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Homeowners challenge condo development

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A newly formed Westland homeowners group has blasted a proposed condominium project in their neighborhood, saying it could intrude on a wetlands area and threaten wildlife.

In a show of solidarity, about 25 residents Monday night attended a Westland City Council meeting to oppose a developer's plans to build 40 detached condos on the south side of Palmer Road, between John Hix and Hannan.

"We are the voice for Mother Nature," said resident Judy Rubasky, member of the new Westside Westland Homeowners Action Committee.

Residents scored a first-round victory by convincing city officials to delay a site plan vote for Maida's Woods condos until the Michigan

What do you think about this story?
E-mail your responses to smason@hometownlife.com.

Department of Environmental Quality can review the 14-acre site.

Council President William Wild also promised he will schedule a study session on the proposed development before the plan is revived for a vote.

The latest developments left Judy Rubasky's husband, Jim, choking back tears as he addressed the council.

"Tonight I see the American Dream at work," he said.

Longtime resident James Luckett implored city leaders to protect the peace and quiet of an

area where he has lived "much longer than most of you have been in politics."

City officials could find themselves in a court battle over Maida's Woods. They could face a lawsuit if they try to block the developer's plans without legal justification, but Luckett implied Monday that residents may file suit unless the project is rejected.

The issue has prompted residents to form the Westland Wetlands Conservancy Group, and they said they will try to win support from other environmental groups.

Residents also are concerned about declining property values, traffic congestion and whether the city is placing the potential for new tax revenues above quality-of-life issues.

They earlier took their concerns to a Westland Planning Commission, which recommended that council approve the site plan.

One day before Monday's meeting, residents had their own meeting at nearby Abundant Life Church to discuss their plan of action.

Jim Rubasky issued a prepared statement early this week saying that residents want to protect what natural areas are left in Westland — and the plants and animals that live there.

"When we take the 's' out of Westland, what do we have? No wetlands left, if we continue with current city policy and enforcement," he said.

"It is time for a change," Rubasky added later. "We must be the change we wish to see in this world. We need to think globally and act locally in Westland. There is no business to be done on a dead planet."

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 10 members of John Glenn High School's Homecoming court will find out during half time this evening who will be king and queen. Nominated for queen are Natalie Bower (from left), Michelle Gutowski, Kayla Montague, Lindsay Bies and Kija Colts. The candidates for king are Robert Jones (from left), Matt Kukulka, Frank Toarmina, Angelo Brown and Shamir Garcia.

The 'royal' treatment

Nominations are the buzz of Nottingham

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

There's a buzz around Nottingham about a royal court — a young lad called Prince Evan, a fair maiden named Natalie who could be queen, and a courtly gentleman named Shamir.

If the planets are in alignment, it could all come to be sometime this evening.

That's when Natalie Bower, Shamir

Garcia and eight other John Glenn High School seniors will find out who will be the 2006 Homecoming king and queen.

If they win the school-wide vote, it will mean that the high school's royalty and the city's Toddler of the Year, Evan Phillips, all live on the same street — Nottingham.

"I try not to think about it," said Bower when asked about a courtly future. "It's just fun to be on the court."

Ditto for Garcia who says it's "pretty cool" to be on the court.

"I was sort of told in the hallway that I was on the court and I said, 'Dang,'" he added.

Bower and Garcia live one house apart on Nottingham. They got to know each other in sixth-grade and have been "good friends" ever since.

"He used to walk down on side different sides of the street until he asked what my name was," Bower said. "Then we started walking together."

PLEASE SEE ROYAL TREATMENT, A3

Carjacker strikes 4th time in week's time

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A suspected serial carjacker struck again in Westland early Saturday, robbing a man at gunpoint and driving off in his vehicle outside the Dunkin' Donuts at Ford and Wildwood, police said.

The incident happened just after 2:30 a.m. and marked the fourth carjacking in six days in the Westland-Garden City area.

No shots have been fired, and no one has been injured.

In all four carjackings, the stolen vehicles have been found abandoned near the robbery scene, leading police to believe the suspect is only using them to escape.

Garden City police have released a sketch of a suspect. Anyone who has information is urged to call Garden City police at (734) 793-1700 or Westland police at (734) 722-9600.

The latest carjacking occurred when an Ypsilanti man walked outside the Dunkin' Donuts to get his cigarettes from a 2006 Chevy Trailblazer, according to police reports. The victim had just turned 51 on Friday.

The victim told police that the suspect approached on foot, revealed a small semiautomatic handgun, pointed it at him and robbed him of approximately \$140.

The suspect then took a 2006 Chevy Trailblazer that the man was driving and fled eastbound on Ford Road. Police found the vehicle parked a short distance away — with the keys in the ignition — outside G.J.'s Diner at



The victim of one of the two carjackings in Garden City was able to provide a description to a sketch artist who produced this drawing of the suspect.

Ford and Venoy.

A Redford police dog was brought in but couldn't locate a suspect, according to police reports.

The latest incident was similar to three others.

The first carjacking occurred about 9:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, at Parkway Car Wash on Warren Road in Garden City.

The second happened just after 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, in the driveway of a home in the 28900 block of Rush in Garden City.

The third occurred about 3:40 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, outside a home on Flamingo, southeast of Joy and Merriman roads, in Westland.

Staff writer LeAnne Rogers contributed to this story.
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Eloise complex gets state historical marker

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Eloise, a former poorhouse and asylum that became one of the largest U.S. public health care facilities, has earned Westland a state historical marker.

Reduced now to just two buildings, Eloise once sprawled for 902 acres on both sides of Michigan Avenue between Merriman and Henry Ruff roads. It housed 10,000 patients and employed 2,000 workers in the late 1920s.

"It was huge," said Westland historian Jo Johnson, president of Friends of Eloise.

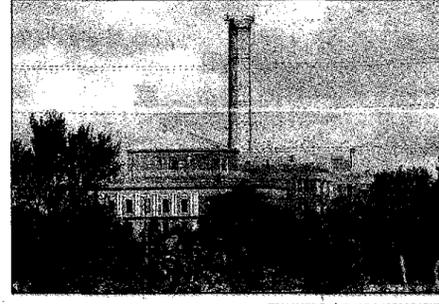
She announced this week that the Michigan Historical Commission has approved a state historical marker for the Eloise site, which once had 75 buildings and its own farm, cannery, bakery, cemetery, employee housing, police and fire departments, and trolley and train stations.

Started in 1839 as a poorhouse where people who couldn't support themselves were sent, Eloise helped make a name for Wayne County because the facility was the only one in the state

with a medical complex that included a general hospital, infirmary and asylum, Johnson said.

Eloise doctors pioneered the use X-rays for diagnostic purposes, and psychiatric patients underwent such treatment as "electroshock."

Author Patricia Ibbotson charted Eloise's history in *Eloise: Poorhouse, Farm, Asylum and Hospital 1839-1984*, a book that Johnson said helped raise more than \$3,000 needed to order the state marker. Ibbotson worked in nursing at Eloise.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Only a few buildings remain of the once sprawling Eloise complex that covered 902 acres in Westland.

PLEASE SEE ELOISE, A6

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Volume 42
Number 34

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Coming Sunday in Health

Search Your Heart program brings healthy living to church.

Forum puts splash in swim team practice

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

The marquee sign at the Forum Fitness Center welcoming the Garden City High School girls swim team said it all.

Ongoing repairs to the high school pool had left the swim team without a place to practice. Fitness center owners Tom Berthá and Jeff Sullivan heard about the problem and have offered their facility pool for practices from 3-5 p.m. weekdays until the high school pool is ready for use.

"The mother of one of the swimmers asked if they could use the pool while theirs is under repair," Berthá said. "Our pool is under-used at this time of year, so there was no problem. We've never had this many people in the pool at one time before."

Before school started, the swim team had been practicing at the Crestwood High School pool.

"We practiced there at August and say thanks to them. Now that school has started, there are too many people using Crestwood's pool — we wouldn't have been able to use it until 8 p.m.," said Julie Johnston, who coaches both the varsity and junior varsity swim teams. "They're letting us use the pool free and gave all the girls free memberships for the month. I think that's awesome, we really appreciate it."

At their first meet earlier this month, the girls team took eight of 10 possible medals, surprising Johnston



Garden City High School senior Stephanie Kogowski works on her breaststroke at swim team practice in the Forum Fitness Center in Westland.

with how well the swimmers had competed.

"I was very astonished at what we were capable of and what we accomplished," said Johnston, who also coaches the boys swim team.

A Canton resident, Berthá is a 1971 Garden City West High School graduate. His late father, Andrew, was a longtime teacher and administrator in the district. He had been working in the computer field before he and Sullivan, a Garden City resident and friend of many years, took over the Westland fitness center in February 2005.

"This is fun compared to everything else I've done, it's a blast. It's a challenge but a different kind of challenge — it's not software," Berthá said.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Forum Fitness Center owners Tom Berthá of Canton (left) and Jeff Sullivan of Garden City welcome the Garden City High School Girls swim team to practice at their facility. The high school pool is undergoing repairs and can't be used currently.

Sullivan, who owns an auto repair business in Dearborn, was a longtime member of the Forum and had been telling Berthá about the fitness center becoming rundown. Looking for a new opportunity, the men decided to take a shot at taking over the center.

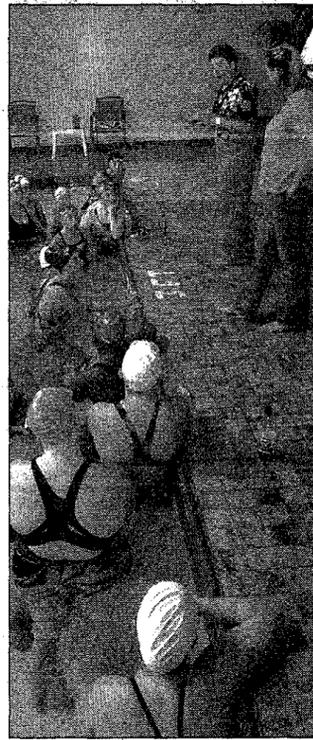
"This was more like a hobby, we were tired of working," Sullivan said. Since taking over, the men have been making improvements to the facility and are seeing a steady

increase in membership, Berthá said. Along with the pool, there is an indoor running track, full workout facility, whirlpool and wet and dry saunas.

"We like to think we're a well-kept secret," Sullivan said.

The Forum Fitness Center is located on Ford at Wildwood in Westland.

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Coach Julie Johnston talks with her swimmers during practice at The Forum Fitness Center.

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Parisian sale supports education

Parisian will hold its semi-annual Celebrate Education event from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, both at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and at the Village of Rochester Hills locations.

The event provides an opportunity for local schools — and afterschool programs — to raise money in support of educational initiatives.

As school budgets are increasingly stretched to meet the needs of students, Parisian's Celebrate Education event offers a way for local students, parents and educators to raise money for art, athletics, computers, music and more.

Parisian launched its Celebrate

Education events in 2000. According to Senior Vice President of Stores Ken Armstrong, the program "raises close to \$1 million annually for schools and education charities."

Participants in Celebrate Education sell \$5 tickets to the event. They retain the entire ticket price for the amount of tickets sold. Then, ticket-holders receive a discount of 20 percent off almost everything in the store, including rarely discounted merchandise, during the 12-hour event.

Those interested in participating should contact the Laurel Park Parisian at (734) 953-7500, or the Village of Rochester Hills Parisian at (248) 276-6705.

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Florist grows shop with positive attitude

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Don Petre always expects to get more than flowers, plants or gift baskets when he places an order at My Lady's Florist.

The consistently courteous and attentive service is what has kept him coming back to the Westland florist for more than 15 years.

"When you pick up the phone, you don't get, 'I can't do,'" said Petre, executive director of Thomas F. Taylor Towers in Westland.

"There is a completely positive attitude," he said. "You need something, they say, 'Yes. We can do it.' And I've seen it when I've gone into the store that they do it with everybody."

That is the key to the business' longevity, according to My Lady's Florist owner Lawrence Derderian, who is the Westland Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year for 2006.

"Whether it's a hospital, the (Wayne-Westland) school district or a youth athletic association, giving back to the community has been a natural part of his business since it first opened the doors," according to a letter from Derderian's employees nominating him as business person of the year.

"Lawrence is a kind and positive man who is always willing to help others," the letter read. "He is someone who puts his heart and soul into his business."

A 12-year chamber member, Derderian said his business has grown from 1,000 square feet when he opened in 1982 to 4,000 square feet today in his current location on South Wayne Road. He started out with two people and now has two delivery drivers and a number of employees.

"Our specialty is something that is rare these days and that's remarkable service," Derderian said.

Over the years, the competition has increased tremendously, because more and more businesses, from gas stations to warehouse companies, sell flowers, Derderian said.

