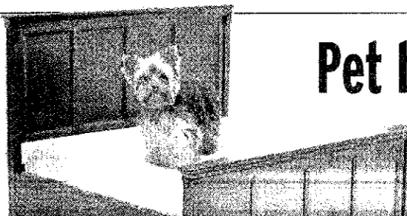




Patriotism  
in style here

LOCAL NEWS - PAGE A3



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## Deadline nears to register to vote

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland voters who routinely cast absentee ballots at election time still benefit from a service that many communities have abandoned.

Those so-called "permanent" absentee voters will automatically receive by mail an application for their absentee ballots.

All they have to do is fill out the application and return it to City Clerk Eileen DeHart's office to get a ballot mailed to their home.

"We don't want to disenfranchise anyone. We want to make it as easy as possible for people to vote," DeHart said. "Until I'm told by a court of law not to do it, I'll continue to do it."

Those who don't routinely vote by absentee ballot - but who need to do so in the Aug. 8 primary - will have to contact the clerk's office for an application. Call (734) 467-3187 or (734) 467-3188.

Voters will help decide many county, state and national political races. The primary will be key in some contests, such as the 18th District state House race between three Democrats: council members James Godbout and Richard LeBlanc, and former state Rep. Vince Petitpren.

"It's a busy ballot, front and back," DeHart said.

Westland voters who live in the Livonia Public Schools district will help decide whether to recall board president Dan Lessard and trustees Rob Freeman, Cynthia Markarian, Lynda Scheel and Kevin Whitehead. The effort stems mostly from their support of the district's restructuring plan, dubbed the Legacy Initiative.

The group working toward a recall, Citizens for Livonia's Future, contend that the five board members have been unresponsive to their concerns regarding the plan. Board members maintain that the plan will benefit the district, and is a responsible change that will save money.

Absentee voters who live in the Livonia district will receive a separate ballot for the recall vote, DeHart said.

For last-minute absentee voters, the clerk's office will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 - two days before the primary. The office is located at Westland City Hall, on Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne.

Absentee voters can turn in their ballots Aug. 5 or stop in the clerk's office until 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7.

Voters who want to cast their ballots at polling places face a deadline of 4 p.m. July 10 to register. They can register at the clerk's office or any Secretary of State office.

Voters registering will need a picture identification with their current address. If they've moved and need to file a change of address, they'll need to go to the Secretary of State.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 8.



PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Veteran Jerry Baker of Garden City, a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 327, places a wreath along at The Moving Wall during the 'I Honor and Remember' ceremony in Westland Thursday.

## 'I honor and remember'

The Moving Wall visit 'big deal' for veterans and their families

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Kathy Caza traveled hundreds of miles two years ago to see her brother's name, Rick James Stewart, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

She wept Thursday as his name came to his hometown of Westland on The Moving Wall, a smaller replica of the memorial brought here through the morning of July 5 for the city's summer festival.

"This is pretty emotional," said Caza, remembering how her brother

died in Vietnam on June 27, 1967. He was only 17 years old.

Caza recalled how Stewart, a Livonia Franklin High student, gave to her what couldn't be given to him during war - protection.

"He wouldn't even let me date anybody," she said, managing a smile. "He was so much fun. He had a great sense of humor. All he wanted was to be a Marine."

During a tearful opening ceremony for The Moving Wall's arrival on the east lawn of City Hall, Caza sat with survivors of nine Westland servicemen whose names are among more than 58,000 on the

memorial.

### 'OVERWHELMING'

"To be invited to attend this is overwhelming to me," said Caza, who came with 19 family members. "I brought my (six) grandchildren. They've heard about my brother. But to them, he's just a name."

Hundreds of survivors, veterans and their supporters welcomed The Moving Wall to Westland, where visitors can view it 24 hours a day. On Thursday, veterans groups from Westland, Plymouth, Canton,

PLEASE SEE WALL, A6



Kathy Caza of New Boston, formerly of Westland, cries as the name of her brother, Rick James Stewart, is read. Stewart died in Vietnam on June 27, 1967, at age 17.

## Godbout stresses ability to 'build consensus'

Three candidates will compete in the Aug. 8 primary to become the Democratic nominee in the 18th District state House race. This is the first in a three-part series about them.

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

James Godbout believes he has the political savvy to help get the job done in Lansing.

He admits the task of bringing new jobs to Michigan, diversifying the economy and fixing a flawed school-funding system will not be easy.

"We've got to get beyond the partisan gridlock and do what's best for the state and the communities," he said. "Being an isolationist is old poli-

tics, and we've got to get away from old politics."

Godbout, 52, believes he has shown solid leadership since he became a Westland City Council member in December 2000.

"I think I do a good job of being able to build a consensus," he said.

As a council member, Godbout said he has helped improve Westland's financial position, upgrade its technology, renew efforts to find a workable recycling program, and protect city services.

In his private-sector job as an

account manager for Rockwell Automation, Godbout said he has received the best training that corporate America can offer. He said good business

practices are needed in Lansing.

Godbout will face Councilman Richard LeBlanc and former state Rep. Vince Petitpren in the Aug. 8 primary. The victor will compete against lone Republican candidate Sam Durante in the Nov. 7 election. The winner will get a two-year term. The job pays \$79,650 a year.

Godbout talked about issues and his candidacy during an interview with the *Observer*.

Godbout voiced opposition to an early end to the single business tax in Michigan, saying the state - already struggling economically - can't afford to lose nearly \$2 billion annually.

