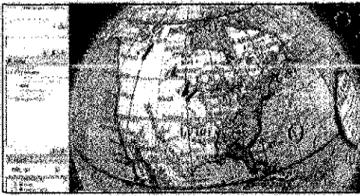


11/30

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TECH SAVVY - D1



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Motive unknown in stabbing of elderly woman

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 67-year-old Westland woman appears to have been randomly stabbed while walking outdoors near her residence at Riverbend Apartments, near Warren and Merriman roads, police said.

The attack, which happened around 3 p.m. Sunday, was strangely similar to a stabbing that occurred eight weeks ago about three miles away, outside of Westgate Tower on Elmwood near Ford and Wildwood.

In a bizarre coincidence, police described both victims as 67-year-old women. Neither vic-

tim was robbed, and no motive was known. The latest victim didn't get a good look at her assailant, who ran up behind her, stabbed her once in the upper back and fled on foot, police Lt. James Ridener confirmed.

The attack occurred on the north side of Warren, east of Merriman, in the sprawling apartment complex.

"This lady was walking through Riverbend Apartments when this guy came up behind her, and she felt something in her back," Ridener said. "He ran off. She couldn't give a good description."

The woman realized she had been stabbed when she returned to her apartment and found

she was bleeding, Ridener said. She was treated and released at Garden City Hospital.

Without a good description of the suspect, authorities couldn't say whether he may have been the same assailant involved in the stabbing outside of Westgate Tower.

"It looks very similar, but we can't say for sure," Ridener said.

The earlier attack occurred about 5:50 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, when a 67-year-old woman was walking with her 5-year-old great-granddaughter near her high-rise senior apartment building, police Sgt. Jeff Trzybinski said.

The woman was stabbed in the upper back by an assailant who approached her on foot and

then fled. The little girl wasn't hurt.

In that incident, the attacker was described as a black man, 30-35 years old, about 5-foot-8 with a medium build.

He was wearing a dark-colored cap, a dark waist-length jacket, possibly a red T-shirt, and a dark-colored jacket.

Anyone who has information about one or both stabbings is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

To make an anonymous call for a possible cash reward, call Crime Stoppers at (800) SPEAK-UP.

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

On the road to Alpena

Wayne High senior named Junior Miss

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It was something Kelsey Baker has wanted for a while, but she still was amazed when she was named the 2007 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss.

"I was just in shock, it was so surreal to hear my name announced," Baker said. "It was so amazing."

A crowd of 350 people were on hand for the program, to watch the Wayne Memorial High School senior win the 40th annual scholarship program Nov. 18.

Baker, the daughter of Brian and Carol Baker, won the program with top scores in the talent, scholarship, fitness, interview, spirit, audience participation categories. She also received the Be Your Best award and a \$2,250 scholarship.

"My mom was crying like I was," Baker said of the announcement. "My dad won the bike raffle and he was excited about that. He was excited about me, too."

The runner-up was Natalie Bower, a John Glenn High School senior, who will join Baker at the state program in Alpena in as the 2007 Westland Junior Miss.

Bower won the self-expression and bowl-athon categories and Be Your Best Award and received a \$1,050 scholarship.

Both teens will compete in the Michigan Junior Miss program in Alpena on March 4. The winner of that program will advance to the America's Junior Miss

PLEASE SEE JUNIOR MISS, A4



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland Junior Miss Natalie Bower (left) and Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Kelsey Baker show off the medallions they received as winners of the 2007 program.

PROGRAM SHOWERS HONORS ON TEENS

There were plenty of awards given out during the Junior Miss Program Nov. 18. Three finalists - Tracey Halaberda, Cara Ball and Olivia LaFortune, all seniors at Wayne Memorial High School - were recognized for their efforts.

All three received the Be Your Best award, with Halaberda placing in fitness, Ball in self-expression and talent, and LaFortune in scholarship, bowl-athon and community service.

Seven participants also placed in one category in addition to Be Your Best. They included John Glenn High School seniors Alexa Larimore, interview; Amanda Femat, scholarship; Adrienne Camunag, fitness; Jessica Burns, talent, and Jamie Allen, community service, and Wayne Memorial seniors Julie Good, talent, and Ravynne Gilmore, self-expression.

Be Your Best awards were also given to Nkari Mandisa, Kayia German, Belinda Gee, Crystal Obiukwu, Jana Dean, Michelle Gutowski, Aiysha Lannoo and Karyn Fowler from John Glenn, and Nalise Smith, Lejohnna Reid, Jessica Kay, Bobbi Turner, Kayleigh Thorner, Adrienne Meagher, Karissa Matson and Nichole Pierson from Wayne Memorial.

Reward tops \$6,000 for information about drummer's murder

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Fliers have been posted in the neighborhood where Westland jazz drummer Raymond Pankau lived before he was stabbed to death in the home where he once taught music lessons.

With rewards of \$6,000 being offered to bring his killer to justice, family, friends and Westland police are pleading for help in solving the case.

Pankau, known on stage as Ray Parker, was found murdered Oct. 15 in his home on John Hix Road north of Cherry Hill. Family members had gone to the house after not hearing from the 77-year-old widower.

"He was a wonderful man. I can't believe anyone would kill him," said Georgine Jeziorowski of Wayne, whose late husband, Leo Favazza, played in a jazz band with Pankau.

"He was such a sweet person," she said, "and he was a very good drummer."

Pankau taught drum lessons to Jeziorowski's two children, Richard and Leo Favazza. Jeziorowski hadn't seen Pankau in a couple of years, but she recalled seeing him occasionally at places like the grocery store or the Westland senior citizen Friendship Center.

"He was such a wonderfully friendly person," she said.

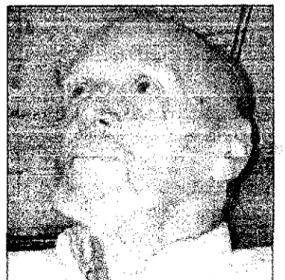
Pankau grew up on Detroit's east side. He didn't go to college, but those who knew him said he had a natural talent for music.

He knew such jazz artists as Chicago-born drummer Gene Krupa and Detroit's own jazz pianist Bessie Coleman.

Pankau played music most of his life, and former students recalled how he taught at places like Westland Music and out of his own home.

"He called his home Ray Parker's Drum Academy," former student Michael Socie of Canton said.

Socie, a pharmacist and



The murder of Westland jazz drummer Raymond Pankau, known professionally as Ray Parker, has stunned students and friends who remember him as a kind man and a patient teacher. 'He was the best,' former student Michael Socie said.

Canton High School graduate, said he took drum lessons for years from Pankau.

"He helped me through marching band when I was in high school," Socie said. "He was the best. I still have every notebook and lesson book I got from him. He was the kindest, gentlest person you'd ever want to meet, and as a teacher he was patient."

"The lessons he taught me about music, I carry to this day," Socie said.

Socie was stunned when he saw a flier posted at a gas station asking for help in solving Pankau's death.

"When I saw that poster, my knees started shaking," he said. "Who could hurt someone like this? Why would you beat up an old man and do this? He was just a class-act guy who led such a rich life, and he didn't need to have his life ended this way."

Pankau's family has offered a \$5,000 reward in addition to a \$1,000 reward being offered by Crime Stoppers.

To help, call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600 or, to give an anonymous tip, call Crime Stoppers at (800) 773-2587.

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

County comes to city to do free lead testing

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Responding to concerns that elevated levels of lead in Central City Park may have posed a health threat, Wayne County officials will bring free blood testing to Westland.

County health department employees will provide testing 3-6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Bailey Recreation

Center, said Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp.

The move came in response to requests from parents and city leaders after it was publicly revealed in early November that the park has elevated levels of lead, specifically in the western ball diamonds.

"We heard the requests of the people and the mayor and the City Council - loud and clear," Helmkamp said.

Some parents fear that children who played on the ball-fields could have been exposed to potentially harmful levels of lead, although officials have called it unlikely.

City, county and state officials have indicated that children wouldn't likely have spent enough time in the park to encounter a serious health threat.

Nonetheless, Helmkamp said blood testing will be brought to

the Bailey Center, located behind Westland City Hall on Ford Road east of Newburgh.

Helmkamp and Mayor Sandra Cicirelli announced the plan on Tuesday - 12 days after parents attended a public meeting and criticized officials for remaining silent about soil tests from as early as 1999.

"I am happy to be able to announce that the Wayne

PLEASE SEE LEAD, A3

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Volume 42
Number 54



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Coming Sunday in Health



Knee replacements designed especially for women.

Wayne High presents Carmichael's 'Name'

What would you do if you suffered temporary amnesia and stumbled into a bed and breakfast off season only to find you were expected for the weekend?

That's the question playwright Fred Carmichael asks in his comedy/mystery, *Don't Mention My Name*, being presented by student thespians at Wayne Memorial High School this weekend.

The play will be presented at 7 p.m. this evening through Saturday at the high school's Stockmeyer Auditorium.

In the play, the amnesiac finds an attractive real estate lady calls him by one name and the housekeeper by another. A business executive and his sec-

retary appear with a confirmed reservation and call him by another name.

The executive's wife surprises them all and calls the hero by a different name, and a nightclub singer enters with her hearty boy friend and recognizes him by yet another name.

The young man and the real estate lady band together to solve the mystery, discovering that people are not who they seem and even though each works for a different government agency, they all have the identical purpose.

Tickets for *Don't Mention My Name* are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults and are available at the door.

WYAA raffle has new Pontiac as the prize

Christmas will come early for the lucky winner of a raffle sponsored by the Westland Youth Athletic Association.

A drawing for a 2007 Pontiac G6 will occur during the city of Westland's annual tree-lighting ceremony, which starts at 6:15 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, in front of City Hall on Ford Road.

With the drawing days away, WYAA members who have been selling raffle tickets are asked to return the stubs.

"All year long, our participants have been selling raffle tickets to help raise funds to fund our sports - baseball, football, cheerleading, softball, volleyball, basketball - and with the drawing rapidly approaching, it's time for our parents to

drop off those raffle stubs," WYAA spokesman Keith DeMolay said.

The ticket stubs should be dropped off at the WYAA building at 6050 Farmington Road, north of Ford, DeMolay said. Hours are 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 2.

The car was donated by Red Holman Pontiac in Westland, DeMolay said.

In other WYAA news, the organization's annual membership meeting will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at the building at 6050 Farmington. The meeting will include such business as the election of a board of directors for the 2007 year, DeMolay said.

Mural adds realism to police training room

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

The work of three Franklin High School art students goes largely unseen - but not unappreciated - in the basement of the Livonia police station.

A bright mural depicts the intersection of Plymouth and Farmington roads on a fall day. The landscape helps add realism to the Firearms Training System Room where officers are trained to make split-second decisions to shoot or not shoot.

"Basically, it's a big video game," said Franklin High School Police Liaison Officer Jeff Weiss, talking about the training system. Scenarios play out through audio and video.

Although officers are focused on what appears on the screen at the front of the room, Weiss came up with the idea of a mural along the side walls to add perspective.

"The painting is there for the effect of realism, so you feel like you're there," said Ryan Gilliland, one of the painters.

"They wanted to keep it local. They wanted to have Livonia landmarks," said art teacher Jeremy Rheault. "It's basically as if you're standing in the center of Plymouth road, and it (gives) a perspective."

Gilliland and Chelsea Tucker, who both graduated from Franklin last fall, and senior Tony Hope brought the mural to life last spring.

Tucker painted the trees, Gilliland did the roads and Hope designed the cars.

"It is one of the top murals in Livonia," Rheault said. "It is a shame the public cannot share in the viewing the artwork."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin High School Police Liaison Officer Jeff Weiss, (left), with Livonia Franklin graduates Ryan Gilliland, Chelsea Tucker and senior Tony Hope. The young artists added realism and local flair to the department's Fire Arms Training System site.

The mural took shape in two- and three-hour increments after school from April through graduation in June.

The three students even spent spring break at the police station, painting. Hope estimates it took at least seven gallons of paint to cover the two 8-foot-by-20-foot walls.

"All of our styles and techniques are in it," Hope said. "None of us have ever done anything this large."

All three have fine arts backgrounds.

Tucker attends the Collège for Creative Studies in Detroit. Gilliland will be attending Grand Rapids' Kendall College of Art and Design in January.

They worked off an overhead projection from actual photos at the intersection, including the gas stations and restaur-

rants. Students mixed all the hues from four paint colors.

"It's bright, it's vibrant. It's an excellent composition," Rheault said.

Other Franklin art students helped early on, but much of that work got covered as the mural went through artistic design.

The Firearms Training System room, which has been in use for eight years, was upgraded last year. Officers from Livonia, Westland, Redford, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township use the room for training.

The new training system cost \$68,000.

Half of the money came from federal grants.

The outside departments and the Michigan Municipal

Risk Management Authority chipped in, and Livonia paid the balance.

For their work, students earned an artist's salary.

"All they gave us was the paint. And sometimes they would buy us a pizza," Hope said.

Hope said he's OK with the fact that the mural is off-limits to the public.

"It would be nice for everyone to see it," he said. "It's a training room for the police. ... We knew that going in."

Residents may get the chance to see the mural if the department hosts another open house. It is also a training room used for the Citizens Police Academy.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48125, December 9, 2006 @ 1:00 PM.

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Publish: November 26 & 30, 2006

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Lutheran High holds annual juried show

There will be a familiar face and several new ones at the annual fall arts and craft show Friday and Saturday at Lutheran High School Westland in Westland.

The juried show will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days at the school at 33300 Cowan Road east of Wayne Road in Westland.

The show will feature quality hand-crafted items and feature such artists as Painter Jim

Williams of Highland will join newcomers Jan and Gary Bower of Traverse City.

Williams, who was featured at the school's Spring Celebration in March, does oil paintings of area landmarks and will be back with new designs, such as Comerica Park, Santa at 12th floor of Hudson's, Ford Field, the Palace, and others.

He is a self-taught impressionist realist painter whose

work depicts a style that is partly derived from the study of classical 19th and 20th century American and European artists.

Jan Bower is an oil painter who does exquisite portraits, mainly of children, while her husband has authored a children's book, *I'm a Michigan Kid*, which she illustrated.

The show also will feature a free kid's craft corner put on by the Student Council, face

painting, bake sale and hourly door prizes. The Lutheran High Chamber Singers will be performing, as well as area Lutheran grade school choirs, including one from Hartland. There also will be some individual performances by Lutheran High students.

Lunch will be available and will feature a "Maurice" salad like J.L. Hudson's used to serve. For more information, call (734) 422-2090.



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CORRECTION

The location of the Michigan Christmas Show, where Mary Denning will build a Gingerbread Village and conduct demonstrations, was omitted in some editions of the Nov. 23 *Observer*. The show will take place at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, one mile west of Novi Road in Novi.

