and broke her nose.

"They inserted a rod in her leg and secured it with four pins," he said. "When Mom was 92, she was a passenger in a car involved in a rollover accident on I-94 in Allen Park. She had back and rib injuries."

She also had colon cancer when she was 57 and a section of her colon was removed. At 52, she suffered a broken pelvis and ribs when she was a passenger in a car accident on a highway in Ontario.

What is Kenzie's secret to long life? Her son can't say for sure. He does know his 5-foot-1, 115-pound mother always kept fit and active.

"When we lived on Shadyside in Livonia, she was in her 70s and she'd walk to St. Michael's, which was a mile," he said. "She walked two miles round trip to shop at Wonderland when we lived near Joy and Middlebelt."

She used to make booties, gloves, caps and afghans until her eyesight put her on a downgrade. She never drove and never smoked, but she did like a beer once in a while before she went to bed. And she likes her tea.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patricia Pelto and Rick Wilsdon came up with the idea of Ricky's Dog House. And Wilsdon even lent his name to the business after they discovered someone else had a business in the state named the Dog House.

HOT DOGS

FROM PAGE A1

wanted to bring in something different," said Wilsdon. "I'm an expert on hot dogs. I love a good hot dog."

The menu features 15 varieties of hot dogs from the plain Jane in a bun and popular chili dog to New York- and Chicago-style dogs and gourmet creations like a pizza dog, tropical dog and baked bean dog.

There are also brats, red hots and Italian sausage as well as a barbecued pulled pork sandwich. But don't look for french fries to go with those chili dogs. The frier unit was bigger than the building, so they sell chips.

Pelto and Wilsdon decided if the business was going to be a success, they needed to serve quality products. They get the meat from the Dearborn Sausage Co. and serve it in Aunt Millie's potato buns.

The Dog House also serves root beer just like Wilsdon dreamed of. The Pepsi distributor was skeptical at first, but Wilsdon said Ricky's "goes through root beer like it's butter."

Pelto and Wilsdon weren't sure what to expect when they opened the door to Ricky's Dog House. They'd taken vacation to help man the place, but as the pace picked up, they started hiring more and more employees. They now have six employees and are training three more carhops.

"They work well together, they're a wonderful team," said Pelto. "All six seem to accept the fact that we're growing. And the feedback we're getting is that people love to see the old

carhops come back. They like sitting back and relaxing."

Word of mouth has helped the business grow, and just weeks into operation, they were ordering a larger steamer to accommodate business.

"We've had customers come in and order one and rush back in for another," said Pelto. "We had one woman say she usually eats one, but she ate two because they were so good."

It was the sign out front that caught the Rev. Beverly Tasy's eye. She had driven by several times and wondered what it was all about, so when she rode by on her bicycle she decided to stop.

She was surprised by the carhop service and pleased with the hot dog she ate.

"Hot dog is my favorite food," she said. "I've eaten them at The Home Depot and been disappointed, so I came here and got a good hot dog at the right price."

Even though Ricky's has only been open less than two months, Pelto and Wilsdon already are looking at ways to give back to the community. The Girl Scouts, Westland Figure Skating Club and football boosters have already used the oversized parking lot for car washes, and Wilsdon is looking to have remote-controlled car events, catering to fathers and sons.

They're also venturing into to weeknight car shows.

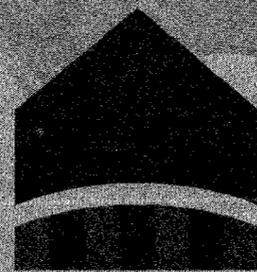
"We've done really good as a team," Wilsdon said. "It's an excellent partnership and I can't stress how much support we've gotten from the community. That's why we want to give back."

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Entrepreneur Karas lived to cook, help those in need

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER



Mrs. Karas

Margaret Mercedes (Johnson) Karas turned a passion for cooking into a charitable mission and successful catering business that spurred three western Wayne County banquet facilities.

In recent years, Mrs. Karas continued to cook in a soup kitchen for migrant workers and VFW hall while retired in Palmetto, Fla., until she became ill with heart problems. Mrs. Karas died on Saturday at age 83.

"She always said, 'If you're going to do a job, do it right, or don't do it at all,'" said William Johnson, Mrs. Karas' oldest child who owns the catering businesses she started in Livonia in 1953. "She said that all the time to her kids, even when they were little."

Mrs. Karas was born in St. Ignace on July 19, 1922, where her father, Victor Phelps, was chef on the ferry boats that carted passengers across the Straits of Mackinac before the Mackinac Bridge was constructed.

As an adolescent, her family moved to Farmington Township where she attended Clarenceville High School. She quit school in the 11th grade to support her family by working in a potato chip factory. She

taught cooking classes, prepared meals for charities, made rosaries for missionaries stationed all around the world and tended to at least 27 foster children at various times in her home.

"There were so many children she cared for, that our family can't remember all their names," Johnson said.

Mrs. Karas' business grew to establish banquet facilities in Livonia and Westland. She sold the business to Johnson in 1972. His operations now include Burton Manor in Livonia, Karas House Banquet Facility in Redford and Roma Banquets in Garden City. She moved to Arizona where she opened a restaurant and several taverns and sold those operations before moving to Florida.

Her first husband died in 1988, and later she remarried Andrew Karas. In addition to her children and their spouses, she is survived by 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

The funeral for Mrs. Karas took place at St. Michael's Church on Wednesday.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in Mrs. Karas name to Hospice of Michigan and Right to Life of Michigan.

married Burton Parker Johnson in 1939. The couple moved to Livonia where they raised seven children.

"She learned to make many meals from scratch during the depression where there wasn't the money to buy prepared food," Johnson added. "And later in life, she continued to make her own baked beans, sauerkraut and sauces from scratch."

Her initial claim to fame came when she prepared Danish rolls and other baked goods for the altar society and priest retreats at St. Michael's Catholic Church. This moved her to start a catering business out of her home on Brookfield Avenue in the Five Mile-Farmington Road area.

Even while cooking for her business and raising seven children, she found time to

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DEATHS

F
Lawrence W. Frazer
Frazer, 44, died May 19.

K
Margaret Mercedes (Johnson) Karas
Karas, 83, formerly of Livonia, died May 20.

M
Robert E. McKnight, M.D.
McKnight, 88, died May 22.

S
Marvin George Schaeffer
Schaeffer, 84, of Farmington Hills, died May 20.

R
Richard D. Seibert
Seibert, 57, of Wayne, died May 18.

B
Beverly J. Steele
Steele, 80, of Bloomfield Township, died May 21.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A20.

Camp registration open

Calling all kids for the YWCA Western Wayne County 2006 summer day camp.

Kids are invited to spend the summer having fun, making new friends, going on field trips and playing games planned by YWCA camp counselors.

Each week of camp will have a different theme. Kids will spend a week showing their support for the United States, discovering the great outdoors, learning about different countries, exploring outer space and more. Camp activities include swimming, basketball, games, scavenger hunts, science experiments, movies, arts and crafts.

The YWCA has a special offer for youth ages 11-15. They can sign up to participate in

the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program, which is designed to offer them an opportunity to learn the basics of camp counseling.

Teenagers will receive American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Certifications. Space is limited for this program, so sign your teen up early.

Camp begins June 26 and ends Aug. 18. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Before and after care is available. Parents can sign children up for the entire eight-week camp or on a weekly or daily basis. Sibling discounts also are available.

For more information or to register a child, call the YWCA Western Wayne County Camp Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 17.

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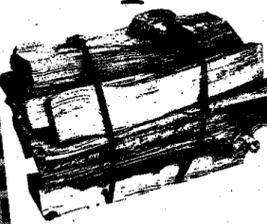
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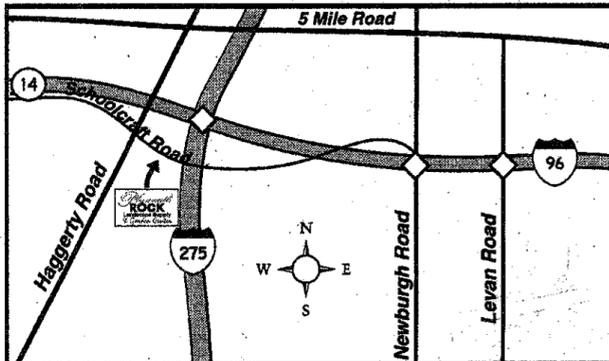
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Ficano gives seniors look at good things happening in county

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Robert Ficano has a vision for Wayne County. He wants two plants built in Wayne County – the country's next ethanol producing plant and the world's second plant that produces succinic acid, a substitute for petroleum in the manufacture of plastics.

The Wayne County executive also wants more than one gas station in the county pumping the alternative E-85 fuel.

They're lofty visions, but Ficano believes it's doable as the state reinvents itself to fit in with today's global economy.

That's the message he delivered to senior citizens who joined him for "Lunch with Bob" Monday at the Westland senior Friendship Center.

The lunch was designed to hear seniors' concerns and Ficano and his department heads did hear questions about road improvements along Cherry Hill west of Newburgh and the need for mass transit. But Ficano took a few minutes to present a campaign-style speech on the good things that are on the horizon in Wayne County.

"The biggest asset in the area is the Wayne County airport," Ficano told the seniors. "This is a global economy now, it's no longer location, location, location, it's speed, speed, speed. International business-



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano speaks to the seniors at the Westland Friendship Center.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

es are locating here because they have immediate access to our markets."

STATE OF ECONOMY

Ficano admitted that the one concern he hears from seniors is the state of the economy, but he's quick to point out that this isn't the first time the region has faced hard times, referring to the 1980s.

"We've always been redefining ourselves," he said.

But the focus is shifting to the area around Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports where international businesses like Magna Automotive and

Toyota are building research and development facilities.

"The I-94 and I-275 corridor is poised to push the economy not only in Detroit but in the Midwest," Ficano said.

The county has partnered with Michigan State University to get grants to give to stations to convert over to E-85, possibly replacing the mid-grade gas with the alternative fuel. Ficano wants 20 new stations the first year and 20-40 the next year.

The county with MSU also is applying for an urban agri-zone designation in order to get a second U.S. ethanol

plant, and with MSU owning a patent on succinic acid, it's quite possible the first U.S. manufacturing plant could be built in Wayne County.