"Here you get a product and a full guarantee and courteous service along the way," Derderian said, explaining that My Lady's Florist is a full-service florist accommodating everything from wed-



Lawrence Derderian has built up a loyal following at his My Lady Florist in Westland by offering customers "remarkable service."

dings to funerals and birthdays among other events.

In addition to floral arrangements, Derderian's staff also customizes gift baskets and sells stuffed animals, helium balloons, gift cards, plants and an array of other specialty merchandise.

"If someone wants something and we don't have it in stock, we will get it," he said.

The business has been changing over the years to accommodate shifts in gift-giving trends, Derderian said. So during the last year, his company has added personalized gift baskets.

"People are looking to find something different to send people," he said. "We've made it a practice to find out what it is the person is looking for and to make a gift basket that is unique for the person who is receiving it."

Ensuring the business runs smoothly has gotten a little more complicated since the downturn in Michigan's economy.

"We're at the bottom of the list when there is a bad economy," he said. "When it comes time to dole out money, food and the house are at the top and then, maybe, if there's a little left, it goes for flowers."

For that reason, Derderian said he has

had to maintain reasonable prices and offer customers more than they expect, especially in the service they receive.

That means making special deliveries and fulfilling specific personal needs.

"We have customers who have been here from day one and they have been our best advertisers who have passed our name along these past 24 years and I'm indebted to them," he said.

Derderian said his business is set apart from others, because he insists on "a language of common courtesy."

"It's the one thing we know we can give our clients that will make their experience at Our Lady's Florist more enjoyable," Derderian said. "One of the things that seems to be missing in daily lives is that people aren't as courteous as they used to be. At one time it was the common courtesy that helped us through difficult times. We do our very best to treat every client with respect. It's the one thing we hold above everything else. We have to give the client something they can't receive anywhere else."

And that courtesy hasn't gone unnoticed, especially with Petre.

"They are very friendly and make you feel very comfortable," Petre said. "They do a remarkable job."

Livonia takes aims on improve busing

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Busing delays for students in Livonia Public Schools seem to be on the road to improvement, parents said.

But the transportation issue is not yet resolved.

Wendy Raymond, who's daughter attends third grade at Buchanan Elementary, said the bus is arriving closer to its scheduled times than it had for the first two weeks of school.

"They're a couple minutes late, but they're getting better," she said.

Bus riders at Buchanan were arriving late due to the schedule snafus, and being picked up 10 to 15 minutes after the final bell rang each school day, according to Raymond.

Supt. Randy Liepa addressed the district's busing situation publicly, at the start of Monday's regular board meeting.

"We're still working out some of the remaining transportation issues," he said.

Liepa said each year it takes a few weeks to work out a bus routes. This year the Transportation Department is handling additional bus riders and prolonged road construction. He said getting children to school and home from school in a timely manner is a priority.

"We've made some improvement," Liepa said.

Raymond has seen that improvement. Still, she questions whether enough has been done to correct the problem, or if the timing has improved because "a lot of parents have pulled their children off the buses."

Pam and Ken Nicoll have done just that. After experiencing erratic busing to and from their son's school, Randolph Elementary, they have chosen to pick him up in the afternoon. "An hour-long bus ride is

entirely too much time spent for a second-grader to come home just two miles away," Ken Nicoll said. He said the issue is traffic during that time of the day. And it's not just impacting his family.

"This is not just happening at our school, but in other schools across the city as well," Nicoll said.

Liepa said the Transportation Department is working on a number of ways to improve the timing and routes of its buses.

He said some areas may be re-routed. And in some cases, the district may switch buses if they find that certain drivers are completing runs earlier than others.

"We'll combine some of the runs," Liepa said. "We're changing pickup times in the morning to provide more flexibility. We're trying to address this as quickly as possible."

Pam Nicoll said that because the busing changes were a result of the district's controversial Legacy Initiative reorganization plan, she assumed the district would do what it could "to make sure that it went as smoothly as possible."

"The biggest part of the plan, busing the kids all over the city," she said, "has been a huge failure."

Liepa noted this isn't the first time the district has had to make adjustments to its busing schedules. He noted the installation of a computerized system in the late '80s, and the first year of bus transfers at Frost Middle School as other trying times.

Liepa said anyone with concerns can contact the Transportation Department at (734) 744-2517.

"We're making sure there is staff over there and answering phones for people," he said. "I want to thank everyone involved. This has certainly not been a typical year."

ROYAL TREATMENT

FROM PAGE A1

Two-year-old Evan lives across the street from Bower, who has baby-sat him for two summers. Evan became famous in the neighborhood after winning the Toddler of the Year title at the Westland Summer Festival and, according to Bower's father Leslie, neighbors dubbed him prince.

"They (neighbors) call him Evan the prince of Nottingham

and say it's only fitting that a queen should watch a prince," Leslie Bower said. "He's been teased about that all summer long."

Leslie Bower said neighbors have also been teasing the two teens about a royal court.

"They say it's only fitting a queen should watch a prince," he said.

Garcia said he hadn't heard that, and Bower said she thinks "people are talking about because my dad started it."

Voting for king and queen took place Tuesday and the

winners will be crowned during halftime at this evening's Homecoming game.

While winning would be nice, both Bower and Garcia say the there's plenty of good people who've been nominated this year.

"They're all really great people, the represent all the people in the school," Bower said.

"They represent cheerleading, football, soccer, wrestling, track, student council, basketball, band, D.A.R.E., yearbook."

"Whoever wins will represent John Glenn well," Garcia said.

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Rebuilt at a Southfield auto dealership, this hot rod pickup awaits a new owner.

Locals rev up truck for Stone Soup drawing

BY WAYNE PEAL
COMMUNITY EDITOR

It was made in the U.S.A. — and remade in metro Detroit.

This year's Stone Soup Nailhead truck, a charity fundraiser for the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, was a labor of love for the 25-plus people who worked on it.

"We got it done in 26 days," said Stone Soup volunteer Asher Panian, general manager of Joe Panian Chevrolet of Southfield, where the truck was finished and unveiled Wednesday. The rough version was displayed on Woodward during last month's Dream Cruise.

The purple beauty is truly an all-American project.

"It's a '47 Dodge truck, but it has a Ford rear and a Buick engine," Panian said.

Organized through the J.J. and Lynne Morning Show on

WCXS-FM (98.7), the four-year-old Stone Soup project raffles off a rebuilt custom vehicle each year to benefit the Southfield-based children's charity.

"It takes the theme of the children's fable *Stone Soup*, where everybody pitches in," CLF spokeswoman Karen Mulligan said.

Acquired from a local auto shop, the vintage truck was widened, lengthened and repainted.

Priority was given to maintaining original parts. But not all the parts fit after the truck was customized. The old hood posed a special problem.

"The hood didn't fit, so we had a new one fabricated courtesy of Quality Metal of Livonia," Panian said.

Panian's own company, Lucky Devil Hot Rods, also played a major role in the project. He and partner Steven Evans are no strangers to such projects,

having customized dozens of hot rods and motorcycles.

Those who missed this year's Stone Soup truck Wednesday will be able to see it truck again 5:30-9 a.m. Thursday at Duggan's Irish Pub on Woodward in Royal Oak, during a special morning show broadcast.

Raffle tickets are \$25 and can be ordered online at wcxs.com/ijandlynn or by calling the CLF at (248) 353-8222, but hopefuls must hurry. The drawing will be conducted 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the station, One Radio Plaza, Detroit.

CLF helps those affected by leukemia and lymphoma and their families. It provides social workers and information services as well as up to \$1,000 in financial assistance to help in the treatment of blood, lymphatic and bone marrow disorders.

wpeal@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2503

Judge finds Westland man guilty of robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 20-year-old attacker, accused of going into a 67-year-old Westland man's apartment, clubbing him with a hammer and taking his money, has been convicted of armed robbery.

Brandon Dickerson, 20, could face penalties ranging from two years to life in prison after he was convicted Friday by Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas Jackson. His sentencing is pending.

Charges against Dickerson stemmed from an assault that happened at about 2 a.m. April 11 while the victim was sitting in his living room with the door open at Country Court, on Wildwood north of Ford.

Dickerson went inside, attacked the victim and left him bleeding as he ran from the apartment. But police Sgt. Steve Borisch said an alert neighbor saw

Dickerson fleeing, chased him to nearby Edison Elementary School, tackled him and held him until officers arrived.

Dickerson, who has been jailed since the attack, waived his right to a jury trial and decided to have the case decided by a judge.

Jackson heard testimony from the victim, the neighbor who captured Dickerson and an ex-girlfriend of the defendant.

"Dickerson told her what had happened," Borisch said.

The trial started and ended Friday with Jackson convicting him of armed robbery and dismissing two other felony charges.

The robbery charge, alone, gives Jackson the discretion to impose a sentence ranging up to life in prison. Because the robbery involved an injury, Dickerson will face at least a mandatory two-year term.

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

Walkers invade Belle Isle for annual fund-raiser

There's still time to sign up for the 2006 AIDS Walk Michigan/City of Detroit, slated for Saturday, Sept. 30, on Belle Isle in Detroit.

The purpose of the 5-kilometer walk is to raise money for HIV/AIDS health and prevention services in metro Detroit.

Prospective walkers and donors can go to the official site for walk information and registration on the Web at www.aidswalkmichigan.org. Click on the link for "City of Detroit."

The AIDS Walk Michigan

takes place on the same weekend each year in Detroit and six other Michigan communities — Ann Arbor, Bay City, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Traverse City. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. on the walk day at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo, with the walk starting at 10 a.m.

Thousands have walked to fight AIDS in the City of Detroit each year since the Walk was first organized by the Michigan Women and AIDS Committee in 1990.

More information is available by sending an e-mail to info@aidswalkmichigan.org.

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† Whichever comes first. Limited warranty. See dealer for details.
†† 2007 models. Excludes Medium Duty trucks. Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly "Best Spaghetti Dinner in Westland" returns to the Dyer Senior Center, 36745 Marquette, Friday, Sept. 22. Dinner will be served 4-7 p.m. The cost is \$6 for spaghetti, including salad, desert, entertainment and dancing. For additional information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Flu shoots

The Village of Westland at 32001 Cherry Hill will offer flu shots to seniors age 62 and older 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 5-6. Call (734) 762-8895 to schedule and appointment.

Westland Maple Drugs also will be offering flu and pneumonia shots and sponsoring a Diabetes Day 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the store on Ford Road at Hunter. A second round of shots will be offered 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9.

The shots will be available on a walk-in basis and cost \$25 for the flu shot and \$40 for the pneumonia shot. For people with Medicare Part B, there will be no co-pay.

As part of Diabetes Day, the store will be giving out free meters and free samples as well as providing education and answering questions about the disease.

For more information, call Chuck or Danielle at (734) 729-2200.

Groovy time

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896, at 28945 Joy Road in Westland, will sponsor a "70s Hippies Dance" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Second Wind will perform. There will be a prize for best hippie attire. Those attending also are urged to bring their 70s photos.

There will be food, raffles and a cash bar. For more information, call (734) 525-9454.

Mom 2 Mom sale

St. Damian School is hosting a Fall Mom 2 Mom Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23. New this year will be a Dad 2 Dad Sale which will take place at the same time at the school, 30055 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman. Table rental is \$20 table rental for the Mom 2 Mom Sale and \$15 outdoor space rental for the Dad 2 Dad Sale. For more information, call Dawn at (734) 983-0221.

Senior dinner-dance

The Wayne Ford Civic League will be holding a senior dinner and dance at noon Sunday, Sept. 24, at the hall at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee, and pop and dancing to the live entertainers.

Seniors must be at least 60 years old to attend. Tickets are \$8 for league members and \$10 for non-members. Memberships are on sale year-round and cost \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, call (734) 728-5010.

Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play Bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Open enrollment

McKinley Cooperative Preschool, a non-profit, non-sectarian and non-discriminatory organization owned and operated by parents and licensed by the State of Michigan, offers a three-year-old and four-year-old preschool program and a toddler/parent program for two-year olds. The program is offered at 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For information call (734) 729-7222 or visit the McKinley Cooperative Preschool Web site at www.mckinleypreschool.org.

Euchre returns

Friday Night Euchre/Pinochle Card Parties are back at St. Bernadine Parish in Westland.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and play starts at 7:30 p.m. No partner is needed. Admission is \$5 admission includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available.

The scheduled dates are Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13, 27, Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 1, 15, Jan. 7, 5 12, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16.

St. Bernadine Parish is on the southwest corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland. For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

Fall seminars

Barson's Greenhouse is offering a series of free fall seminars on winterizing ponds and constructing new ponds

The winterizing seminar, which focuses on preparing the pond for cold weather, will be offered at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 1. The pond construction, providing infor-

mation on all you'll need to build a pond, will be offered at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30.

Barson's Greenhouse is at 6414 Merriman south of Warren. For more information, call (734) 421-5959.