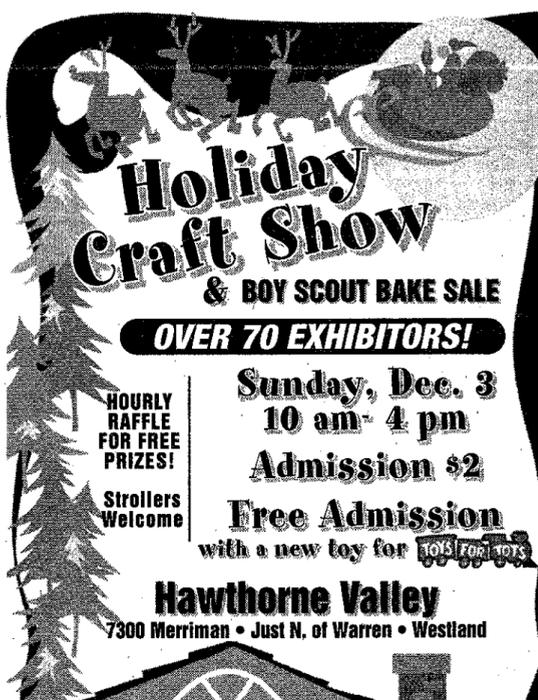
CITY OF GARDEN CITY
December 12, 2006 - BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to correct mutual mistakes of fact or clerical errors. PA74 of 1995 authorizes the December Board of Review to hear appeals for poverty exemptions, but not for poverty exemptions denied by the March Board of Review. This applies to current year only.

ALLYSON BETTIS
Treasurer-City Clerk

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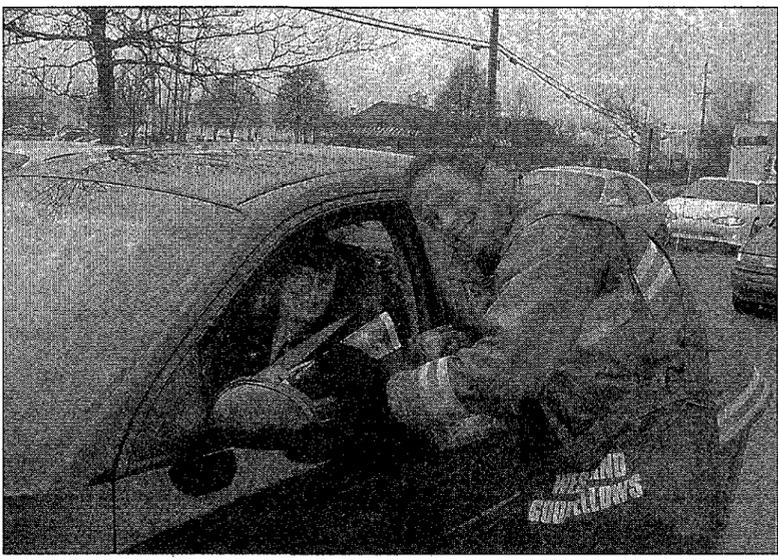
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Westland Fire Department Capt. John Adams collects money during the Goodfellows fund-raiser. Adams, alone, collected \$1,141.53 in donations.

Strong newspaper sales good news for Goodfellows' efforts

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Despite a sour economy, Westland Goodfellows volunteers saw revenues from their newspaper street sales soar by 52 percent this year in their campaign to buy Christmas gifts for needy children.

The nonprofit group's post-Thanksgiving fund-raiser in major city intersections raised \$15,873 on Friday, compared to \$10,427 a year ago.

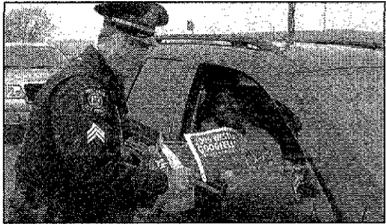
"It was actually quite inspiring," said Vic Barra, Goodfellows donation chairman. "I was worried that we weren't going to do as well."

The organization, which last year helped more than 600 children, welcomed the spike in revenues as it anticipates an even greater demand for help this holiday season.

Public safety workers collected the bulk of donations, with firefighters raising \$8,450 and police officers bringing in \$5,013, according to revenues posted on the Web site, www.westlandgoodfellows.org.

Fire Capt. John Adams, who issued a friendly challenge from firefighters to police officers, attributed stronger sales to more volunteers working longer hours during the dawn-to-dusk campaign in major intersections.

"Our exposure was greater," he said. Some volunteers worked longer hours possibly due to milder weather than the bone-chilling temperatures of some previous years, Adams said.



Westland police Sgt. Steve Borisch sells a Goodfellows newspaper to raise money for Christmas gifts for needy children.

The longer hours by more volunteers likely helped to offset smaller donations that some people made, Adams said.

Compared to some years when many donors gave \$10, \$20 or even \$100, Adams said he noticed smaller donations this year. Still, he commended donors for giving what they could afford.

"People were very generous," Adams said. Barra announced that the next Goodfellows fund-raiser will be 5:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Stryker's Lounge, on Ford Road east of Hix. He said a disc jockey will spin music, and there will be raffles of such items as televisions and cameras.

Those who still want to donate to Goodfellows or who want more information may call Adams at (734) 467-3261.

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

Taste Fest aims for sellout

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Budget-minded holiday shoppers who've worked up an appetite might want to consider sampling food from 21 restaurants - all for \$20.

Qdoba Mexican Grill - new to Westland - and Old Country Buffet have become the latest two restaurants to join the lineup for Holiday Taste Fest.

Only 50 tickets out of 500 remain for the Westland Chamber of Commerce's annual event, scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road east of Newburgh.

Tickets cost \$20 and are available at chamber offices on Ford Road, east of Newburgh. Call (734) 326-7222.

Restaurants will offer food samples in hopes of converting the Taste Fest crowd into a potential new customer base.

Some eateries will offer filling samples while others, such as Old Country Buffet, will bring desserts and restaurant coupons.

Taste Fest ticket prices rose from \$15 to \$20 this year to help cover rising expenses, but chamber President Lori Brist said regulars didn't seem to mind.

It's still a good deal, she said. "It's like a dollar a restaurant."

The chamber also will sponsor an auction featuring such items as Detroit Pistons basketball tickets, Lions football tickets, Red Wings hockey tickets, monthly massages for a year, and monthly flowers for a

year, Brist said. "We've got some great auction items," she said.

Other participants in this year's Taste Fest include Casa Fiesta, Fire Mountain, the Hellenic Cultural Center, caterer Hickory BBQ & Grill, Johnny Carino's, Lakeshore Grill at Macy's, LeCakery Bake Shop, LongHorn Steakhouse, Maria's Italian Bakery, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Miller beer distributor O&W Inc., Red Robin, Souper Sandwich Carver, Starbuck's Coffee Co., Toarina's Pizza, Uno Chicago Grill, Westland Big Boy, and the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's culinary arts department.

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

LEAD

FROM PAGE A1

County Health Department has agreed to perform testing on Westland youth and adults at no cost," Cicirelli said Tuesday, calling the tests "fairly painless."

Children 6 months old to 18 years old will be tested by pricking the skin of a finger and taking a small blood sample, Helmkamp said. Blood will be drawn the usual way for people over 18, he said.

Walk-ins will be welcome, but Helmkamp urged anyone who wants to lock in a specific time to call (734) 727-7056.

"If people are in the building and in line by closing time, they will be served," he said.

Adults involved with youth athletic groups, such as Little League baseball, are encouraged to talk with their teams and consider calling to reserve a block of time, Helmkamp said.

"They can call on behalf of a group," he said. People who call for appointments will be given priority over walk-ins when their time slot comes up, Helmkamp said.

Meanwhile, officials early this week were awaiting the latest round of soil tests that will give them a better indication of how to proceed with cleaning up Central City Park. Any plan will require approval from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

For now, the park remains closed except for a paved walking path.

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16-year-old faces attempted murder charge as juvenile

A 16-year-old Livonia boy was charged with assault with intent to commit murder Wednesday in Wayne County Juvenile Court. He's accused of slamming a fellow student head-first into the floor of the cafeteria at Franklin High School last week.

The teen was charged as a juvenile and bond was set at \$10,000 cash, according to Livonia police Lt. Greg Winn. Officials were looking into moving the case to Oakland County, Winn said, since that's where the teen's father lives and juvenile cases are generally based on where the father resides rather than where the incident occurred.

The student injured in the assault Nathan Carlin, 16, returned to school this week. In a television interview, Carlin said he remembered trying to walk away after a confrontation, but being picked up and slammed into the floor. It happened just before school on Nov. 22.

Carlin was unconscious and bleeding from the head with neck and spinal injuries as he was flown by helicopter to University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor.

He awoke the next morning and has recovered quickly since then, despite having hairline fractures to the base of his skull and spine.

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JUNIOR MISS

FROM PAGE A1

program in Mobile, Ala., in June.

Baker started watching the Junior Miss program four years ago when fellow dancer Ashlee Baracy won the program. Baker and Baracy danced at the same studio, and, according to Baker, "a bunch of us went to watch."

Baracy now teaches at the studio and wished Baker good luck in her quest for the honor and gave the teen a pair of earrings.

Baker said she was "pretty calm" for the program, but was nervous about the interview with judges, which counts as 25 percent of the scoring.

"The interview portion was the hardest, you go in not knowing the judges or what they're going to ask," she said. "There's an element of surprise. It was scary, but it turned into a nice conversation rather than a judgmental thing."

With the local program under her belt, she now must get ready for the state program. She did a musical the-

'The interview portion was the hardest, you go in not knowing the judges or what they're going to ask. There's an element of surprise. It was scary, but it turned into a nice conversation rather than a judgmental thing.'

Kelsey Baker

ater dance to *My Strongest Suit* for the local event and plans to stick with it for the state competition.

She also plans to bone up on current events by watching a lot more news and check out current events on the Internet.

This isn't Baker's first venture into competition. She been in competitive dance for 13 years and was a Dance Masters of Michigan Miss Dance finalist. She also was a runner-up for Teen Miss Washtenaw.

And as Baracy's win inspired her, Baker's selection as Junior Miss has caught the attention of her 13-year-old sister Kirstin.

"I think she wants to do it

because she saw how excited I was," she said. "Actually, she told me she wants to do the program in high school."

Bower also was attracted to the program after seeing friends participate. They encouraged her to give it a try, she said.

And she was surprised at her selection "because there were so many great girls there."

"I'm still going 'wow,'" she said.

The surprise also extends to her parents, Dana and Suzie Bower.

"They couldn't even talk, they were so surprised," Bower said. "They said they know I'm a great kid."

She received flowers and congratulatory calls from her aunts and grandmother and is appreciative of her friends who were there to cheer for her.

"It's nice to have that support, to have them there cheering for you," she said.

Bower, who played a flute solo for the program, found the poise portion of the program the most difficult. Finalists are asked a question, drawn randomly from a bowl. They were given the questions the day before the Nov. 18 program,

but they had no idea which one they would be asked.

While her plans after high school include majoring in cell and microbiology at Michigan State University, for now she's getting ready for the state program. Like Baker, she will expand her knowledge of current events. But she has another goal.

"I plan to get more in shape for fitness," she said. "I want to learn more about eating right and about being healthy."

Bower broke the mold with her Junior Miss participation. Her older sisters — Brittany, 21, and Nicole, 19 — were into dance and sports. Neither were involved in the scholarship program.

She also has a younger brother, Zachary, 12.

Not only is she glad she did well in the program, she's also happy she did it.

"I got to know a lot of new people, I had a lot of fun," she said. "It was nice to do something different. It was well worth it."

"All of the girls who did it were committed to the program."

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Catherine's event helps Toys for Tots

Everyone is thinking Christmas, but at the Catherine's clothing store in Westland, the staff is thinking about Toys for Tots.

The plus size women's clothing store at 34764 Warren at Wayne Road is offering a day of fashion, food and fun Saturday to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves program.

The event runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes fashions and drawings for a variety of prizes. For every new unwrapped toy brought to the store, people will receive a ticket for the hourly drawings.

The prizes include gift certificates for Pizza Hut of Livonia, DeLuca's, Back Home Bakery, Red Robin, Famous Dave's BBQ, gift basket from Marco's Fine Wine and Deli, Baker's Square, a floral arrangement from Flower King in Livonia and movies

tickets from Emagine Theater in Canton.

There also will be a bake sale and raffle with the money raised going to purchase toys for older children ages 10-12.

This is the second time this year the store has held the event. It first came in October.

The Toys for Tots program got its start in 1947 in Los Angeles, Calif., when a group of Marine Corps reservists collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. Now the official activity of the Marine Corps Reserves, Toys for Tots distributed 15 million toys to 6.5 million needy children in 2003.

This is the third year that the store has served as a drop-off site for Toys for Tots. It's located in the Westland Crossings shopping center at Warren and Wayne Road in Westland. For more information, call (734) 422-2527.

AROUND WESTLAND

Pancake breakfast

There's a good chance Santa Claus will be on hand for a pancake breakfast, hosted by the Westland Jaycees, 8-10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Applebees on Warren Road in Westland.

Tickets are \$6 for all-you-can eat pancakes, meat and juice. Proceeds will go to benefit various community projects, such as the Jaycees' annual Easter Egg Scramble and Spring Youth Dance.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call Jenn or Mike at (734) 437-6354.

Grand opening

Nature Nook will hold a grand opening celebration 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at its new location in Westland Shopping Center.

Located in the former Griffin's Grill, the independent florist now features an atrium filled with fresh plants and holiday merchandise.

Christmas party

An unwrapped toy is the price of a ticket to the Westland Community Foundation's annual holiday event Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the media center of John Glenn High School.

The get-together will be 6-8 p.m. and feature classical holiday music performed by the John Glenn Singers and refreshments and hors d'oeuvres prepared by the culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

The toys will be given to the Salvation Army's Westland Corps. John Glenn High School is on Marquette, west of Wayne Road. For more information, or to reserve a spot, call (734) 595-7727.

Hospital reunion

The 22nd annual holiday reunion of former Wayne County General Hospital's staff and retirees is scheduled for 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Golden Corral restaurant, on Warren

Road between Newburgh and Central City Parkway. The reunion will be held in a private dining room.

Anyone associated with the hospital is invited to attend. For more information, call Patricia Ibbotson at (734) 561-0177.

The hospital on Merriman Road closed in 1984, and the building was torn down in 2000. Many people have connections with the hospital or worked in the buildings on the grounds, including the Eloise Post Office, which closed in 1979, or the commissary, which is now used as a homeless shelter.

Holiday music

The sounds of the season will echo through Westland Shopping Center with musical performances by local groups.

The five-piece Phil Gram All Stars will perform classic holiday music 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, in the East Court, while 3 D's & W, a barbershop quartet, will perform throughout the mall 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13 and 20, and Friday, Dec. 15 and 22.

Also performing will be Plymouth Baptist Church Choir 8-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in the JC Penney Court, and Our Lady of Good Counsel Choir Group 11 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 15, also in the JC Penney Court.