SUPPORTING JOBS

"We are a resilient area," he said. "We can do this. We can do something about this. Government doesn't create jobs, it creates an environment to create jobs."

Ficano also spoke out in support of tougher high school requirements, telling seniors that raising the bar higher and requiring the algebra and sciences are what's needed to

produce engineers.

"We used to tell our children to sit up and eat their dinner because children were starving in China, now it's 'go to college because there's a child in China waiting to take your job,'" he said.

But one senior challenged Ficano's comments, telling him that she has three grandchildren in college, struggling to pay tuition.

"They can't find jobs, so where's the money going to come from to pay the tuition?" she asked.

Ficano pointed out that grants are available to pay for a college education, however, the increase in tuition "is an issue between the state and college boards."

Seniors also asked what is being done to make it safer for drivers to make left turns off Cherry Hill on to northbound Newburgh. The city already has begun land acquisition to widen the road from the intersection to the railroad tracks.

The traffic count has "increased dramatically" on Cherry Hill, topping 20,000 cars a day, and the county is working with the city to address the problems at the intersection. The widening will help, but widening Cherry Hill beyond the tracks will be more difficult because of the two-lane bridge over I-275, Ficano said.

"By expanding the capacity to widen the road will make it easier to make a left turn for

the eastbound traffic," he said.

As for transportation, Ficano told the seniors U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, has secured \$100 million in federal money to do a study of rapid transit in the metropolitan area.

"Economic growth will occur where we put public transportation," he added.

"When I was young we had a nice rail system, one senior told him. "Nobody had cars. You could go all over, but they tore it all up when cars took over."

Ficano also was urged to not turn over the wooded county-owned property across Newburgh from the center for development of the proposed Frontier Park.

"It's the last part of the good stuff left in Westland," one senior told the county executive. "I'd like one little piece of good stuff left, we don't need another hockey field."

"We don't anticipate that's going to happen," Ficano said.

"There's not a lot of support for it," added Mayor Sandra Cicirelli. "It would need a millage and we're not supportive of that. We don't see it going anywhere."

Claire Helmcamp found what Ficano had to say interesting, especially transportation.

"I grew up on the East Coast, I could go anywhere on public transportation," she said.

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LIBRARY

FROM PAGE A1

daily library operations.

Specifically, some of those officials confirmed as late as Tuesday afternoon that they have received complaints about Rintz micromanaging the library.

Rintz, however, has said Patane was warned that he needed to change the way he was handling certain aspects of his job and that he should follow library policies.

Last week, Westland City Councilman Richard LeBlanc questioned why the allegations,

if substantiated, didn't result in a unanimous vote by the library board to fire Patane, rather than a 3-2 split.

On Tuesday, Patane again declined to comment on his firing.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt said this week that she still hasn't received enough information to fully understand the library upheaval.

"We know little more than we did a week ago," she said. "We don't know the whole story of what's going on. I'm not comfortable with the level of information that has been disclosed."

"Unless a crime was committed, or unless there was a breach

of something ethical that for whatever reason we are not privy to, that's one thing," Graunstadt said. "Otherwise, why are we not being given the whole story? I think this leads to speculation on the part of the public."

She said she hadn't heard any grumbling about Patane's job performance until he was suddenly fired.

Graunstadt voiced concerns that the library, with two directors fired within two years, might now have a reputation of turmoil that could make it difficult to attract the best job candidates.

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Homeland Security Chief James Buford speaks to attendees at the American Society of Industrial Security's conference at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

Planning is key to prevent disasters

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Attendees at the 23rd Annual American Society for Industrial Security Update Training seminar, Detroit Chapter, were counseled that security was their responsibility and that while there's no way to plan for everything, there are ways to be prepared for whatever the worst might be.

ASIS was formed in 1955 to encourage the development of the security profession through education on general and specific security-related topics. There are more than 33,000 members worldwide.

The ASIS seminar, May 17 and 18 in Livonia, was marked by special presentations on all forms of public and private security ranging from large event management (the recent Super Bowl and All Star games) to electronic security inside and outside law enforcement.

The overwhelming message of the two-day event was the importance of planning. Good planning means a better chance of survival in the case of a disaster, man-made or naturally-occurring.

A lot of the flawed thinking about homeland security and disaster planning, said Dan Mendelson, President of Unitex Direct of Walled Lake, surrounds the belief that the government can help.

"Government is too big to answer every disaster that comes up because they can't plan for everything," he said. "Businesses have to have specific plans even though there are limits to what they can do."

A good example of the failure of government, he said, was the levees in New Orleans. Tens of millions of dollars would have saved billions in damages there, but that money was tied up in jurisdictional bickering.

The day's keynote speaker, Wayne County Director of Homeland Security James Buford, said cooperation is the name of the game.

"We have to have the ability to draw together all 43 communities in Wayne County, the Airport Authority and Metroparks — it's important to have our emergency operations plans in order," he said. "It's time to think on a regional scale."

Every community has different strengths, he said. The regional approach to security and emergency response has to

ASIS was formed in 1955 to encourage the development of the security profession through education on general and specific security-related topics. There are more than 33,000 members worldwide.

coordinate emergency teams, haz-mat teams and other first responders so that everyone can respond to incidents as one force. The cooperation has to include all six southeast Michigan counties because help from the federal government is starting to wane.

"We have to know we can lean on each other because Homeland Security dollars are shrinking," Buford said. "The federal government approved \$860 million in 2005 and \$760 this year. It's important that we come together and pool our resources."

In that respect, he said private concerns have a lot to offer. Any of the cities in Michigan have great resources but a company like GM is multinational and understands security on a global scale. He said he looked forward to partnering with companies like that in the future.

Vince Tata is a business development manager for Guardsmark, a private security company with a location in Troy. He said the world of private security has opened up since 9/11.

"A lot of people look at security differently," Tata said. "It's more important than it was in the past. The industry has upgraded pay and benefits to attract better quality employees."

Murray LaPointe, ASIS Detroit Chapter Update chair and Wackenhut Security in Livonia said the business has been big since the World Trade Center came down.

"Revenues have been through the roof in private security," he said. "Government funding is going down and you can't count on them for disaster planning. Business has to take care of itself and there's been a greater grasp of the need for private security."

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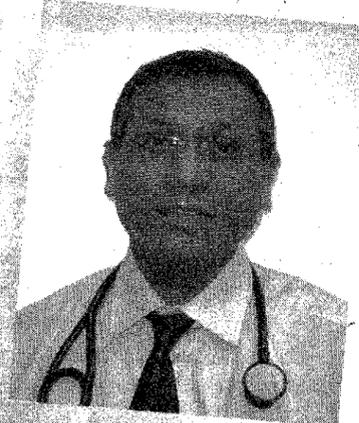
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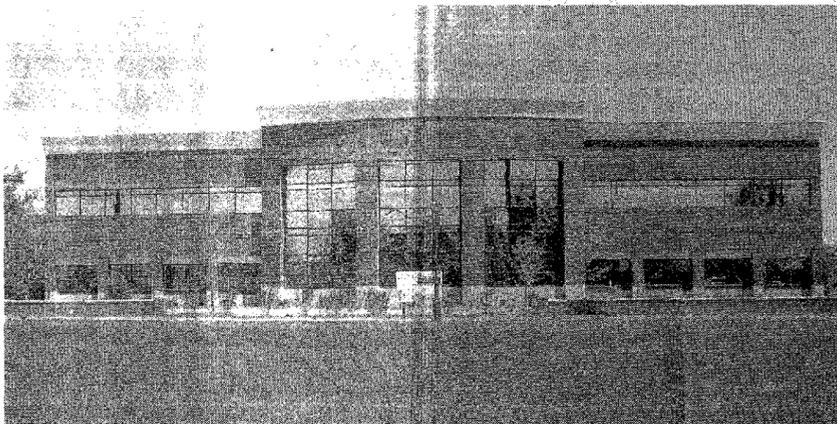
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Here's how Legacy Initiative shows savings of \$1.8 million

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public School administrators plan to deliver on their promise next year.

The Legacy Initiative, a controversial strategy to close and reconfigure schools, should save the district \$1.8 million in the coming school year. Early estimates showed the plan would save between \$1.5 and \$2 million each year for five years.

L.I. SAVINGS

The \$2.9 million savings is detailed in the following budget reductions, as shared by director of finance Lisa Levesque. Cut will be:

- Six positions including Elementary Student Assistance Providers, learning specialists and reading recovery teachers - to save \$356,000.
- Five paraprofessionals - to save \$150,000.
- Six media specialists - to save \$420,000.
- Two and a half secretary positions - to save \$95,000.

- Four administrators - to save \$400,000.
- Fifteen custodial positions - to save \$900,000.
- Five to seven teaching positions to increase efficiency in staffing levels - and save \$300,000.
- Utility costs after closing six buildings - will save \$300,000.

L.I. EXPENSES

The projected \$1.1 million in new costs will encompass the following:

- Playground equipment will be installed at Rosedale Elementary and Riley Upper Elementary schools - at a cost of \$200,000.
- Moving costs are estimated at \$65,000.
- Retaining custodial positions through the summer to assist with the move will cost \$110,000.
- The cost to lease 20 buses for transporting more students under the plan is \$225,000.
- Transportation operating costs, such as fuel, repairs and drivers, for those 20 buses are

estimated at \$530,000. Levesque noted that playground equipment, moving and custodial summer help are one-time costs of implementing the plan. "That will not continue from year-to-year," she said. "I think we're looking at Year Two savings in excess of \$2 million."

FROM SINKING FUND

The Legacy plan will also require facility and technology upgrades, though those costs - about \$1.8 million will be covered by the district's sinking fund, rather than the general fund.

The bulk of those renovation costs involved cement paving at school parking lots, at price of \$1.1 million. Cooper Upper Elementary renovations will cost \$550,000. Technology upgrades at Rosedale will cost \$50,000, while other upgrades including kitchen equipment and outdoor storage will cost \$100,000.

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

district gained from an asbestos lawsuit settlement, Livonia Public School could see an overall increase in revenue at around \$2.4 million.

But the district's expenses are also set to rise.

Levesque said salaries will increase by \$2.1 million. Health insurance costs will rise by \$1.2 million, and retirement costs will increase by \$1.65 million. Utilities and taxes are expected to rise by \$700,000. The district will experience some savings - about \$1.35 million - when about 25 teachers retire. The increased costs will total \$4.3 million.