Adoption event

The Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven is hosting an adoption event to raise funds and awareness for pet rescue and help find local, homeless Samoyeds a new home for life at the Petco, 35725 Warren Road, Westland. The event will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4.

Crafters sought

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is seeking crafters for an annual fall craft show that will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. The post is located at 28945 Joy Road. Tables and chairs are available. Reservations are needed by Oct. 4. Call Dianna Welchman at (313) 278-3784.

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women Craft Show on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail No. 10) to reserve a table.

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.

Praise and worship

Westwood Community Church holds praise and worship services at 10 a.m. Sundays at 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. The church also offers a children's church and nursery. For more information, call (734) 254-0093.

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.

2 sides are needed to tell Eloise history

So rich in history is the Eloise site that its state historic marker will have different wording on each side, which is typically not the case.

The first side will read: In 1839 Wayne County purchased the Black Horse Tavern, a stage-coach stop located here on the Chicago Road, for use as a poorhouse. Early on, the poorhouse accepted not only the county's indigent, but the infirm and mentally ill as well. During the late nineteenth century, the number of residents grew, and new buildings were constructed to meet the demand. In 1894 a post office opened on the grounds with the name Eloise, a name that became synonymous with what developed into a 902-acre, 75-building complex. By the late 1920s Eloise's population had peaked at 10,000 patients and 2,000 staff. A city in itself, Eloise had its own farm, cannery, bakery, cemetery, employee housing, police and fire departments, trolley and train sta-

tions, and 16 kitchens that served 30,000 meals daily. The second side of the marker will read:

Wayne County's medical complex "Eloise" was founded as a poorhouse in 1839. It eventually became one of the largest public health care facilities in the U.S. The most advanced medical and psychiatric treatments were used here. During the early twentieth century, Eloise physicians pioneered the use of X-rays for diagnostic purposes, radium for treatment of cancer, and "open air" treatment for tuberculosis. Psychiatric patients underwent electroshock and insulin shock therapy, as well as music, recreational and television therapy. Psychiatric care ended in 1979, and the general hospital closed in 1984. Most of the complex's 75 buildings were razed by the mid-1980s. More than 7,100 patients are buried in the Eloise cemetery, their graves marked only by numbered blocks.

ELOISE

FROM PAGE A1

Friends of Eloise this week will send a check to the state to order the historic marker, and a dedication is expected in the spring.

Johnson, who has helped compile Eloise's history, welcomed recent news that a state marker had been approved. She considers it an important milestone.

"I feel that most all of what's left of Eloise will be gone eventually, and it did impact so many people," she said.

Even now, an old smokestack on the site is being slowly dismantled.

"That smokestack stands out like a trooper," Johnson said Monday, addressing city officials during a Westland City Council meeting.

Johnson receives inquiries most weeks from people who either spent time at Eloise or who had relatives that did.

"It's just unbelievable," she said.

More than 7,100 patients are buried in the Eloise cemetery — their graves marked only by numbered blocks. Not everyone believes it, but some ghost

More than 7,100 patients are buried in the Eloise cemetery — their graves marked only by numbered blocks.

hunters say that certain areas of Eloise are haunted, such as the fourth floor of a building named after current Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard.

This week, Westland historian Ruth Dale noted that the Eloise historic marker is one of two recently approved for Westland's south end. The other is for Annapolis Park, a neighborhood that became one of the first U.S. suburbs to welcome African-American homeowners in the 1950s.

The historic markers will become the only ones ever approved for Westland's south end, she said, making the summer of 2006 significant. In all, Dale said, the city has eight historic markers.

Meanwhile, Johnson said anyone who wants to order Ibbotson's book about Eloise may call her at (734) 522-3918. The cost is \$20 plus \$1.59 for shipping.

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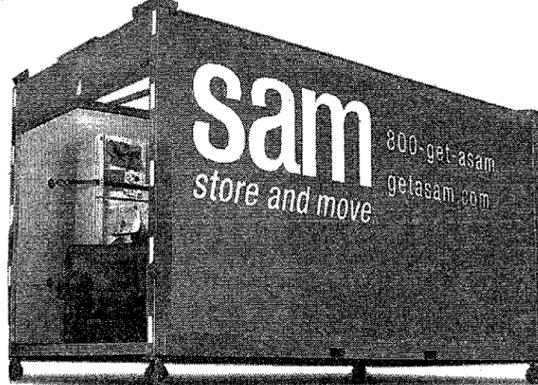


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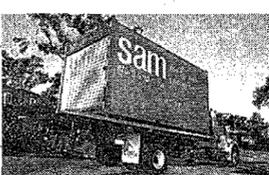
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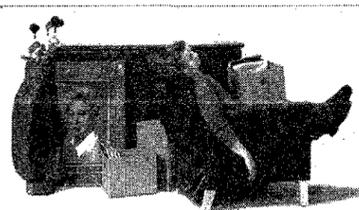
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H.E.A.T. urges students to take precautions

H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts) is encouraging students and new drivers to outsmart thieves by taking extra precautions to protect their vehicles and property from auto theft during the back-to-school season.

According to the most recent Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) annual report, fall is a popular time for auto theft and October is the number one month for auto-theft crimes.

"Often new drivers aren't as aware of the threat of auto theft. This inexperience coupled with the flood of school activity puts students and young drivers especially at risk," said Terri Miller, director of H.E.A.T. "By following some simple safety tips, students and new drivers can protect their vehicles and property from theft."

According to the ATPA, several vehicles popular with younger drivers are among the top 10 most stolen vehicles, including the Ford Mustang, Pontiac Grand Am and Jeep Liberty. The report also notes that thieves also favor vehicles that are white, black, gray, blue and red.

"With both academics and extracurricular activities gearing up in the fall, students and new drivers can't afford to let their guard down," said Oakland County Sheriff, Michael J. Bouchard. "Many students work hard for their vehicles and need to use common sense and take pre-

cautions to protect their property."

Tips on keeping your car and belongings safe during the back-to-school season include:

Closed not cracked - Close windows tightly, don't even leave them "cracked" and always lock your car.

Out of sight - Keep all personal belongings, including iPods, cell phones and other valuables out of sight.

Stop and lock - Never leave your vehicle running and unattended, even just for a few minutes.

Kill-switch - Protect your vehicle from being started by a thief by having a mechanic install a concealed kill-switch.

Double duty - Add a second layer of protection to your vehicle by using a steering wheel locking device, a steering column protector or an alarm with a visible flasher.

VIN - Consider etching your VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) onto the glass surfaces of your vehicle. VIN etching makes vehicles less attractive to thieves because all windows must be replaced before the car is tagged with a fake VIN for resale.

(800) 242-H.E.A.T. - If you know anything about auto theft, report it to your local police department and H.E.A.T.'s confidential tip-reward line, (800) 242-H.E.A.T.

Since its inception in 1985, H.E.A.T. tips have led to the recovery of more than \$42 million in stolen property and the arrests of nearly 3,000 suspects involved in auto theft rings, chop shops, carjackings, fraudulent car thefts, among other crimes. H.E.A.T. also has paid more than \$2.9 million in tipster rewards over the last 20 years.

Anyone with information on auto theft, carjacking, chop shops, auto theft-related identity theft and auto insurance fraud in Michigan is encouraged to call the H.E.A.T. tip line or log on to www.miheat.org to provide a confidential report.

H.E.A.T. works with Michigan law enforcement agencies to follow up on tips. Tipsters are awarded up to \$1,000, if the tip leads to the arrest and prosecution of a suspected car thief or a person suspected of auto theft-related insurance fraud. Rewards of up to \$10,000 are issued if a tip results in the arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected theft ring or chop shop operators.

H.E.A.T. rewards up to \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect. The H.E.A.T. tip line is monitored by the Michigan State Police and funded by Michigan's auto insurance companies.

Teams sought for Future City

Seventh- and eighth-grade students attending schools in Westland, Garden City and across the state and country are invited to participate in the 2007 National Engineers Week Future City Competition.

More than 30,000 students from 1,100 middle schools are expected to participate in Future City which asks students, working in teams and under the guidance of a teacher and a volunteer engineer mentor, to design and build a city of tomorrow.

Students also write a brief abstract describing their city and present and defend their designs before a panel of engineer judges. This year, the focus is on fuel cells, and Michigan middle school students will tackle the challenge full force.

The 2007 Future City essay, sponsored by IEEE-USA - the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - USA - addresses the topic of "Develop an energy strategy to include fuel cell systems to power a city of the future."

The essay must outline how the city will develop and use a reliable system of fuel cells in residential, commercial or industrial zones and how it will keep the city free of pollution. The exact type of fuel cell needs to be described, along with how kilowatt output will match specific power needs.

Having students as young as 12 years old scrutinizing and debating a process that is challenging some of the world's greatest engineering minds may seem daunting but, to Future City

organizers, that's exactly what makes the program so popular.

"Every year we challenge middle school students with a task that would leave most adults shaking their head," said Future City National Director Carol Rieg, who has been with the program since its founding in 1992. "But, that level of difficulty only seems to invigorate these kids."

Considering energy issues at such a young age allows students to see how engineering is critical to resolving a pressing global need.

"Showing that connection inspires newfound respect for the role of science, technology, engineering and math in their own future and helps lay the foundation for pursuit of engineering and technology careers, something they might otherwise have never considered," she said.

Registration deadline for the 2007 Future City Competition is Oct. 15. For more information on entering or volunteering in the Michigan regional competition, contact regional coordinator Ron N. Smith at (248) 353-0735, Ext. 4148, by e-mail at rsmith@esd.org, on the Web site at www.futurecity.org or by calling (877) 636-9578.

The National Engineers Week Future City Competition is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations, co-chaired in 2007 by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and Tyco Electronics Corporation.

Comic Coulier yucks it up during benefit for homeless shelter

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

It just didn't sit right with Patrick Elliott when he heard about a plan to shepherd Detroit's homeless out of sight during the week of the Super Bowl in Detroit last February, only to let them go back to the streets once the spotlight on the city was turned away.

So the Livonia resident and his father Gregory Elliott, a local dentist, decided to do something about it.

They launched an event last year and dubbed it "Hilarity for Charity." The event brought comedians to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill and all proceeds from ticket sales were donated to St. Aloysius Community Outreach Center, a homeless shelter in Detroit.

And the sales added up.

"We raised a little more than

\$15,000," Elliott said. "And this year we're hoping to do even better."

Elliott was able to contact nationally known comedian Dave Coulier (famous for his role in the sitcom "Full House" and more recently his appearances on "Skating with Celebrities"), and increase the price of tickets, in hopes of packing the house at the Village Theater. Coulier will take the stage at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6. A reception with hors d'oeuvres will precede the event, starting at 7 p.m.

"It was harder than I thought, trying to find a well-known comedian with a clean act," Elliott said. He did some research and found Coulier was scheduled to be in the area early in October, and a few phone calls later he got a commitment from Coulier.

He sought out corporate

sponsorships to cover the \$10,000 in costs to bring the comedian to the theater, so that all proceeds will benefit the shelter and its programs for the homeless in the city.

It's this kind of event that the theater is attracting more frequently as it begins its third season.

"We love being host to groups like this," said the theater's director, Jennifer Tobin. "It's a great project and a wonderful charity. And they take care of all the expenses and all of the risk."

What the theater staff does take care of is the details.

"We treat all the acts the same way. The technical crew is ready to unload you and get you everything you need and you're set up and comfortable. You're treated like royalty," Tobin said.

And that's why Elliott chose

the Village Theater.

"When I started calling around to different theaters, no one was really taking me seriously. But Jennifer did," he said.

He was taken on a tour and given a couple of tickets to a show, and was impressed with what he saw.

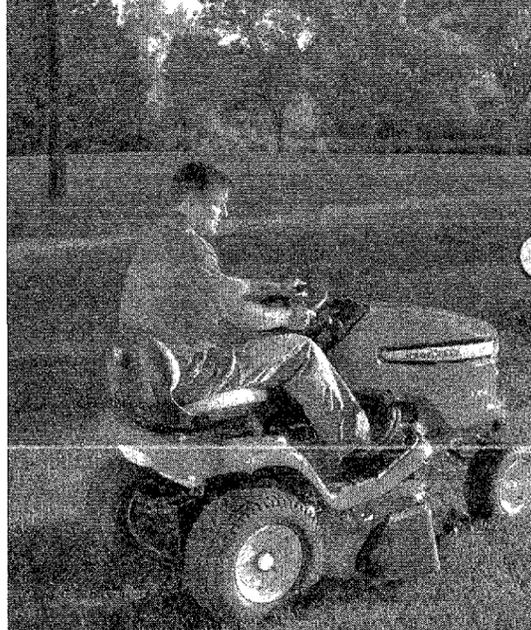
"I just loved the theater itself. It's beautiful, and it was perfect for what we needed," Elliott said.