But he said state legislators should work with the business community make the tax fairer and more equitable.

To have a lasting economic rebound, Godbout said Michigan will need to create jobs beyond the automotive industry.

"We need to continue to diversify the economy in the state. We've been far too dependent on the auto industry for far too long," he said.

PLEASE SEE GODBOUT, A6

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**INDEX**

APARTMENTS	E7
AUTOMOTIVE	F4
HOMETOWNLIFE	C1
CROSSWORD	E6
CLASSIFIEDS	D1-F6
JOBS	D2
NEW HOMES	E1
OBITUARIES	C4
PERSPECTIVES	A7
REAL ESTATE	E2
SERVICE GUIDE	E7
SPORTS	B1

**Coming Thursday  
in Filter**

Sammy Hagar  
brings his  
summer party  
to DTE. Read  
more in the  
next issue of  
Filter.



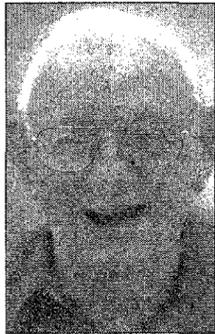
PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Sweet summer treat**

There were barbecued ribs and chicken and plenty of other traditional picnic fare for when members of the Westland senior Friendship Center gathered recently for an indoor picnic. Bringing smiles to the picnic-goers' faces was Barbara Marcum who passed out some sweet looking desserts.



Enjoying the traditional picnic fare of barbecues chicken and ribs is George Winning.



It's good times for Irv Dobis at the Friendship Center's senior citizen's picnic.

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**Car show**

The Warren Road Light and Life Free Methodist Church will have its annual car show Sunday, July 2, at the church, 33445 Warren, east of Wayne Road.

The eighth annual event will feature all makes, street rods, custom cars, originals and restored. The registration fee is \$5 and registration can be completed between 8 and 10 a.m.

There will a worship service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a free lunch for registered car show participants and noon. There also will be games and activities for kids noon-2 p.m. and the trophy presentations at 2 p.m. sharp.

**Concert change**

A change has been announced in the entertainment lineup for the Westland Summer Festival.

Due to an illness, singer Chelsea Oaks will not perform at 8 p.m. Monday, July 3, according to festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl.

Oaks will be replaced by Tony Phillips, a country-and-western performer, Mehl said.

**Yard sale**

The YWCA Western Wayne County will host a Yard Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 21, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 22.

Office supplies, office furniture, children's toys and other items will be on sale. The Yard Sale will be held at the YWCA Administrative Offices, 26279 Michigan Ave., and proceeds from the sale will benefit the families served by the YWCA.

The YWCA also is looking for volunteers from the community to help organize items to be sold, and help work the day of the sale. For more information, call the YWCA Western Wayne County at (313) 561-4110 Ext. 18.

**Outreach clinic**

The Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc. will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 19, at the Westland Senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

Attendees are asked to register before 10:30 a.m. A Legal Aid attorney will assist

**AROUND WESTLAND**

only those persons who have done so by that time.

For further information, call Gina Polley, director of community relations and governmental affairs, at (313) 964-4111, Ext. 6440 or (877) 964-5310, or by e-mail at gpolley@ladetroit.org.

**Flea Market**

Vendors are needed for a flea market 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Space is available at \$20 per space.

Applications are available by calling Ray or Jackie Gagnon at (734) 722-7225.

**Craft Show**

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women craft show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) to reserve a table.

**Summer camp**

Registration is being accepted for the YWCA Western Wayne County's 2006 Summer Day Camp. Spend the summer having fun, making new friends, going on cool field trips and playing games!

Camp is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. now through Aug. 18. Before and after care is available. You can sign your child up for the entire eight-week camp, or on a weekly or daily basis. Sibling discounts available.

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

**Enrollment offered**

St. Damian Catholic School is accepting enrollment for fall. It offers preschool for children ages 3 and 4, kindergarten either three full days or five full days, and classes for students in grades one through eight. The school is located at 29891 Joy Road in Westland. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information call (734) 421-6130.

**Antiques appraisals**

The Westland senior Friendship Center will host its fifth annual Newburgh Road Show, an antiques appraisal, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, July 28.

Admission will be \$1. Col. Thomas Moody of Blue Willow Antiques will be doing the appraisals. He specializes in glass, pottery, furniture, radios, kitchenware, war memorabilia, quilts, dolls and toys.

There will be a charge of \$3 per item appraised, with a limit of three appraisals. Refreshments will be available for a small donation.

The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, Westland. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

**Pancake breakfast**

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

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

**Eclectic Crafters**

Ever thought of trying a craft but were afraid of investing too much before you knew if you were going to like it? Ever wanted a quiet place to do your scrapbooking? Ever wonder if there are others as crazy about art and crafts as you are?

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

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

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

**Senior volleyball**

The Westland senior citizen Friendship Center hopes to start a co-ed volleyball team to compete in Wayne County's 2006 Senior Olympics.

If interested, call Mel Tockstein at (734) 722-0159.

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# Red, white and blue

## Patriotism is in style at home of soldier's grandmother

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Patricia Powell is a strong believer in the red, white and blue. Just look around the front yard of her Westland home.

There's red, white and blue garlands hanging from the eaves, red, white and blue bows on the lamp pole and trees around the yard, a cement goose dressed in a star-spangled red, white and blue dress.