IMPACT OF L.I.

The Legacy Initiative is expected to cost the district \$1.1 million next year, and at the same time save \$2.9 million. The total savings will be \$1.8 million, said Levesque.

Much of that savings comes at the cost of district employees. One area of savings came in lower than first anticipated. The district plans to cut five rather than eight paraprofessionals next year.

All of the K-4 buildings will have an early childhood paraprofessional, said Levesque. Currently, elementary schools choose between an early childhood or technology paraprofessional. The district will maintain three technology paraprofessionals - each will be responsible for three lower and one upper elementary school.

Trustee Cynthia Markarian asked how the district will ensure that "we're not short-changing our support staff."

Liepa said in reducing the custodial staff by 15, for example, the district will still allocate the same number of custodians per school. Because there will be more students, those employees "will be stretched a little thinner," but they will have fewer buildings to clean.

DEALING WITH DEFICIT

Taking into account the difference between revenue and expenses, and adding the current year's deficit of \$1.8 million, Levesque said, the district's

deficit in 2007 will be \$3.66 million. The Legacy Initiative will offset \$1.8 million of that deficit.

She recommended that the board plan to spend about \$1.16 million of its fund equity next year, and make an additional \$700,000 in budget cuts to balance the budget.

"This is still a very, very difficult process," said Levesque, noting that the district has cut \$19 million from its budget in the past five years.

She detailed the \$700,000 reductions as follows:

- Cutting one high school counseling position - to save \$60,000.
- One and a half fewer high school secretarial staff - to save \$60,000.
- One less secretary in the central office warehouse - to save \$40,000.
- A 10 percent cut in supplies - to save \$253,000.
- Reduction in capital outlay and maintenance - to save \$125,000.
- Spending less on professional development - to save \$70,000.
- Fewer substitutes and less overtime - to save \$92,000.

Most cuts are being kept away from teaching staff, but will impact secretarial and custodial staff, said Levesque. The reduction of equipment and supplies will be absorbed district-wide. Equipment like fax machines and overhead projectors will not be replaced.

"I'm not minimizing this," said Levesque. "We are feeling the impact of these budget cuts. There is no doubt about it. They are having to do more with less."

She said the district continues to seek new opportunities for revenue enhancement, even while planning to cut the budget.

Should the board support this recommendation, and spend \$1.16 million of its savings fund, next year's fund balance will be left with a balance of \$6.8 million. Morgan noted this recommendation requires Livonia Public Schools to spend less of its fund equity - about \$600,000 less - than it has in recent years.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Eating Disorders

Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 324-3089.

Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy

group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

TOPS

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

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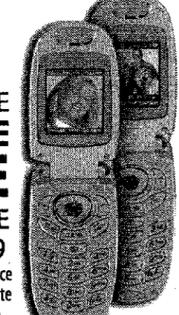
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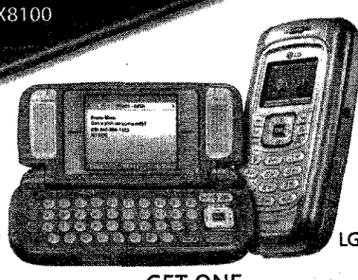
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OUR VIEWS

Memorial Day deserves its own day

Over the years, Memorial Day has become an anticipated holiday, particularly here in Michigan where it is the unofficial start of summer. And with weather forecasts predicting summer-like temperatures, this coming weekend should make for a great holiday. Many people will use the three-day weekend to get out of town. Some will head up North, while others will attend family picnics or barbecues. There always seems to be something going on Memorial Day weekend.

Sometimes lost in our festivities, however, is the reason for the holiday in the first place - the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers who lost their lives in defense of America. Somehow, in recent years, the day's meaning has been watered down. As a result, the number of Memorial Day parades and other such activities have dropped. Livonia, for example, canceled its Memorial Day parade a couple years ago because of a tight budget, but mostly because of a lack of interest in the event.

Memorial Day has its genesis in 1868, when Union General John A. Logan designated a day to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Within a couple decades, the day - May 30 - was dedicated to the memory of all America's war dead. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday, and is now observed on the last Monday in May.

There has been a movement by some veterans groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to once again observe Memorial Day on May 30, regardless of where it falls in the week. They argue that changing the date to create a long weekend has altered its meaning. Since 1999, Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye has time and again introduced legislation to set a fixed date, but it hasn't gone very far. It is an issue our lawmakers should consider, particularly now that we are losing American soldiers nearly on a daily basis in Iraq.

Since the current war began in March of 2003, 2,454 American troops have been killed in Iraq. No matter what anybody thinks about this particular war - and polls show a majority of Americans now think it was a mistake - there should be no doubts about the commitment to our troops. They are in a tough situation, fighting against a well-trained, determined enemy, and facing the possibility of death on a daily basis. Many have already given everything, while many others have been wounded or maimed.

The freedoms that all Americans so enjoy would not be possible without the sacrifice of its soldiers. The least we could do is make sure they know we appreciate and honor that sacrifice. Even if it gets in the way of a family vacation.

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But as summer begins, we are drawn to those same lakes for recreation and renewal.

Up North has a special meaning for the state's urban residents. It's the place they go to fish, hunt, hike, bike, canoe, cottage, sail, beach walk, hill climb, browse antique stores, eat fudge and get away.

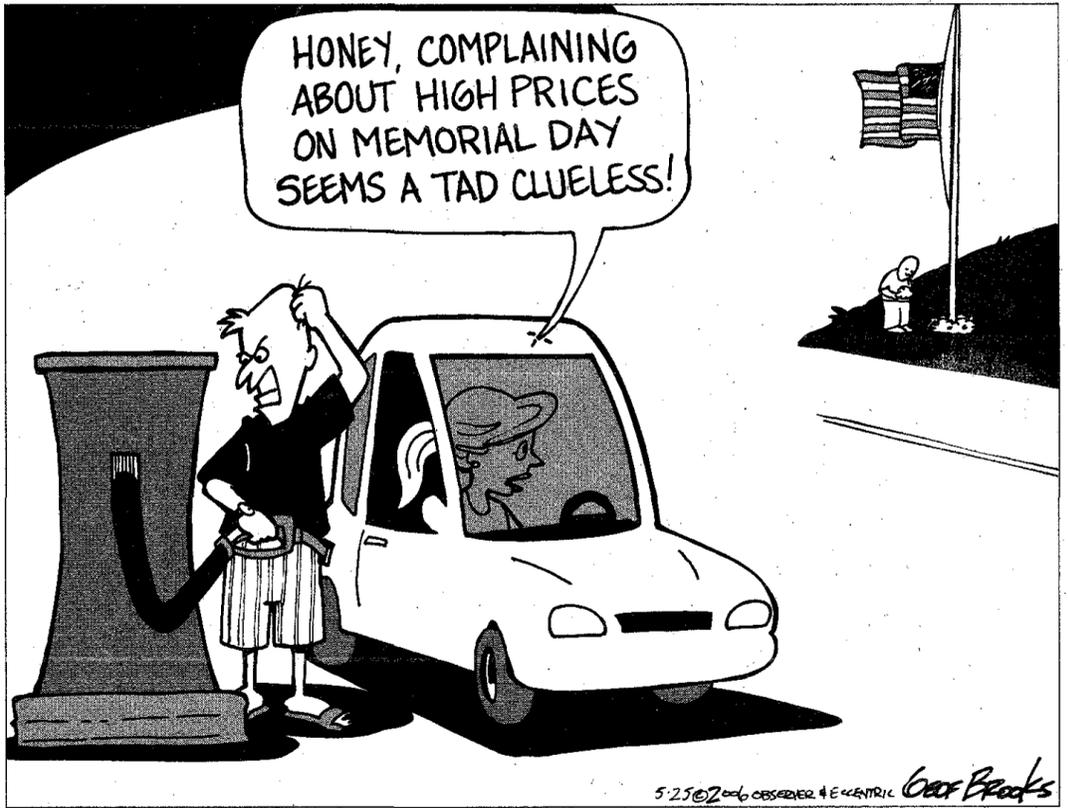
Tourism is a big business in Michigan. We offer deep yellow beaches on which to watch brilliant orange sunsets on Lake Michigan. We have the stark multicolored striations of Pictured Rock on Lake Superior. We have the remote beauty of Isle Royale National Park and the closer-to-home beauty of Lake Huron's rocky shoreline.

We have rippling streams running through deep green forests. We have spectacular golf courses, with scenic views in lush manicured settings. We have miles of bike trails.

And when we've run, swum, golfed, biked, fished, boated and hiked, we have a choice selection of accommodations from the luxuriant Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island to modern, family friendly motels to cozy, comfortable bed and breakfasts.

Michigan residents know all about the special beauty of their state. Now it's time to spread the word to others.

This is a great state to visit and summer beckons.



LETTERS

New director or new board?

Well, they did it again. That's not entirely accurate. Two members of the Library Board that fired our first library director are on the Library Board that just fired our second library director. Of course, one of them did not vote to fire Mr. Patane and the other voted to fire both library directors.

A very little Holmesian logic tells us who the great firer is except ... he was appointed by the mayor and kept his job through the minor dust-up which occurred when the first firing took place.

So there you are.

We, the taxpaying public, never did find out why they fired the first library director, and so far all, we are hearing about this case is administrative baloney.

I go to the library often. Take out a lot of books, pay more fines than a normal person should, and continue to volunteer at the library. I like libraries. I think our library is one of our city's best institutions. When you see how busy it is you realize it is important to a lot of our folks, and folks from our neighboring cities. So we ought to take care of it.

When they fired our first director with a split vote on the committee in what appeared to be a rather pre-emptive manner with no adequate explanation for the firing, I felt we would be hard put to get many candidates for the job. Now that the Library Board in another split vote has fired another director, it seems to me it will be even harder to get good candidates for the job. Is this what the Library Board wants? Are they out to enhance this wonderful, needed community institution or to destroy it?

Do we need a new library director, or all new Library Board members?

Why can't our mayor and her appointed library board just hire the best candidate they can find, and then get out of the way and let him or her run the library? After all they are not properly credentialed to do the job themselves, and it is time they recognized that fact and began doing whatever it is they do know how to do.