Tickets are \$50, available in advance at Summit on the Park, (734) 394-5460. Tickets can also be purchased through Dr. Gregory E. Elliott DDS by calling (248) 473-2000. Cash, Visa and MasterCard are accepted at both locations. Checks are also accepted at Dr. Elliott's office.

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Women business owners hold area conference

According to the Center for Women's Business Research in Washington, D.C., Michigan ranks sixth nationally in the number of privately-held, 50 percent or more women-owned firms.

Additionally, studies indicate that the numbers of women business owners are increasing at twice the rate of their male counterparts. Michigan women business owners and those who imagine becoming a business owner are invited to Michigan's largest conference for women business owners, the Michigan Women's Business Council's (MWBC) Sixth Annual Michigan Women's Business Conference and Expo.

This two-day event sponsored by General Motors Corp. and LaSalle Bank will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 26-27, at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

The Conference is designed to create opportunities for women business owners to form strategic alliances and business-to-business opportunities with major corporations and other women business owners. MWBC, a program of the Center for Empowerment and Economic Development (CEED) committed to educating and promoting the ownership and certification of women-owned businesses, first introduced this Conference in 2001.

It realized women business owners' lack of opportunities in meeting with corporate purchasers/decision-makers and other women-owned businesses.

Conference highlights for 2006 include a Women's Summit Luncheon, Tune-Up Clinic, opportunities to meet with corporate purchasers, and a wide variety of workshops and presentations by local and national professionals.

"Our conference addresses

For more information, registration or to inquire about the MWBC Conference and Expo, please visit the Web site at www.miceed.org or call (734) 677-1400.

the needs of both aspiring and established women business owners and delivers strategies for succeeding in a highly competitive market," said Michelle Richards, executive director of CEED and MWBC President. "The conference provides huge value and opportunities for women business owners," she said of this conference that has experienced approximately 20-percent growth in attendance each year. Some 550 individuals attended last year, and based on the exciting offerings this year, MWBC envisions 700 attendees this September.

Bo Andersson, vice president, global purchasing and supply chain at General Motors Corp., represents the keynote speaker for the conference Awards Luncheon. He will be recognized in *Minority BusinessNews USA Magazine* as one of the 100 Men Impacting Supplier Diversity.

Workshops will be offered in these areas:

- Smooth Sales Strategies for Selling Success
- Marketing Boot Camp
- Gaining Efficiency at a Cost You Can Afford
- Networking for Success
- Building a Foundation to Success
- WBEs in a Flat World
- The Power of the Purse
- Selling Beyond "No"
- Business Planning: A Blueprint for Success

For more information, registration or to inquire about the MWBC Conference and Expo, please visit the Web site at www.miceed.org or call (734) 677-1400.

McNamara honored with 'day' Thursday

Longtime Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara, who passed away Feb. 19, will be remembered with a day in his honor Thursday.

"Edward H. McNamara Day" will be recognized as the result of a resolution passed by the Wayne County Commission in March.

Born Sept. 21, 1926, McNamara served as county executive for four terms from 1987-2002. During his tenure, Metro Airport underwent a major renovation highlighted by a new terminal that bears his name. Under McNamara, the county was a partner in building the

new downtown sports stadiums, Comerica Park and Ford Field. McNamara also developed health care and juvenile justice programs, revitalized the County's parks system and cleaned up the Rouge River, once one of the most polluted waterways in the country.

"Mr. McNamara did so much for Wayne County during his tenure as County Executive," said Jewel Ware, chairwoman of the Wayne County Commission. "This is a fitting and lasting tribute to a true public servant who made Wayne County a much better place."

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OUR VIEWS

Ballot proposal won't make better schools or smaller classes

One statewide ballot proposal voters will decide in the November general elections sounds a whole lot better than it really is.

Dubbed the K-16 initiative, the measure would guarantee annual funding increases to match inflation for local public elementary, middle and high schools, as well as intermediate school districts, community colleges and universities.

It is hard to argue about giving our children the best education possible. And it is logical to assume that guaranteed future funding increases would stabilize local school budgets, which would result in smaller class sizes, better technology and a more inspired learning environment.

Unfortunately, the only effect this ballot proposal would have is tying the hands of the governor and Legislature in the annual budget process, and shift ever increasing retiree pension costs from local districts to the state, which could blow a \$500 million hole in the state's general fund budget.

We urge a **no** vote on state ballot Proposal 5.

It would be irresponsible in these uncertain economic times to guarantee future funding increases for any state department, including education. The governor and Legislature have the responsibility — and duty — to appropriate revenues and it should not be left to referendum.

This proposal represents a clear example of robbing Peter to pay Paul. If the economy continues its downward trend, the governor and Legislature would have no choice but to cut other vital services including police, mental health and corrections.

There is no question state funding for public education always should be a top priority. A strong education system is vital to the state, but budget guarantees that tie the hands of the governor and state Legislature are not the answer.

'Rights' proposal is cynical, divisive

After a prolonged effort to keep the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (Proposal 2) off the November ballot, the federal court has decided that voters will be allowed to take a stand on this controversial proposal.

Voters will decide whether to amend the Michigan Constitution to ban affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to individuals or groups on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity or national origin in public education, public employment and government contracting.

On its face, it seems to be a proposal for equal treatment for all. But the history of this proposal is as complicated and twisted as the sorry history of race relations in Michigan.

For this reason and others, we recommend a **no** vote on Proposal 2 on Nov. 7.

Southeast Michigan is regularly cited as the most racially segregated area in the United States. It is a place where African Americans are disproportionately unemployed, living under the poverty level, educationally disadvantaged and less likely to receive medical care. They have a higher incidence of crime and drug addiction. It is an area with a long history of racial steering in real estate, insurance red lining, police harassment and job discrimination.

Opponents of affirmative action argue that it constitutes "reverse discrimination," giving unfair advantage to minorities and women, leading to increased social conflict and racial animosity. Beginning with the Bakke case in 1978, the U.S. Supreme Court has tried to define both the proper uses and limits of affirmative action. Most recently in 2003, the court ruled on two cases involving the University of Michigan. It ruled in *Grutter vs. Bollinger et al.* that the university can use race as one of many factors in assessing the qualifications of students, in this case at the Law School. But, in *Gratz et al. vs. Bollinger et al.*, the court ruled that a point system used at the undergraduate school could not be used.

But the leaders of major corporations, civic leaders from both major parties, military leaders and others have opposed this amendment as socially divisive.

We agree. We believe that the state constitution should not be amended to outlaw programs that help those who have been historically discriminated against for generations.

We urge a **no** vote on this misguided and cynical proposal.



Geoff Brooks ©2006 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

LETTERS

Tax breaks are asinine

Tax breaks or any kind of breaks to any company that outsources is asinine to say the least. To make money, you have to have buyers. To have buyers, you have to have people that are working and being paid enough to buy. Shipping all the jobs out of the country to save costs, only kills jobs for those who buy.

In today's business world, longevity is obsolete. Make the buck today, forget about tomorrow, only causes the collapse of a country. Haven't we learned this from past history? Why does every new generation think that they have made this great discovery?

If everyone checked their history, the phrase "been there, done that" would come to light. Put on your thinking caps and get off the "greed today" merry-go-round. The way science is today, you may be around for the fall.

Judy McKinney
Westland

Politics and movies

Not only is the TV news controlled by the government, now we have politics in a movie that is to depict what happened to more than 3,000 people.

It was truly a sad day. If anyone should be blamed, it is the Bush family. What George Bush Sr. could not finish, his egomaniac son plans to finish, no matter what the cost to human life.

Judith Tarjeff
Westland

Docu-drama is propaganda

As a former U.S. Marine, Army National Guard Reservist with honorable discharges, I am outraged and disgusted by the perjury perpetrated on public airwaves by ABC/Disney with their propaganda docu-drama. They should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and their privilege to broadcast revoked.

John Smolinski
Westland

Time for a change

About 10 weeks before the upcoming midterm elections, I received a self-described "summer update" from my congressman, Thaddeus McCotter, R-11th District. The glossy taxpayer-funded mailing contained little information as to how the congressman voted on specific bills, and not a word on his positions on topics such as stem cell research, congressional oversight of how taxpayer dollars are spent, or the corruption in Congress.

In this mailing, the congressman says he is in favor of "eliminating the budget deficit," presumably, as he indicates, by voting for the balanced budget amendment. Yet he voted for the \$2.8 trillion 2007 fiscal year budget bill. This budget

calls for a \$254 billion increase in the federal deficit over the next five years. Mr. McCotter's rhetoric does not match his actions. It's time for a change!

This congressman indicates that he "continues to focus on issues affecting the health and welfare of families." Yet on Feb. 1, 2006, he voted in favor of slashing \$39 billion in health care for the poor and elderly. Again, a rhetoric and action disconnect. It's time for a change!

This congressman has consistently supported the ill-conceived, poorly executed and unnecessary war in Iraq. Neither he nor his fellow Republicans in Congress demand accountability from the defense department or the executive branch as to the operation of the war.

As some congressional Democrats seek accountability from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on the conduct of the war, Thaddeus McCotter states that this action shows that Americans "would not want to entrust (the Democratic Party) with control of Congress." Because they want the primary architect of the failing Iraq war to be held accountable, we would not want Democrats to control Congress? How can Congressman McCotter be so arrogant and out of touch?

We as Americans deserve accountability from our government in domestic and foreign affairs, because ultimately these actions involve the spending of our tax dollars. If there is one overriding issue this election, it should be the accountability that is lacking in this administration and the lack of Congressional oversight from this Republican-controlled Congress. It's time for a change!

This Nov. 7 we have an opportunity to change the direction of this country. We have the opportunity to hold politicians and political appointees accountable for their actions, or lack thereof. It is time to elect people to Congress that work for their constituents, not for special interests or national political parties. It's time for a change!

John Zajechowski
Garden City

'Weapon of mass deception'

As election day draws near, we have been bombarded with television ads from the DeVos camp. I want to set the record straight about "Slick Dick."

DeVos comes across as a warm and friendly person. Wrong! As president of Amway, he cut nearly 1,400 Michigan jobs and created thousands of jobs in communist China. Just like his President (George W. Bush), DeVos has a very extensive record of promoting and supporting *unfair trade* and tax policies that promote the *outsourcing* of Michigan manufacturing jobs!

"Slick Dick" has a close relationship to George W. In fact, Dick and the DeVos family contributed \$602,000 to the Bush-Cheney presidential campaign in 2000.

How can "Slick Dick" proclaim to voters that our beloved Gov. Granholm is solely responsible for the economic

downturn we now face? The people must remember that Gov. Granholm inherited 12 years of a huge mess, compliments of none other than Republican Gov. John Engler.

"Slick Dick" will not come clean to the people with the fact that convicted Congressman Tom DeLay once worked for him as an Amway distributor, and in 1999, now-convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff was first to "sign up" for a meeting with GOP House conservatives, led by DeLay and hosted by DeVos on the Amway yacht. "Slick Dick" has contributed \$5,000 to Tom DeLay's legal defense fund. Way to go Dick!

DeVos has chosen an ultra-conservative like himself as his running mate — Ruth Johnson. During Johnson's time in our state legislature, she has always voted against the working people of this state! In fact, she even voted to make Michigan a Right-to-Work state. That does not mean that you have a "right to work," it means that she voted against all unions, trying to make our state anti-union.

"Slick Dick's" wife was quoted as saying "the problem with Michigan's economy is high wages." So, I guess that it is our fault that the economy is bad? Wrong! I would suggest that Dick and Betsy look to the person living at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Right, Dick?

According to *The New York Times*, DeVos spent \$10 million of his own money in 2000 in an unsuccessful campaign for school vouchers. We all know that this would have cut funding to our local schools, meaning fewer teachers, fewer supplies for our children and overcrowded classrooms.

I could go on and on for hours about the "evils" associated with "Slick Dick" DeVos and his ultra-conservative party. Let's help Gov. Granholm with two things:

1) Re-elect our governor and let her continue to put our state in the right direction.

2) Elect a *Democratic* legislature so we can actually get things done.

Remember this: DeVos says he wants to put Michigan in a "new direction." I say, "yeah, right! He means Far East!" That's the direction he's going to take us!

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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Observer

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

Other states take the lead in cable franchise reform

Almost everyone agrees that rewriting cable franchising laws to encourage competition will result in lower prices and better service. But legislation in Congress that would encourage competition nationwide is bogged down by political infighting and may not get passed this year.

Some states are not settling for that, and are changing their own laws to modernize their video services industry. And they're already starting to reap the benefits.

Texas was the first, passing a new franchising law late last year. Since then, cable subscribers have seen rates drop as incumbent cable providers have to work to compete for business. In Keller, Texas, the cable company cut their price on one bundled service in half to

compete with Verizon. Between 1995 and 2004, rates have increased by 86 percent. Since Texas has passed legislation promoting cable competition, rates have decreased 20 percent.