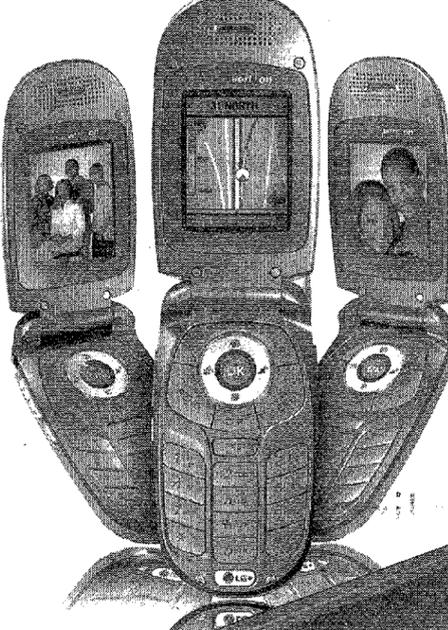
Youngsters can stop by and see Santa 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. now through Saturday, Dec. 2, Dec. 4-9 and Dec. 11-14. Additional hours will be 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 10 and 17, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 16, 17 and 23 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the mall will be open a variety of hours during the month. It will be open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. now through Thursday, Dec. 7. Other hours include 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 8 and 17, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dec. 11-15, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Dec. 16, 18-23, and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24.

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Cable legislation pits AT&T against Michigan Municipal League

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Michael Watzka, a spokesman for the Michigan Municipal League and PROTEC, calls a state House bill to reform cable television franchising "outrageous in its nature," a bill designed to implement AT&T's business plan that would cost local communities millions in franchising fees.

Michael Marker, a spokesman for AT&T, counters that the bill opens up competition that will result in lower cable costs, more technological innovation and actually increase the amount of money received by local communities.

House Bill 6456 sailed through the House Nov. 14 on a strong bipartisan vote of 80-21. The state Senate was expected to take up the bill beginning this week during the short lame-duck session before the Christmas break. Despite the House vote, the bill has strong opposition from the MML and the communities that it represents.

Initially, traditional cable providers such as Bright House and Comcast were opposed to changes in cable franchising legislation, but negotiations over the summer brought the cable companies and the telecommunications companies that want to move into providing video service, AT&T and Verizon, together in support of the House bill introduced by Rep. Mike Nofs, R-Battle Creek.

Watzka said the interests of MML were "dismissed" at these meetings.

"The meeting was really between AT&T and the cable companies. Cable was swung enough to back the bill," he said.

Marker said all parties were involved in the talks.

"Mike Nofs, Andy Dillon (D-Redford) and others interested

in the issues went out of their way to have interested parties voice their concerns," Marker said. "They would have a dramatically different take. It was an open door discussion."

UNIFORM VIDEO SERVICE

Under HB 6456, the state will provide a standardized form for "uniform video service local franchise agreements." The bill spells out the requirements for obtaining a franchise. Providers must still enter into franchise agreements with local communities. But Watzka argues that the communities will only be able to rule on the "completeness" of an application and "rubber-stamp" the agreement or, under the bill, the franchise will be granted.

"This is a local function, contracts are for locals to decide," Watzka said.

MML has objections to several specifics in the bill. According to the bill, new entrants into the cable market are required to provide service to 25 percent of customers in the service territory within three years, 50 percent within six years and serve 30 percent of low-income households within five years.

"You serve everybody using our right of way, you have to serve everybody, have to make it available," Watzka said.

He said typically cable companies were given three years to build out.

"The cable companies that compete in these municipalities don't have 100-percent availability in these communities. It's been that way for 10 years," Marker said. "Where has the Michigan Municipal League been on community build out? AT&T has done more on build out and you don't see build out requirements in other sectors of the economy."

Watzka argues that the bill's

CABLE BILL OPPONENTS HOLD RALLY AT CAPITOL

Opponents to the House Bill 6456 held a rally at noon Tuesday at the Capitol Rotunda in Lansing.

Groups opposed to the legislation, which is now being considered in the state Senate, include Public, Educational and Government TV, Protec (the Michigan Coalition to Protect Public Rights of Way), the Michigan Municipal League, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors and Google.

Google has raised concerns over "net neutrality." Google, which recently agreed to locate 1,000 employees in Ann Arbor, wants to guarantee that residents will have access to YouTube, the video internet service that it recently acquired. Net neutrality is the principle that major telecommunications providers will not be able to exclude Web sites from the Internet.

The rally will end with the presentation of 18,000 signatures from Michigan residents in support of "net neutrality."

The bill's opponents are asking the Senate not to pass any legislation during the current lame-duck session, which ends in the middle of December. A new Legislature takes office in January.

provisions for customer service are inadequate. The bill requires providers to have a local or toll-free telephone number for customer service. The Michigan Public Service Commission would review disputes between the provider and customers.

"A cable provider has a contract with the city. A homeowner calls Comcast, but can

call a local cable operator office in the city and contracts will make providers provide service," Watzka said.

FRANCHISE FEES

A major issue between the two sides is whether local communities will lose money.

In a column in the *Observer & Eccentric*, Farmington Hills Mayor Vicki Barnett, president

of the MML, wrote that communities will lose more than \$55 million statewide due to lost franchise fees and in-kind services to municipalities and schools.

"Currently, these dollars are what the cable operators pay to use, or rent, these rights-of-way which you, as a resident, own," Barnett wrote. "This money which your local community uses to maintain the right-of-way and provide essential services including public safety."

She said the programming provided on public access television was paid for by these fees.

Marker said he didn't know how the MML substantiated its figure, but that a study by Robert Crandall and Robert Litan for Criterion Economics showed that Michigan communities would actually see an \$8.9 million to \$14.8 million increase in franchise fees. A study by Lawrence Technological University says that Michigan consumers would save between \$269 million and \$673 million annually in cable fees because competi-

tion would force providers to lower their fees.

Marker said cable fees have been "out of whack" and escalating too quickly for consumers.

While AT&T has been advocating for a new video service bill in Michigan and other states, it has also been lobbying for a national video service bill through Congress that would put service licensing with the Federal Communications Commission.

But Marker said it was important that Michigan act quickly to take advantage of AT&T investments in new video technology.

"Economists have a theory of conducive markets," Marker said. "If you have onerous build out requirements for one state and more attractive opportunities in another state, the states with more attractive opportunities will have more investment."

He said he was "cautiously optimistic" about the Michigan Senate passing a similar bill.

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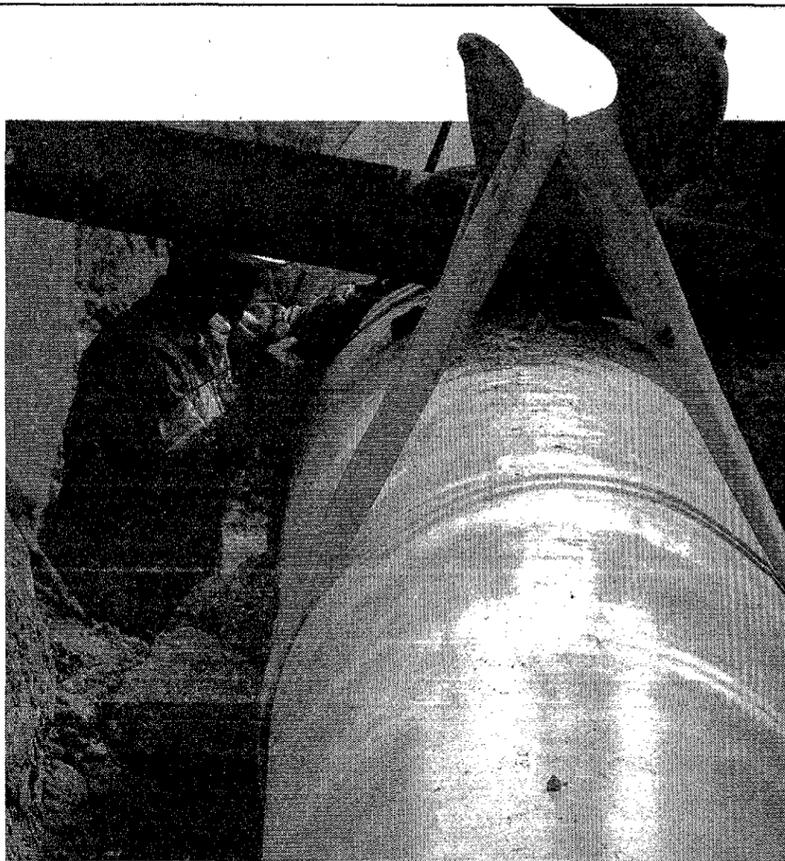
Schoolcraft winter registration under way

Students can register now for winter 2007 classes, with classes starting Saturday, Jan. 13. They can choose from online, touchtone telephone or walk-in registration.

In addition to the traditional 15-week classes, students may choose seven-week and 12-week courses. Students can register easily online at the Schoolcraft Web site,

www.schoolcraft.edu by clicking on WebAdvisor for Students. Telephone registration is available at 734-462-4800. Walk-in registration is in Room 200 of the McDowell Center. Registration ends Jan. 19.

New students must meet with a counselor before registering. For more information, call (734) 462-4429.



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OUR VIEWS

Shop locally this holiday season

When shopping for gifts this holiday season, be sure to visit the locally owned stores in your hometown.

Not only will you find unique items not available at large chain stores, your purchases will benefit your community — and, ultimately, you.

A recent study by Civic Economics in the Chicago area found that for every \$100 consumers spent with a local firm, \$68 remained in the local economy. But for every \$100 they spent with a store belonging to a chain, just \$43 remained in the local economy.

The local firms spent a larger portion of their revenue on labor (28 percent compared to 23 percent), creating more local jobs and sometimes paying better wages and benefits than large chains.

They also purchased goods and services from other local businesses at more than twice the rate of chains, helping local accountants, computer consultants, insurance brokers, sign makers, contractors and an endless number of other local business people also make a living.

And the local firms contributed more to local charities and fund-raisers than their national counterparts, contributing to the well-being of the community.

The study supports what local chambers of commerce have known for a long time — and what makes common sense: successful local businesses help a community thrive.

They offer consumers more choices, put money in the pockets of others who live and own businesses in the area and care more about the people who live there.

A vibrant local downtown or business district also positively impacts property values in surrounding neighborhoods.

Of course, a locally owned store can't stay in business if people don't shop there.

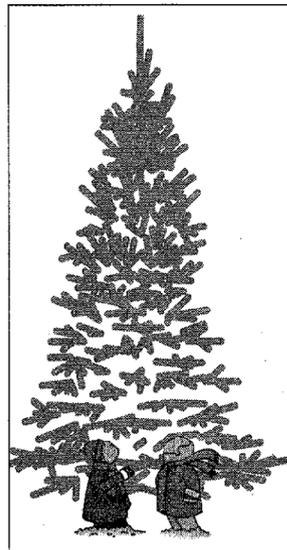
So this holiday season, make your local downtown or business district one of your first stops.

You may find everything you need right there.

Priceless 'gift' holds spirit of the holidays

Before heading out to the malls and down city main streets to shop this holiday season, parents ought to pause a moment to think about a particular gift their children can really use.

It's so small, it often gets overlooked. But it's also so big, that it won't fit under a tree.



For your children, however, it's so important that they will keep it for life. The gift is the generosity of spirit, a life skill that needs to be learned as a child. It is taught through example and experience.

The "visions of sugar plums" children have these days are often expensive and numerous. But there is another side to giving, one that starts with caring and a clear-sighted understanding that, for some people, it takes more than sitting on Santa's lap to get basic necessities.

The impact of the generosity of spirit has more outcomes than the best-stocked toy store. With a sensitive nature, our

children are gifted as quick learners, hugging tightly that lesson for a lifetime of use.

That truth is borne out by youths in our communities, such as at Adams Middle School in Westland.

At Adams, students are using proceeds from recycling paper for a "Random Acts of Kindness" program.

And for those gifted with a generous spirit, their gift in turn of volunteering can be priceless.

That a child's gift lasts a lifetime is seen in all those adults who work with the Goodfellows, collect food and don't think twice about dropping something into the Salvation Army's red bucket at the store.

It isn't shiny and bright, but the generosity of spirit is one gift continually found anew through compassion, but it must be acquired first.

Parents won't have to pay for it at the checkout, but our children are sure to treasure it always.



LETTERS

Bad judgment

While I don't like beating a dead horse, I cannot help but voice my opinion, again, regarding the contamination in the park.

In the *Observer's* Nov. 19 edition, an article stated that a 2002 letter was received by Mayor Cicirelli, City Attorney Angelo Plakas, and Planning Director Bruce Thompson basically informing them of the contamination. Mayor Cicirelli stated that officials didn't believe the lead contamination posed a serious health threat to children. Mayor, I don't believe I've ever read or heard that you are an expert in lead contamination, yet you make this uneducated decision.

The mayor also stated in this article that city officials didn't get called to the table for talks about the problem until earlier this year. Mayor, are you not a leader? Why didn't you institute the talks? Perhaps if you would have spent less time on your campaign and silent campaigning for Laura Toy, more important things could have been accomplished.

An editor's note in a letter submitted by Roger Caldwell stated that the problems at the Central City Park became public just days before the November general election. How fortunate for you, Mayor, that almost all of the absentee ballots had already been mailed. Perhaps if people would have known about this, you wouldn't have gotten their vote.

Mayor, if your display of bad judgment carries over to decisions you make in the courtroom, heaven help anyone who has to appear before you.

Shirley Tenney
Westland

Close park for good

I'm a resident of Westland and feel very let down by our mayor.

I really liked Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and thought she did a very good job for our city, but not anymore. The mayor, our city attorney and planning director knew of this lead contamination problem in 2002 and never told the city residents they were hired to protect.

I really don't care how much Cicirelli says we didn't think there was a serious health problem. Who is she to make the decision for all the parents whose children played anywhere in Central City Park?

I know there are others that knew of the contamination long before she did and think all of them should have to pay some kind of a price for letting anyone use the park, but Mayor Cicirelli is the last, and it has been brought to the attention of all the city residents that she has kept it a secret since 2002 with the help of Angelo Plakas and Bruce Thompson.

I, for one, feel that these three should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Jail time should be served by all three, they put lives at risk to exposure of lead and who knows what else. The message should be sent to all future city officials that something even close to this will not be tolerated. I say make these three pay and big time.

I am not a parent of kids that played in the park and I'm mad. All you parents should get even with the Sandra Cicirelli and Angelo Plakas and Bruce Thompson, get active and put them in jail.

The Park should be completely closed and never opened up for public use again.

The lead and other poisons were buried underground and thought to never be a problem in the future. Well, I guess it didn't work. Does anyone want to take a chance on the poisons coming back to the surface after all the remediation is done and all the money has been spent?

I, for one, don't think it is a wise idea to ever use the land again. This was once a dump for more than just road material. Everything was dumped back there. My uncle worked for Wayne County and has told us how everything was dumped back there in the 40s and 50s. I thought it was land back of the park. Guess I was wrong.

Please keep this land closed for any further use of any kind. Do you want to play or live on top of a landfill? — and that's what it was.

Jim Work
Westland

Stop attacking Graunstadt

I would like to say something to Mr. Charles Pickering of the Westland City Council. Even though I do not live in the City of Westland any longer, I still hold Westland in very high regards. I grew up in the neighborhood near Ford and Newburgh and still have family and friends that still reside there today. I will always hold Westland near and dear to my heart.

With that said, let me move on. I find it utterly repulsive that Councilmember Cheryl Graunstadt has become a victim of your attacks! Mrs. Graunstadt was elected by the people to do a job. She has always been upfront and honest with all the people of her community! I think that is something that you sir, desperately lack!