Jim Cook
Westland

Seeking federal grant

First let me say thank you to everyone that has helped us in one way or the other in the past. I can assure you time and efforts have been duly noted and greatly appreciated.

Second, I've got some good news. I will be completing and sending a grant package to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be considered for a Capital/Per Diem Grant to construct an apartment building - we're shooting for 18 one-bedroom units - on property we already own in Wayne.

For those of you that visited this property it is phase I of a three-phase housing program we have designed for success. It was named the "Big House" by our clients. Phase II is a four-unit apartment building we own in Westland. Once a client proves to us that they are serious about getting their "life back on track," they can earn the opportunity to be considered to live on their own in one of these units.

For a very long time it has been part of my dream to see a "permanent affordable

housing complex" pop up out of the ground and shoot for the stars. A community of Vets Helping Vets, offering solutions to everyday problems when vets have been turned away, discouraged and discarded by the same system they fought to defend.

Any individuals that may have contacts within the company they work for or know of someone else that does, we need all the financial support we can muster to make this "dream" a reality. I have no idea how successful we will be in obtaining the funds for this project from Uncle Sam, but if we don't try, we'll never know. This country was built with guts, gaul and dreams.

Last year, if you recall the Detroit Pistons made a sizable (\$33,000) contribution to us during the playoffs, this money has been put aside and will be used toward this project. We will keep a positive attitude and hope that our "ship" comes in! Thanks again for everyone's help and support. I'll keep you posted on how this project progresses.

Vince Berna
Veterans Haven

Anderson is good choice

I would just like to comment about State Rep. (Glenn) Anderson for state senator. I was extremely happy to learn of his bid for that office!

I am 39 years old and spent the first 18 years of my life as a Westland resident. I know that the great people of Westland will continue to be greatly served by Glenn Anderson when he becomes the next state senator. I can honestly say without a doubt, that Mr. Anderson is a true PUBLIC SERVANT! He is a very caring and compassionate person who cares about not only his constituents in the great City of Westland, but the whole state of Michigan!

Mr. Anderson has always been on the side of the seniors and the hard-working men and women of this great state! There must be change in Lansing, and Mr. Anderson will continue to stand up for all of the people in this state! I wish him the very best for a victorious election.

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

Congress must take action

The current state of our executive government is in a precarious position. Is the legislative branch going to own up to its constitutive duties and impeach this administration for its wrongdoings over the last five years? Will Congress put a stop to the enormous debt being placed on the American people? Is the executive branch going to self-destruct as people within the White House gain a conscience or when threatened by possible jail time reveal the corruption within? Is the judicial branch going to cave and bring justice back to the courts and put a stop to an out-of-control president?

Each of these scenarios has different implications for the future of the country. And each one will have an impact on the Republican Party for a long time. The legislative branch has had ample opportunity to rein in Mr. Bush. Though a few Republicans are willing to admit the corruption that came to power, like a heroin

addict on methadone.

Mr. Bush has overstepped the bounds of an American, let alone the American president, with the lies he professed to take this country to an illegitimate war, the secret spying on Americans, the reorganization of independent and well-operating government agencies into political tools managed by inept political hacks unworthy of managing dog shows.

The legislative branch needs to step in and put a stop to the wrongdoing, punish those responsible (or at least ask for their resignation).

The people leaving the White House unhappily started a long time ago with Paul Volker. He said Mr. Bush and his gang had started making plans to attack Iraq within days of coming into the White House. The White House propaganda machine of Karl Rove started to slander Mr. Volker rather than answer to the charges.

Colin Powell appeared before the UN and presented lies as evidence. Scooter Libby, indicted and called for trial in a politically delayed debacle, is starting to implode, revealing another side to the corruption. Kenneth Lay and Jack Abramhoff have told us if you are politically connected, then anything can be bought from the White House.

The judicial branch initiated the whole Bush fiasco. During the 2000 election and a valid recount, they appointed George to the White House. Will they continue to approve an out-of-control president or will they rein in and interpret the constitution as it was written and not as Mr. Bush interprets it, i.e., the president has unlimited control, if he can say he is at war?

Facing the truth as well as grasping the English language has always been a difficulty to George Bush, and there will always be Republicans that will support their chief, no matter how corrupt.

Our own representative Thaddeus McCotter has been silent too long. He has performed as a guaranteed signature for the Bush administration, a rubber stamp of approval with the extreme right wing. A Bush clone. He also has done the magical mystery tour, never appearing before the public, or facing his constituents. Much like George Bush, he hides. It is now time to replace Thaddeus McCotter with anyone not a Bush clone.

Alan Biber
Westland

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QUOTABLE

"This is a really important vote for me. It's not just about developing something that was a thorn in our side."

- Westland Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt about approval of the rezoning and preliminary plan to redevelop the Cooper School site

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History lesson helps explain the state's east-west divide

The other day, over lunch with friends from Grand Rapids, our talk turned naturally enough to Michigan's great east-west divide.

For there is, whether we want to admit it or not, an enormously deep and intense cultural chasm between the "east" side of the state (running up I-75 from Toledo through Detroit, taking in the entire tri-county area and Flint, Bay City and Saginaw) and the "west" side (roughly everything else.)

This divide is so great my friends worry whether we ever will be able to agree on a common agenda for our state's most important task - restructuring Michigan's economy.

Indeed, they think, with some justice, that the ingrained culture on the east side of Michigan is mostly to blame. Here's how they see the mentality: confrontational rather than collaborative. Dominated by self-serving interest groups, whether labor unions, automobile companies or racial minorities.

They think east side politics are often incoherent, and based on competing interests. Where they can understand what's going on politically, they see race getting in the way of common sense. They see a labor force that has a poor work ethic and yet insists on being paid too much.

Their critique was so intense, deeply held and distressing, it made me realize we need to try understand how this gap arose.

The answer starts with focusing on how long-standing economic factors shaped the culture of the east side.

First of all, we need to start with the observation that the east side of Michigan has been dominated by the automobile industry for nearly a century. That's hardly new information, of course.

But it is important to understand how the economic structure of the industry helped determine the culture.

At its core, the traditional auto industry for decades was what the economists call an "oligopoly," that is, a basically closed market in which sellers are so few that together they share monopoly profits.

The Big Three auto companies, for example, could for decades pass on a monopolistic price to the American auto market simply because there was no other competitive choice.

As a result, the Big Three prospered. And so, too, did the suppliers, because the industry's uncompetitive economic structure wasn't confined to the manufacturers. It included the entire supply chain. That's because while Ford, Chrysler and General Motors "competed," the market was largely free from international competition, and everyone could set prices unrealistically high. And so for many years, auto suppliers also enjoyed a good living.

In turn, once the plants were organized, this noncompetitive structure extended to the labor movement, which sought to administer monopoly pricing for labor on the industry through industry-wide "pattern contract" bargaining.

In an ordinarily competitive industry, this would have

been a recipe for mutual suicide. But in an industry that throughout was based on a three-way monopoly, high labor prices were just another cost factor that could be passed on to consumers.

So for decades, the money rolled in. The success of the industry and the high demand for labor eventually led to the mass migration of African-American families from the South to Detroit, starting with the labor shortages during World War II and continuing.

Originally a nearly all-white town with mixed ethnicity, Detroit soon attracted droves of black families that came to enjoy a full-blown middle-class lifestyle, courtesy of the unions and the noncompetitive structure of the auto industry.

Now here's the point of all this historical musing. Over time, the economic underpinnings of the east side of the state had a profound impact on the culture of its communities. They developed an adversarial culture, because the essence of collective bargaining between management and labor is adversarial.

People have too often found it easy to be self-serving and noncollaborative, because whether you're a manufacturer or a supplier or a labor boss in a closed market system, you're jostling to get the biggest possible piece of the economic pie.

They got used to charging high prices, because if you can stick a noncompetitive price for autos to the market (for the manufacturers) or parts (for the suppliers) or labor (for the United Auto Workers union), you don't have to care about how high.

The work ethic suffered, because if the UAW local controls who gets hired and at what price, who needs to work hard to keep his or her job? The politics of race developed as a consequence of Detroit becoming in essence a segregated city surrounded by largely white suburbs.

Now, don't get me wrong. I think that the west side's critique of the east side is somewhat exaggerated, and sometimes just factually incorrect. The west side isn't perfect by any means, and could learn a few things about cultural and intellectual diversity from the eastern part of the state.

Most of the great technological and manufacturing innovations and advances in Michigan history haven't begun in west Michigan, and maybe those folks need to ask themselves why.

But the biggest problems we face are rooted in southeastern Michigan, and the rest of the state has an attitude about the east side that is deeply held and which we need to understand, if we are ever going to bring our state together to move forward.

Eventually, I'd guess the current unraveling of the decades-old and now outdated model of the closed-economy auto industry is going to result in a changed culture on the east side of the state.

But these changes will take a long time - perhaps decades - to have a real impact. And in the meantime, everyone in this state has a lot of work to do together to overcome the chasm that divides us.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economic and education issues in Michigan. He can be reached at ppower@hcnct.com.



Phil Power

All-Stars show future just may be in pretty good hands

Long ago, in a land far, far away (OK, it was only northern Oakland County), when I was a sports writer, I used to hear all the time how we spent too many column inches elevating athletes to deity status and precious little ink writing about students' academic achievements.

I never believed that to be true, and I still don't. The sports section gets its own section front, and therefore a seemingly more prominent place in the paper, so I understood the perception.

That comparison came back to me when our general manager mentioned it at the breakfast ceremony we had last week honoring our 2006 Academic All-Stars at the Livonia Marriott, while more than two dozen of the 40 or so students read through the special section detailing their accomplishments.

It's hard to sit in a group like that and not feel better about the future. These kids are going to be our future - our doctors, our engineers, our journalists, our captains of industry and our humanity. It's easy to look at this generation, the "me" generation, and wonder if they get it, wonder about their commitment to the future, their interest in carrying on. I think most older generations think that about younger generations. I can hear my grandmother's voice in my head: "These kids today ..."

Then you sit with Anna Malecke, a senior at Mercy High School who chairs that school's Human Relations Council. That's important because the school got embroiled in controversy when the administration decided to cancel a concert by R&B artist Ne-Yo over some questionable lyrics in some of his songs.