Indiana has witnessed similar successes, after their state legislature streamlined video franchising laws. A study by Ball State University estimates that the rate reductions brought on by increased competition will save current Indiana cable subscribers as much as \$262 million a year. Working harder and smarter to succeed will also encourage companies to invest in important new technologies like fiber-optic broadband service. AT&T alone is going to invest \$250 million in wiring Indiana communities to increase broadband coverage. TeleNomic Research, LLC found that every \$1 million of telecommunications investment creates 18 jobs. That's a significant economic boost.

The list goes on. New Jersey just finalized their new law and Verizon is already employing 1,000 technicians in the state and will spend \$1.5 billion over the next three years to develop a fiber network to power its television and Internet products. In all, 14 states have either passed or are in the process of passing cable franchise reform.

Michigan is one of them. Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate that would establish a reasonable, fair process for companies to follow if they want a chance to offer video services in our state. Just a chance — not an edge, not preferential treatment — but merely the opportunity to compete in a free market.

Remember that cable TV is not just about enter-

Giving companies the chance to compete in a free market is the right thing to do. It's not only fair (cable franchises are one of the last true monopolies left in this country) but it makes plenty of economic sense.

tainment anymore. Television, Internet and telecommunications services are all coming together, and it won't be long before businesses and workers are going to need access to them to survive. Everyone will benefit from the countless applications of modern technology in education, healthcare, commerce and a variety of other fields. New ones are developed every day.

Giving companies the chance to compete in a free market is the right thing to do. It's not only fair (cable franchises are one of the last true monopolies left in this country) but it makes plenty of economic sense. We all want lower rates, and competition is one of the best ways to get them. But we also want modern, up-to-date technologies, and making the video services market competitive will spur their deployment.

According to the Phoenix Center, for each year that lawmakers continue to delay removing the barriers of competition American consumers stand to lose \$8.2 billion. In fact, Michigan alone stands to lose \$77 million every year.

Today in Michigan, unemployment is hovering around 7 percent and Livonia residents have been demanding competition and lower cable rates for years. By providing companies the opportunity to compete, Michigan would see a substantial investment from companies looking to upgrade current technology and provide new technology to Michigan residents. This investment would not only provide better service and lower prices to consumers, it will also provide jobs to many Michiganders in need of employment.

All of the experts agree that the road to Michigan's recovery is diversifying our economy and investing in new technologies. Passing legislation that would promote competition, lower prices, better service, and provide a substantial capital investment is not only a shot in the arm for Michigan's economy, but is also a building block in securing Michigan's future.

Brian Meakin is a Livonia city councilman.



Brian Meakin

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LETTERS

2 men who care about veterans

I would like to tell the citizens of Westland a story about two individuals that I have known for several years. These men do not seek fame or glory, but do care a great deal about their fellow human beings, especially veterans.

I write this letter out of sheer admiration for them and for no other reasons. They both do a great job in serving the people of this community. Both are employees of this city, one is a full-time paid position and the other is an elected position with pay, that I would call "full-time" considering all the time and effort he puts into this job when not attending meetings. They both do a great deal of volunteer work off the clock.

They are James Gilbert, community housing/development director, who some may think is overpaid. Even though Mr. Gilbert has a staff to help him perform the duties of this department, if anyone really understood what his job consists of — with all the government regulations and other red tape he deals with on a daily basis to locate and bring funding, federal grants to this city to help establish new projects and promote existing programs already in place for Westland — I think some of the naysayers might change their view on dollars spent and dollars gained. I can assure you dealing with the government, their forms, deadlines, meetings and other "tap dances" he goes through to bring money to Westland, I would say the taxpayers are getting their money's worth out of Mr. Gilbert. I only hope the next director the city might hire when he retires is as knowledgeable and energetic about the welfare of this city, where Mr. Gilbert lives, works and pays taxes that helps pay his salary.

The other is Councilman Robert Stottlemeyer. At the age of 70, this man has more steam than most 30-year-olds I know. He is like a Timex, he doesn't know the meaning of the word quit, he keeps on ticking.

Last year, Bob, with the help of many people, including Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and other city officials, organized a dinner-dance to raise money to help the wounded returning to Michigan from Iraq and Afghanistan. We raised more than \$50,000. After this event Bob had surgery on his shoulder to repair a torn rotator cuff. I know how much fun this operation is, as I had the same operation 10 years ago and still remember the pain.

In the spring of this year, he had hip replacement surgery — nothing stops this guy. He's at it again, out there raising money and selling tickets for another event that will be held Sept. 30 at the

Dearborn Performing Arts Center, starring Lee Greenwood and others to help our wounded troops. To purchase tickets or send donations, please visit our Web page at vetshaveninfo.org.

I personally developed and founded an organization 12 years ago that is still growing and, with the help of our board, staff and volunteers, is providing more and more service to help veterans. This is a one-of-a-kind organization located in Michigan. I know how much fun it is to fill out forms to receive the money we do from federal agencies. We do this for one reason only, to benefit our veterans who have sacrificed and served. We are "vets helping vets."

This past week we co-sponsored an event in Plymouth at the 336 Club to raise money to help a vet wounded in Iraq. After getting the "red tape" shuffle since last December from the VA in Detroit, Sgt. Chris Killion, considering he is still in pain from wounds to his knee, has sought medical treatment outside the VA system at Henry Ford Hospital. He was scheduled for surgery Sept. 6.

This event was organized by Jenny Taylor, Dan Murray, both Ford employees, and the owner of the 336 Club on Main Street that donated all the sales of drinks that night to Chris. Jenny convinced the hospital to cut its cost in half, approximately \$9,000, and Dan gathered more support and led the PR campaign.

Veterans Haven was the vehicle utilized to raise donations that will go directly to benefit Chris. We also donated \$2,250 for the down payment for the hospital and surgery, these funds were raised last year from the dinner and dance gig. The amount raised this one night for Sgt. Chris Killion exceeds \$15,000. The balance of any fund left over after taking care of Chris, will go to Veterans Haven to help more wounded vets.

All of the individuals mentioned in this letter deserve our thanks and appreciation for their concern and willingness to help Michigan's veterans. I write this letter freely, willingly and without any mental reservations to acknowledge those that stand behind the troops. They're not lip flappers and they are doers. I'm very glad to have met and become friends with these people.

I am not now, nor do I ever have any intention of running for political office. My name is Vince Berna, president/founder of Veterans Haven, and I approve of this message. You can contact us at (734) 728-0527 or vetshaveninfo.org.

God Bless America!

Vince Berna

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Pursuit of spirit

Historic UU church welcomes all paths, all walks

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Where else can you go to church and sit between a person with Hindu beliefs and someone with Buddhist leanings?

Or, perhaps, worship with liberal Christians or humanists who believe in the non-existence of God?

Where else can you gather in a 154-year-old little white church — wearing whatever you want — and sing from a hymnal of traditional songs adapted to suit all beliefs?

At the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, there are no creeds and there are no rules.

"We don't think people should have to pass a litmus test to believe," said Rev. Alex Riegel, pastor at the historic church. "Each person has the right to pursue truth in meaning, according to their individual conscience."

That means no traditions, no pre-determined path to spiritual heights.

"The only ritual we have is coffee hour," smiled Riegel, who is in his sixth year at the church on Halsted, south of 13 Mile. The main structure of the church was built in 1852 in downtown Farmington and was moved to its current location in the 1960s on seven acres of donated land.

The Unitarian Universalist Church — as a denomination — has the most female pastors and clergy and the most gay and lesbian members and ordained ministers of any other denomination in the country, Riegel said.

In Farmington Hills, more

than 100 people gather at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington. Fall services are at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Sundays. The church's name reflects its Universalist heritage, that's why it's the Universalist Unitarian Church, instead of being named after the denomination, Unitarian Universalist, Riegel said.

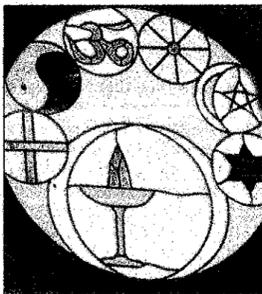
SPEAKING TO ALL FAITHS
Riegel said he preaches on a vast array of topics and seldom does he draw from the Bible for reference or guidance. Instead, he uses resources from physics, Buddhism, even the comic strip, *Calvin & Hobbes* to present his message.

The seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Church are to affirm and promote worth and dignity in every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; right of conscience and use of democratic process; world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; respect for the interdependent web of all existence, including respect for the earth.

From there, it is up to the individual to take what he or she can from the message and use it in their own spiritual journey.

PERSONAL GROWTH

"The faith appeals to me because it encourages a personal spiritual journey and doesn't have a set of rules everyone has to agree upon," said Terie Spencer, a four-year member of the church. "This church is very



A stained glass piece in the church includes six religious symbols and the flaming chalice, denoting the Unitarian Universalist faith.

small and very friendly. Everyone has a personal stake in the church."

Spencer, of Commerce Township, grew up as a Lutheran.

"God can mean many things



The Rev. Alex Riegel and church member Terie Spencer talk about the unique experience at the historic Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington.

to many people," she said.

Riegel said, people often wander into the church, not knowing what to expect.

"There is a vast array of personal philosophies," he said. "There is always one more opinion than there are people. A UU church gives people a lot of different ways to think about the world."

RIEGEL'S JOURNEY

Riegel, who grew up in Saline, was without religion

before he became interested in learning about various religions at age 18.

"I started studying everything," he said.

He went on to graduate from the University of Michigan with a degree in philosophy and, from there, he graduated with two degrees from the Harvard Divinity School. His wife, Kimi Riegel, is pastor at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield.

Alex's church regularly sponsors projects, such as swap meets, highway clean-ups and workshops promoting earth-friendly habits. Recently, the church hosted an earth-friendly craft fair.

"We have worked to find local crafters who feel about the earth as we do and look forward to offering their wares to the community in an open and friendly venue," Spencer said.

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'It should never be an issue of waiting'

Family stricken by heart disease promotes organ donation

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

As she awaits a new heart, things are a bit quieter for Sherry Johnson than they were for her mother 25 years ago.

The media isn't knocking on her Farmington Hills door and the community isn't rallying to raise money for her heart transplant. The mayor has not declared a special day for her, either.

But, for Johnson, 35, the need is just as great as it was for her mother, Sharon Jahns, who died at age 32, one year after being the first successful heart transplant recipient at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Sharon Jahns, who lived in Livonia with her husband, Bill, and children, Jimmy and Sherry, received an outpouring of support from the community as she underwent the then-experimental transplant in 1981.

Like her mother and her late brother, Jim, who died three years ago at age 35, after a heart transplant, Sherry is battling cardiomyopathy, the gradual enlarging and weakening of the heart. Sherry was diagnosed three years ago after experiencing heart palpitations. She was placed on medication and had been feeling good until a few months ago.

"My days are up and down,"

said the mother of sons Nicholas, 6, and Hayden, 3. She credits her supportive husband, Tim, for taking up the extra duties around the house.

Sherry had been working as a home care nurse until recently. Now, the day-to-day tasks have become difficult.

"Nicholas wants to know when I'll be able to walk him to the bus stop," she said, quietly. "I do get really tired just doing the simple things."

But, like her mother and her brother did, she's taking advantage of every moment with her family as she goes through the final details of getting added to the heart donor list. She expects to be added to the list later this month.

ON A MISSION

Meanwhile, she's on medication and is bravely crusading with her sister-in-law, Christine Jahns of Livonia, for the Gift of Life program and organ donation awareness. Jahns is a health teacher at Grandview Elementary School in the Clarendonville School District.

Johnson said if people are not registered with the Gift of Life to donate organs, they need to express that desire to their loved ones.

"The main thing is to tell your family what you want to do," she said. "It's a personal preference. Then, there's no



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sherry Johnson and her husband, Tim, want people to know the importance of organ donation as Sherry waits to be placed on the heart donation list. She, like her late mother and brother, has cardiomyopathy, an enlarging and weakening of the heart.

guilt or question of the (surviving family members) as to what to do."

Christine Jahns has been on both sides.

Her husband, Sherry's brother Jim, received a new heart and lived a normal life with it for nine years. Together, Christine and Jim had two children, Catherine, 10, and James, who is 8. Their last family vacation was to

Tahquamenon Falls in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where Jim appeared normal in their family photo near the falls. He passed away a few weeks later.

"He just really lived a good life," she said. "But, at the end, he got sick again and they determined he needed a second new heart, but it just didn't come."

After Jim died, Christine

wanted to give back by donating his organs, but his body had been so compromised by all of the medications through the years, his organs weren't eligible for donation.

"It would have been good for me," she said. "It would have completed the circle."