I have had the distinct honor and privilege of knowing Mrs. Graunstadt for some time now. I look to her for strength, knowledge, wisdom and vision in this ever-changing world that we live in. I commend her with a great deal of respect for serving the people with a very personal dedication for the position which she has been elected to serve.

Mr. Pickering, as you know, Councilmember Graunstadt is extremely informed as to environmental issues with her own personal investigations with Cooper School. Your attacks do not warrant any reason upon Cheryl Graunstadt!

I consider Mrs. Graunstadt a friend, and I will not sit quietly while you personally attack her because you have your own agenda. Cheryl is a person whom the people can trust without any doubt, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year! With that said, I am hopeful that you would contain your personal remarks about Cheryl Graunstadt to yourself! And, stop the petty attacks! Please, grow up Mr. Pickering.

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

A slap in the face

I felt as if I was slapped in the face when I heard about Central City Park having lead contamination and other possible contaminants. I'm a breast cancer survivor and have participated in the Relay for Life event for the last four years, believing I was safe at our own city park. Now, how many other people are thinking like me? Do I have lead in my body?

My family and grandchildren have been

to the park more times than I can remember, enjoying walking, biking, riding, playing on the ground during the fireworks. My question now, should my entire family be tested for possible lead in our bodies?

All the citizens of Westland have been deceived, first by the mayor who has had the knowledge for several years about the problem at the park, then allowing the American Cancer Society to hold its annual relay. Shame on the city leaders, putting numerous people in possible jeopardy.

As for Cheryl Graunstadt, she has always stood up for the citizens, then most of the time is "shot" down at the council meetings.

Finally, the timing for this news came after the election. That makes me wonder, did I make a mistake at the polls?

Sue (Susie) Yerger
Westland

Court is wrong

I'm a student of a philosopher who says the only way someone can help save the wetlands without stepping over anyone else's rights is to get government to enforce our unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as stated in our Declaration of Independence and reaffirmed in our Constitution's Ninth Amendment. And I believe that because it makes sense.

Fat chance, though. Last year our Supreme Court said we don't even have an unalienable right to our own property in the Kelo vs. New London trial in Connecticut. It's really worse out here than people realize.

If those so-called brilliant, supposedly honest and maybe innocent Supreme Court judges (but I don't see how) made a mistake by not recognizing that our right to property is a corollary of our right to life, i.e. Declaration of Independence, and reaffirmed in Ninth Amendment, which means our right to property follows naturally from our right to our own life in a free country. Do you think they do not even believe we have a right to our own life? Because, if we can't manage our own property (everything we own), what are we — slaves? Why did they not tell the state in the Kelo vs. New London that all Americans have a unalienable right to their own property as guaranteed by the Ninth Amendment as any honest person would say — and that's that.

There is something rotten going on in our country.

Paul L. Gruchala
Westland

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.

Mail:
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Westland Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"Please listen and tune into that meeting if at all possible. We'll probably have some good discussion regarding things like enrollment numbers, funding from the state, programs and fund equity."

- Livonia school board President Lynda Scheel about this week's committee of the whole meeting

WESTLAND
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.

Governor: State now needs bold action, not timid moves

An open letter to our governor.

Dear Gov. Granholm, Congratulations on your re-election. You rolled up a remarkable winning margin — 533,409 votes — against a fantastically well-funded opponent. That establishes you as the most gifted political communicator in recent Michigan history.

With the House of Representatives now Democratic (led by Speaker-designate Rep. Andy Dillon, D-Redford, a smart and sensible guy) you are much better positioned with the Legislature than you were during your last term, when the Republicans ran things. Back then, they were darned if they were doing to let you get anything done for fear you'd take credit for it during the campaign. This time around, I'd guess both the House and the Senate will be less partisan and more inclined to collaborate.

They'll need to. Michigan is facing its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The University of Michigan's economic forecasters have just issued a very gloomy prediction. They think our state will likely lose another 24,200 jobs next year and 9,200 more in 2008. That will mean eight straight years of job losses.

By the end of this year, according to those highly respected economists, Michigan will have lost a net total of 170,000 manufacturing jobs since 2001. True, we've seen worse.

The state lost nearly 15 percent of its jobs back in the early 1980s, double today's loss, but then the employment outlook improved sharply as the auto industry surged. It won't this time around. General Motors, Ford and Chrysler should sell around 8.8 million vehicles this year, two million fewer than in 2001.

All this brings me to the decisions you face in your political and legislative agenda for the next four years.

You have two basic choices. You can be bold, setting out a far-reaching agenda for restructuring our economy and laying the foundation for our future prosperity in a rapidly globalizing world.

Or you can be cautious and non-confrontational, limiting your reforms to baby steps. Given that big-time but highly necessary changes are easier to make at times of crisis, I urge you to be bold.

Here's how I see some of the main issues.

■ **Taxes:** Sure, the \$1.9 billion hole in the general fund created by the repeal of the Single Business Tax will have to be filled. But you have a terrific opportunity to go further and force a hard look at the structure of our entire tax system.

Should the rate of the sales tax be reduced and the base broadened to include services? Should the personal property tax, which hurts capital-intensive industries like manufacturing, be reduced? Should the income tax be made progressive so richer people pay more?

These things need to be looked at — hard.

■ **Education:** The Cherry Commission you appointed several years ago recommended we double the percentage of our high school graduates who go to college, but nobody discussed how to pay for it. You've said you want

to increase the merit college scholarship plan to \$4,000, and you can probably get that through the Legislature.

But why not go a bold step further? The Kalamazoo Promise pays full tuition to all graduates of the Kalamazoo public schools.

Why not look to see if there is a way that could be scaled up to create the Michigan Promise? A GI Bill for all Michigan citizens, whether kids leaving school or laid-off workers looking for serious retraining, would have a profound impact on our economy.

A profound impact, that is, for decades to come.

■ **Budget and spending:** Tom Clay, the respected director of state affairs for the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, has just finished a new study of our budget situation. He points out that Michigan has faced a chronic structural billion-dollar-plus budget deficit for the past six years. Now all the relatively painless one-time accounting fixes to balance the budget have been used up.

So he concludes that — unless serious changes are made — the budget deficit will certainly balloon over the next decade, causing a "fiscal train wreck." Sure, you can probably cobble together a budget fix for the next fiscal year. But wouldn't it make more sense to take a hard multi-year look at our financial affairs?

One small example: compared to our neighboring states, we imprison more people for longer periods of time.

If our incarceration rate were only average, we'd spend \$500 million less each year on prisons. Could adjusting sentencing guidelines fix this?

■ **Public investments:** Businesses in trouble take a hard-eyed look at investments to beat the competition. We should do so, too.

We ought to concentrate on our "enduring assets," those that can't be moved, those that help us compete worldwide. Instead of cutting back state support for universities (especially research-oriented ones), we should be investing in them.

Instead of paying lip service to the environment, we ought to invest in our "North Coast" resources such as the Great Lakes.

We shouldn't do this to please the "tree huggers." We should and must do it because the lakes and a healthy environment represent the future of economic development in our region.

William Shakespeare had it right in Julius Caesar:

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

What you achieved in the election is very, very rare: a mandate. Use it boldly, and you'll go down as a great governor. Waste it in timidity and caution, you'll be remembered, if at all, as not much more than average.

With every good wish,

Phil Power

Phil Power is president and founder of The Center for Michigan. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@hcnnet.com.

LETTERS

Thanks for 23 years of service

On Nov. 28, Virginia Braun attended her last meeting of the Historical Commission as a member. She is retiring after serving 23 years on the commission.

One of her accomplishments was restoration of the Perrinsville one-room schoolhouse. She served as chairman for the project which took several years to complete.

During the 23 years she spent endless hours on maintaining the historical archives in order to preserve Westland's history.

Thank you, Virginia, for your years of service and I wish you happiness in your retirement. You will be greatly missed.

Jo Johnson

chair

Westland Historical Commission

Thanks for a place to sell

I live in Wayne now, but I have sold Westland Goodfellow papers for 40 years or so. I wrote a letter to thank Dick's Sporting Goods and I am going to paste it to you now. I will for my entire life be a Westland Goodfellow:

Why the Goodfellows?

When I was around 10 my Mother stood outside with my brother and I selling Goodfellows papers at the old A&P at Venoy and Palmer. We stood out there for several hours raising money, for kids I didn't know. Later that year was my first packing night, and when I saw all those toys, I knew we did something good. The next day I was with my Dad delivering, and there is where I became hooked.

I saw what I considered the greatest gift of Christmas, "a Mother's tear." You never know what circumstances may lead you too need the Goodfellows, but we're there to make sure no child goes without Christmas.

This year although I am now 49, with Muscular Dystrophy, and in a wheelchair, but with Dick's Sporting Goods, I passed on my selling to my 12-year-old daughter Jeanne. The Goodfellows tried a few places to find a spot for us to sell, and the other stores have policies against allowing us to sell. Dick's never even gave it a second thought. They are an outstanding group over there, even as they were changing shifts there employees tossed into the pot. I thank them for allowing me to pass on a dream.

I don't know about you, but I know where I'm going to shop.

Glenn E. Tolliver

Wayne

Bravo to CAPA show

To the Livonia School Community:
Kudos to the Livonia Schools CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts) Program for

the excellent production of *Jekyll and Hyde* — The Musical, performed recently in the Carli Auditorium at Churchill High School. The CAPA program was initiated about 20 years ago, and this production attains the goals and reaches the high standards that were set at that time.

Under the direction of Gail Mack, the cast, crew and dancers were superb. The orchestra, which was conducted by Maria Cimarelli, was outstanding. We also need to applaud the CAPA parents group for their hard work and sacrifices. We will probably be seeing some of the very capable actors such as Ethan Hedeem and Taylor Alfano on the professional stage — look out Broadway, here they come!

I think it would also be appropriate to thank the past and present boards of education who had the foresight and courage to support programs of this nature.

Bravo! You can watch for future CAPA programs on their Web site — www.starvingcapa.com. Your entertainment dollars will be well spent.

Connie Hierta

Westland

LPS changes are working

Regarding the article that appeared on the front page of the Nov. 23 *Livonia Observer* titled "Parents: LPS changes not working," I have to express my resentment about this article as this implied that ALL parents are unhappy with the Legacy Initiative. This is blatantly untrue.

Yes, we have lost quite a few students overall but not all are lost due to the LI. Many would agree that the economy has played as big a role in the decrease in enrollment as the LI has played.

I believe that we will regain many new students in the next few years if the economy starts to get better. However placing the entire loss of student enrollment on the LI is wildly inaccurate.

Our family is happy with the new setup of schools, and we have a happy, well-adjusted sixth-grader at Cooper Upper Elementary this year.

Our child is now eager to get up and go to school, which has been a real struggle in past years.

She is enrolled in band and World Languages and our household has really enjoyed the new experiences that she is gaining this year.

Please be very careful in how articles are titled and written in the future as this is a very misleading piece. The schools have done a great job transitioning our children into the new structure and should be commended for this.

Ann Murphy

Livonia

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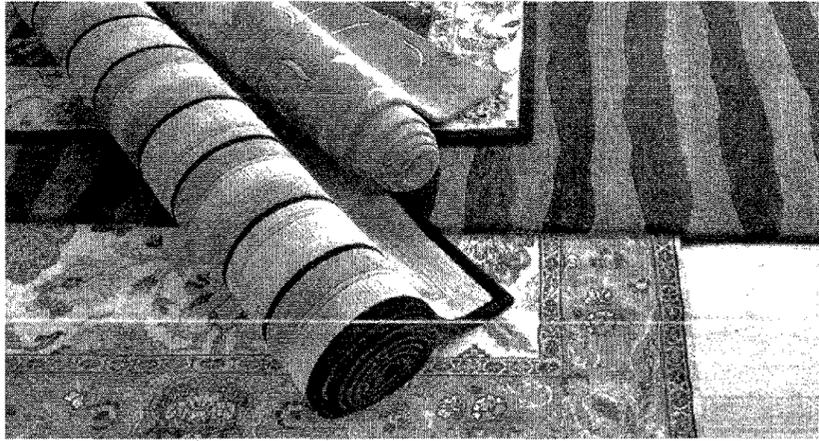
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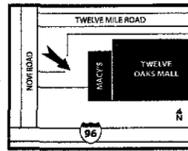
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Judge prevents cuts to mental health agency

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia D. Stephens granted a preliminary injunction Tuesday preventing the state Legislature from cutting \$3.5 million a month from the Wayne County Mental Health Agency beginning Friday.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and a group of mental health consumers filed a lawsuit Nov. 16 seeking an injunction to prevent the state from imposing a monthly penalty against the county for not turning its Detroit-Wayne County Community Health

Agency into an authority.

The lawsuit contends the penalty is unconstitutional and hurts services to the county's approximately 47,000 mental health clients.

In a bench ruling Tuesday, Stephens agreed the funding cut by Lansing posed an immediate harm to consumers.

Ficano said he was pleased with the decision.

"This brings tranquility to it. It was unfair to consumers and providers," he said Wednesday. "We're pleased that she saw it for what it was, a penalty for Wayne County that's not the same for the other 82 counties. The other counties have an

option as to whether they have an authority or not. It was unfair to Wayne County."

He said there have been major improvements in the operations of the Mental Health Agency over the last three years that have been acknowledged by the Legislature.

The Detroit-Wayne County Community Health Agency is a division of the county's Department of Health and Human Services. For fiscal year 2006-07, the agency has an approximately \$540 million budget to serve those with mental illness, developmental disabilities, serious emotional disturbances and substance

use disorders through a countywide network of services and programs. The agency also provides crisis intervention, suicide prevention and homeless programs.

The agency is currently under the control of a 12-member Mental Health Board, six appointed by the county executive and six by the mayor of Detroit. Ficano has suggested a 13-member board with the county executive getting an extra appointment.

County Commissioner Phil Cavanagh of Redford said Wednesday the judge's decision was good news for the agency and mental health consumers.

"It would have been a terrible burden on the agency. The Legislature said they didn't want it to come out of services, but out of administration, but I didn't see how that could be done," Cavanagh said.

Observer & Eccentric names ad manager

Jeannie Parent has joined the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* as manager of retail sales for Wayne County and Farmington. She replaces Frank Cibor, who is manager of classified sales for the *O&E* and *Mirror Newspapers*.

Before coming to the *O&E*, Parent was national account representative for the last three years at Greater Detroit Newspaper Network.

"I came to the *Observer & Eccentric* because I believe in the power of suburban newspapers and the importance of local news to our readers," said Parent. "I enjoy working with local advertisers to help come up with creative solutions to their marketing and advertising needs."

"I am fortunate to have a great seasoned team working with me at the *Observer* group and look forward to meeting many of the advertisers. I hope to become more involved in the local communities that we serve and gain more insight into the local business landscape."

Parent's advertising experience includes retail manager, national sales manager and business development manager for more than six years at *The Windsor Star*.



Parent

"Jeannie's experience in the publishing business and in this market is a perfect fit for this position," said Marty

Carry, advertising director for the *O&E/Mirror Newspapers*. "She brings new ideas, a creative energy and a passion to help local businesses be successful." She is a past member of the Board of the Newspaper Special Section Network and on the Advisory Board of The American Press Institute in Reston, Va.