What started out as a show of support for her grandson, 1st Lt. Robert C. Dykes, a member of the Michigan National Guard, has grown to a year-round display that honors all American troops.

"Someone asked me if I was going to take it down now that he's home, and I said no, not while there's still troops there," Powell said.

Dykes, called Chris by his family, was among 122 members of B Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, who returned home June 20 after a one-year deployment to Iraq.

Having her grandson home was a relief for Powell. This was his second stint in the Middle East. He was deployed to Kuwait for eight months, returned home and volunteered to return for an additional seven months in Iraq.

"He never really told us exactly where he was at," his aunt Jenny Still said. "I think a lot of it was so we wouldn't worry."

But from his e-mails, especially one sent May 28 that asked family and friends to



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jenny Still (left) and her mother Patricia Powell keep adding to the patriotic display in the front yard of Powell's home in Westland. It started while her grandson Chris was in Iraq and will continue as long as American troops are in combat.

take time to remember the soldiers from his unit that had died, they could determine that he was in and around Habbaniyah and Khalidiyah in the dangerous Sunni Triangle.

Dykes enlisted in the National Guard four years ago, telling Still that he "felt it was his duty as an adult."

"He felt it was his calling," she said. "He's the type of guy when he does something he puts his whole heart in it. I know that if something had come up in the field, he would be their to protect his troops."

It was last May, during his first deployment, that Powell began decorating her house. It started with patriotic clings on her car and then moved to red, white and blue stars on the eaves. When they faded, she moved on to strings of red,

white and blue lights and a patriotic lighted 10-inch ball she found while shopping in Frankenmuth.

"I knew if anyone had anything like this it would be Frankenmuth," Powell said. "This is a relaxing thing to do and it's easy to find things to fit my theme."

Her latest acquisition is a small flag that waves and the stand plays three songs — *My Country 'Tis of Thee*, *Stars and Stripes Forever* and *America the Beautiful* — when someone walks by.

Her flower beds are patriotic, filled with red, white and blue flowers, and even the solar lights that line the sidewalk are in the patriotic colors.

While the bows and flags are visible from Palmer Road during the day, it's the nighttime

display that catches the eye. Powell turns on the outdoor lights and leaves them on all night. They're visible to Venoy on the west and Merriman on the east, she said.

There have been no complaints from the neighbors about the brightness of the display. Still believes it may be because the family decorates at Christmas, so much so that they had to install a second circuit to avoid mini-blackouts when they turned on the TV or microwave while the outdoor lights were on.

"It was like *National Lampoon (Christmas Vacation)*," Still said. "When you turned on the lights, the meter was just spinning around and around."

Carolyn Roby can attest to the brightness of the display. Powell baby-sits her daughter and many a morning she's pulled up to see the house lit up in red, white and blue lights.

"I love it," she said. "It's beautiful, but it's even better in the early morning."

While Powell plans to keep up the display, she's hoping her grandson won't do a third tour of duty in Iraq. He's been lucky to not have been injured during either deployment, but there's something about the third time.

"I told him I don't know if I can physically handle another trip over there," she said. "I raised him since he was 2, he's more like my son. He tells me he knows, but if they need him, he has to go."

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



First Lt. Chris Dykes (right) poses for a photograph with an Iraqi soldier and children during his recent deployment to the Middle East.

## 'Don't forget the soldiers'

Not long after deploying on his second tour of duty, 1st Lt. Robert C. Dykes sent and e-mail to family members about things to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day.

He did it by telling how his soldiers were doing in Iraq: "We lost another soldier yesterday. His name was Pfc. John Dearing. He was a good kid that volunteered to go to Iraq after the Egypt mission even though he wasn't obligated to do so. There were also four other soldiers from my unit that were critically injured in the same accident. Their condition is still unclear."

"Last week, a fellow lieutenant and a good friend of mine was injured in a roadside explosion. Luckily he was standing behind the armored door of his Hummer and only took shrapnel wounds in his legs. It was the second time he received the Purple Heart since he has been over there (since July 2005). Unbelievably, he will

be going back to the front lines in a couple of months.

"Two of my soldiers returned to the states last month after an explosion left them unable to return to duty."

"Also, don't forget we lost Spc. (Timothy) Brown earlier this month and Capt. (Lowell) Miller last month."

"Please keep our courageous soldiers in mind ... Don't forget the soldiers who are a half a world away from their families who lay their lives on the line daily and sometimes sacrifice those lives in order to give people in other nations the chance to share the peace that we enjoy in our country. Whether you agree with the war or not, you must understand that these soldiers should be honored not for their participation in this conflict, but for unselfishly answering the call of duty to the country they have vowed to protect and defend."

Thank you,  
Chris Dykes

## Contours sponsors July 7 blood drive

With the American Red Cross facing a critical shortage of blood supplies, a local women's fitness business has announced a blood drive.

Contours Express, 31509 Cherry Hill at Merriman, plans to sponsor a blood drive 1-7 p.m. Friday, July 7.

"Club members along with family and friends will be

coming together to donate blood for the American Red Cross during this most critical time," owner/trainer Mary Ellis said.

Two other Contours Express locations — on Wayne Road in Westland and on Sheldon Center Road in Canton — also plan to help recruit donors.

The Contours gym hosting

the blood drive is located next to Quinzos submarine shop and H&R Block.

Anyone who wants to schedule an appointment to donate blood is urged to call (734) 326-SLIM (7546).

Anyone who donates will receive a free, two-week pass to any of the three Contours Express locations.