Mercy students had won the concert as part of a seat belt promotional campaign and most, including Malecke, were looking forward to the concert. When the questionable lyrics issue came up, Malecke threw herself into the middle of the controversy, recommending along with the Council that the administration cancel the event. "I was excited, too, about a concert at our school, a chance to dance," said Malecke, who also serves as assistant editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper, *Newsprint*. "But we're a Catholic school and (the lyrics) just didn't match our values."

Xiwen Wang of Canton, a senior in

Plymouth High School's first graduating class, decided it wasn't enough to try to get into just one of the country's most prestigious universities. She's thinking about half a dozen of them, including Michigan, Harvard and Yale.

She's planning on studying economics and business, not to make herself rich, but to "improve people's lives," she said. She wants to study the inner workings of the world economy, knowledge of which probably eliminates her as a potential political candidate but probably ups the chances of the world becoming a better place.

Wang, a National Merit finalist, an AP Scholar with Distinction and a Presidential Scholar candidate, recognizes society, for better or worse, pays a lot of attention to athletes as heroes. She thinks the hero worship should be maybe a little closer to home.

"I think in pop culture there's a proliferation of attention for athletics and physical feats," said Wang, who is National Honor Society secretary and volunteers teaching computer skills to senior citizens. "On the local level, we should strive to recognize goodness. We should foster an atmosphere where kids can look up to (good students) as role models."

There were plenty of those in the room. The lowest grade among them was an A-minus. They're headed to some pretty good schools, many going to U-M. Others are going farther away: Jessica Erlingis of Westland, a senior at Ladywood, wants to study meteorology at the University of Oklahoma and Erica Brown of Livonia, a senior at Stevenson, is headed to medical school either in Pittsburgh or Arizona.

I can remember my grandmother telling me 30 or 40 years ago the world was "going to hell in a handbasket."

Since I was probably 10 at the time, I never could quite figure out how the entire world would fit in a handbasket, even if I knew what a handbasket was. Thirty-something years later, I know what a handbasket is and I wonder - with our country locked in a war of choice in Iraq and gas at \$3 a gallon - what Grandma, who died in 1985, would think now.

If she could have been with me at the Academic All-Stars ceremony, and could have spent some time with these bright young people, the same thought may have occurred to her that came to me.

Maybe the future isn't in such bad hands after all.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.



Brad Kadrich

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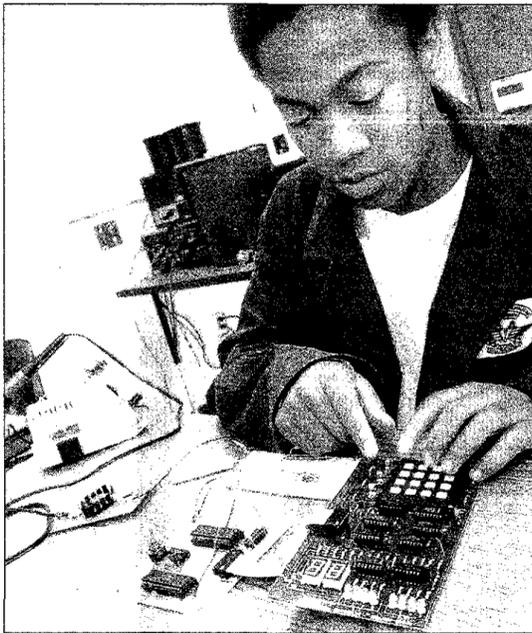
Technical school finds home in Redford

Baseball event to raise money for fields of dreams

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER



Computer science teacher Michael Arnold works with ninth-grader Terrance Young at the Michigan Technical Academy in Redford.



Joi' Veon Williams, a sophomore at the Michigan Technical Academy, works on a small, student-built computer used to program a robot.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students who learn by doing and aren't afraid to get their hands dirty are boosting their electronics and mechanical skills at the Michigan Technical Academy in Redford.

The 11-year-old high school, chartered by Central Michigan University, recently moved from Romulus into the former Judson Center on Elmira east of Telegraph. "We were growing by leaps and bounds," said the academy's principal, Roger Sisler.

The refurbished building, plus a new service garage equipped to rival those at car dealerships, more than doubled the school's floor space, to 55,000 square feet.

"With the new facility, we've got a lot more to offer than we did before," said Bryan Monaco of Taylor, director of MTA's automotive technology program, as visitors toured the school recently.

"It's a really awesome school," said freshman Brittany Coleman of Dearborn Heights. "Students get a chance to do some hands-on work."

MTA is for students with technical interests who might not thrive in the typical high school environment, said Sisler, principal since the academy's founding.

"They're not coming here just to be attending high school," but because they are drawn by the curriculum and the opportunity to apply the skills they learn, he said.

Current enrollment at MTA is 265, and officials plan to increase it by 100 for the next school year. The current senior

class numbers more than 50.

About 10 percent of the students are female. "I've loved working on cars since I was a kid because of my older brothers," said Brittany.

MTA offers core high school requirements such as English, mathematics and science, plus two technical majors: automotive technology and electronics technology.

Sisler plans to offer two more majors - manufacturing technology and building trades - by the start of the 2007-2008 school year. "It completes the circle," he said of the additional majors.

Students say the academy's hands-on approach motivates them.

"It interests me. It keeps my attention," said sophomore Joi' Veon Williams of Detroit, taking a break from working on a miniature computer used to program a small robot. Both the computer and the robot were built by students.

Joi' said he wants to some day use what he learns at MTA in a medical career.

"It's very good. Very in-depth and technical," said senior Garrett Gilbeau, who is planning to join the U.S. Marines, of the MTA program.

Gilbeau is scheduled for basic training at Parris Island, S.C., then for specialized training in Montana. He'll work on Marine Humvees and tanks.

Sisler said the school prepares students for entry-level technical and mechanical work, but that 30 percent of graduates go on to college. A year after graduating, he said, 60 percent are pursuing higher

education in some fashion.

To reach the Michigan Technical Academy, call (313) 537-9311.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Bruce Mugerian of Farmington Hills can't think of a better way of giving back to the community than to volunteer his time to ensure the success of a fund-raiser for the Miracle League of Michigan which gives disabled children the chance to play baseball.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 27, 11 legendary athletes and broadcasters will be on hand to sign autographs and help raise money for the organization. Then at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. children will play on the field especially designed for them at the Southfield Civic Center.

Along with Al Kaline, Mickey Lolich, Jim Northrup, Denny McLain, Frank Tanana, Bill Freehan, Ted Lindsay, Joe Schmidt, Ray Lane, Mickey Redmond, and Mickey Stanley, there will also be several card dealers selling merchandise to collectors.

The city of Southfield is home to Michigan's first baseball field for children with physical and mental disabilities. All of the bases and home plate are painted on the field to

For more information, call (248) 506-4604 or visit www.bruceshowpro.com and click on Jim Northrup.

prevent athletes from falling. The Miracle League is hoping to expand and provide more fields throughout the state and country. Currently Michigan fields are in the works in Ann Arbor, Holland and Bay City.

"It's an all rubberized field designed for children to get around on with walkers and wheelchairs," said Mugerian, a Farmington Hills resident who's production company is hosting the event with the city of Southfield. Mugerian's brother is autistic. He is coordinating the event with Steve Peck, president of the Miracle League of Michigan, and Jim Northrup who played on the Detroit Tigers' World Championship team in 1968.

Admission is a \$2 donation. For more information, call (248) 506-4604 or visit www.bruceshowpro.com and click on Jim Northrup. lochomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

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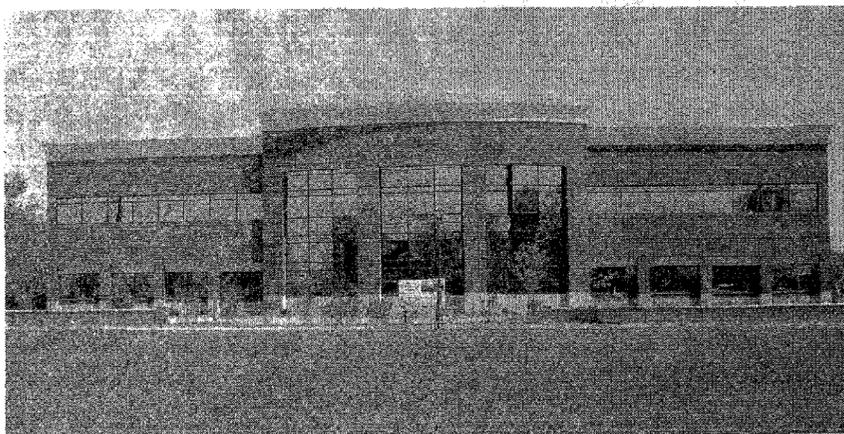
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Resolution approves creating 13-member mental health board

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

A resolution creating a 13-member Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Board, all appointed by the Wayne County executive, was approved Thursday by the Wayne County Commission.

The resolution was sent to the Michigan Legislature, which would have to approve a change in the state Mental Health Code, which sets the composition of the mental health board.

The proposal would replace the current board configuration of six members appointed by the mayor of Detroit and six appointed by the county executive, on the approval of the county commission. Under the new proposal the additional member would come from the city of Detroit, giving the county's largest city seven members and the rest of the county's 42 communities six members.

The commission resolution represents the first time the body has come out in support of an additional seat for the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency board of directors and for all board members to be appointed by the county.

"The board composition has presented a challenge," said County Executive Robert A. Ficano, in a press release.

"Many of the longstanding criticisms about the mental health system actually spring from the board composition. Mental health consumers have needed a resolution on this for decades to ensure accountability when it comes to providing and improving services. I applaud the Commission for voicing its support."

Commissioner Phil Cavanagh (D-Redford) said Tuesday he was the only commission member to vote against the resolution. Cavanagh is the chairman of a commission task force on creating a mental health authority. (Commissioner Kay Beard (D-Westland) was absent and Commissioner Bernard Parker (D-Detroit), a task force member, abstained from voting). Cavanagh said he would move forward on a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday and commission action the creation of an independent authority, which is being urged by pending state funding legislation.

"The enabling resolution will

Bills currently being considered in the Michigan State House and Senate would withhold anywhere from \$30 million to \$50 million for mental health services if the county doesn't form an authority.

not address governance," he said, because the new resolution defines the county's position on that issue. "... The primary enabling issue is to create an authority."