She holds an associate's degree in communications from the University of Windsor.

Parent is married. Her family includes husband, Ron, and four daughters ages 27 (twins), 24 and 13. Born and raised in Wayne County, she lives with her husband in Windsor, Ontario.

An avid long-distance runner, Parent has completed 10 marathons. She qualified for the Boston Marathon in 1996. She also enjoys golf and plays in a competitive mixed doubles curling league in Windsor.

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Physician Organization Gain-Sharing Program

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is accepting applications for participation in a program in which BCBSM shares with selected groups of Michigan TRUST physicians who meet performance criteria, a portion of the savings in cost for patient care that are attributable, in part, to their collective efforts.

The program is designed to link and align economic incentives of BCBSM and physicians to specific clinical, quality and efficiency goals while maintaining or improving care and to share in the resultant costs savings through increased professional fees for selected services and/or in direct payments to the physician organization.

Goals are to:

- Modify the delivery of services to improve quality, coordination, or cost-effectiveness
- Promote relationships with physicians that support improved care outcomes
- Support the delivery of services in the most cost-effective location by the most appropriate provider type
- Ensure that the fees paid contribute to quality, affordability, and accessibility to health care in Michigan

Physician groups must meet the following standards to apply for participation:

- A physician organization, preferably with 30 or more TRUST physicians that specializes in oncology or other areas which BCBSM identifies in the future*
- A partnership, association, corporation, individual practice association or other legal entity that has its own Tax ID and can receive and distribute income from the practice among members.

* BCBSM will be accepting applications from physician organizations that specialize in oncology. In the future, BCBSM may expand the gain-sharing program to include organizations with other specialties. Any expansion will be announced in BCBSM's provider publications or other communications.

When determining participation in the program, BCBSM will consider, among other things:

- The number of BCBSM members served by the applicant
- Ability to provide performance reports to individual physicians within groups and initiate processes to improve performance
- Willingness to learn about and refer to BCBSM care management programs
- Commitment to assess and improve overall group prescribing performance according to established pharmacy performance measures
- Ability to coordinate and facilitate practice improvements and program administration on behalf of group physicians
- Physician groups in the BCBSM Physician Group Incentive Program

All organizations interested in applying must forward a non-binding letter of intent to BCBSM by **December 15, 2006** to:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Attention: Sue Pearson — Mail Code B787
27300 West 11 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034

To receive an application or set of selection standards, please contact Sue Pearson by telephone at (248) 448-6789; fax at (248) 448-7966 or e-mail to spearson@bcbsm.com. Deadline for application is February 15, 2007.



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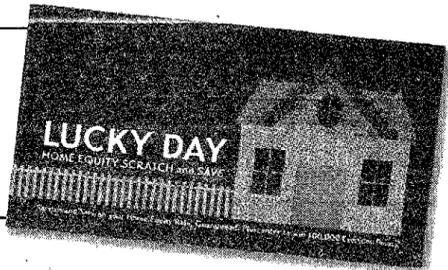
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Mailing options can bring holiday cheer to U.S. troops

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Serving overseas during the holidays is never easy. Even if the people are nice and everyone in the barracks is trying to make it homey, it's cold comfort when all someone wants is a simple slice of home.

In a warzone — where the people are not friendly and explicit displays of holiday cheer are forbidden by religious law — the distance feels all the more like the other side of the world. Feelings of isolation are more pronounced when the calendar reminds you of who you should be seeing on a particular day.

Although not every person has a family member or friend serving, many people want to extend a hand to those fighting in Iraq and elsewhere around the globe this holiday season. For them, and for the troops, there are a few good options open.

Mary Merritt of Romeo has been shuttling approximately 200 care packages to soldiers in the Middle East every month for the past three years. The most recent mailing, 614 packages, went out last month.

She used to have a lot of company. "There were a lot of people in the beginning, but it petered out," Merritt said. "When it was new everyone wanted to be involved but a lot of people don't have time now."

She, on the other hand, hasn't parked in her garage in three years. The spot that used to shelter the Chevy is packed full of stuff for the soldiers. It's not the kind of stuff that makes holiday shopping commercials, but it's the kind of stuff that makes a difference on the other side of the world.

"We call it the taste of home," Merritt said. "It's the kind of stuff you can pick up at 7-11 but you can't get there."

They send out coffee, hot chocolate, candy, soap, eye-drops, Band-Aids, potato



Mary Merritt and former Marine Corps. Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee. She said there used to be a lot of people sending care packages to soldiers abroad, but that number has dwindled as the war has gone on.

chips, beef jerky, cookies, books, paper and Christmas cards they can send back home.

Most of what the Merritts send to the Middle East is sent to the First Battalion, 24th Marine Division out of Selfridge and Lansing, but they do take requests.

"I get names from commanders who have heard about us requesting packages for people who aren't getting mail," Merritt said. "I got a call from a commander from Kuwait and we're sending those packages soon."

All of the things they're sending out were donated, from the coffee (Starbucks) to the candy (Walgreens) is donated — the rub is the postage. The last mailing cost almost \$5,000.

"We're lucky to get all the donations we do," she said. "100 percent of the donations go to postage."

Donations to the cause can be made, tax-deductible, to WMA Motor City, P.O. Box 590, Romeo, MI 48065.

MILITARY CARE KIT

Two years ago, the USPS started offering a Military Care Kit, Mili-Kit, for people to send items to overseas post-

ings. The kits are similar to Aerogrammes in that they contain Priority Mail boxes, tape and customs labels needed to send a package overseas.

The Mili-Kit is free. The cost to send it to any APO/FPO is \$8.10 each with no-weight restriction.

The real restriction in this case is a new one. It used to be concerned people could send military personnel packages at random by addressing them to "Any soldier." That's not allowed anymore.

"The column 'Dear Abby' used to have an option like that," said USPS Communications Specialist Shannon LaBruyere. "After 9-11 the Department of Defense stopped accepting packages like that."

This is part of the rationale behind the Mili-Kit, making it easier to send something to service personnel. While by law they can't offer free postage, the USPS has created the mailing kits to make gifting as easy as possible. As of Nov. 2, more than 150,000 Mili-Kits have been sent out since the beginning of the program in 2004.

In every case, people wanting to send anything to a particular service member who is

MAILING RULES

Sending items by mail to APO/FPO addresses is similar to regular mail, but there are some differences. Once the Post Office delivers to the APO/FPO, the mail becomes the property of the Department of Defense and will be screened.

Remember: Items will be delivered to the desert, where temperatures regularly exceed 100 degrees. Battery powered items can activate during shipment, leave batteries wrapped separately.

In order to reach a particular APO/FPO in time for Christmas, the following windows of opportunity apply. Missing one (or all) of these windows doesn't mean a parcel will miss the date, but making the proper dates virtually ensures ontime arrival.

- The deadlines are:
- APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092**
Dec. 19
Dec. 11
Dec. 4
Nov. 27
 - APO/FPO AE ZIP 093**
Dec. 4
Nov. 27
 - APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098**
Dec. 19
Dec. 11
Dec. 4
Nov. 27
 - APO/FPO AA ZIPs 340**
Dec. 19
Dec. 11
Dec. 4
Nov. 27
 - APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966**
Dec. 19
Dec. 11
Dec. 4
Nov. 27

reached through an APO (Air/Army Post Office) or FPO (Fleet Post Office) must go through the USPS (see sidebar). Private mail carriers like FedEx, UPS and DSL do not serve APO or FPO addresses.

The Mili-Kit can be obtained at any USPS office, online at www.usps.com or by calling (800) 610-8734.

Broadway, holiday music featured as OCC hosts MOT

Oakland Community College's Performing Arts Series presents the Michigan Opera Theatre performing a selection of Broadway classics and holiday music, Friday, Dec. 1 at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the campus' Smith Theatre. Admission is \$15.

The four-member group is composed of soprano Maria Cimarelli, mezzo soprano Betsy Bronson, tenor Karl Schmidt and tenor-baritone Mark Vondrak, accompanied by

pianist Margaret Kapasi. Surprise guest artists will also be featured.

In addition to familiar seasonal airs, the two-act program will highlight music from the classic and contemporary musical theater including selections from *Phantom of the Opera*, *South Pacific* and *My Fair Lady*.

For tickets or further information call (248) 341-2270.

The Orchard Richard Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696. Ample free parking is available in nearby campus lots.

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Adoption Associates makes connections, one family at a time

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Baby Yi Xiang (ee-shang) was left at the gates of an orphanage in China when she was one day old.

A red note was left by the birth mother, listing her date of birth and a "good wishes" message.

Now 21 months old, little Grace Yi Xiang Gdowik can be found toddling through her Farmington home, happy-go-lucky and the apple of her adoptive parents' eye.

"Just to see her grow — she's just thriving," said Beth Gdowik.

Beth and her husband Joe decided on international adoption for a number of reasons. They knew there is a need for adoptive parents in China and their hearts led them there, working with Adoption Associates, Inc., in Farmington Hills.

"There are one-and-a-half million girls in China who need to be adopted. It's hard to overlook that," said Joe Gdowik.

Their experience was so good, they're now doing paperwork to adopt another child from China.

"We definitely want to have a



Karen Jackson, of Adoption Associates Inc. in Farmington Hills, talks about international adoptions, which she specializes in. She keeps a bulletin board updated at the office.

sister for her," said Beth Gdowik, noting it will take about 13 months for the second adoption to be completed. "We want them to be somewhat close in age."

The Gdowiks, both in their 40s, are learning parenthood is a somewhat profound experi-

ence. "It's just fantastic. You're pushed to limits you never thought you'd be," said Joe Gdowik. "There are moments of fantastic joy, then there are moments of pain and frustration."

Beth Gdowik said they're

fortunate.

"Just to be able to be parents, to be a family and have a child to love," she said.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Making those connections is a specialization of Karen Jackson, international case work manager at Adoption Associates, Inc., a nonprofit, statewide adoption agency.

Jackson has been handling international adoptions for 32 years.

"My heart is really with international adoptions," she said. "There are just so many children in other countries who need families. It's heart-warming to match couples with children."

Jackson has worked with Korea, China and Latin America. Traveling abroad is considered a perk for Jackson.

"I love to travel," she said. She visited an orphanage in southeast China's Hunan Province in September and October. She worked with a



These children live in an orphanage in Jisou, in the Hunan Province of China.

team to remodel an orphanage so it could be divided into rooms with electrical, plumbing and furniture for the children to live.

"We try to give back to the country and to the orphanages," said Jackson. "We always want to help in some way with a children's orphanage project."

The agency spearheads a humanitarian project called Hearts Toward China. To learn more, visit online at www.adoptionassociates.com.

The fall trip to China was Jackson's second trek to that country.

"It was an awesome experience," she said. "We worked very hard at sanding, taping and painting and laying new floor (at the orphanage). And, we also were able to spend some time with the children who will be living on the floor that we completed. The government officials and orphanage personnel were all very gracious hosts and very appreciative of our help."

She works with the China Center of Adoption Affairs when pairing a child with adoptive parents.

"It's a very organized and orderly system," she said.

THE PROCESS

International adoption sometimes seems too complicated and expensive, said Jackson, but she wants people to know it's not as daunting as it may seem. November is National Adoption Awareness Month, a perfect time for Jackson and Adoption Associates to spread the message.

"A common misconception is that adoption is too expensive and not for the ordinary family," said Jackson. "There are fees associated with adoption, but the cost is made more manageable through a tax credit of \$1,200 from the State of Michigan, as well as a \$10,630 federal tax credit for

qualified families."

The tax credit is based on income — couples can take the full amount if their household income is under \$150,000.

The amount decreases as income approaches \$190,000.

"Many employers offer significant adoption reimbursements and our agency also partners with a local bank who offers interest-only loans for families waiting for their tax refund," said Jackson. "All of these things begin to make the cost of adoption less intimidating and allow a couple to concentrate on what is most important — building their family."

For detailed information on the adoption process, Adoption Associates will host a free informational meeting from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 12 at Adoption Associates, located at 26105 Orchard Lake Road, at the corner of 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 474-0990 for information and to RSVP.

Jackson also assists families in education and preparation.

"We want to help them recognize that their family will change with adoption," said Jackson. "We do feel it is very important that the family be educated and well prepared to help their child grow in their community."

There are social issues to consider as well. Jackson noted the Farmington Hills area is very diverse, which helps.

"Families need to recognize that their family will receive some attention in public — it's usually positive, but not always," she said.

She offers some advice for couples who are considering adoption.

"Listen to your heart," she said. "Some families only consider domestic adoption, then they realize they can expand their thinking."

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Send in your Family Favorite
HOLIDAY
Recipes

Cookies...Pie...Stuffing...

We all have holiday recipes that are Family Favorites, recipes that are loved and cherished and passed down from generation to generation. This year The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers wants to put those recipes in print! Starting on Thursday, November 30th and running each Sunday through December 10th, we will print a page featuring these special recipes.

Send yours in today!

Send in your Family Favorite Recipe complete with cooking time and temperature (and maybe a bit of history or origin) to:
classified@hometownlife.com
and maybe yours will be picked to print!

It's time to share your Family Favorite Recipe with your Observer & Eccentric Family!

0E0848897

Westland marks holidays with 'mocktails,' music

As you make your list and check it twice, don't miss these local holiday shopping events:

AT THE MALL

Westland Shopping Center

Westland will host extended holiday shopping hours through Christmas. Visit Santa and enjoy evening entertainment on select nights, including the Phil Gram All Stars, a 5-piece band that play classic holiday tunes 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5; and the Plymouth Baptist Church Choir 8-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7. Westland will host a Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8. MADD, SEMCA and local dignitaries will be presenting ideas and creative ways to make non alcoholic drinks for the holiday season.

Westland Shopping Center is located on the corner of Wayne and Warren Roads in the City of Westland. The shopping center features more than eighty retailers and unique restaurants, and is anchored by Macy's, J.C. Penney, Sears and Kohl's. Visit www.westlandcenter.com for a complete listing of events.

Salvation Army partners with Target

The Salvation Army and Target are kicking-off the holiday season with a multi-faceted partnership to raise money for charity. Customers can visit www.target.com and purchase a virtual ornament for the Angel Giving Tree. Donors can personalize the color, wing shape and wing pattern of their online ornament knowing their donation will provide new clothing, toys or food to families in need. Target will donate \$1 million to support the launch of this new online program, and invites guests to give to The Salvation Army as well. In addition, Target will support The Salvation Army by donating 100 percent of profits from the sales of a limited edition Harvey Lewis angel ornament accented with red Swarovski crystals. The ornaments (\$9.99) are available for purchase in Target stores nationwide and online at Target.com. For more information on The Salvation Army visit www.salvationarmyusa.org.