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ines the psychological soundness of claims of alien abduction. Phil Patton's Dreamland and David Darlington's Area 51: The Dreamland Chronicles both take a look inside the legendary (some say mythical) military hangar housing the Roswell craft...

Considered time travel (The Time Travel Handbook, edited by David Childress)? All of these and more can be found at 001.94 in the Dewey Decimal System...

Cranial Capacities of Corvids -What it really means to be a "Bird Brain": 1 p.m. July 15. You might not be aware of how much brain power exists in the tiny bodies of our feathered friends...

Wayne-Westland gets service learning grant

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has received a \$24,500 grant from the Michigan Community Service Commission to operate a Learn and Serve-Michigan program.

D-Westland, in announcing the award. "Children will take what they learn in the classroom and use their skills in real-life experiences in the community. They will expand their learning and our community will benefit from their service."

goal of supporting individualized learning, real-world experiences, and higher standards for learning, Anderson said. The Learn and Serve-Michigan program is a competitive grant program that supports service-learning opportunities through individual school districts all over the state of Michigan.

oped this year and a strong focus on the freshman transition program. The district is committed to providing leadership locally and at the state level, particularly in the area of mentorship as they expand existing programs and partnerships, he said.

Teachers get pay freeze, then 2 percent

Livonia Public School trustees have ratified teaching contracts and extended the contract for Supt. Randy Liepa. During a recent meeting, the board voted in favor of the Livonia Education Association's bargaining agreement.

agreed to go without a raise for the first year, but will receive a 2-percent raise in the second year. According to Liepa, the school calendar year will look much the same as it did this year under the new contract — beginning with the first day of school Wednesday, Sept. 6.

margin members agreed to go one year without a raise. "It shows the dedication of our teachers," she said. Board President Dan Lessard added: "It speaks well for everyone involved."

nate to have a man of his caliber. I hope he stays a long, long time." Trustee Rob Freeman said, "Dr. Liepa is one of the most highly recognized superintendents. He's very well looked-up-to. We're fortunate to have him, and know we're going to have him as we go into the future."

NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS

To the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any land in the City of Westland: (APPENDIX A)

Table with 4 columns: PAR. NUM., PAR. NUM., PAR. NUM., PAR. NUM. listing various parcel numbers for noxious weed removal.

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be destroyed on or before the 15th day throughout the months of May, June, July, August, September and October of 2006.

Thomas Wilson City of Westland Commissioner of Noxious Weeds Publish: July 2, 2006

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Unions team up to end dependence on oil

With Independence Day approaching, Michigan labor unions and environmental groups have joined forces to launch a new coalition to end America's dependence on foreign oil. The groups, organized as the Michigan Apollo Alliance, believe a major initiative to develop renewable energy, homegrown biofuels and advanced automotive technologies is needed to end Michigan's dependence on imported energy and to take advantage of the state's skilled workforce and manufacturing base, while restoring Michigan's natural heritage.

encouraging energy efficiency and renewable energy projects within the state. "We can't afford to let other states get the jump on us when it comes to emerging technologies like wind turbines or solar power," said Lisa Wozniak, executive director of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. "It's time Michigan declares our energy independence, and supports policies that will develop whole new technologies that can improve our environment - and that also create good-paying jobs in manufacturing, construction, installation and other related areas."

"We're joining together because Michigan workers, citizens and consumers need a voice in creating smart policies which protect jobs and protect the environment at the same time," said Mark Gaffney, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO. "Building new alternative energy technologies requires the skills Michigan workers have gained as one of the nation's leading manufacturing states."

The Michigan effort is part of the national Apollo Alliance, an effort inspired by President John F. Kennedy's Apollo mission, which seeks to end America's dependence on foreign oil within a decade. The Apollo Alliance's plan would spur the creation of 3 million new jobs, many of which would be in the manufacturing and construction sectors, traditionally high wage industries critical to Michigan's economy.

The National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Office director Andy Buchsbaum said the Michigan Apollo Alliance is focused on investing in the state's workers and its economy. "Michigan spends \$20 billion a year buying energy from outside the state and outside the country," said Buchsbaum. "Our message is simple. Why not spend as much of that money as we can here in Michigan, putting Michigan workers on the job creating clean and efficient energy sources that protect our environment?"

"Re-tooling our auto industry to produce cleaner, greener vehicles has to be part of any comprehensive energy and jobs strategy for Michigan," said Gettelfinger. "The Apollo Alliance is breaking important new ground, by recognizing that workers are part of the environment, and advocating for high-skill, high-quality jobs as an essential part of a clean energy agenda."

The groups applauded the governor's recent executive directive calling for the Public Service Commission to develop a new state energy plan, including a new renewable energy standard, as well as efforts in the Legislature focused on energy policy.

The Alliance argued that this standard should maximize job opportunities for Michigan manufacturing and installation, businesses and explore incentives for

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Please take Notice that the Primary Election for the City of Westland will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2006. The last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at the City of Westland General Election to be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2006, is Monday, July 10, 2006. Persons registering after 4:00 in the evening on Monday, July 10, 2006 are not eligible to vote at the Primary Election.

