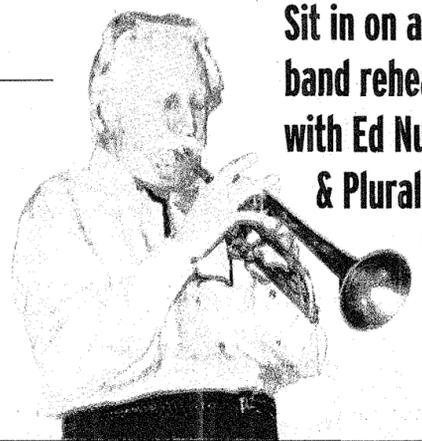


# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## AROUND TOWN

### Ticket amnesty

Got an unpaid ticket owed to Westland 18th District Court? Now's the time to clear it up.

For those with overdue balances on citations through the court, the court is offering an amnesty program throughout April. The court will waive the \$35 default late fee, the \$50 warrant cost and the 20 percent late fee on eligible cases.

For those with cases involving license suspensions by the Michigan Department of State, the mandatory \$45 clearance fee cannot be waived. Consideration may be given on other cases for people appearing in front of a judge on pending cases or cases with open warrants.

To take advantage of the program, payments must be made in full. No payment plans will be allowed.

Individuals may come to the court to pay or clear up delinquent, payable citations during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those who wish to see a judge on cases requiring mandatory appearances or cases with open warrants should come to the court from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Payments made by cash, check or money order at the court, located behind the Westland police station on Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne. Credit card payments may be made by phone or over the Internet. The court's phone number is (734) 595-8720. The Web site is [www.18thdistrictcourt.com](http://www.18thdistrictcourt.com).

Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the court or deposited in the court's night deposit box.

The amnesty program will expire after the month of April and no further consideration will be given.

### Voter's guide

People can read up on candidates running for the Livonia and Wayne-Westland Public School Board in the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County's Voter Guide now available on the league's Web site at [www.lwvww.org](http://www.lwvww.org). On Tuesday, May 5, voters in the Livonia School District will elect two candidates to four-year terms. All three Livonia candidates have participated the Voter Guide.

In the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, three candidates are running for a one-year term and seven candidates are running for two four-year terms. All but one of the Wayne-Westland candidates participated in the Voter Guide. The League of Women Voters provides non-partisan information on candidates.

Readers also can find out more about the Wayne-Westland school board candidates in profiles that will begin appearing in the Sunday, April 5, issue of the *Observer*.

## City looks at 'trash-into-cash' recycling

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland appears ready to become the first Wayne County city — and only the second in Michigan — to embark on a bold, curbside recycling program that will actually pay residents to participate.

Mayor William Wild likened it to a "trash-into-cash" program that will amount to Westland's own economic stimulus package by potentially returning \$240 to \$540 a year to every household that gets involved.

Wild and recycling company representatives rolled out the plan Monday to an enthusiastic crowd that packed Westland City Council chambers and spilled into a hallway. Residents who have lobbied for it applauded a curbside program that is expected to start in mid-June.

"This is the right time for the city of Westland," resident Mary Murphy said. "It's 2009, and we deserve curbside recycling."

Over the next three years, Wild's administration has proposed setting aside \$860,000 a year from the city's trash-disposal sanitation fund to hire the companies who say they can make the plan work and reduce the cost of dumping garbage in a landfill.

Moreover, recycling would be easier than ever for residents, who could simply put all their glass, plastic, tin cans and other recyclable materials into one container, then roll it out to the curb every other week on the same day their trash is picked up.

City council members are expected to vote as early as Monday to hire Republic Services to pick up recyclables, Toter Inc. to provide the containers, Great Lakes Recycling to process the materials at its New Boston facility and RecycleBank to administer the financial-incentive program. All the contracts would be for five years except for Great Lakes' two-year agreement.

The recommendations came from Ann Arbor-based Resource Recycling Systems CEO James Frey, who was hired last year by the city to seek proposals and find the most cost-effective plan. Residents will not have to pay



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WLND

City leaders and a room packed with recycling supporters listen as Resource Recycling Systems CEO James Frey explains how Westland's new program will work.

any additional fees.

Recycling carts would come equipped with computerized chips allowing Republic's trucks to track each household's participation. Residents could either go online to RecycleBank's Web site or call a toll-free number to check the points they accumulate, then cash them in for gift cards for businesses, such as Target, CVS pharmacy and Dick's Sporting Goods, that partner with RecycleBank.