Shop with 'Happy Feet'

Great Lakes Crossing, Fairlane Town Center and Twelve Oaks will feature free "Happy Feet" exhibits that bring the new film to life. The exhibits include a 20-foot walk-through snow globe, where a cold Antarctic blast and falling snow welcome visitors to Mumble's home. Within the globe,



A snow globe helps bring to life the story of the hit movie 'Happy Feet' at Great Lakes Crossing, Fairlane Town Center and Twelve Oaks.

guests can interact with life-sized sculptures of characters from the film and enjoy toe-tappin' music from the movie soundtrack. The exhibit also showcases three-dimensional, penguin-filled "Happy Feet" scenes displayed in three, six-foot snow globes with buttons to launch interactive elements; a walk-through 28-foot holiday tree where visitors can learn about key characters and a "green screen" experience where children can pose for holiday pictures that make them look like they're dancing with Mumble and other characters featured in the film.

GLC Holiday Rewards

Each day during the holiday season, Great Lakes Crossing will randomly present gifts to shoppers with a minimum \$50 value. Goodies include prize packs from AMC Theatre, Crabtree & Evelyn, Saks Off 5th, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Sanrio, Hot Topic, Harry & David, Neiman's Last Call and more. Visitors also can experience "Happy Feet," a 20-foot walk-through snow globe promoting the hit movie. On select days, visitors to the Pistons Holiday Village can meet players, dancers and Hooper the Mascot. For a complete list of holiday activities, visit www.shopgreatlakescrossing.com.

ON DOWNTOWN STREETS

Northville Nights Out
Do your holiday shopping in down-

town Northville. During Girls Night Out, 6-10 p.m. Dec. 14; and Guys Night Out, 6-10 p.m. Dec. 21 local merchants will stay open late and host special events to help shoppers wrap up the perfect gifts. For more information, call (248) 349-7640 or visit www.northville.org.

Breakfast With Santa

Get geared up for the season by dining with St. Nick at E.G. Nicks Restaurant in Plymouth 8:30-10:30 a.m. Dec. 2 and Dec. 16. Tickets, \$12.95 for adults and \$7.95 for children, include tax and gratuity. Or, visit Santa in Plymouth at the Santa House on Main Street in front of Kellogg Park weekends through Saturday, Dec. 23. Festive photos are available for \$6. Santa has reserved 6-8 p.m. Dec. 23 for pictures with pets, and all proceeds benefit the Michigan Humane Society. Visit www.plymouthmi.org for more information.

IN-STORE PROMOTIONS

Christmas Stocking Stories

Like all good legends, the story of the Christmas stocking has many versions. There are plenty of debates about when we started hanging our stockings on the fire mantle, but in classic American style, all the legends combine with each of our own stories to equal a time tested tradition. SJ Home Designs is asking customers to

bring in their favorite version of how the Christmas stocking started to receive 25 percent off any stocking in the store, in hopes your new purchase will become part of your future holiday stories. The unique stockings at SJ Home Designs range from \$55-\$88. SJ Home Designs is located at 29791 Northwestern Highway, (Applegate Shopping Center), Southfield, Michigan, ask for Stephanie Bates at (248) 354-8490.

Native West Jewelry Festival

Native West will celebrate its 17th annual "Holiday Jewelry Festival" Nov. 30-Dec. 3 with a fabulous selection of unique Native American Jewelry from the Southwest, all made in the U.S.A. Plus, save 20 percent off jewelry and at least 30 percent on everything in the store, Nov. 30 to Dec. 6.

Freaky Fridays at Girly Daze

Inspired by the namesake book and movie, Girly Daze in Northville will host "Freaky Fridays" through the holidays. Moms shop during the day for 15 percent off every item, and teens shop after school for 15 percent off. Shop together on Fridays, and get 20 percent off. Girly Daze (formerly Girly Girl) opened just over a year ago, and carries affordable and fun items for girls who have everything, including Halloween favors, glam gifts, survival kits for brides and grads, pampering products and unique handbags, clothing and jewelry. Call owner Kelly Ragatzki at (248) 449-8890.

CHARITY SHOPPING BENEFITS

Shrine Gift Shop

The Shrine Catholic Grade School Mothers' Club is presenting their 2nd Annual Holiday Gift Shop 6-9 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Shrine Catholic High School Gymnasium. Shop for jewelry, knits, art and licensed products (Southern Living, Tupperware, etc.) from Michigan vendors. Call (248) 545-1722.

Salvation Army Celebration

The Salvation Army Metropolitan Detroit Advisory Board, together with the Women's Auxiliary of Metro Detroit present Christmas at the Royal Park, featuring a luncheon and exclusive shopping at the Holly Berry Boutique. Join Mistress of Ceremonies, WDIV-TV 4 anchor Rhonda Walker starting at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1, for an opportunity to shop for unique holiday gifts from local artisans with proceeds benefiting children's programming at The Salvation Army. A program beginning at noon will include Christmas carols and Focus:HOPE co-founder Eleanor Josalitis will be recognized with one of the Salvation Army's highest honors, the "Others" award in acknowledgment of her outstanding service to the disadvantaged.

GIFT WRAP GUIDANCE

Tie It Up With a Bow

Finding the perfect gift is one thing. Making the package beautiful is another. Lisa Gleason, Detroit's favorite Gift Wrap Artist and owner of Lisa's Gift Wrappers in Royal Oak, once again makes it easy with the following hands-on classes, guest appearances, and special in-store offers for the holidays:

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 2. Stop by Lisa's Gift Wrappers, 28834 Woodward and get a free roll of wrapping paper and up to four packages wrapped at no charge (while supplies last).

THE ABCS OF GIFT WRAPPING, 6-8 p.m. Dec. 6. During this "Wrap It Up" session at the Clawson Public Library, Lisa's Gift Wrappers will share the latest wraps, decorative ribbons, bags, tissue, and tie-ons. Learn to make a florist-type bow, get ideas for gifts that don't fit in a box, and learn tips and tricks that make your gift presentation as important as the gift.

CARS, TREES & TRADITIONS, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 9. Join Lisa at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum for a lively look at the History of Holiday Wrapping. You'll be surprised to learn where some traditions originate, and get great tips for making boxes tantalizing and chic. Call (248) 944-0001.

MEN'S NIGHT, 7-9:30 p.m., Dec. 21. Enjoy adult refreshments and browse a selection of premium cigars and humidors while the 'elves' at Lisa's Gift Wrappers cover gifts with holiday magic. Men over 18 only, advance registration required. Call (248) 547-9094 for information on any of these classes.

To submit an item for Malls and Main & Main Streets, email wvonuskirk@hometownlife.com

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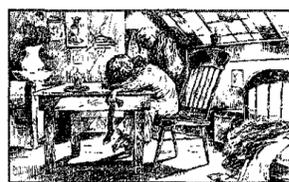
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ORDINANCE NO. 227-A-4

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 42, ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 42-101, 42-102, 42-103, 42-106, 42-107, 42-110, 42-111, 42-113, 42-115, 42-116, 42-118, AND 42-119 AND ADD SECTION 42-120 OF THE WESTLAND CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS PERTAINING TO SOIL EROSION, SEDIMENTATION AND LAND GRADING CONTROL

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-101, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Findings.

The city council hereby finds that excessive quantities of soil are eroding from certain areas that are undergoing development, such as housing developments industrial areas, massive shopping centers, recreational facilities, institutional uses, and public work construction. This erosion makes necessary costly repairs to gullies, washed out fills, roads, and embankments. The resulting sediment clogs storm sewers and road ditches, muddies streams, and leaves deposits of silt in lakes, streams and wetlands and is considered a major water pollutant.

Section 2. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-102, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation from occurring from each change activities within the city by requiring proper provision for water disposal and the protection of soil surfaces during and after construction, in order to promote the safety, public health, convenience, and general welfare of the community.

This article also incorporates by reference the rules promulgated under Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act 451, as amended.

Section 3. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-103, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Accelerated soil erosion means the increased erosion of the land surface that occurs as a result of human activities.

Acceptable erosion and sediment control program means the activities of a county or local enforcing agency or authorized public agency that are conducted in accordance with these rules and part 91 regarding staff training, developing and reviewing plans, issuing permits conducting inspections, and initiating compliance and enforcement actions to effectively minimize erosion and off-site sedimentation.

Agricultural practices means all land farming operations except the plowing or tilling of land for the purposes of crop production or the harvesting of crops.

Authorized public agency means a state agency or an agency of a local unit of government authorized under section 9110 of 1994 PA 451 to implement soil erosion and sedimentation control procedures with regard to earth changes undertaken by it.

Building official means the building director of the city or his duly authorized representative.

Certification means a signed certificate issued by the building official, assuring that specific constructions, inspections or tests where required have been performed and that they comply with the applicable requirements of this Article or regulations adopted pursuant to this Article or appropriate existing ordinances.

City Engineer means the city engineer of the city or his duly authorized and designated representative in the engineering division of the department of public service.

Earth change means a manmade change in the natural cover or topography of land, including cut and fill activities, which may result in or contribute to soil erosion or sedimentation of the waters of the state.

Erosion means the process by which the ground surface is worn away by action of wind, water, gravity or a combination thereof.

Excavation or cut means any act by which soil or rock is cut into, dug, quarried, uncovered, removed, displayed or relocated and shall include the conditions resulting therefrom.

Floodplain means that area which would be inundated by storm runoff or floodwater equivalent to that which would occur with a runoff or flood within 100 years' recurrence frequency after total development of the watershed.

Grading means any stripping, excavation, filling, stockpiling or any combination thereof and shall include the land in its excavated or filled condition.

Lake means the Great Lakes and all natural and artificial inland lakes or impoundments that have definite banks, a bed, visible evidence of a continued occurrence of water, and a surface area of water that is equal to, or greater than, 1 acre. "Lake" does not include sediment basins and basins constructed for the sole purpose of storm water retention, cooling water, or treating polluted water.

Municipal enforcing agency means the city engineer or engineering division of the city department of public service.

Nonerosive velocity means the surface water velocity which is not conducive to the development of accelerated soil erosion.

Permanent soil erosion and sedimentation control measure means those control measures which are installed or constructed to control soil erosion and sedimentation, and which are maintained after project completion.

Sediment means any solid particulate matter, mineral or organic that has been deposited in water, is in suspension in water, is being transported or has been removed from its site of origin by the process of soil erosion.

Soil erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) permit means a permit issued to authorize work to be performed under this Article.

Stabilization means the proper placing, grading and/or covering of soil or rock to ensure their resistance to erosion, sliding or other movement.

Stripping means any activity which removes or significantly disturbs the vegetative surface cover, including clearing and grubbing operations.

Stream means a river, creek, or other surface watercourse which may or may not be serving as a drain as defined in Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended, being section 280.1 et seq. of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and which has definite banks, a bed, and visible evidence the continued flow or continued occurrence of water, including the connecting waters of the Great Lakes.

Temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures means interim control measures which are installed or constructed for the control of soil erosion until permanent soil erosion and sedimentation control is effected.

Section 4. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-106, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to provide as follows:

(a) *Permit requirement.* Unless exempted by Part 91 of 1994 Public Act 451, as amended, and the rules promulgated thereunder, it shall be unlawful prior to the commencement of an earth change without first having secured a permit from the municipal enforcing agency prior to the issuance of a building permit and commencement of an earth change which disturbs one or more acres of land, or if the earth change is within 500 feet of the water's edge of a lake or a stream.

(b) *Application for permit.* A separate application and SESC plan shall be required from the person proposing to undertake an earth change. The application can be obtained by the designated municipal enforcing agency. Plans, specifications, required standard details and timing schedules shall be submitted with each application for a SESC permit. The plans shall be prepared or approved and bear the signature and embossed seal of an engineer or architect licensed by the state who is trained and experiences in soil erosion and sedimentation control methods and techniques. The municipal enforcing agency may waive the preparation or approval and signature with the seal by a licensed engineer or architect when the work entails little hazard to the adjacent property and does not include the construction of a fill upon which a structure may be erected. Any earth changes on a site less than an acre and which involve the movement of more than 150 cubic yards of soil must comply with chapter 26, article V of the City Code unless a building permit has been obtained for such work.

(c) *SESC plan information required.* The plans and specifications accompanying the SESC permit application shall contain the following data:

(1) A vicinity sketch at the maximum scale of one inch to 200 feet indicating the site location as well as the adjacent properties within 500 feet of the site boundaries.

(2) A soil survey map or a written description showing a soil series or texture, depth, natural soil drainage and full extent of the exposed area contemplated for the earth change.

(3) A certified boundary line survey by a land surveyor licensed by the state and a topographic survey of the site on which the work is to be performed. The surveys must have been performed within two years of the date of application.

(4) A detailed plan of the site at a maximum scale of one inch to 100 feet showing:

a. A complete legal description of the property and the location of the limits of all proposed earth changes.

b. The name, address and telephone number of the landowner, developer and petitioner. Proof of authorized agent must be submitted with application.

c. A timing schedule indicating the anticipated starting and completion dates of the development's construction sequence and the time of exposure of each area prior to the completion of effective erosion and sediment control measures.

i. The estimated detail cost of all construction as set forth in the plan including the estimated cost of the required temporary and permanent soil erosion control measures.

1. The description and the location of all existing and proposed on-site drainage and dewatering facilities.

m. The location and description for installing and removing all proposed temporary soil erosion and sediment control measures.

n. The description and the location of all proposed permanent soil erosion and sediment control measures.

(d) *Fees.* At the time of filing an application for a permit under this section, a nonrefundable filing fee shall be paid by the applicant to the municipal enforcing agency in accordance with a fee schedule to be determined by the city council, and amended from time to time by simple resolution. The nonrefundable fee shall be for one acre and additional charge for each additional acre will be determined to review and inspect the site for approval of a permit, provided the plans meet the requirements of this Article, Part 91, and the rules promulgated under Part 91, which have been adopted by reference in this Article, to prevent soil erosion, and off-site sedimentation from earth change activities.

Section 5. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-107 of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to provide as follows:

(a) A SESC permit shall not be issued for grading involving the movement of more than 1,000 cubic yards of soil unless the permittee shall first post with the city engineer a bond executed by the owner and a corporate surety with authority to do business in this state as a surety.

Section 6. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-110, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Denial of permit.

(a) A SESC permit shall not be issued where:

(1) The proposed work would cause hazards to the public safety and welfare;

(2) The work as proposed by the applicant will damage any public or private property or interfere with any existing drainage course in such a manner as to cause damage to any adjacent property or result in the deposition of debris or sediment on any public way or into any waterway or create an unreasonable hazard to persons or property;

(3) The land area for which grading is proposed is subject to geological hazard to the extent that no reasonable amount of corrective work can eliminate or sufficiently reduce settlement slope instability or any other such hazard to persons or property;

(4) The land area for which the grading is proposed may lie within the 100-year floodplain of any stream or watercourse not specifically designated and delineated by the city as an area subject to flood hazard, unless the permittee is acting pursuant to a permit issued by the State of Michigan.

(b) The municipal enforcing agency shall approve or disapprove an application for an earth change permit within 30 days following receipt of the application. If disapproved, the municipal enforcing agency shall advise the applicant, by certified mail, the conditions required for approval.

Section 7. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-111, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

All modifications of the approved SESC plans must be submitted and approved by the city engineer. All necessary sustaining reports shall be submitted with any proposal to modify the approved grading plan. No grading work in connection with any proposed modification shall be permitted without the approval of the city engineer.

Section 8. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-113, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

General requirements.

(a) All earth change activities in the city shall be conducted in such a manner as to effectively reduce accelerated soil erosion and resulting sedimentation.