He said there were still many issues to resolve including the status of county workers and whether they would be able to "bump back" to county jobs and financial and budgetary issues.

"But as I understand it, our backs are to the wall. There are so many disincentives if we don't do this," he said.

Bills currently being considered in the Michigan State House and Senate would withhold anywhere from \$30 million to \$50 million for mental health services if the county doesn't form an authority. The county is also in negotiations to preserve millions of dollars in federal funding. Cavanagh said those negotiations would move more quickly if the county created an independent authority.

Teresa Blossom, spokesman for the Mental Health Agency, said Tuesday that Ficano wants to find a "local solution" for on the issue of creating an authority and "is happy to work with the mental health community on a local solution."

The county executive argues that the resolution helps establish accountability by calling for all 13 board members to be appointed by the county executive and confirmed by the commission.

"The Mental Health Agency is a county agency," said Ficano. "The county provides \$17.7 million dollars in local funding, with no contribution from the city of Detroit."

The commission, as part of Thursday's action, noted Gov. Jennifer's Granholm's earlier support for a change in the board composition and urged the Legislature to add the additional seat promptly by revising the

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Bethany more than a Christian social club

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Even though Kathleen McQuillen was divorced in 1982, it was a godsend when she discovered Bethany Suburban West about six years ago. The peer support group changed her life. Today, the Livonia woman is busy planning everything from dances to a Memorial Day picnic for singles. Members meet monthly for breakfast at Leon's Family Dining in Garden City to discuss ideas for activities that will appeal to members.

Bethany Suburban West is one of six chapters which include north and south Oakland County and Rochester. Although under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Detroit office of youth and family, it was designed for the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths. For more information, visit bethanyofsoutheasternmichigan.org.

"It's open to anyone who has trouble or grief in their life," said

McQuillen of Livonia. "Bethany is a stepping stone to a new lifestyle after divorce, being widowed or separated."

"I go to Schoolcraft College dinner theaters and we made it a Bethany thing. We do cards, dances, a concert in the park in Canton, a pig roast in August, a hay ride in September, an Octoberfest with all the Bethany members. We have people ranging from a freshly divorced with a 2-year-old baby to those in their 70s. We have alumni who have met at Bethany and gotten married. We've had at least three fairly recent marriages."

But Bethany is more than a social club. Volunteers make themselves available to provide support and be there for new members during the transition period to single life.

"We're here to help those in need," said McQuillen. "Going through this you have a sense of isolation, a feeling this has never happened to anyone ever

before but it has. We're all here. We're all ears."

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Bethany Suburban West has scheduled several upcoming events including a Memorial Day picnic on Monday, May 29. It is a joint effort by Bethany Suburban West and Single Place Ministry. The cost is \$5 and a dish to pass. For details, call (313) 996-8644 or (248) 349-0911.

A monthly dance takes place 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, June 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Admission is \$10 and includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Another chapter, Bethany South Oakland, holds 7:30 p.m. monthly meetings at St. Columban's Catholic Church, 1775 Melton in Birmingham. The drop-in sessions focus on topics relevant to those going through divorce or separation.

For more information on Bethany South Oakland, call Carol at (248) 541-0007 or Christine at (248) 542-6117

RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

MAY

Lighthouse cafe

7-10 p.m. Friday, May 26, cards, board games, Ping-Pong, specialty coffees, snacks and music, in Knox Hall at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. \$5. Free childcare provided. Call (248) 374-5920.

Spring retreat

Speaker presentations by Bobby Michaels (www.bobbymichaels.com) or www.musicianaries.org, special music times and small group discussions with free time to gold, take a side trip to Saugatuck, or enjoy recreational opportunities and bonfires, May 26-28, at Marantha Bible and Conference Center on the shores of Lake Michigan near Grand Rapids. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$185 and includes bus transportation, meals/snacks and accommodation at Marantha. Call Ward Presbyterian Church for details and to register. (248) 374-5920.

Frank Turner

Shares his victory and his love for Christ 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 28, in Harvest Bible Church at the Michigan Theological Seminary, 41550 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. Call (734) 459-7795 or visit www.myharvestbible.org.

Sunday message series

Inspired by The Da Vinci Code 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 28. Is the New Testament credible? June 4, The Questions of Jesus' identity part one; June 11 part two; June 18, What about Mary Magdalene? and June 25, Women, Jesus and Christianity, at Farmington Hills Church of God, 25717 Power, between 10 and 11 Mile roads. Call (248) 477-9144 or visit www.fhchurchofgod.org.

Memorial Day picnic

Noon to 5 p.m. Monday, May 29, at Rotary Park on Six Mile, between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia. Cost is \$5 and includes hamburgers and hot dogs (grilled between noon and 2 p.m.), and beverages. Please bring a dish to pass to complement the meal and join us for sun, food, games, fellowship and fun. For information, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920.

Memorial Day picnic

Monday, May 29, a joint effort by Bethany Suburban West and Single Place Ministry. Cost is \$5 and a dish to pass. For details, call (313) 996-8644 or (248) 349-0911.

Leadership and self-deception

Lecture series with Rev. Dennis Skiles, continues to May 31, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Livonia. Call (734) 421-1760.

Wine, cheese and theology

Evenings of conversation asking the question, is there a place for the church in the 21st century? 7 p.m. Wednesdays to May 31, at Church of Our Saviour, Presbyterian U.S.A., 6655 Middlebelt, West Bloomfield. Rev. Jim Faile leads the discussions. The public is invited. The church holds worship and Sunday School 10 a.m. Sundays. For more information, call (248) 626-7606.

Fall registration

Spiritus Sanctus Academy is accepting registration for fall for its academics in Plymouth and Ann Arbor. The private, Catholic schools grades K-8, are run by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist at 10450 Joy Road, Plymouth, call (734) 414-8430, and 4101 East Joy Road, Ann Arbor, call (734) 996-3855.

Worship service

Service and Sunday School at 10 a.m. at Church of Our Saviour, Presbyterian, U.S.A., 6655 Middlebelt, West Bloomfield. Call (248) 626-7606.

UPCOMING

Praise and worship concert

Featuring a reunion of the praise and worship band Crossfire 7 p.m. Friday, June 2, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Ice cream social follows in Knox Hall. Free childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

Flea market

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Call (313) 255-6330.

Monthly dance

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization to provide peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, June 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Discussions

Study and discuss questions of the current importance to the thoughtful Christian in a complex world 9:30 a.m. Sunday, June 4 (The Immigration Debate: What's a Christian to Think?), and June 11 (Should the Ten

Commandments be Displayed in Public?), Sunday worship at 10:45 a.m., church school and adult study forum at 9:30 a.m., nursery care available, at Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland Ave., west of Farmington Road, north of Grand River, Farmington. Call (248) 474-6880/

Dinner and concert

Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass 7 p.m., Thursday, June 8 (dinner at 6 p.m., \$6 per person), at First Baptist Church of Plymouth, 45000 N. Territorial, west of Sheldon. Call (734) 455-2300 for tickets and information.

Vacation Bible school

Fiesta! Join us 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, June 12-16 for 5 fun filled days of high energy, Christ-centered activities, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Fee is \$25, and includes T-shirt. For more information, call David Conrad at (734) 425-5950.

Preschool program

Begins 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Thursday, June 12-15, and runs weekly through July 17-20, for ages 3-5, at Mt. Hope Preschool, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Cost is \$80 per week, \$70 for second child, and includes snack. Special rates if parents assist in classroom. Topics include dinosaurs, kids in the kitchen, underwater adventures, on safari, and fun with science. Call (734) 261-9540.

Summer fun

Two sessions from 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m. begin June 12 and continue weekly through week of Aug. 21, at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 42690 Cherry Hill, Canton. Each week children will engage in activities including the sciences, math, health, music, arts, and exercise. For ages 4-10 (children who are 3 but have been enrolled in preschool are welcome. Cost is \$60 per week and includes T-shirt, snacks and field trip fees. Call (734) 981-0286.

Sock hop

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization to provide peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, June 16, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Cost is \$15, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Choir concert

Sacred music by the High School Chancel Choir from Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Illinois 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 16, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit Birmingham-First Music, a community music outreach organization which is sponsoring the event. Call (248) 644-2040, ext. 136.

Crafters wanted

For the St. Thomas a'Becket Church Christmas Craft Show to be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton. The church is now accepting applications for handmade crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

ONGOING

Learner's Bible study

7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service

Loving God by loving people, meets 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Donuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093.

Bible study

Two classes meet 10 a.m. to noon the first and third Wednesdays, and 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursdays, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, on Plymouth at Hubbard, Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying Women of Courage in the Bible. The Thursday session is reading the Letters of St. Paul from prison. Based on Little Rock Scripture Series. Call (734) 261-1455.

School registration

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School is accepting applications for grades PK-8 for the 2006-2007 school year, at 9600 Laverne, Redford. After school care 3-6 p.m. Call (734) 937-2233 for information.

Bible study

Classes 9:30 a.m. Sunday, and 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. On Sunday Family Worship begins at 10:45 a.m.

Purpose Driven Life

Members, friends and neighbors of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Northville will be studying the best selling book The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren during Lent. Small groups will meet at homes in Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi and South Lyon on Wednesday evenings during Lent. All faiths are welcome. Call (248) 349-3140 for more information.

Senior activities

Gathering for seniors 50 years and older 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. Any questions, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. First we enjoy a wonderful lunch together then we fellowship with

some games and stories.

Bible study groups

The Wednesday group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesday of each month, the Thursday group 7-9 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month in the rectory at St. Michael's the Archangel Catholic Church, Plymouth and Hubbard, Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying Women of Courage in the Bible, the Thursday group The Letters of St. Paul from Prison. Classes are small and informal and based on the Little Rock Scripture Series. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Church activities

St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Wednesday luncheon every other Wednesday at noon; Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$4 followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday, 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m., at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Scripture from scratch

No previous Bible study required, began 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington, Livonia. The units include the New Testament (April 11, 18, 25 and May 2, and Gospels (May 16, 23, 30 and June 6). Each session includes video presentation, small and large group discussions. Be one of the first 10 to receive the participant's manual for \$5. After that, the cost is \$10. To register, call (734) 425-5950.