"We know this is going to take your trash and turn it into cash," Wild told the crowd Monday.

Every 400 or so households on a shared recycling route would be rewarded equally based on an average weight of the materials they place in

Please see **RECYCLING, A2**



Resident Carol Sharp voices support for a new curbside recycling program.

## State: Polling places open to petition drives

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

State elections officials have ruled in favor of a recall group that claimed it was unfairly blocked from circulating petitions on Wayne-Westland school property as voters went to the polls last November.

Christopher M. Thomas, state director of elections, has said the group, which sought to recall five Westland city officials, should have been allowed to collect signatures as long as the petition drive was kept 100 feet from polling places.

Thomas has warned in a letter to Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart that she should move polling places

away from the schools unless Wayne-Westland officials agree to drop their policy on election days.

However, school officials have chosen to comply with the state ruling rather than force the city to change its polling places — a change that could have led to widespread confusion and a \$12,000 price tag for new voter registration cards.

"Right now we are certainly trying to review this, but in the meantime we would do nothing to jeopardize the city and their need to have the polling places in our schools," said Charlotte Sherman, the district's deputy superintendent.

The latest developments came as the recall group, Save Our

Neighborhood, missed its March 28 deadline for collecting signatures in hopes of recalling Mayor William Wild and Westland City Council members James Godbout, Michael Kehrer, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves.

The group had hoped to oust the city officials for supporting a controversial senior citizen village that critics have said will be too massive for their neighborhood of single-family homes on Joy Road east of Newburgh. City officials have lauded the proposed development and said it would bring in much-needed tax revenues.

The recall group had hoped to circulate petitions last Election Day, but were told by city officials that the

effort would violate school district policy.

One recall organizer, Donna DeWitt, said she was "happy" with the state ruling, "but this never should have happened." Moreover, DeWitt said Tuesday that DeHart, Godbout, Wild and City Attorney Angelo Plakas should resign over the matter.

City officials have said they didn't set the school district policy, but simply advised the recall group about it. "I did, I do and I will follow state regulations," DeHart said Monday.

State elections officials in previous years had declined to comment on the district policy, but Thomas cited recent

Please see **PETITIONS, A2**

### Index

APARTMENTS .....	C3
AUTOMOTIVE .....	C5
CAREER BUILDER .....	C4
CROSSWORD PUZZLE .....	C2
FILTER .....	B9
FOOD & WINE .....	B10
OBITUARIES .....	B6
PUBLIC SAFETY .....	A4
REAL ESTATE .....	C2
SPORTS .....	B1
STRICTLY BUSINESS .....	B5

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## Fire marshal faces charge in accident

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Fire Marshal Chris Szpara, already slapped with a 90-day unpaid suspension that will cost him more than \$20,000, is facing a misdemeanor charge of leaving the scene of a property damage accident.

Szpara, 37, came to the Westland police station Tuesday so that a traffic officer could book him on the charge and fingerprint him. He was released as he awaits court proceedings.

Szpara could face penalties ranging up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine, if he's found guilty, although many defendants charged with misdemeanors are given options other than spending time behind bars.

Szpara is accused of pulling out of a Taco Bell in a city car around 3 a.m. March 24, hitting another vehicle near Merriman and Cherry Hill, and leaving the scene. He was stopped in neighboring Wayne, and a Westland command officer who went to the scene didn't test him for alcohol because he didn't believe Szpara was drunk, officials have said.

The charge against Szpara was recommended by Westland attorney James Nellis after City Attorney Angelo Plakas chose to avoid any potential conflict of interest by having the case handled outside of his office. If convicted, Szpara could receive up to six points on his driving record.

Westland 18th District Court judges Sandra Ference Cicirelli and Mark McConnell will not

hear the case. They have disqualified themselves and asked a state court administrator to assign it to another judge.

Szpara and city officials have come under fire for the incident, particularly because he wasn't given a Breathalyzer. Police have said Szpara admitted having a couple of beers, but that he didn't appear drunk.

Fire Chief Michael Reddy suspended Szpara without pay for 90 days, ordered him to receive counseling and warned other fire administration officials not to drive city cars for personal business. Reddy has called Szpara's alleged actions "inexcusable."

Despite Szpara's troubles, he has received some accolades for his work as fire marshal.

Please see **ACCIDENT, A4**

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# RECYCLING

FROM PAGE A1

their carts. Only participating homes would benefit. One resident, Mark Rodriguez, suggested each household should accumulate points separately, but officials said that method would drive up costs for the curbside program.