(b) All persons engaged in earth change activities in the city

shall design, implement and maintain acceptable soil erosion and sedimentation control measures in conformance with Part 91, and any rules and regulations which may have been duly adopted for the purpose of reducing accelerated soil erosion.

(c) All earth change activities in the city shall be designed, constructed and completed in such a manner that the exposed area of any disturbed land shall be limited to the shortest possible period of time.

(d) Sediment caused by accelerated soil erosion shall be removed from runoff water before it leaves the site of the earth change activity.

(e) Any temporary or permanent facility designed and constructed for the conveyance of water around, through or from the earth change area shall be designed to limit the water flow to a nonerosive velocity.

(f) A person shall install temporary soil erosion and sedimentation control measures before or upon commencement of the earth change activity and shall maintain the measures on a daily basis. A person shall remove temporary soil erosion and sedimentation control measures after permanent soil erosion measures are in place and the area is stabilized. A person shall stabilize the area with permanent soil erosion control measures under approved standards and specifications as prescribed by R 323.1710.

(g) A person shall complete permanent soil erosion control measures for all slopes, channels, ditches or any disturbed land area within 5 calendar days after final grading or the final earth change has been completed. If it is not possible to permanently stabilize a disturb area after an earth change has been completed or if significant earth change activity ceases, then a person shall maintain temporary soil erosion and sedimentation control measures until permanent soil erosion control measures are in place and the area is stabilized.

Section 9. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-115, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Minimum design standards.

All SESC plans and specifications, including extensions of previously approved plans, shall include provisions for erosion and sediment control in accordance with, but not limited to, the standards contained in the State of Michigan Department of Management and Budget Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Guidebook, Dated February 2003, or subsequent versions of such standards, shall be available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk and city engineer or the engineering division of the department of public service, and comply with Part 91.

Section 10. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-116, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

(a) No permits shall be required under this Article for the following:

1. Agricultural use of land zoned agricultural, where earth change activities involve plowing or tilling only.

2. Although no permits are required under this subsection, the operations and constructions exempted from obtaining permits must comply with the rules and regulations concerning grading and erosion specified in this Article.

Section 11. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-118, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Injunction; right of entry.

(a) Notwithstanding the existence or pursuit of any other remedy, the city may maintain an action in its own name in any court of competent jurisdiction for an injunction or other process against any person to restrain or prevent violations of this Article.

(b) The city engineer or his duly authorized agent may enter at all reasonable times in or upon any private or public property for the purpose of inspecting and investigating conditions and practices which may be a violation of this Article, or Part 91.

Section 12. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-119, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Violations and penalties.

(a) Whenever, by the provisions of this article, the performance of any act is required, or the performance of any act is prohibited, a failure to comply with such provisions shall constitute a violation of this article. The failure, neglect or refusal to comply with a cease and desist order of the city engineer shall constitute a violation of this article.

(b) (1) A person who violates this Article is responsible for a municipal civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$2,500.

(2) An employee of the municipal enforcing agency may issue a municipal civil infraction violation.

(3) A person who knowingly violates this Article or knowingly makes a false statement in an application for a permit or in a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan is responsible for the payment of a civil fine of not more than \$10,000 for each day of violation.

(4) A person who knowingly violates this Article after receiving a notice of determination under Section 42-109 or Section 42-110 is responsible for the payment of a civil fee of not less than \$2,500 or more than \$25,000 for each day of violation.

(5) A default in the payment of a civil fine or costs ordered under this section or an installment of the fine or costs may be remedied by any means authorized under the revised judiciary act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.101 to 600.9948.

(6) In addition to a fine assessed under this section, a person who violates this Article is liable to the State for damages for injury to, destruction of or loss of natural resources resulting from the violation. The court may order a person who violates this Article to restore the area or areas affected by the violation to their condition as existing immediately prior to the violation.

Section 13. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-120, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Authority.

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the City of Westland by Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451.

Section 14. That all other provisions of Chapter 42 of the Westland City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 15. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 16. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such inconsistencies hereby repealed.

Section 17. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 18. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication as required by law.

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@hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday concerts

The Oakland Community College Choral Society with the Orchard Ridge Choral Society in Farmington, Michigan is presenting a series of two holiday concerts, featuring a mix of classical and contemporary favorites, including *Hodie Christus Natus Est, Gaudete, O Magnum Mysterium, Torches, Still Still, Still, Carol of the Bells* and many more. These 40 mixed voices will perform their repertoire under the direction of Gerald Custer, with piano accompaniment by MaryAnn Balduf. Their first holiday concert will be at the Oakland Community College Smith Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. The college is on the Orchard Lake Road exit, south of I-696. The second concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 474-6170.

Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. See what Girl Scouts has to offer. Call (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688).

New Year's Eve party

Urban Singles presents "Ring in the New Year," with live entertainment from Jimmy Howard and Company Sunday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the party goes until 1 a.m. The party takes place at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia (between Merriman and Middlebelt). Tickets are \$50 per person until Dec. 8; \$60 after Dec. 8, and cover dinner and beverage. Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations will be available. Deadline for tickets is Friday, Dec. 22. For more information, call Linda, (734) 507-9173, or Mary Ann, (734) 654-0115.

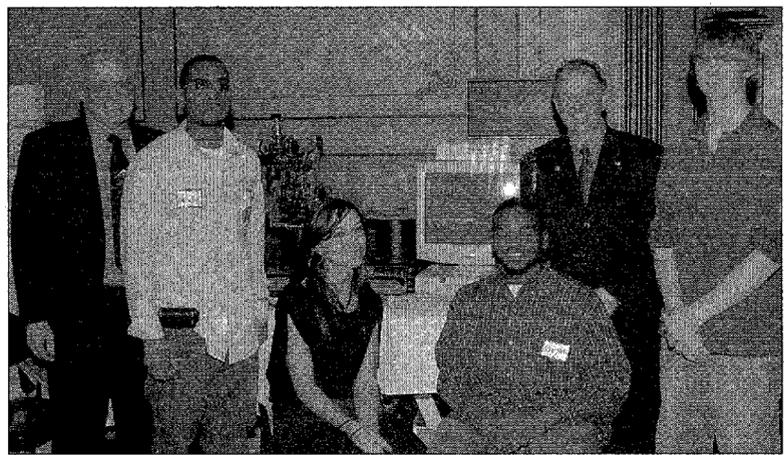
FOR YOUR HEALTH

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



Showcasing skills

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland (second from right), greets students from William D. Ford Career Technical School in Westland at the sixth annual AT&T/MACUL Student Technology Showcase held Nov. 14 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing. Teacher Zach MacLean (from left), Kevin Hall, Marissa Williams, Cedric Smith and Chris Hogberg. The school was one of nearly 65 elementary, middle and high schools statewide that participated in the event which shows legislators how technology is being used in the classroom to enhance student achievement. Organized by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), the Showcase was underwritten by AT&T.

information, call (734) 362-8825.

TOPS
TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) No. 28 meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Weight-in is 6-6:45 p.m. For more information, call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

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 (248) 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 7 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.

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 50. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

Travel Group

The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/ overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters

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Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

Friends of library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Civil Air Patrol

Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capliberators/.

Habitat help

The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.



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Almonds reg. \$6.99/lb. \$5.99 lb. Expires 12-4-06	Prunes reg. \$2.99/lb. \$2.49 lb. Expires 12-4-06	Double-Dipped Peanuts reg. \$2.99/lb. \$1.99 lb. Expires 12-4-06
Pecans reg. \$7.49/lb. \$5.99 lb. Expires 12-4-06	In-Shell Peanuts reg. \$1.29/lb. 99¢ lb. Expires 12-4-06	Swedish Fish reg. \$3.99/lb. \$2.49 lb. Expires 12-4-06

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.

NOVEMBER

Glory of Christmas

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Nov. 30- Dec. 1 and Dec. 7-8, and Sunday, Dec. 10; 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 and 9, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets are \$13.75 and \$15.75, and available by calling (800) 585-3737. Call (734) 414-7777 for information.

Grief and the holidays

Workshop focuses on facing the holidays after the death of a loved one 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile, Northville. Registration at the door, no fee. For information, call (248) 374-5920.

Hanukkah gift shoppe

Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood Hanukkah/Judaic gift shop opens from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 10. Selection includes holiday gift wrap, chocolate coins, dreidels, candles, electric and traditional menorahs and many Judaic gift items. Congregation Beit Kodesh is located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.

Worship service

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N.

Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

UPCOMING

Christmas luncheon

Fellowship luncheon 12:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at Farmington First United Methodist Church, 3312 Grand River, second block east of Farmington Road at Warner. Cost is \$7, reservations required. Call Betty Halnes by Tuesday, Nov. 28 for reservations and if baby-sitting is needed. Program includes the Cass Ambassadors Choir,

installation of Church Women United officers, and Right Family Christmas game (bring wrapped new \$5 gift to exchange during the game). Bring canned and boxed foods for local food bank.

Drumming circle

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Call (734) 421-1760.

Concert

Performance by Andy Chrisman, one of the founding members of the group 4HIM, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, pre-concert dinner for singles only at 6 p.m. in Parlor C317, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$10 for dinner and concert (must be purchased in advance), and \$5 for concert. For information, call (248) 374-5920.

One night in Bethlehem

An interfaith celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; two evenings of musical events and a walking tour of old Bethlehem on Dec. 1-2. Visitors enjoy live holiday music while awaiting their tour. A special interfaith holiday concert will be held on Saturday evening at 5 p.m. Guides in costume escort visitors to different locations in and around Bethlehem on the night when Christ was born.

Visitors experience the events surrounding the birth of Christ as told by the shepherds, wise men, the innkeeper, Mary, and Joseph. Life-like settings transport visitors to old Bethlehem; shepherds in the field with their sheep; the wise men with their gifts and camels waiting to see the newborn King; the innkeeper in the fenced courtyard at the inn; and Mary, Joseph and Jesus sitting in a wooden manger, complete with singing angels. Tours run continuously 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, and 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1610 Brewster Road, Rochester Hills. Call (248) 980-8715.

Irish Christmas Craft Bazaar

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at AOH Hall, 24242 Grand River, one block west of Telegraph, Detroit. For information, call (313) 565-3317.

Classic senior singles

Get-a-way to Olde World Canterbury Village, Lake Orion, departs at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 from Ward Presbyterian Church Parking Lot 7, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Tickets are \$20 and includes transportation and lunch. For details, call (248) 374-5920.

Monthly dance

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Dec. 2, at Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (east-bound I-96 service drive), east of Inkster, Redford. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Josh White, Jr. concert

7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. \$15 donation. Call (734) 421-1760.

Covenant Players

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3 during 10:30 a.m. service, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Please join us as we begin the Advent season. For information, call (313) 255-6330.

Crafters wanted

For the St. Thomas a'Becket Church Christmas Craft Show to be held from 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.

Christmas craft show

Featuring more than 85 crafters 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley at Cherry Hill, Canton. Admission is \$2, under age 12 free. Bake sale and lunch available. Call (734) 981-1333.

St. Nicklaus Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Church of the Savior, 38100 Five Mile. There will be a pancake breakfast, craft table and a program by St. Nicklaus himself telling about the origins of Santa Claus. Free will offering. RSVP to (734) 464-0527 by Nov. 29. All ages welcome.

Advent festival of carols

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. John's Main Chapel, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth. Traditional service of readings and carols. Msgr. John Zenc to preside, Schola Choir and soloist Stacy Mason provide the music. Free will offering. For details, call (734) 414-1104 or visit www.TheRetreatCenter.org.

Celebrate Christmas season

At Detroit First Church of the Nazarene in Northville 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, the Children's Choir presents A Christmas Carol based on the traditional Christmas Carol storyline; 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 Baby's First Christmas invites families to include their baby in the morning worship service, call (248) 348-7600 by Dec. 3, children's programs will be available for birth to elementary age; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, and 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 the Sanctuary Choir, instrumentalists and drama team present Journey to the Manager, a musical drama, the nursery is available for children birth to age three for both dates, and 10:50 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service includes communion and ends with a traditional candlelight service, nursery available for children birth to 36-months, at the church, 21260 Haggerty. For information, call (248) 348-7600.

Christmas concert

Presented by the Friends of the Opera of Michigan and features Karin White, soprano, and Quinto Milioto, baritone, accompanied by pianist Jeanne Muraski 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. No charge. Donations are welcome. For information, call (313) 582-0997.

Christmas music

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m. Dec. 3, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For details, call (248) 374-7400. Through Scripture and beautiful music, this quiet and reflective candlelight service will help prepare your heart for Christmas. Childcare provided to age 4. No charge.

Choral concert

Concert of Advent and Christmas music including part I of Handel's Messiah Featuring Kirk in the Hills Chancel Choir and the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 students, and available by calling (248) 626, 2515, ext. 109, or at the door.

Vespers and Nativity concert

Sponsored by the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, 19600 Ford Road, Dearborn. The evening begins with a Vespers service celebrated by priests from COCC member churches and sung by the COCC's Inter-Orthodox Choir. Following the service, the choir will sing a concert of Orthodox liturgical and para-liturgical music for the Nativity season and selected Eastern and Western European Advent and Christmas carols. The story of St. Nicholas and gifts for children will follow the concert. Refreshments will be served. The evening is free of charge and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected. For more information, call (313) 366-0677 or send e-mail to KopistianskyVickie@sbcglobal.net.

Advent services

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills will hold Advent services Wednesday Dec. 6, 13, 20 at 7:15 p.m. Soup suppers will be held before each service at 5:45 p.m. On Dec. 17, the Sunday School will host their Christmas program at 10:45 a.m. Special services will be held on Christmas Eve at 10 a.m., family drama at 5 p.m. and traditional candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Day service will be at 10 a.m. to ring in the King. More information available on Web site at www.poplms.org or by calling (248) 553-3380. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community site for the American Red Cross blanket drive. New twin size blankets are being collected for the homeless. This campaign runs through Jan. 1, 2007. The Red Cross would like to collect 7000 blankets. Donations may be dropped off 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Traditions of Christmas

Multi-event open house with carols, stories, musical performances, model train layouts, cookie decorating, crafts, displays, film, and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever 3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. A gift to the community. No tickets, donations or reservations necessary. Call (248) 644-2040.

Men of Grace

A special night of worship featuring Christmas songs, spirituals, hymns, traditional and contemporary, original music, and arrangements performed by Men of Grace from Grace Centers of Hope (Pontiac) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, one block east of Beck, Plymouth. Free will offering will be taken to benefit seminary study Scott Eberlein. Call (734) 453-5252.

Crosstalk

A lively discussion for singles on a topic of current interest 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Learn how the Bible approaches modern day events. Free childcare provided. For details, call (248) 374-5920.

Cookie walk

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 13th Annual Cookie Walk takes place Saturday, Dec. 9, at 36075 W. Seven Mile, 3/4 mile east of Newburgh on south side of street, Livonia. Doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until we are sold out. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and over 50 different varieties of ethnic (kiefle, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia, biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale.

Christmas cookie walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound.