Johnson and Jahns emphasize being prepared to make that decision for a loved one, because it's often difficult to

contemplate it for the first time right after a loved one has died.

"They ask you — and, most people are not prepared for that," Jahns said.

THE GIFT

Deciding to donate organs is a true gift, they said.

That one decision can help numerous people.

"When people donate organs, they can actually save quite a few lives," Johnson said.

Jahns said it was amazing when her husband received his new heart.

"You're just so sick, and when you receive an organ, there is just such a transformation — it's the best gift," she said, noting it is comforting for the family of the donor to know a life has been saved.

"When Jim passed away, it was a sad time, and he was so young, but it made people aware of organ donation," Jahns said. "It's still not enough, though; it should never be an issue of waiting."

In Michigan, there are 51 people awaiting a new heart as of Sept. 1; 2,454 people need kidney transplants; 56 are on the list for a lung transplant; and 414 need a new liver, according to the Gift of Life, Michigan.

To find out more about organ donation, visit www.giftoflifemichigan.org or call (800) 482-4881 to have a form mailed to you.

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Cooking demos are hot at Farmers Market

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Area chefs have sniffed out the news about the cooking demonstrations at the Farmers & Artisans Market in downtown Farmington.

They want to get in on the action.

"They're calling us," said market master Scott

Stevenson.

This is the first year the cooking demos have been included at the weekly market held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday at the new Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion.

The pavilion is located in the Downtown Farmington Center on Grand River east of Farmington Road.

Walt Gajewski, who serves on the pavilion committee, said the demonstrations are "catching fire in the community."

"People line up for prized samples of never-before-seen, on-the-street cuisine," Gajewski said.

The September lineup includes: Lois Hennessey, an

artisan baker who teaches at Oakland Community College, on Sept. 23, and a return visit from The Lark of West Bloomfield on Sept. 30.

Expected in October are Doug St. Souver, a professional chef and Food Network award-winning fruit carver who is returning to the market, and chef Tom Mackinnon from Five Restaurant at the Inn at St. John's, in Plymouth Township.

Annette Knowles, executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, said she attends the market to do her own personal shopping but leaves all the farmers market details to Stevenson.

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SWF, 45, 57", blonde/green, average build, Pisces, smoker, educated, enjoys dining out, bowling, concerts, carnivals, camping, caroling, seeks easygoing, honest, financially secure WM, 40-55, for friendship, possible romance. ☎115739

A GOOD FRIEND
SWF, 50, NS, looking for SWM, 50-55, who loves movies, dining out, long walks. Must be employed. ☎369547

LOOKING FOR YOU
Attractive SWF, Catholic, 59, N/S, 5' 6", good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who enjoys golf, movies, theater, dining, long walks, church, and much more. ☎124235

FEMALE SPORTS FANATIC
DWF, 44, 5'1", redhead, N/S, very outgoing, romantic, likes college football, hockey, quiet nights at home. Seeking active WM, 39-48, SOH, kids ok, with similar interests, for friendship, maybe more. ☎124066

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
45-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 45-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. ☎562317

JERSEY TRANSPLANT
SWF, 50, slender, blonde, Virgo, N/S, enjoys foreign travel, wine tasting, and working out. Seeking WM, 40-53, N/S, for LTR. ☎685454

SOMEONE SPECIAL
Fun-loving, attractive SWF, 70, 5'3", 135lbs, blonde, retired, N/S, seeks well-groomed WM, 65-72, N/S, to share life, romance, and possible relationship. ☎691247

FIND ME
Attractive SWF, 49, N/S, 5' 3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, and more. ☎113901

LET'S TALK SOMETIME
SWF, 38, mother, enjoys Harleys, rock-n-roll, good talks, classic cars, sports, amusement parks, casinos, meeting new people. Seeking outgoing, sweet, fun man w/spontaneous streak to share new adventures with. ☎929210

LIFE IS BEST SHARED
SBCF, 44, 5'1", 120lbs, bright, warm-hearted, creative, musician, enjoys concerts, sporting events, outdoors, travel, quiet evenings home, reading. Seeking honest, intelligent, confident, spiritual man, 45 to 60, emotionally/physically fit for friendship/companionship. ☎123621

ONE GOOD WOMAN
BBW, SWF, attractive, compassionate, down-to-earth. Enjoys movies, comedies, long walks, romantic evenings and more. Seeking employed SM, 35-55, to do and share things together. Must like pets. ☎947175

SEEKING COMPANION
SWF, 42, queen-sized, outgoing, enjoys walks, music, life, open to new ideas. Looking for SM who wants to do things together. Must be employed and like pets. ☎909140

FRIENDS FIRST
SBF, 37, 5'6", black/brown, easygoing, Aries, N/S, enjoys bike riding, long walks, travel, and cooking. Seeking WM, 30-50, N/S, for fun. ☎933970

WHERE ARE YOU?
Very attractive, sexy SBF, 35, 5'2", medium build, enjoys dining out, jazz, plays. ISO SBM, 40-52, commitment-minded and sincere, for LTR. ☎950732

SINGLE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN
SWF, 45, 5'9", average build, educated, Capricorn, N/S, loves golf, reading, gardening, dining out, movies, seeks SWPM, 38-55, N/S, similar interests, for LTR. ☎963176

LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN
Attractive, professional, educated WF, 55, 5'2", slim, N/S. Interest include movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family ties. Seeking WM, 48-55, HWP, for lasting, loving LTR. ☎973365

GORGEOUS
SWF, 39, 5', attractive, average build, dark/blue, Pisces, N/S, outgoing, fun-loving, seeks WM, 35-53, N/S, for LTR. ☎112039

SOULMATE SEARCH
Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. ☎598975

ISO CHIVALROUS MAN
SBCF, 35, attractive, plus-sized, Capricorn, single mom, marriage-minded, N/S, seeks man, 40-55, family-oriented, old-fashioned, possible romance. ☎112291

MADE TO ORDER
SWF, 52, attractive, Pisces, N/S, nice, educated, secure, fun, enjoys sporting events, movies, camping, travel, theater, seeks WM, 45 to 56, N/S, possible romance. ☎934487

TAKE A CHANCE
SWF, 37, likes motorcycles, movies, Star Wars, seeks WM, 34-35, N/S, with similar interests, for friendship, and more. ☎114057

LOOKING FOR ME?
Hard-working, affectionate SAF, 47, 5'1", 95lbs, very clean, N/S, N/D, loving and fun, seeks independent, responsible, respectful, secure man, 45-50, to share the special times in life. ☎113534

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Easy-going, intelligent, educated SJPF, 34, 5'4", 120lbs, N/D, N/S, from good family, in medical field, play piano. Seeking JPM, 34-45, for LTR. ☎120165

GREAT COMPANION
SF, 65, looks 55, 5'2", unique, bright, w/many talents and interests. I'm well-traveled, very attractive, health-conscious. How about you? Seeking non-smoking counterpart, 62-70. ☎633527

REFINED AND FULL OF LIFE
Very attractive blonde, fit, energetic and happy, professionally employed, very youthful 60s, 5'3", trim and shapely, enjoys dining, travel, dancing, theater, family and friends. Seeking honest, handsome, fit, 55+, college grad, N/S, with youthful passion in life. Serious replies only. ☎652360

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Female, 51, 138lbs, seeks independent, respectful male, 45-52, D/D free, who likes outdoors, walks, movies, for LTR. ☎987475

MR. RIGHT, ARE YOU THERE?
SWF, 56, 5', HWP, easygoing, dependable, reliable, Taurus, N/S, social drinker, likes computers, nascar, casinos, sports, seeks WM, 46-56, for friendship, and more. ☎112612

TAKE ME GOLFING
Tidy SWF, 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. Seeking golfer, best friend, confidante, 58-70, widower a plus. Honest, trust, a must to make a relationship work. ☎976914

LOOKING FOR ME?
Affectionate, sincere SWF, 63, 5'2", dark hair and eyes, employed part-time, enjoys travel, movies, dining out, more. ISO tall, active, open-minded, lovable man to share a little fun, possibly romance. ☎959193

DREAMS COME TRUE
Classy SBF, hoping to meet mature SBM, 45-60, I'm a very passionate, affectionate, loving person, who enjoys a variety of activities. If you're seeking your soulmate, why not try me? ☎985794

PAHAMA
SBF, 31, sexy, sassy, and classy, wonderful personality, self-motivated, seeks SWM, 25-65, for possible LTR, traveling, fun times, and more. ☎114816

SHALL WE DANCE?
I am a SBF, 58, 5'3", 170lbs, attractive, intelligent, creative, articulate, seeks SWM, 57-73, who is kind-hearted, articulate, who enjoys dancing, walking, traveling, movies, dining out. ☎812098

PETITE & SEXY...
SBF, sensitive, affectionate, loving, 51, looks 35, 5'1", 105lbs, NS. Seeking healthy SBM, 5'10" to 6'1", to work out with. ☎912553

NATURAL BBW
SBF, 32, 5'5", 240lbs, N/S, N/D, N/kids, employed. Seeking a SM, 18-60, who is open-minded, N/S, N/kids and can appreciate a strong woman. ☎924352

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SF, 25, 5'7", shoulder-length medium blonde hair, bright green eyes, outgoing, fun, loves fitness, outdoors, boating, cycling, camping, concerts, auto racing. Seeking active, fit, caring man who appreciates the same. ☎933694

LOVES BOATING
SWF, 65, 5'6", Aries, N/S, loves dancing and dining out. Seeking WM, 60-71, N/S, with sense of humor, for friendship, possible romance. ☎980004

POSSIBLE LTR
SWPF, 57, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks WPM, 55-61, N/S, educated, healthy, humorous, possible LTR. ☎933381

GREAT CATCH
Attractive, youthful widow, 68, 5'3", 135lbs, brunette/brown, shapely, N/S seeks WM, 55-70, prefers N/S, in Livingston county or Oakland county areas for LTR, w/variety of interests. Seeks relationship/companionship and more. ☎111193

59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR
Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, caucasian gentlemen, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. ☎592074

SEEKING A LADY?
SBF, 56, 5'4", 110lbs, slim build, Sagittarius, smoker, honest, sincere, retired, enjoys movies, concerts, travel, park walks, seeks man, 45-70, similar, for friendship, possible romance. ☎118410

MUSCULAR & ATHLETIC
SWM, 48, 6'2", 200lbs, N/S, enjoys conversations, college football and new activities. Seeking a down-to-earth SF. Age/area open. ☎982364

GIVE ME A CALL
SBM, 21, average build, N/S, 5' 9", 170lbs, handsome, seeks woman, 18-40, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. ☎112458

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
SWM, 24, 5' 11", 155lbs, slim build, smoker, shy, enjoys poetry, music, seeks WF, 20-29, for friendship, possible romance. ☎119719

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND
SWM, 40, 5'11", 160lbs, enjoys movies, dining out, simple times. Looking for a nice woman, with children ok, to share friendship and/or relationship. Race open. ☎117687

SEARCHING FOR YOU
SBCM, 43, seeks educated woman, 25-44, N/S, slim to medium build, who has a great personality, and loves the lord. ☎121167

THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS
SBM, 48, N/S, 5' 7", 168lbs, enjoys camping, bowling, seeks WF, 30-55, with kids, for friendship, possible romance. ☎124463

LIFE IS WONDERFUL
SBM, 43, N/S, enjoys gospel music, seeks BF, 38-45, N/S, for dinner dates, romance, for friendship, possibly more. ☎124492

LOOKING FOR LOVE
SBM, 49, 6', 180lbs, caramel complexion, self-employed, homeowner, enjoys travel, dining out, good company movies, plays, much more. ISO special lady beautiful inside/outside, to share life and all its pleasures. ☎124623

CHRISTIAN MAN SEEKS...
Christian woman, SM, 43, down-to-earth, understanding, compassionate and affectionate, seeks similar, commitment-minded lady, race open to share life and all its little pleasures. ☎123205

WHAT HAVE U GOT 2 LOSE
SM, 47, on disability, honest, good-hearted, homebody type, loves movies, quiet times, togetherness. Seeking romantic, open-minded, non-judgmental, caring understanding lady for friendship, fun, LTR? ☎124127

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. ☎269646

SOUND LIKE YOU?
SBM, 25, 5'8", 190lbs, dark complexion, long hair, no kids, looking for fun, energetic lady affectionate and real, who knows how to have fun in life. ☎122364

CUT TO THE CHASE
SBCM, 51, 6'3", 250lbs, N/S, enjoys plays, concerts, country drives. ISO SWF, for friendship and much, much more. Age open. ☎121414

SECURE
WM, 58, tall, slim, good-looking, would like to meet a nice, sweet, kind woman to go out with and see what happens from there. ☎828139

LET'S BE FREE TOGETHER
SBM, 6', 220lbs, physically fit, retired, well-educated. I would like to meet a single female 52-62, who is understanding, loving and caring, for a LTR. ☎869189