You may register at the Westland City Clerk's office or at any Secretary of State Office. EILEEN DeHART, Westland City Clerk

Publish: July 2, 2006

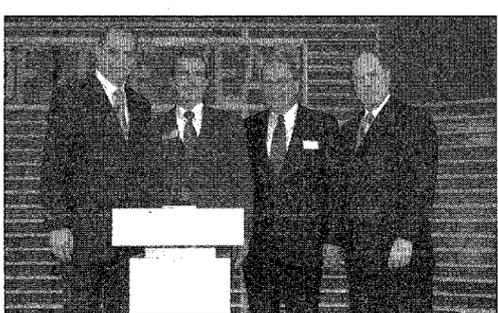
Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section

CITY OF GARDEN CITY CLOSE OF REGISTRATION NOTICE PRIMARY ELECTION, TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2006

Notice is hereby given that the last day of registration for the Primary Election is Monday, July 10, 2006. The office of the City Clerk, located in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan, will be open for the registration of all qualified electors, not already registered, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS, City Clerk Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan Publish: July 2, 2006

# Get to know your upper elementary



W. Danial Martin of Red Holman Pontiac-GMC in Westland was named a General Motors Dealer of the Year at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. Smith accepted his award from GM executives.

## Red Holman's Martin honored

W. Danial Martin of Red Holman Pontiac-GMC in Westland has been named a General Motors "Dealer of the Year."

Only 110 GM dealers nationwide have earned the distinguished recognition for their dedication to sales excellence, customer satisfaction and community involvement.

"We applaud our GM Dealer of the Year honorees for their leadership, their outstanding community service and their dedication and skill in promoting our brands and our cars and trucks," said Rick Wagoner, GM chairman and chief executive officer.

Martin received the 2005 Jack Smith Leadership Award, named after Jack Smith, retired GM chair-

man and CEO, and founder of the GM Dealer of the Year recognition program.

The award is a Steuben crystal obelisk, which symbolizes the ultimate dealer achievement at General Motors.

Wagoner, along with senior company officers congratulated Martin at the award ceremony held on Thursday, June 15, at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York.

"Martin has reached the highest level of achievement in our dealer network and we are honored to award him GM's highest honor for giving his customers the complete package of customer service and satisfaction," said Mark LaNeve, group vice president of vehicle sales, service and marketing, General Motors North America.

Students who will attend Livonia Public Schools first upper elementary buildings next fall are invited to an orientation in those buildings prior to the start of the school year.

Families of children attending Cooper, Riley or Johnson upper elementary schools will be scheduled to visit on Monday, Aug. 28. Times have been scheduled alphabetically by last name, though an opportunity to attend at 6:30 p.m. is

also available.

Orientation times are as follows:

- A-E attend from 9-10 a.m.
- F-L attend from 11 a.m. to noon
- M-R attend from 1-2 p.m.
- S-Z attend from 3-4 p.m.

Daytime orientations will include a short presentation by the principals, and students will be given their teacher assignments for the coming school year. They will also have a chance to find their class-

room and become familiar with the new building.

The district will repeat this information in the Back-to-School Dialogue, as well as send a reminder card to families.

The upper elementary buildings are currently being renovated for the coming school year, as part of the district's Legacy Initiative to close schools and reconfigure grades to save money. Cooper Upper Elementary will have five new classrooms and two new com-

puter labs. Johnson Upper Elementary will have two new computer labs and classrooms are being redesigned from the building's former shop room.

New classrooms are also being created at Riley Upper Elementary, where the science labs were located.

During the summer months the District Transition Team will continue to offer updates. For details, see <http://www.livonia.k12.mi.us/transition/transition.html>.

## PRESCHOOLS

Preschool listings 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.homecomm.net](mailto:smason@oe.homecomm.net). For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

### Willow Creek

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Wayne and Newburgh in Westland is now enrolling for the 2006-2007 school year. Willow Creek programs include Parent/Tot, 2-year-old, 3-year-old and 4-year-old year classes. For more information please call (734) 326-0078.

### Preschool program

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has registration for preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus

Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 419-2635.

### McKinley

Looking for a great preschool? Choose McKinley Cooperative Preschool at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Nondiscriminatory and fully licensed, the program is open to youngsters ages 2-4. Morning and afternoon classes are offered. For information, call (734) 729-7222 or visit the Web site at [www.mckinleypreschool.org](http://www.mckinleypreschool.org).

### Little Lambs

Little Lambs Preschool in Canton is now accepting applications for their 3-4-year-old preschool programs for fall 2006. Call (734) 981-0286 to set up an appointment to come in for a visit or for more information about its programs.

### YWCA Readiness

The YWCA of Western Wayne County Early Childhood School Readiness

Program is available to 4- and 5-year-old children. The YWCA is at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

### Charter school

The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills and offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

### Free Methodist

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is currently enrolling for the 2006-2007 school year. Four-year-olds attend on Mondays and Wednesdays, three-year-olds attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The preschool is at 1421 S. Venoy, Westland. To have further information, a tour or to enroll your child call the Preschool Office at (734) 728-3559.

### Garden City Co-op

Garden City Co-op Nursery, housed in the Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt at John Hawk, has openings in its programs for children 18 months to 4 years. The tots class meets on Wednesday mornings, while the older youngsters meet on Mondays and Thursdays. Parental involvement is required. Parents can call (734) 261-2838 for more information.

### United Christian

United Christian School on Florence near Middlebelt north of Cherry Hill offers classes two, three and five days a week. Classes meet mornings and afternoons for 3-5-year-olds, as well as flexible times for parents who need more than the scheduled preschool hours. There is a full curriculum in pre-reading, writing and early mathematics, including computer time. Call (734) 522-6487 for more information.