Live Nativity

During open house noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Please join us for cookies, juice and coffee in Knox Hall as the Live Nativity is displayed. Be sure to bring your camera to capture the five nativity scene featuring real animals and actors. For more information, call (248) 374-5932.

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Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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ANDREA R. JOHNSON

Age 67, November 27, 2006. Beloved wife of Larry for 44 years. Loving mother of Tracy Marsh (Brian) and Scott Johnson (Jill). Cherished grandmother of Lexie, Joshua, Jared, Grant and Noah. Dear sister of Tracey Southworth (Bobbie) and Barbara Southworth. Funeral Friday 11 AM at THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington, (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Visitation Thursday, 2-9 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the Oley Foundation. www.thayer-rock.com.

RALPH C. SLADE

Age 84 of Stuart, FL and of Seminole, FL, died Friday, November 24, 2006 at his daughter's residence in Seminole, FL. Born in Ironwood, MI, he was a purchasing agent for Ford Motor Company. He was a member of Stuart United Methodist Church in Stuart, FL where he had lived seasonally since 1970. He is survived by his wife Ruth, whom he was married to for 63 years; His daughters Pam Gustafson of Waterford MI, Peggy Slade of West Chester, OH; and Sandi Banks of Seminole, FL; his brothers Leonard Slade of Coral Springs, FL, and Clyde Slade of Stuart, FL. He is also survived by five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

MARTHA E. SAYLER

Age 82. Dearly beloved wife of David for 61 years. Mother of Michael (Margaret) and Fredric (Jane) Sayler. Grandmother of: Jennifer, David, Stephen, Bradford, Benjamin and Wesley. Also four great-grandchildren. Resided at Arden Courts. Member of First Baptist Church of Birmingham, member Order of Eastern Star, Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, Indianapolis University Grad. Resident of Beverly Hills for 41 years. Active in church work and charities. She was also an employee of Birmingham Schools. Preceded in death by parents Fred and Edith Houlehan. Services and burial will be at Crawfordsville, Indiana. Arrangements by the Wm. R. Hamilton Co. of Birmingham. 248-644-6000

NORMAN McCLURE

Age 87 of Rochester, formerly of Birmingham and Bloomfield, November 28, 2006. Loving husband of the late Betty. Dear father of Mike (Dianne) and Marty (Anne) McClure. Grandfather of Mike (Kelly) McClure, Christine (Roger) Schwager, Matt McClure and Linda (Dave) Cohen. Great-grandfather of Colin, Riley, Michael, Danielle and Audrey. Brother of Glen McClure. Norman graduated with a master's degree from MSU in Metallurgy, he volunteered at St. Joseph Hospital, loved music, photography, gardening and golf. Funeral service Saturday, December 2, 2006 11:00 AM at the Potere-Modetz Funeral Home, 339 Walnut Blvd., Rochester. The family will receive friends Friday 5-8 PM, interment Mt. Vernon Cemetery. Memorials to Mercy Bellbrook for a future Norman McClure memorial. Online guest www.modetzfuneralhomes.com

VIOLET EDNA LUMETTA

Age 83, Ypsilanti, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI. Mrs. Lumetta passed away Friday, November 24, 2006 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. She was born Detroit, MI, daughter of the late Francis & Margaret (Mandelka) Conklin. Mrs. Lumetta was a lifelong resident of the Belleville area. She became a cosmetologist and loved to do hair. She was a wonderful housewife and mother and was always involved in the Girl Scouts. She enjoyed gardening, crocheting, oil painting and most crafts. Vi is survived by two daughters, Kathleen (Alvin) LaLonde of Ypsilanti, MI and Laura (Tom) Gale-Hager of South Bend, IN; four grandchildren, Lawrence (Kerry) Billings, Christopher (Dena) Gale, Andrew Hager, and Kim Hager; four great-grandchildren, Jamie Billings, Michael Billings, Courtney Demby and Mackenzie Billings; two brothers, William and Russell; sister, Betty; many sister-in-laws, Elizabeth Bennett, Grace & Ron Trudel, and Joseph & Carol Lumetta; also many nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Lorenzo "Larry" Lumetta on September 2, 2004; six brothers, George, LeRoy, Francis, Martin, Bob and Richard; and two sisters, Dorothy and Margaret. Funeral Services were held Monday, November 27, 2006 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Whittaker, MI with Father Nicholas J. Ritter as Celebrant. Interment was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens, Westland. Arrangements by DAVID C. BROWN FUNERAL HOME, Belleville.



W. HERBERT SCHIEBOLD

Age 77, November 25, 2006, of Bloomfield Hills. Loving husband of Ruth for 53 years. Dear father of Eric (Kimberly), Paul, Christopher (Susan), and Matthew (Patricia). Proud grandfather of Allan, Max, Mark, and Samantha. A memorial will be held at the Fox & Hounds Restaurant, 39560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, on Saturday, December 2, from 11am-3pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes to American Heart Association or American Lung Association. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



MADELON BERNICE LAND HAYWARD

The wife of former Michigan State Representative and Royal Oak Mayor William Hayward, died Monday in Rochester Hills. She was 94. Madelon was the third of five children born to Evelyn (McGill) Land and Joseph Land. She attended Royal Oak High School, graduating in 1931. Being captain of the tennis team and often playing the lead actress in the school's plays kept her busy at ROHS. She met her husband, William Hayward, when he was employed by the Wayne Oakland Bank in Royal Oak. They were married Feb 12, 1938, at the Shrine of the Little Flower Church in Royal Oak. Madelon was an enthusiastic supporter of her husband's political career. Bill Hayward was elected to the Royal Oak City Commission in 1939 and served 22 years, including five terms as mayor. He is the longest serving mayor in the city's history. In 1959, Bill Hayward was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives as a Republican representing the cities of Royal Oak, Clawson, Huntington Woods and Pleasant Ridge. He served in that position nine terms until he retired in 1976. He died in 1993. Madelon was the perfect politician's wife. On election nights, when friends and supporters would gather to celebrate, she created a tradition of serving hot roast beef sandwiches and apple pie.



MELVIN W. RENTSCHLER

Age 89, November 25, 2006. Husband of the late Katherine Rentschler. Loving father of Linda Kuehne (Stephen), Debbie Vradenburg (Donald), and Robert (Cheryl). Dear grandfather of Nicola, Jacob, Manuel, and Kira. Retired from Ford after 32 years. Member of Moslem Shrine Temple Radio Club. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell), 32515 Woodward (between 13 and 14 Mile), Thursday, 2-8pm. Masonic Service 7:30pm. Funeral Friday, 11am, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1800 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. Visitation begins at church at 10:30am. Burial will take place next to his wife at Oakwood Cemetery in Fenton, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Shriners Hospital for Children, Office of Development, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607-1460. View obituary and share memories: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

JAMES W. (JIM) FOWLER

of Waterford; November 26, 2006; age 79; born May 18, 1927 in Ash Flat, Arkansas. Son of the late Merle and Mable Fowler; step-son of the late Freda Fowler; loving husband of Deloris, recently celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary; beloved father of Mable (Dominic) Doot; dear brother of Lehman Fowler of Brinkley, AR, Peggy Jean Kissingner of West Plains, MO, Gilbert (Teri) Fowler of Ash Flat, AR, Syble (Wilbur) Nicholson of Sherwood, AR, Keith (Carol) Fowler of Cherokee Village, AR, Freda Jean Godwin of Searcy, AR and the late Waymon Fowler; sister-in-law Claudia Fowler of Sears, MI; also survived by many dear nieces and nephews. James was an Army Veteran, serving in the post WWII occupation force in Berlin. He joined the City of Bloomfield Hills, MI Police Dept. in 1953 as a patrolman, was a Sergeant for many years and the Chief of Police from 1969-1974 and retired as Deputy Director of Public Safety in 1982. James was a long time member of Bethany Baptist Church of Waterford, MI, the Fraternal Order of Police #132 and also enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and loved to share his bounty. A Celebration of James Life will be held Thursday, November 30, 2006, 11:00 a.m. at Bethany Baptist Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford. Rev. Dr. James E. Bolin, Jr. officiating. Interment to follow at Crescent Hills Cemetery. The family will receive friends at Donelson, Johns and Evans Funeral Home, Waterford, Wednesday 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. Memorial contributions to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society or Bethany Baptist Church would be appreciated. Envelopes available at the funeral home and church.



R. PAUL BARBER

Age 62 years old of Flat Rock, passed away Thursday, November 23, 2006 at Pardee Hospital after a short illness. He was a native of Detroit, Michigan and son of the late Daisy & Bob Barber. Prior to moving to Flat Rock three and a half years ago, he had been a resident of Farmington Hills, Michigan. He received his Masters in Music Education from the University of Michigan and had been a music educator and Director of Fine Arts in the Farmington Public Schools for 37 years. While living in Flat Rock he served as Director of both the Hendersonville Community Band and Brevard Community Band. During his years in Michigan, Paul was the founder and conductor of Farmington Community Band and held officer status in several organizations, including the Michigan Band & Orchestra Association, Farmington Arts Council and the University of Michigan School of Music Alumni Association. He performed with several other local musical organizations and was also an avid traveler and photographer. He was a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Fern, and loving father to his children, Randy Barber, and his wife, Melissa of Farmington Hills, MI and Julie Anne Barber of San Diego, CA. In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his brother, Dick Barber, his wife, Beth; mother-in-law, Betty Jane Kinnaman of Flat Rock; sister-in-law, Leah Nelson; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. A memorial service will be held at 3:00pm on December 10, 2006 at Harrison High School Auditorium. Inurnment will be at Oakland Hills Memorial Garden in Novi, MI. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial be made to Farmington Community Band, PO Box 3091, Farmington Hills, MI 48333-3091, University of Michigan School of Music, E.V. Moore Building, 1100 Baits Dr., Ann Arbor MI 48109-2085 or MDA/ALS, P.O. Box 78960, Phoenix, AZ 85062-8960. Thos. Shepherd & Son Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements. An online guest book is available at www.thoshepherd.com

STANLEY RICHARD GARD

Beloved husband of Jacqueline Harris Gard. Father of Elizabeth (Dr. Alan) Foster and S. Richard (Palmer) Gard Jr. Grandfather of Jonathan, Alexandra and Brennan Foster, Jay Gard and Catherine Gard. Brother of Gordon Gard. Brother-in-law of Judith Harris (Michael Bressler) Solomon. Services were held Monday. Arrangements with The IRA Kaufman Chapel 248-569-0020. www.irakaufman.com

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 Education for All at 10:00 a.m.
www.stjohnsplymouth.org

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970
 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
 Reading Room located at church
 Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
734-453-0970

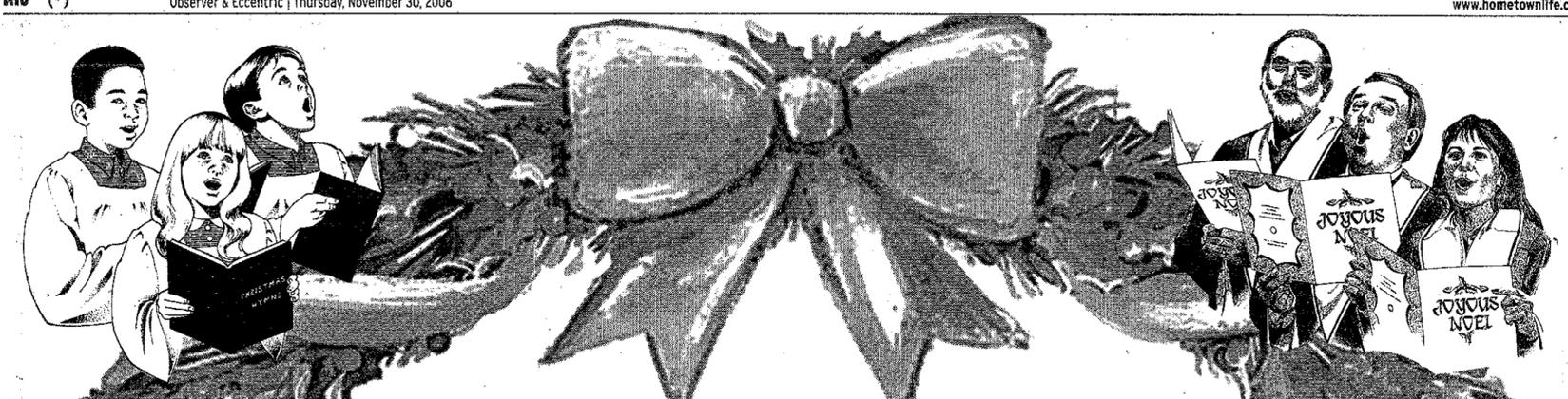
WARD
 40000 Six Mile Road
 Just west of I-275
 Northville, MI
248-374-7400
 Traditional Worship 9:00 & 10:20 A.M.
 Contemporary Worship 11:40 A.M.
 Nursery & Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services
 Evening Service • 7:00 P.M.
 Services Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WMOZ 560 AM
 For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD
 LIVONIA • (734) 261-1360
 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
 PASTOR JAMES HOFF
 PASTOR ERIC STEINDRENER

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525
 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
 Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
 Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
 NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
 (734) 455-3196

THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS
 WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD
 In addition to our weekly Worship Directory, the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers publishes a traditional holiday directory before Christmas. If you are interested, please call 734-953-2153 for more information.

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



WESTLAND

SHOPPING CENTER

Quick Reference Guide to Holiday Hours and Entertainment



DECEMBER 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10am-9pm	4 10am-9pm	5 Phil Gram All Stars 6-8pm • East Court 5-piece band playing classic holiday tunes 10am-9pm	6 10am-9pm	7 Plymouth Baptist Church Choir 8-8:30pm JC Penney Court Singing classic holiday tunes 10am-9pm	8 Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11:30am-1pm East Court MADD, SEMCA and local dignitaries present creative ways to make non-alcoholic drinks for the holiday season 9am-9pm	9 9am-10pm
10 10am-9pm	11 9am-10pm	12 Phil Gram All Stars 6-8pm • East Court 5-piece band playing classic holiday tunes 9am-10pm	13 3 D's & W 6-8pm • Throughout Mall Barbershop quartet singing classic holiday tunes 9am-10pm	14 9am-10pm	15 Our Lady of Good Council Choir Group 11-Noon JC Penney Court Singing classic holiday tunes 3 D's & W 6-8pm • Throughout Mall Barbershop quartet 9am-10pm	16 9am-10pm
17 9am-9pm	18 8am-10pm	19 Phil Gram All Stars 6-8pm • East Court 5-piece band playing classic holiday tunes 8am-10pm	20 3 D's & W 6-8pm • Throughout Mall Barbershop quartet singing classic holiday tunes 8am-10pm	21 8am-11pm	22 3 D's & W 6-8pm • Throughout Mall Barbershop quartet singing classic holiday tunes 8am-11pm	23 8am-11pm
24 7am-6pm	25 Closed for Christmas	26 8am-9pm	27 10am-9pm	28 10am-9pm	29 10am-9pm	30 10am-9pm
31 10am-6pm						

JANUARY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10am-6pm	2 Normal Hours Resume	3	4	5	6

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Kohl's & Over 80 Specialty Stores
 Corner of Wayne & Warren Roads • 734-421-0291
www.westlandcenter.com