Frey estimated that, on average, a household would receive \$240 a year in financial incentives, though they could earn as much as \$540 depending on how much they recycle. In all, Wild said that could mean \$6 million to \$15 million a year for local residents.

Westland will become only the second Michigan community to use RecycleBank. Rochester Hills recently started the program.

For now, Westland's program would be eligible to 28,000 households that get their garbage picked up by the city. Officials hope to eventually expand the service to condominiums, apartments and businesses.

Most households would use a 96-gallon recycling bin, although seniors and others could opt for a 64- or 32-gallon size.

RecycleBank regional manager Tom Hernandez estimated that Westland's program could eventually trim the city's landfill costs from \$686,000 a year to \$472,000, marking a

\$214,000 savings.

The city will need to achieve a participation rate of 40-50 percent for the program to work, Frey said, and recycling enthusiasts strongly encouraged the city to mount an education campaign that targets children who, in turn, will sell it to their parents.

Wild said the city, for now, has set aside enough money to pay for the program for three years. Councilman Charles Pickering questioned whether the city can afford the plan beyond that without depleting the sanitation fund or seeking a tax increase.

"Where will the money come from?" Pickering asked.

And although he supports recycling, he said he is skeptical that the city will get the level of participation it needs. Two earlier curbside programs failed, but they came with annual fees.

Councilman James Godbout mentioned one possible method of future funding — dropping a leaf pickup program that benefits less than 40 percent of residents yet costs nearly \$500,000 a year.

Ed McArdle, representing the southeast Michigan Sierra Club, a group dedicated to protecting the environment, lauded Westland for its efforts. He said when the group approaches other cities to push for environmentally friendly programs, "we'll use Westland as an example."

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

# Events make Easter 'egg-stra' exciting

Easter's right around the corner and things are getting "egg-stra" exciting in Westland when it comes to the bunny business.

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department is teaming up with the Westland Civitans for the annual Brunch with the Easter Bunny Saturday, April 4.

The brunch will be 9 a.m.-noon at the Harris-Kehrer

VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale. The cost is \$3 for children ages 1-12 and \$5 for adults ages 13 and older. Included are homemade hot-off-the-griddle pancakes with butter and syrup, sausage, juice, coffee, tea, and milk. Tickets are available at the Bailey Recreation Center on Ford in the civic center complex or at the door.

Children are encouraged to make and wear an Easter bonnet or hat for their picture with the Easter Bunny who will make a special visit. Polaroid photos with the bunny will be available for \$2 each, but adults can bring their own cameras as well.

The recreation department is also joining the Westland Jaycees in holding the annual

Easter Egg Scramble 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at Jaycee Park, next to the Mike Modano Ice Arena, at Hunter and Wildwood. The hunt will be on for the eggs by youth up to age 14.

For more information the scramble, call the recreation department at (734) 722-7620 or the Jaycee hotline at (734) 226-0040.

## AROUND WESTLAND

### Marathon bingo

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Sgt. Stanley Romanowski V.F.W. Post 6896 is sponsoring a Marathon Bingo 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 5, at the post home, 28945 Joy, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Westland. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. A concession will be available. For more information, call the post lounge at (734) 525-9454 or (313) 849-5283.

### Showing support

Skateland West is hosting a special roller skating session to support union families in southeastern Michigan 6-9 p.m. Saturday April 18. Show your union card and everyone in your party skates for \$1 each. Admission without union card is \$6. Skate rental is \$1.50, inline rental \$5.

In an effort to reach out and help the struggling union families of Michigan, Skateland West is offering an evening of entertainment and family fun at a premium discount. Any and all union cards will be accepted. All ages are welcomed and many games and activities are planned for the special session.

For more information, call (734) 326-2801 or go online to www.skatelandwest.com. Skateland West is at 37550 Cherry Hill, just west of Newburgh in Westland.

### Spring Awards

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold its Spring Awards Celebration at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh, west of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The celebration will honor the 2009 the First Citizen and Business Person of the Year as well as its long-time members.

The cost is \$35 per person which includes a dinner buffet

and open bar. Sponsors for this event include *The Westland Observer*, Parkside Credit Union and TDS Metrocom. For more information or to reserves tickets, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 or go online to www.westlandchamber.com.