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**WALL**

FROM PAGE A1

Livonia, Garden City and other communities placed wreaths by the wall - wreaths that will be turned over to the Smithsonian Institution in the nation's capital.

"This wall is a way to bring closure for those families who have not been able to see the names of their loved ones on the wall in Washington," said Joseph Tebor, a Livonia resident who served in military intelligence operations. He dropped Vietnamese-language leaflets over South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

Tebor, post commander of the VFW Bova Post 9885 in Westland, was a first lieutenant when he dropped leaflets trying to convince the enemy to desert their side and help U.S. troops. He retired as a major in 1991.

"This is a big deal for veterans and their families," Tebor, 59, said Thursday, recalling how he lost a high school friend, James Wilkins, in the Vietnam War.

Flags and flowers adorned the east lawn of City Hall along with The Moving Wall during an opening ceremony that had a theme, "I Honor and Remember."

Westland Mayor Sandra Ciesiurek called it "a distinct privilege and honor" for Westland to become the 1,021st community to host the wall. City officials expect tens of thousands of visitors.

**REMEMBERING**

Thursday's ceremony included the raising of the U.S. flag, patriotic songs, a trumpeter playing *Taps* and a bagpiper performing *Amazing Grace*.

John Welchman, commander of the VFW Romanowski Post 6896 in Westland, rang a bell as he read aloud the names of the nine Westland servicemen who died in Vietnam - Caza's brother Stewart, Michael A. Blondin, Edward



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leroy Brenioan of Garden City, commander of AMVETS Post 171 in Westland, salutes the Army helicopter which flew over the ceremony.



John Welchman, commander of VFW Romanowski Post 6896, rings the bell as the name of each Westland soldier who died in Vietnam is read.

James Bova, Joseph M. Giusta, Steve Orris III, Dennis G. Prince, Arlie Spencer Jr., Refugio "Tommy" Teran and Joseph F. Wilms.

City Clerk Eileen DeHart fought back tears as she pointed out survivors who had spe-



Richard Burton of the Ann Arbor Pipes & Drums plays 'Amazing Grace' while walking the length of The Moving Wall during the ceremony.

cial seating for the ceremony. Later, DeHart remembered those who left their hometowns for Vietnam, and she paid tribute to "heroes who said goodbye - never suspecting that goodbye was forever." As former Westland City Councilman David James sang *God Bless the U.S.A.*, the crowd spontaneously stood up, held

hands and swayed. Some had tears in their eyes.

Steve Frazer, a 62-year-old Vietnam veteran and retired Westland police officer, called The Moving Wall's visit "a real honor." He and many others worked on the effort with festival Chairman Kenneth Mehl, a decorated Vietnam veteran.

"I'm proud as a peacock to see this, but it's a little sad, too," Frazer said, adding that he personally knew 27 names on the wall.

As Mehl addressed the crowd, he paused as a Huey helicopter - like those used in



Stanley Bist of the VFW Romanowski Post 6896 tries to hold back the tears as David James sings.

Vietnam - flew several times over the opening ceremony. Mehl praised those who fought and who "arrived in a country far from home, always wondering whether they would see home again."

As the wall proved Thursday, many of them, like Caza's brother Stewart, didn't see home again.

"It's been nearly 40 years since he died," she said. "And it still makes me cry when I think about it."

The Moving Wall is on the east lawn of Westland City Hall, located on Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Volunteers will be at the wall 24 hours through the morning of July 5, allowing visitors to view it any time of day or night. Visitors may give names from the wall to the volunteers, who can produce a computer printout detailing the location of names and other pertinent information about the deceased.

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**GODBOUT**

FROM PAGE A1

Godbout cited the location of pharmaceutical company Pfizer, Inc., in Ann Arbor as an example of progress, but he said little has been done to bring in ancillary, or supporting, businesses. He also said the development of E85 as an alternate fuel could boost Michigan's economy.

Godbout said the state will have to use tax incentives to lure businesses here, but he said such breaks should be tied to their willingness to use Michigan companies and labor when possible.

On education, Godbout called for a fix to school funding, but he said the K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future initiative is flawed. The plan, possibly headed to voters in November, would guarantee that districts receive at least enough extra money each year to keep up with inflation.

The plan comes with a huge price tag that worries Godbout. He said the state could be forced to take money away from other services to pay for it.

"The proposal is a great idea," he said, "but it's financially flawed. We need to fix funding for education, but we need to be smart about it."

In Westland, Godbout's community involvement has included serving as vice chairman of the Nankin Transit Commission, chairman of the Westland Recycling Committee, a member of the Westland Technology Committee and as a Democratic precinct delegate.

He also has been involved with the Westland Summer Festival, the Westland Condominium Directors Association, the Westland Host Lions Club, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Cub Scout Pack 786, the Westland Ice Show and the former Wayne-Westland Family YMCA.

He and his wife, Sande, are 26-year Westland residents. They have a son, Matt, who is in college. Godbout has a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Lawrence Technological University, and he attended the Michigan Municipal League Elected Officials Academy.

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These "no doc" loans represent a no lose situation for banks - remember, they want to lend you money because, even if you get in over your head, they can seize the very home they encouraged you to borrow against. You may get the loan, but you could also get into a lot of trouble. So tread carefully with these kinds of loans, because too much of a good thing is never a good thing.

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# The American Dream: Is it slipping away?

"What is at stake is more than our paychecks and benefits. What's at stake is our shared vision of an America that lives up to its promise of freedom, opportunity, dignity and social and economic justice for all. That's our American Dream."