SEARCHING...
SBM, 41, 5' 10", 195lbs, medium build, marriage-minded, likes church, family time, seeks SWF, 28-45, for possible LTR. ☎120475

HOPE YOU'RE MY LADY
SBM, 40s, N/S, loves plays, movies, travel, jazz, comedy clubs. Seeking sincere, loving, genuine woman, with open heart and mind, who enjoys a finer lifestyle. Age/race open. ☎124024

SEARCHING...
SBM, 29, 5' 11", athletic build, N/S, sexy, business owner, seeks woman, 18-40, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎121345

YOUNG MAN
SBM, 19, Scorpio, N/S, likes reading, writing, video games, seeks attractive SF, 18-22, N/S, with same interests. ☎124483

LONELY ANN ARBOR MAN
Considerate, intelligent SBM, 51, tall, slim, dark complexion, Capricorn, looking for a sweet, loving woman respectful, faithful and ambitious, to share friendship, good times, possible romance and LTR. ☎122608

ARE U OUT THERE?
Good-natured guy, 64, kind and affectionate seeks romantic, commitment-minded lady to share the special moments in life. Friendship first. ☎122451

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
SWCM, 66, 5'6", N/D, N/S, enjoys movies, church, walks, drives, dining in/out, slow dancing. Seeking like-minded SWF, who appreciates the same, for friendship, possibly more. Age/looks unimportant, honesty is 1 ☎122244

THE REAL DEAL
SWM, 41, 6' 2", 165lbs, brown/blue, likes movies, long walks, romantic dinners, seeks WF, 18-41, for possible LTR. ☎119789

JOIN ME?
Honest, secure SWM, 73, 5'9", 200lbs, N/S, homeowner, enjoys karaoke, oldies music, dancing, keeping active, meeting new people. ISO sociable, sweet, sincere lady to share the special moments in life. ☎982461

WORTH A CALL
SWM, 48, 6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner, hard-working, easygoing, honest, secure, enjoys motorcycling, hunting, the outdoors. Seeking honest, secure, attractive slim/fit woman, 25-50, N/S, D/D-free. ☎956910

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED
SBM, 46, looking for that special person for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. ☎692418

OLDER WOMAN DESIRED
SWM, 47, 6'2", 200lbs, muscular, athletic, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, workout, new activities, seeks friendly SF, age/location open. ☎531308

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
Independent, self-sufficient DWM, 45, sturdy build, carpenter, sociable, affectionate likes boating, walks, drives, cycling, cooking. Seeking a special lady to share the good things in life. ☎855207

CALL ME AND SEE
DWM, 45, 5'9", 140lbs, father, N/S, N/D, employed, honest and fun, likes music, movies, bowling, family/friends, more. Looking for SWF with similar interests and qualities. ☎950678

FANTASY OR REALITY?
SBM, 50, 5'8", medium-build, N/S, fun-loving personality, likes dancing, jazz/blues, quality time, traveling. Seeking passionate and sexy SF, 20-50, slim-to-medium build, race open, kids ok, for sharing time and romance. ☎946417

GIVE ME A CALL
SBM, 24, 6', chocolate skin, hazel eyes, 180lbs, HWP, likes good conversation, seeks cool, laid-back, down to earth, honest female, 24-30, for friendship, and more. ☎120224

GET AT ME
SBM, 20, 5' 8", 150lbs, dark complexion, athletic build, well-groomed, seeks woman, 18-26, N/S, for friendship, and more. ☎120392

SHARE GOOD TIMES
SBM, 32, 5' 7", 165lbs, average build, brown/brown, seeks mature, respectful, independent BF, 18+, for friendship, and more. ☎120737

THE BASICS
SWM, 66, 5'9", slim build, youthful, 160lbs, seeks WF, 40-61, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. ☎116789

HELLO OUT THERE
Loving, sincere man, 58, 5'4", 146lbs, likes camping, movies, dining, bowling, more. Looking for a sweet, easygoing, fun-loving woman, 22-39, with like interests to share friendship, maybe more. ☎116656

LOOKING FOR YOU
SBM, 25, good looking, handsome, seeks down to earth female, 18-20, for friendship, possibly more. ☎120413

THE REAL DEAL
SWM, 5' 10", average build, N/S, blond/blue, fun, outgoing, likes movies, dining out, sports, auto racing, camping, seeks WF, 25-45, for friendship, possible romance. ☎120985

THAT'S ALL
SWM, 66, tall, thin, Scorpio, N/S, seeks WF, 60-68, N/S, old-fashioned, slim, fit, humorous, possible romance. ☎116761

SERIOUS
SWM, 71, N/S, widowed, 5' 8", 150lbs, young at heart, enjoys outdoors, cooking, dining out, traveling, seeks slim, petite, female, 62-70, N/S. ☎118483

SIMPLE REQUEST
WM, 59, 6'8", 170lbs, dark/blue, looking for an attractive woman to go out and have a good time with. Age open. ☎833911

HELLO LADIES
SWM, 23, 5'10", 150lbs, brown/brown, looking for a fun, easygoing, sweet lady, under 150lbs, to share talks, dates, friendship and then who knows? ☎117399

THE LONG RUN
SWM, 74, N/S, widowed, seeks WF, 65-75, N/S, who likes the outdoors, country drives, for friendship, possible romance. ☎121037

ECONOMICALLY VIABLE
SWPM, 54, 5'11", 170lbs, trim, Aquarius, N/S, likes music, art, golf, landscapes, architecture seeks WPF, 44-60, attractive, fit, active, financially secure, intelligent, possible LTR. ☎984220

LONELY & READY
SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. ☎660305

TRUE GENTLEMAN
SBM, 52, 5'8", 185lbs, looking for a medium to full-figured SBF, 46-54. Someone who is worldly, nice, loves to laugh and just enjoying life to the fullest. ☎912728

NICE GUY
SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturers' representative, Libra, N/S, works out, enjoys movies, restaurants, and summer festivals. Seeking SWF, 50-65, N/S, Shirley, please call back. ☎708126

SHARE GOOD TIMES
SBM, 27, 6', 162lbs, N/D, N/kids, slim build, brown complexion, glasses, likes movies, long walks, Jesus, cooking, music, bowling, mexican food, shyness, seeks SBF/HF, 25-28, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. ☎990453

WHAT'S UP LADIES
SBM, 22, 6'4", 215lbs, brown complexion, athletic, looking for a good-looking, cool, sweet lady to kick it with, talks to. ☎120954

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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.homecomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CC Rummage Sale

The Mom's Club of Catholic Central High School is hosting its annual Rummage & Bake Sale, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 14, at Catholic Central High School, 27225 Wixom Road, south of Grand River and west of Wixom Road in Novi. A \$1 bag sale will begin at 1 p.m. All proceeds benefit the school.

Toys and Trains

Ss. Simon and Jude Church's Ushers Club will sponsor a buy-and-swap, toys and trains show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer, one mile west of Merriman, one mile north of Michigan Avenue. There will be approximately 150 Dealer tables available at \$10 each. There will also be operating train layouts. Dealers will begin setting up at 9 a.m. on the day of the show. To reserve a table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327. The public is welcome; admission is \$2 per person and \$4 per family.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

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.

Menopause & More

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

Support group

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

AIM

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

Childbirth classes

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

Childbirth Association

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

Fibromyalgia

The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers

will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

VFW Bingo

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

St. Mel Church

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

Shamrock Bingo

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

K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 3117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

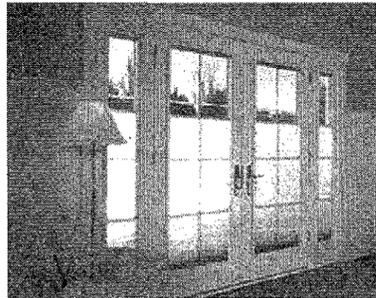
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

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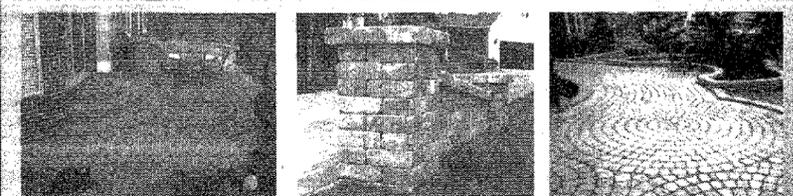
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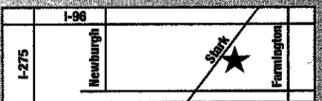
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RELIGION CALENDAR

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.

SEPTEMBER

International Day of Peace

Observed with the showing of the documentary Reuniting the Children of Abraham followed by interactive discussion 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, in the Detroit West District Peace Center at Hope United Church, 26275 Northwestern near Lahser, Southfield. For more information, call (248) 356-1020, Ext. 137.

Shopping extravaganza

6-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church and Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, Westland. Cost is \$8 and includes appetizers and your ticket for door prize drawings. Vendors include many home party consultants and home business owners. Hall phone is (734) 525-3550.

Divorce recovery workshop

7-9:30 p.m. Sept. 21 and every Thursday through Oct. 26, in Knox Hall at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$35, \$15 for previous participants who wish to repeat the workshop. Free child care. Call (248) 374-5920.

Lighthouse cafe

7-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, games and refreshments in Knox Hall at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Free child care. Call (248) 374-5920.

Re-marriage retreat

Remarried Ministries present a weekend getaway to Maranatha Retreat and Conference Center in Muskegon Sept. 22-24. Cost is \$299 per couple and includes two nights lodging, five meals, speakers Brent and Bonnie Keen, music by Bonnie Keen. Campfires, fun and fellowship. Remarried couples can call (248) 374-5912.

Jewish New Year

Secular/cultural observances, with music, singing and readings, will take place at the Jewish Community Center's Prentis Social Hall, 15110 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park. The Rosh Hashanah observance will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, with comments by ACLU of Michigan Director Michael J. Steinberg on Working for Social Justice in the New Year. The Yom Kippur observance will be 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 2, with music by renowned violinist Jannina Barefield who will perform Kol Nidre and more. Reservations and contributions appreciated. For more information, contact Workmen's Circle at (248) 545-0985 or micircle@aol.com. The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring is dedicated to Jewish community, Jewish and Yiddish culture, and social justice.

Ladies' enrichment day

9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at Waterford Church of Christ, 4991 Williams Lake Road. Opens with continental breakfast followed by program then lunch. Call (248) 627-3074.

Bicycling group

10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, Kensington Metropark, presented by Single Point ministry of Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920. All riders welcome but must wear a helmet.

Rummage sale

Large variety of household goods, clothing, jewelry, books, toys, and more noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26 with a \$4 per bag sale 3-5 p.m., at Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, between Sheldon and Beck. Fund-raiser for United Methodist Women with all proceeds to benefit those in need here and worldwide.

Religious education

Registration now being accepted for children's religious education on Sundays, sessions begin Sept. 24, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950. Attend 9:30 a.m. Mass as a family on Sunday followed by separate education sessions for children and adults that run until noon.

Seniors group

All senior citizens are invited to First Baptist Church of Detroit to join with the Leisur-Aires group and hear Denise Holmes, a registered dietitian and exercise therapist at Botsford Hospital, talk about how to stay healthy as seniors 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, at the church, 21100 Southfield Road, Southfield. For more information, call (248) 569-2972.

Revival

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 29, to Oct. 1, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Workshops Friday-Saturday. Call (734) 464-0990.

Western barn dance

6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29, at Lazy J Ranch in Milford. Pizza, square dancing and lots of laughs presented by Single Point ministry at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. Car pooling available. Cost is \$23. Meet in Ward church parking lot F at 5:30 p.m. For tickets or information, call (248) 374-5920.

Bicycling group

10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, Nankin Mills administration office parking lot, Westland, presented by Single Point ministry of Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920. All riders welcome but must wear a helmet.

Bible study

St. Michael Catholic Church at Plymouth and Hubbard began its new series of fall Bible Study programs this week. Two sessions are planned. Groups will meet from 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesdays of each month; the other from 7-9 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays. All are invited. Register at (734) 261-1445.

MOPS

All mothers of infants through kindergartners are invited to join MOPS. Meetings are on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverage, Redford, MI 48239. The group provides support, presentations, discussion, creative projects and refreshments. Child care provided. For more information or to register, call (313) 937-2424.

Mom2Mom sale

Table renters wanted for sale 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Garden City First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman at Maplewood. \$1 admission. Bake sale. Cost is \$25 for 6-foot table, \$30 for 8-foot table. Call Rhonda Harris for rental reservations or more information, (734) 532-7818, or send e-mail to Harrisar@aol.com.

Mom2Mom sale

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Garden City First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman at Maplewood. \$1 admission. Bake sale. Call (734) 421-8628.