Kabbalah classes

Presented by the Sara Tugman Bais Chabad Torah Center, the classes began 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 5595 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The classes, are open for both beginners and more advanced students. Call (248) 855-6170, ext. 1 or send e-mail to BCTC770@aol.com.

Eucharistic adoration

The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues, the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.

Worship services

All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour all for ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.

Unity of Livonia

Services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays, at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim

Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach

A non-denominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, a great place for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service 6:15 p.m. - Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and childcare. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit the Web site at www.adatshalom.org.

English classes

Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Passages

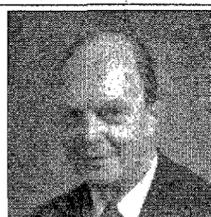
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BEVERLY J. STEELE (nec. Koeller)

May 21, 2006, age 80, of Bloomfield Twp. Beloved wife of Ira "Joe" for 56 years. Dear mother of Richard J. (Patricia) and Thomas I. (Mary). Grandmother of Joanna, Daniel, Jesse and Chyna. Sister of William Koeller (Muriel) and Marilyn Glenn (Truman). Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Funeral services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Michigan Humane Society, 26711 Northwestern Hwy., Ste 175, Southfield, MI 48034. For information call A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com



MARVIN GEORGE SCHAEFFER,

Age 84, died Saturday, May 20, 2006, peacefully at his home of fifty-five years in Farmington Hills, Michigan. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, the Hon. Margaret G. Schaeffer, retired judge of the 47th District Court; his sons, Paul M. Schaeffer of Waterford, Michigan, and William E. Schaeffer of Battle Mountain, Nevada; his daughters, Christine Skoglund (Dr. Paul) of Waterford, Michigan, and Virginia Schaeffer (Mitch Abrams) of Corvallis, Oregon; and his sisters-in-law, Dr. Christine Gram of Farmington Hills, Michigan, and the Hon. Cornelia G. Kennedy, Judge, U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit. He was born in Rochester, New York, on December 4, 1921. Mr. Schaeffer graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in 1946 and Master of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1948. His education was interrupted from 1942-1946 by his service in the United States Army Signal Corps in the 60th Signal Battalion, first in New Guinea, and then with MacArthur's drive to regain the Philippines. Mr. Schaeffer worked for the Fisher Body Division of General Motors for over 35 years, where he designed electrical circuits and production equipment for cars. He was responsible for many innovative design features. He was the holder of four individual patents and contributed to several others. After retirement in 1984, he continued his avid interest in cars and in travel, visiting all fifty states and all seven continents. His passport includes stamps from many countries including Russia, Malta, Australia, Tunisia, India, Syria, Chile, Nepal, Galapagos Islands (Ecuador), China, Zimbabwe, Panama, South Africa, and Antarctica. His volunteer service included driving Farmington residents to medical appointments for the FISH program. He was a long time member of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington where he sang in the choir for over 20 years and served on the Session. A memorial service was held May 24, 2006, at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, the College of Engineering - University of Michigan, or a charity of your choice.



MARGARET MERCEDES (JOHNSON) KARAS

Was born July 19, 1922 and passed away May 20, 2006. She lived on Brookfield Avenue in Livonia for many years. She is preceded in death by her son, Daniel and loving husband, Burton Parker Johnson. She is survived by her devoted husband, Andrew Karas and her sons and daughters: William Burton (Sally) Johnson, (Joseph) Laura (Johnson) Mullaney, Mary Alice (Johnson) Simpson, Larry (Joyce) Zimba, Mary Johnson, Matthew (Pam) Johnson, and Michael Johnson, also 17 grandchildren and 19 great children. There were also at least 27 foster children welcomed into our home from Catholic Social Services. Margaret was the founder of JMJ Catering Services in 1953 in Livonia, Gourmet Bakery on Plymouth Rd in Livonia, Karas House of Westland and the predecessor of the Karas House Banquet Facility of Redford, Burton Manor Banquet Facility of Livonia, and Roma Banquets of Garden City. Throughout her busy life of cooking, operating several businesses and raising a family, Margaret still found time to perform a labor of love; making and sending rosaries to missions all over the world from the South Pacific to Africa, Europe and particularly Ireland. She was a member of the following: Business Women's Association of Livonia, Third Order of St. Francis located at Dun Scotus in Southfield, the Michigan Restaurant Association and St. Michael's Roman Catholic Altar Society. Margaret brought excess food from JMJ Catering Services to "The Manna Meals" soup kitchen operated by Father Tom Lumpkin in Detroit near Tiger Stadium and worked in the kitchen for Father Lumpkin in her spare time. She also taught developmentally challenged girls cooking skills at Our Lady of Providence in Plymouth, Michigan. Her final retirement led her to Palmetto, Florida cooking for "Our Daily Bread" soup kitchen for migrant workers in Bradenton, Florida. Margaret's greatest achievement was the great love of family she instilled in her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was a tireless donor of her time and energy to the Felician Sisters of Livonia prior to nuns being allowed to drive, the founding of St. Mary's Hospital, the Capucian Soup kitchen of Detroit and many more organizations too numerous to mention. She will be missed by many. The motto she taught all of her children was "If you are going to do a job, do it right or don't do it at all." Visitation was held Tuesday May 23. GR Harris Funeral Home. Donations would be appreciated to the following non-profit associations: Hospice of Michigan and Right to Life of Michigan. Interment at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, 34205 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI

ROBERT E. MCKNIGHT M.D.

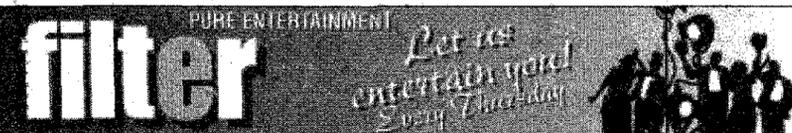
Died May 22, 2006, age 88. Beloved husband of Justine. Dear father of Ann Malleis (James), Connie Sfire (Robert), Diane Vieson and Robin Barry (Kent). Loving grandfather of Patti Brozek (Michael), Robert Malleis, Suzanne Bologna (Jim), Lt. G. Leah Malleis, Lara Sfire (Michael Iurato), Jeffrey Sfire, Christopher, Scott & Matthew Vieson, Justin, Kaitlyn and Megan Barry. Great-grandfather of Bridget Brozek. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and friends. Brother of the late Rev. William McKnight and Jack McKnight. Family will receive friends Wednesday 2-8 PM at A. J. Desmond & Sons (Vas, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (between 13 & 14 Mile), with Scripture Service Wednesday 7 PM. Funeral Mass Thursday 10 AM at St. Regis Catholic Church, 3695 Lincoln at Lahser. In lieu of flowers memorial tributes Discealed Carmelite Nuns or Providence Health Foundation. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



LAWRENCE W. FRAZER

Suddenly May 19, 2006 Age 44 Lawrence was a jeweler and an artist and enjoyed painting and photography. He was a nature lover and enjoyed walking in the woods. He was also a world traveler. Beloved husband of Danielle. Dear father of Lawson Cedar Fraser. Son of Donald E. and Shirley J. Fraser. Brother of Donald, Raymond (Valerie), James (Sally) and Wendy Routhier (Charles). Son-in-law of Helaine and Robert Wolf and Robert Tamopol. Brother-in-law of Andrea Klerxk (Brian) and Susan Ditkoff (Joseph). Funeral services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Lawson Cedar Fraser Trust Fund. For information call A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com

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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.
 To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

Minuteman leader defends U.S. border patrol

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Chris Simcox apologized to his dinner audience on a recent Friday evening for speaking without a jacket, but said he was more comfortable that way having just come from a month patrolling the United States border with Mexico.

The suntanned "blue jeans

and T-shirt kind of guy" then proceeded to galvanize his listeners with videos and tales of his group, the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, and its efforts to stop those who attempt to illegally cross the border into the U.S.

"I'm here to represent the nation's largest Neighborhood Watch group," he said.

Simcox spoke to the Bloomfield Republican

Women's Club gathering at the Somerset Inn in Troy.

His talk on the problem of "waves of illegal immigrants" and its dangers was well-received despite some harsh comments about the Republican Party.

'TURNING POINT'

Simcox described how he founded the citizen political action group often referred to

as "vigilantes." Members watch the nation's borders and turn over suspected illegal immigrants to the border patrol.

He said that after Sept. 11, 2001, "Bush reminded us that we are all part of homeland security. The price of security is to always be vigilant and report illegal activity to proper authorities. I certainly took President Bush up on his offer."

The former kindergarten teacher said the turning point came for him while hiking in a national park. While taking a water break by a tree he heard footsteps and, to his amazement, "Seventy-five people dressed in black, carrying water bottles," marched by. "This is seven days after Sept. 11."

Going back the next day, he saw 300 people, a line almost a mile long, walking through the national park.



HEATHER ROUSSEAU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Simcox of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps talks about the problem of illegal immigration.

The third day, he observed a dust cloud with vehicles and men carrying automatic weapons.

That's when he went to a park ranger who told him, "embarrassed, reluctant, that he was very sorry."

"He said he was working on it, but thousands were entering into the U.S., including drug dealers, and there's nothing we can do about it. We have five rangers to cover the whole park. We are outmanned and outgunned."

"I was appalled at what I discovered. It was a turning point in my life. I decided I would do something to help my nation."

Shortly afterward, Simcox took an unexpected opportunity to become assistant editor, then owner, of an Arizona newspaper, the *Tombstone Tumbleweed*. It advertised his plan to form a citizen militia with a front page, boldface headline reading "Enough is enough. Citizen border militia now forming."

"Boy, did it get attention," he said of the national media. It was, however, a "Billy Bob Redneck shooting from the back of the truck image" that was portrayed.

Nevertheless, he said, hundreds of volunteers joined in a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week project to report and turn over illegal immigrants. The group became the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps. Today, there are 29 chapters in 24 states, he said.

A focus is enforcing current immigration laws. In four years, the group has peacefully turned over 6,000 illegal entrants to the border patrol without one incident of violence, he said. The Minuteman members are armed only for self-defense purposes.

Simcox emphasized the group is not against immigration — just illegal immigration.

Simcox said, in fact, that "securing the border is pro-immigrant." One reason is "it will force the government south of the border to improve the quality of life for its citizens."