— Ron Gettelfinger, president, United Auto Workers, June 12, 2006

Gettelfinger's comments at the UAW convention in Las Vegas will be a rallying cry for UAW members and their blue-collar working colleagues. It should also serve as a powerful message to everyone.

Michigan and America are clinging to the precipice of life-altering change. This is the time for us to come together in search of a shared vision and common agenda that will preserve a quality, middle-class living for those who have reached that rung of the economic ladder and to lift up those that strive to achieve this status.

There are unprecedented global, disruptive, transformational shifts taking place today. The question, as Gettelfinger articulates, is not how to wish away the collateral damage of globalization, but rather, to exploit it to optimize opportunities for the largest possible proportion of the world's humanity.

Our American Dream must transcend the waters that surround us. We must also focus on lifting up the countless millions who exist on less than \$2 per day and who are grateful for water to drink and a shelter to call home.

We are living in an age of massive turbulence. Today, our reality revolves around instant communication, globalization, technology morphing, off shoring and outsourcing. Ours is a world where ideas and work can and do move around the world instantaneously and effortlessly.

John P. Kotler, author of the book *Leading Change*, offers this advice in his followup book, *The Heart of Change*.

"People change what they do — less because they are given analysis that shifts their thinking, than because they are shown a truth that influences their feeling." He goes on to say, "This is especially so in large-scale organizational change, where you are dealing with new technologies, mergers and acquisitions, restructuring, new strategies, cultural transformation, globalization and e-business."

Our challenge is that we are confronting these changes simultaneously.

As Kotler says, "In an age of turbulence, when you handle this reality well, you win. When you don't, you lose."

It will rest on our leaders to help; not simply by giving information and analysis to shift our thinking, but to show us and model the way that will influence our feelings and help guide our

actions.

A clear test in how this view of change will play out is the 2006 gubernatorial election.

The reality of our anemic economy looms large with 7.2 percent unemployment. The second shoe of pending layoffs at Ford, GM, Delphi and other manufacturers has yet to fall. We are shedding good, middle-class jobs faster than many of us can shed a few pounds.

Do we look into the rear view mirror and long for the days when Russia, India and China had closed economies, when China was not a member of World Trade Organization, when NAFTA and CAFTA were just letters in the alphabet and when U.S. automakers held a healthier portion of auto market share and Japanese and Korean cars were viewed as junk?

Will our politicians simply blame Washington, rail at unfair trade agreements, complain about low wages in China, whine about the SBT or the fact that the Michigan Legislature is controlled by the Republicans and the governor's office by a Democrat? Complaining about these realities will not produce a job for the 50-year-old who has been laid off or the 20-something looking to begin his or her career.

The candidate or leader that can show the people the truth and help them envision a different and better future and model the way with productive actions and will garner the most votes.

This is the vision Gettelfinger was invoking when he spoke to the men and woman of the UAW. While his speech was directed to his membership, the message should be heard by all of us. Yes, our new reality is hard, painful and extremely disruptive.

We need leaders to acknowledge these truths and help forge a new reality. Our world has changed. Different times require new scripts. As Gettelfinger reminded his members, "40 years ago, at our 1966 (UAW) convention, Walter Reuther said, 'We can't solve the challenges of tomorrow with the tools of today.'"

Who will be the Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, FDR, JFK or Ronald Reagan who will inspire us to preserve a nation, save the world, place a man on the moon and remind us better days lie ahead? Who will bridge the gulf from fear to security, from looking back to looking forward, from despair to hope? The candidate that can help us imagine a better future, will be there with us when we arrive.

We need to pay attention and vote as if the American Dream, which Gettelfinger passionately spoke about, lies in the balance — because it does.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and as president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla., 1996-2001. Read his report: *The New Education (R)evolution*, at [www.nacol.org](http://www.nacol.org). He can be reached at [tdwatkins@aol.com](mailto:tdwatkins@aol.com).



Tom Watkins

# Ballot proposal will advance a society based on merit

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative is a proposal on which the people of Michigan will vote in November. If passed, the MCRI will amend the Michigan Constitution by adding Section 26 to Article I which will prohibit state and local government discrimination or preferential treatment in the areas of public employment, public contracting and/or public education to any individual or group based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

Our current system is one which gives preferential treatment based on race. If any preference must be given, it should be based on something more viable, such as socio-economic status, which would not neglect the thousands of non-black and non-Hispanic students who grow up with various disadvantages. For example, under our current system of granting college admissions due to racial preferences, the grandchildren of Jesse Jackson (a millionaire who wears \$1,000 dollar suits and flies in a private jet) are given preference over the



Ben Gurk

poor non-black/non-Hispanic child whose father was killed fighting in Iraq. Similarly, the black/Hispanic student at Brother Rice, Country Day, and Catholic Central is given preference over the non-black/non-Hispanic student at John Glenn, Taylor Truman, and Annapolis High School.

Opponents of the MCRI claim race is only one of many factors taken into account when students apply to colleges. However, if two students have nearly identical credentials but are different races, then race does become the decisive factor regarding whom to admit. A comprehensive admissions policy which includes race as one of many factors is not acceptable because it is still discriminatory in nature. Proponents of racial preferences and racial discrimination attempt to quantify their policies by hiding under the guise of diversity.

While there may be an educational aspect to having a diverse student body, this does not justify racial discrimination. Furthermore, it is lamentable that unity does not receive the solicitude diversity does.