Mom to Mom Sale

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 30, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Wayne and Newburgh, Livonia. If you are interested in renting a table at the sale, call (734) 422-0149. Infant to pre-teen clothes, maternity clothes, furniture, toys and more. \$2 admission. Strollers welcome.

Unity coffee house

Presents Bill Staines 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. Suggested donation is \$15. Call (734) 421-1760. Staines has traveled all over the world, averaging 200 concerts a year. As a songwriter and performer he uses a magical blend of humor and wit.

Fall/winter worship services

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 9:30 a.m. adult Christian education, and 10:15 a.m. youth Christian education, Sundays at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, Livonia.

Catholic programs

You've been coming to Catholic liturgies for years with your spouse, but just haven't taken the plunge to become Catholic yourself. The opportunity has arrived at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Sept. 5 saw the start of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for those who would like to become Catholic. Call David Conrad, director of Faith Formation, at (734) 425-5950 to discuss your conversion journey and begin formal entrance into the Catholic Church.

Remarried workshop

Continues 7-8:15 p.m. Wednesdays to Dec. 13, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. This course is a must for any couples thinking about remarriage or already remarried. It can assist couples in blending families, parenting issues, communications, and finances. Call (248) 374-7400 for more information. No charge. Come for one session or all 13.

Prosperity program

Stretton Smith's 4 T Prosperity Program continues 8 p.m. Wednesdays to Nov. 22, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Signup fee including book is \$35. Call (734) 421-1760.

Bible study

Explore the Gospel of Mark, 8:22 to 16:8, Thursdays for eight weeks beginning Sept. 7, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950.

Divorce recovery program

Continues 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays to Sept. 28, and Oct. 19 to Dec. 4 (no workshop Thanksgiving Day), presented by Single Place Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Northville. For information, call (248) 349-0911.

Sunday worship

10:30 a.m. Sundays, lessons from I Peter, teen/adult Bible study at 9 a.m. focuses on the complete text of Matthew, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. For information, call (313) 255-6330.

Sunday schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday school for ages pre-school to adult, family friendly worship at 10:30 a.m., nursery care available for both session for infant to 2 years old, children's choir, Jammin for Jesus follows the children's story in service (for third- to sixth-grade students), Celebration Station is for age 3 to second grade, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, between Middlebelt and

Merriman, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038. All are welcome.

UPCOMING

50th celebration

St. John Bosco Church celebrates its 50th anniversary with a 11 a.m. Mass Sunday, Oct. 1, with Adam Cardinal Maida presiding, reception follows the Mass in Sheltreau Hall, 12100 Beech Daly, Redford. For more information, call (313) 937-9690.

Organ concert

Music by American composers 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1, at the cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward at Trowbridge, Detroit. Freewill offering will be taken. Call (313) 865-6300, Ext. 227, or send e-mail to CathedralConcerts@yahoo.com.

Blood drive

The Red Cross will be holding a blood drive 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, in the Parish Hall at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Walk-ins are welcome. Call (734) 464-1222, Ext. 309.

Blessing of the animals

5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, Livonia. All pets are welcome. Hot dogs will be provided. For more information, call (734) 591-0211 or visit www.holyspirit-livonia.org.

Parish mission

7 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, Oct. 8-12, at St. John Bosco Church, 12100 Beech Daly, Redford. Refreshments follow in Social Hall. The Rev. Richard Hart presents Sharing the Good News. Sunday evenings topic is What is the Treasure We Share?, Monday - Too Good a Secret to be Kept, Tuesday - Do You Love Me?, Wednesday - Are we a Forgiving Community? (Reconciliation service), and Thursday - A Work That Cannot Fail. For more information, call (313) 937-9690.

Women's conference

The fourth annual Women's Conference, (for women of all ages, and young adults age 14 and above) sponsored by The Archdiocese of Detroit, Department of Parish Life & Services, Office of Evangelization 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center, 14500 East 12 Mile, Warren. This year's conference, A Woman's Journey to the Heart of Christ, will conclude with Mass celebrated by His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida.

Pre-registration required. Cost is \$45 for adults, \$35 full-time college or high school students, includes conference and lunch. Religious are free of charge, but must register. More information on the conference (including a downloadable registration form) can be found at www.aodonline.org. If you would like to receive a registration form or for more information, send e-mail to dignityofwoman@aol.com, or call (734) 459-9558.

Crafters wanted

Riverside Park Church of God is sponsoring a craft bazaar Oct. 21 at the church, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. If you would like to purchase a table for this event, contact the church office to register at (734) 464-0990.

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, Canton. The church is accepting applications for handmade crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

ONGOING

Ladies Bible studies

Began Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Call (248) 348-7600.

Women of the Word offer the Life Change Study of the book of Genesis by NavPress 9:30-11:15 a.m. (\$15 registration fee includes interdenominational materials and free child care for ages through 5, and a study of the Patriarchs by Beth Moor 6:45-8:15 p.m. (\$20 fee and no child care).

Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a non-denominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

Farmington Women Aglow

Meets 5-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile. For more information, call Linda Boone at (248) 476-1053.

Bible and playtime

For moms and tots began 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays at Vineyard Church of Farmington Hills 29200 Shiawassee (by Middlebelt and Nine Mile). No charge. For information, call (248) 766-0143.

Scripture studies

7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets 7 p.m. every

Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.

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, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts 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.

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. Lunch is served followed by fellowship with some games and stories.

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.

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 be 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 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 nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, high-tech contemporary music, energy-light video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, 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 child care. 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.adat-shalom.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 to help students better understand and speak English. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Sunday school

Congregation Beit Kodesh (31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia) is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services

St. John Lutheran Church (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills) invites community to a new worship service 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Sunday traditional worship services are 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584.



DAVID L. BELL

Age 76, of Whitmore Lake, passed away at his home on September 17, 2006. He was born January 7, 1930, in Ottawa, Ontario, the son of Douglas Bell and Jan Trotter. On March 8, 1952, in Angola, IN, David married Carmen (Lambert) Bell. David was a self employed audio technician before his retirement in 2003. In addition to his wife, Carmen, survivors include his daughter, Lorraine (Bart) Bryant of Plymouth, MI; grandchildren Hannah (Ben) Skurdal, Lael (Amy) Bryant, Susannah (Jim) Mong, Iain Bryant and Christian Bryant; and great grandchildren Abigail, Elsie, and Elliot Skurdal, and Owen Bryant. A viewing will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2006, at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel, from 11am to 1pm, with a Meditation Service at 11:30am. The Funeral Service will be held at Grace Baptist Church in Canton, MI, on Friday at 7pm with Pastor Gordon Cook and Pastor Bart Bryant as Celebrants, preceded by a viewing from 5:30pm until the time of service at 7pm. A dinner will follow the service. Burial will take place at Washtenong Memorial Park on Saturday, September 23, 2006, at 10am. Please leave a Message of Comfort for David's family at 877-231-7900, or visit his guest book at www.borekjennings.com

DENNIS WENDEL

Age 54 of Plymouth passed away Saturday September 16, 2006 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI. He was born March 2, 1952 in Detroit, MI, the son of Henry and Alice Wendel. They predecease him. Dennis worked 27 years as product manager for K Mart. He was an awesome baker, working for the family bakery as a young man, loved landscaping and going to concerts to hear country music. Most of all he had a love for his family and grandchildren. Dennis is survived by his son Denny (Cathy) Wendel of AuGres, their children Keagan, and Cylie, brothers Mark (Karen), Jay, sisters Sharon, Gail, Debbie, Bonnie and Sandy. He is predeceased by his brother Larry. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, September 21, 2006 at the Forshue Funeral Home in AuGres, with interment at the Sims-Whitney Cemetery in AuGres, MI. Visitation will be from 10:30 until time of service.

GORDON F. ROBINSON

Mr. Robinson was born June 26, 1922 in Plymouth, MI and died September 15, 2006 in Lakeland, FL. He was 84. Mr. Robinson was a Senior Estimator with Edison Electric. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland. He served in the Army during WWII. He was also a member of the Elks Club and Sandpiper Golf Club. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jean Robinson of Lakeland, FL.; daughter, Susan M. Herceg of Portland, OR; and sons Gary Robinson of Jackson, MI and Mike Robinson of Haslett, MI; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Gordon will be interred in Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL at 2pm Tuesday (September 20, 2006)

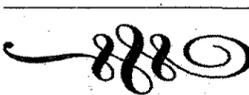
Passages

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JAMES WILLIAM JOHNESEE

September 15, 2006, age 85. Beloved husband of Marion of 60 years. Loving father of Jim (Gayle), Bill (Pat), Mary (Rick) Glitz, and Pat (Ron) Kowalski. Loving grandfather of 15 and great grandfather of 8. Brother of the late Everett and brother-in-law of Helen McNamee, Robert (Lorraine) McNamee and Mary Jane Foley. A charter member of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Optimist Club and a member of the American Legion. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen or St. Vincent de Paul. Services were held Wednesday through McCabe Funeral Home. www.mccabefuneralhome.com



SAMUEL G. HORTON

Age 73, died Saturday, September 16, 2006, at his home in Plymouth, MI, after a short but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Sam was born on December 10, 1932, in Detroit, MI, and grew up in Livonia, MI. He graduated from Lawrence Technological University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He was employed by Ford Motor Company for 35 years, during which time he worked at Ford locations in Rawsonville, MI; Bedford, IN; Chihuahua, Mexico; Setubal, Portugal; Brentwood, England; and Cardiff, Wales. After his retirement from Ford, he spent 11 years working with his son, Jeffrey, at Horton Plumbing in Plymouth, MI. He had a passion for golf and enjoyed many outdoor activities throughout the summer and winter. He was an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth. Samuel is survived by his wife of 54 years, Karen; his children, Michael (Robin) of Perrysburg, OH; Curtis of Plymouth, MI; Jeffrey (Jacqueline) of Plymouth, MI; John (Lupita) of Irving, TX; and Kathleen of Saugatuck, MI; and 12 grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Naomi (Marvin) Skupski of Westland, MI, and his brother, Paul (Carole) Horton of Rockford, MI. Visitation will take place at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, Thursday, September 21, 2006, from 3-8 p.m. A memorial service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, on Friday, September 22, 2006, at 11 a.m. Friends may visit at church beginning at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Angela Hospice or the Plymouth Salvation Army.

JAMES H. JORISSEN

Age 78 of Plymouth, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2006. Jim was a residential contractor in Livonia, Redford Twp, Dearborn Heights, and Plymouth. Graduate of University of Detroit in 1946. Served in the Army in the early 1950's. Moved to the Plymouth community 28 years ago from Redford Twp. Survived by his loving wife Margaret. Children: Paul (Gigi), Carol (John) Zumpano, Julie (Chris) Jones. Grandchildren: Isabella, Cole, Grant, Autumn, James, Carly, Mitchell. Brother of Gerald (Rose), Mike (Gerry), Jeff (Joanne). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral service Saturday 10:30am at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty Rd, Plymouth. Visitation: Friday 3-9pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main, Plymouth. And at church Saturday 10:00am until time of Mass. Rosary Friday 7:00pm. Online condolences may be sent at www.schrader-howell.com.

MICHAEL J. JENSEN

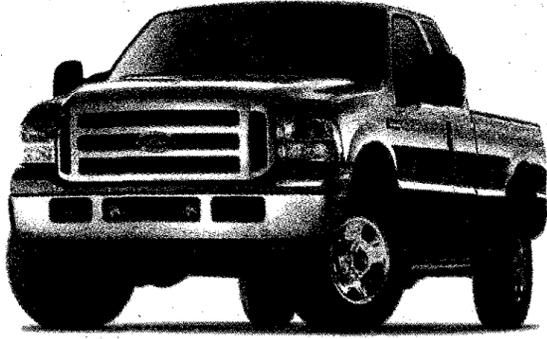
September 15, 2006, age 39, of Westland. Beloved husband of Monica. Dear father of Ashley and Miranda. Loving son of Jim and the late Elaine. Brother of John (Kim) and Julie (Patrick) Predd. Instate at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Wednesday 9 a.m. until service at 10 a.m. Burial at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery, Flat Rock, MI. Please visit and post a tribute at www.uhfuneralhome.com

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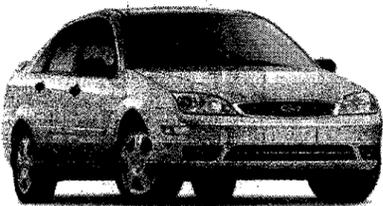


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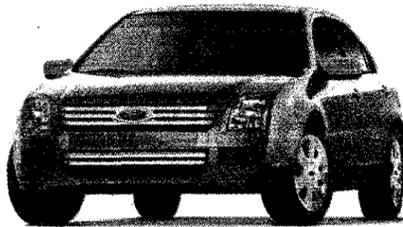


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