It would prevent some of the dangers of illegally immigrating, he added.

Simcox emphasized, "We don't blame the victims. We blame the government."

TERRORISM THREAT

Simcox drew applause when he said, "Securing our borders is the first thing we should have done on Sept. 12 to protect our nation. ... We should be disgusted that our government is turning it into a partisan issue."

His opinions, he admitted, have been controversial. And they've earned him a tall FBI file.

Simcox said he is no longer a Republican: "I stand before you as a pragmatic independent." He aims to effect "positive change" with grass-roots involvement.

The Minuteman group is privately funded and well-equipped, he said. "Thanks to donations, we have GPS, night vision, four thermal imaging cameras. The border patrol is quite envious because we have better equipment than they do."

In answer to a question, Simcox said he would like to form a Minuteman chapter in Michigan, especially in light of Michigan's shared border with Canada. He said those interested can go to minuteman-hq.com.

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

JUNE 5, 2006

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mayor and Council will hold a Public Hearing on June 5, 2006, at 7:10 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to introduce the following Annual Budget Ordinance.

ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE

An Ordinance to provide revenue for municipal purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, by adopting a budget and appropriations.

Whereas, the City Manager has submitted to the City Council a proposed budget upon which a public hearing will be held on **June 5, 2006**, as required by Article VI, Section 6.06(B) of the Charter of the City of Garden City.

Therefore, be it ordained that there is hereby appropriated for said fiscal year the amounts set forth in the following tabulations which, pursuant to the "Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act" (M.C.L.A. 141.421 et. Seq.)

Be it further ordained by the Mayor and Councilmembers of the City of Garden City that the Annual Budget of the City for the period from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, as summarized below, representing the various budgetary centers of the FY06-07 Annual Budget as defined by P.A. 621 of 1978, as last amended, be and the same is hereby adopted.

General Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
General Property Taxes	11,537,782.00	Mayor & Council	50,710.00
Business Licenses/Permits	20,000.00	21st District Court	729,046.00
Non-Business Licenses/Permits	15,000.00	City Administration/Personnel	407,923.00
State Shared Revenues	4,058,026.00	Clerk Treasurer	912,946.00
Grants - Local Units	225,891.00	Non-Departmental	6,173,494.00
Charges for Services	799,920.00	Police	4,649,736.00
Fines and Forfeits	545,000.00	Fire	2,281,142.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	963,300.00	Building & Protective Inspections	
Contributions/Public Enterprises	230,000.00	Dept. of Public Services	2,184,690.00
Contributions/Other Funds	938,500.00	Parks & Recreation	739,973.00
		Boards & Commissions	83,190.00
		Debt Service	1,120,569.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 19,333,419.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 19,333,419.00

Major Street Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Gas & Weight Tax	1,183,692.00	Expenditures	804,180.00
Interest on Investments	30,000.00	Increase in Fund Balance	409,512.00
Decrease in Fund Balance	0.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,213,692.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,213,692.00

Local Street Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Gas & Weight Tax	500,120.00	Expenditures	907,700.00
Transfer - Major Streets	405,580.00	Debt Service	0.00
Interest on Investments	2,000.00		
Decrease in Fund Balance	0.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 907,700.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 907,700.00

911 Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Revenues	110,000.00	Expenditures	0.00
Interest	500.00	Transfer to General Fund	185,000.00
Decrease in Fund Balance	74,500.00	Increase Fund Balance	0.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 185,000.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 185,000.00

Cable Franchise PEG fee			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Payments by Cable Companies	30,075.00	Expenditures	34,075.00
Use of Fund Balance	4,000.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 34,075.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 34,075.00

Community Development Block Grant Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
County Grant Transfer	196,000.00	Salaries	0.00
Rehab Funding		Housing Rehab	144,900.00
		ADA Compliance	0.00
		Administration	14,600.00
		Planning expenditures/facility improve	36,500.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 196,000.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 196,000.00

Rehabilitation Revolving Fund			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Repayments of Loans	30,000.00	Housing Rehabilitation	30,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 30,000.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 30,000.00

Building Department			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Transfer from Other Fund	0.00	Personnel	493,796.00
Permits/Inspections	399,600.00	Operating/Services	3,150.00
Planning / Zoning Fee's	10,700.00	Capital Outlay	0.00
Rental Inspections	189,076.00	Prof / Tech	102,430.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 599,376.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 599,376.00

Police Drug Forfeiture Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Confiscations	25,000.00	Expenditures	72,200.00
Use of Fund Balance	47,000.00		
Interest	200.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 72,200.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 72,200.00

Incinerator Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Property Tax Levy	62,000.00	Increase Fund Balance	0.00
Personal Property Tax Levy	0.00	Incinerator Debt Service	312,681.00
Interest on Investments	10,000.00	Tax Tribunal Refund	2,967.00
Use of Fund Balance	243,648.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 315,648.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 315,648.00

Capital Improvements Projects Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Use of Fund Balance	0.00	Expenditures	50,500.00
Transfer - General Fund	50,000.00		
Interest Earnings	500.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 50,500.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 50,500.00

Water & Sewer Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Water/Sewer Revenue	7,942,235.00	Expenditures	10,362,556.00
Other Revenue	651,209.00		
Decrease Retained Earnings	1,769,112.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 10,362,556.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 10,362,556.00

Downtown Development Authority			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Incremental Property Tax Revenue	411,297.00	Development Projects	115,000.00
Use of Fund Balance	213,090.00	Administration	442,617.00
Interest on Investments	25,000.00	Debt Service	182,689.00
Misc Revenue	90,919.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 740,306.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 740,306.00

Library Fund Summary			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Transfer from General Fund	245,000.00	Personnel	248,500.00
Fee's / Fines	48,110.00	Operating/Services	3,900.00
Grant's / Aid	22,000.00	Capital Outlay	18,110.00
Interest	700.00	Prof / Tech	45,300.00
Use of Fund Balance	0.00		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 315,810.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 315,810.00

ALL FUNDS		ALL FUNDS	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 34,356,282.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 34,356,282.00

School is set for open house, sale

The Perrinsville School will have its first open house of the year 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 28.

Some of you may not know that the school, located on Warren Road west of Merriman at Cowan Road, is owned by the City of Westland and comes under the auspices of the Westland Historical Commission.

It is considered one of the best restorations of one-room schools in Michigan. Bring the family out to see this treasure right here in our own city.

Another upcoming event that will be held on the grounds of the Perrinsville School on July 22 is the Friends of the Westland Museum's third annual flea market. The schoolhouse will not be open for tours that day.

This year the flea market will have a slightly different twist. Spaces will be available to rent in addition to the Friends' offerings. If you would like to reserve a space or have questions, call Ruth Dalé at (734) 425-1955.

Donations of goods for the Friends space, such as dishes, furniture, jewelry, linens, tools, toys, kitchen ware, antiques, and books (no clothing please) may be dropped off at the museum on Wayne Road between 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, beginning June 10.

Did you know

The Friends oversee the historical Ganong Cemetery on Henry Ruff at Annapolis and the Chubb Cemetery on Warren and that the city main-

tains them.

Recently a large dead tree that endangered some very old markers was removed by the Westland Department of Public Service from the Ganong Cemetery.

Both of these cemeteries contain the remains of soldiers of the Civil War as well as more recent wars.

Inventories have been done of both cemeteries and the records are available at the Collins House archives for your use.

If you were able to take a quick look as you whizzed by the historical complex on Wayne Road recently, you would have noticed a crew of high school students from the Wayne-Westland School's William D. Ford Career Technical Center swarming over the Octagon House as they applied new siding to its exterior. What a professional job they are doing.

Thanks you guys !

You're invited

You are invited to become members of the Friends of the Westland Museum in support of their work in assisting the Historical Commission in the restoration, collection and preservation of artifacts and archival materials pertaining to the history of Westland and Nankin Township.

Contact Connie Wagenschutz at (734) 522-0438 or by e-mail at conwag@juno.com for a membership form or with questions or comments pertaining to this column. The museum's phone is (734) 326-1110.



**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1559F - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store/Donation Center, 6613 N. Wayne Road, Parcel #034-99-0030-003, West Side of Wayne Road, North of Hunter Avenue, Antoine Abi Raji

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 38601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: May 25, 2006

**CITY OF WESTLAND
PUBLIC NOTICE
WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION**

THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION WILL BE OPENING ITS WAITING LIST FOR THE PROJECT BASED ASSISTED LIVING FOR THE FRAIL ELDERLY PROGRAM ON TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006 AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006 AT 10:00 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM EACH DAY. APPLICATIONS MUST BE PICKED UP AT THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION'S MAIN OFFICE LOCATED AT 32715 DORSEY ROAD, WESTLAND MI 48186. THE OFFICES WILL BE OPEN TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006 AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006 FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM. THE APPLICANT'S TOTAL GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME MUST NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS ESTABLISHED BELOW:

(1) PERSON: \$24,450 (3) PERSONS: \$31,450 (5) PERSONS: \$37,750
(2) PERSONS: \$27,950 (4) PERSONS: \$34,950 (6) PERSONS: \$40,550

THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION WILL NOT DENY ANY FAMILY THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION INTO THE SECTION 8 PROJECT BASED ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM FOR THE FRAIL ELDERLY, NOR DENY ANY ELIGIBLE APPLICANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEASE A DWELLING UNIT SUITABLE TO THE APPLICANT'S NEEDS ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, HANDICAP AND/OR FAMILIAL STATUS. ALL APPLICANTS MUST ATTACH TO THEIR APPLICATION A COPY OF BOTH SIDES OF THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE IDENTIFICATION. IF APPLICANT FOR ONE BEDROOM IS HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED, WRITTEN CERTIFICATION OF A HANDICAP/DISABILITY OR A COPY OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY/SSI STATEMENT MUST BE ATTACHED TO YOUR APPLICATION. ONLY ONE APPLICATION WILL BE ISSUED PER PERSON (AGE 55 AND OVER). NO HAND-DELIVERED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED, DATED, SIGNED AND MAILED TO THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION AT 32715 DORSEY ROAD, WESTLAND, MI 48186 POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2006. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME.

WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION
JOHN FRANKLIN, PRESIDENT
JAMES GILBERT, DIRECTOR

Publish: May 25, 2006