Michigan has always been rich in diversity; should not unity instead of diversity be the altruistic goal?

Opponents of the MCRI erroneously claim that if the MCRI is passed, then scientific

While there may be an educational aspect to having a diverse student body, this does not justify racial discrimination. Furthermore, it is lamentable that unity does not receive the solicitude diversity does. Michigan has always been rich in diversity; should not unity instead of diversity be the altruistic goal?

research into breast cancer or other gender-specific diseases may be affected, domestic violence shelters may be eliminated, and breast cancer screening centers may be eliminated. The truth is that the MCRI only affects public employment, public contracting, and public education. Breast Cancer screening and domestic violence shelters still exist today in California where Proposition 209 passed. They will still exist in Michigan if the MCRI passes.

Opponents of the MCRI have failed to justify their use of racial preferences and racial discrimination. Their rebuke of the MCRI is tantamount to paranoid scare tactics. Contrary to what some opponents of the MCRI claim, the MCRI will not prohibit females and minorities from taking math and science classes nor will it deny blacks/Hispanics any civil rights. If the MCRI is passed it will not "turn back the clock on Title IX." Sadly, many MCRI opponents have also resorted to ad hominem character attacks in addition to their litany of unsubstantiated claims.

Voting "Yes" on the MCRI this fall will advance our society by making it one in which merit and achievement, not the color of a person's skin, are the ultimate indicators of success. This ballot proposal poses a simple question: Will we continue to tolerate racial discrimination or will we choose to live in a more equitable society? By voting "Yes" on the MCRI we can end the bizarre, racist, and antiquated practice of treating people differently because of the color of their skin.

Ben Gurk is a former U.S. Marine who served two tours in Iraq and currently teaches history/social studies at the Tinkham Adult/Alternative Education Center in Westland.

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## Deputy, sheriff warn of Internet predators, fraud

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The Internet has brought benefits to many lives, but Deputy Ray Johnson of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department sees its downside.

"We have to be careful what kind of information we provide on the Internet," Johnson told members and guests Thursday at a Westland Rotary luncheon. He cited the work he and colleagues do in the Internet Crime Unit, founded in 1998.

"We're a model for other agencies across the United States," Johnson said during the meeting at the Sgt. S. Romanowski VFW Post. The sheriff's department worked with the Westland Police Department on a recent case involving a local Internet predator who owned a tobacco shop.

"Do I look like a 13-year-old girl?" Johnson said, explaining that chat rooms are popular with young people who often share personal information.

With instant messaging, predators can isolate victims one-on-one for conversation. "For some reason on the com-

**Sheriff Warren Evans and others in law enforcement attended the Thursday meeting. Evans noted increased deed fraud at the county Register of Deeds office.**

puter, people answer this question on a regular basis," Johnson said of age/sex/location inquiries.

He described Internet profiles which include photos. Johnson noted the popularity of MySpace.com, a Web site he believes should be limited to those age 18 and older.

Johnson showed Web cams, which have beneficial uses for distant family and business teleconferencing. Unfortunately, some people disrobe on Web cams.

He cited the Public Sex Offender Registry of the Michigan State Police, a good tool but not totally accurate.

Johnson warned against "phishing" in which spam, popups and junk mail are used online to obtain personal information. "Nobody will ever ask you for your ATM PIN number," he said in displaying a

fraudulent inquiry he received.

Mail theft, stolen purses and wallets and discarded trash are other sources of personal information which can lead to identity theft. "People get credit card applications all the time" and discard them, the deputy said.

Thieves can grab trash and apply for a bogus card. Johnson recommended reporting theft of your identity to the credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian and Trans Union.

"Let them know you've been a victim," Johnson said.

Sheriff Warren Evans and others in law enforcement attended the Thursday meeting. Evans noted increased deed fraud at the county Register of Deeds office.

"Check to make sure your house still belongs to you," Evans said. "If someone is

messing with your title, let's get on it earlier." Criminals have been filing fraudulent quit claim deeds and obtaining mortgages.

Information is available online at waynecounty.com.

Evans praised Westland Police Chief Daniel Pfannes and his department, noting sheriff's personnel can extract from computers material the user thought had been erased.

The sheriff said there have been nearly 70 Internet cases, and his department is proud of the 100 percent conviction rate. "We know we're only getting the tip of the iceberg."

Pfannes was pleased to have the sheriff's department in town. "I thought he did a fantastic job," the chief said of Johnson's presentation, which he said was thorough and easy to understand.

"I think it's definitely a generational thing," Pfannes said of parents who grew up without the Internet. Parents monitor stranger danger for kids.

"And yet we seem to be not as careful when they're surfing the Internet."

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## Man dies in county jail

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Sheriff's Department is investigating the death of a 46-year-old Lincoln Park man Thursday in the Dickerson jail facility in Hamtramck.

"It was a drunk driving-related violation," department spokesman John Roach said. The man's name wasn't being released Thursday, pending notification of family.

According to Roach, an officer discovered the inmate unresponsive in his cell, and staff tried CPR without success.

"He was pronounced dead at the scene," Roach said.

The county medical examiner's office is involved, Roach said, and the sheriff's department will investigate as a possible homicide, a routine practice.

"We're trying to figure out if it's natural causes," he said.

The Lincoln Park man was alone in his cell when found shortly before noon Thursday.

"As the investigation proceeds, hopefully we'll know more soon," Roach added.



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