### Bowling benefit

Westland's Mission: Green, an initiative which promotes environmental wellness practices throughout the City of Westland, is on a roll — literally. The group will host its first fund-raiser on Saturday, April 4, at Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford, west of Newburgh.

The cost is \$20 per person and includes three games of bowling, shoes, pizza, and soda. The proceeds will help to fund materials designed to promote environmental awareness and the importance of reducing your carbon footprint. Registration for the event begins at 11:30 a.m., bowling starts at noon. For more information, call Lori Fodale at (734) 467-3264.

### Preschool signups

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment into its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. The preschool is located at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

### Scrapbooking

The Wayne Memorial Baseball Booster Club is hosting a Scrapbooking fund-raiser from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Rudgate West Clubhouse, 7040 Shawnee Drive, Romulus. The registration fee of \$25 includes a light breakfast, lunch and door prizes. The deadline for registration is April 17. Checks and money orders can be made out to Wayne Memorial Baseball.

### Prison families

Do you have a family member currently in prison? Do you feel alone? Do you wish you had a support group that you could turn to? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then this support group is for you. Contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or by e-mail at hope4healing@rocketmail.com. This support group is to provide adult family members with support and a place to talk with others that have experienced similar pain. Meetings are free and held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at the Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.

### Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the Collins House, and the Westland Historic Society meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, also at the Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

### Caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Do you ever wish you had an understanding person to talk to? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer support and assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones.

Caregiver Support meetings offer valuable information and assistance to individuals caring for a loved one. They're held from 10 a.m. to noon the third Tuesday of the month at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue in Westland.

Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile Road in Redford. Morning and evening options are available. The morning group meets from 10 a.m. to noon the second Thursday of the month, while the evening group meets from 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

For more information on dates and times, or if attending for the first time, call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

# PETITIONS

FROM PAGE A1

federal court decisions that he said have clarified the issue.

Sherman said the district still hasn't received written notice of the state's position, but she has seen a copy of the letter to DeHart. She has said the district wanted to keep political activity not related to elections off school property.

In part, Thomas wrote in a letter dated March 3 that "it is our position that individuals who wish to campaign or collect petition signatures outside of the polling place at issue

must be permitted to do so as long as they remain at least 100 feet from the entrance to the school building in which the polling place is located."

Sherman described district officials as "disappointed" that they didn't receive any direct notice from the state.

DeWitt said no decision has made whether the effort to recall any city officials will be revived, but she called it "very serious" that the group was blocked from collecting signatures.

"The matter should have been cleared up well before the election," she said.

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## GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 6000 MIDDLEBELT GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009, AT 9:00 A.M. THE AUCTION IS TO BE HELD AT WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING, 6375 HIX RD., WESTLAND, MI 48185.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BIDDING WILL START AT THE TOWING AND STORAGE CHARGES.

YEAR & MAKE	STYLE	VIN #
1995 BUICK	4 DOOR	1G4AG55M4S64353
1996 DODGE	4 DOOR	2B3HD46T8TH203024
1990 FORD	VAN	1FMCA11U2LZA09683
2003 FORD	2 DOOR	1FAFP40403F319177
1991 PLYMOUTH	2 DOOR	1P3XP24D3MN593316
1994 PONTIAC	2 DOOR	2G2FS22SXR2222737

Publish: April 2, 2009

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## CITY OF WESTLAND

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### ON 2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of Westland for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010 will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Eileen DeHart  
City Clerk

Publish: April 2, 2009

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## CITY OF WESTLAND

### INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **April 14, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Five (5) Roof-top Heating/Air Conditioning Units at Dorsey Community Center

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Department at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith  
Controller

Publish: April 2, 2009

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## CITY OF WESTLAND

### INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **April 9, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

CCTV Pipeline Inspection Camera System

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204 or at http://www.cityofwestland.com. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

JADE M. SMITH  
Controller

Publish: April 2, 2009

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## WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

### Agenda-Regular Meeting No. 4

Westland City Hall  
36601 Ford Road  
Westland, MI 48185

### NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

#### REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 15, 2009

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for April 15, 2009, has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items.

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on May 20, 2009 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI at 7:00 p.m.

Robert Williamson  
Chairman

Publish: April 2, 2009

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# COMMUNITY SERVICE IS A WAY OF LIFE!

## Retired Chief Mark Neal

### Vies for Wayne-Westland School Board (4 Year Term)

Mark graduated from Eastern Michigan University BS degree in Gen. Science and Chemistry

Former Adjunct Professor Madonna University and Jackson Comm. College

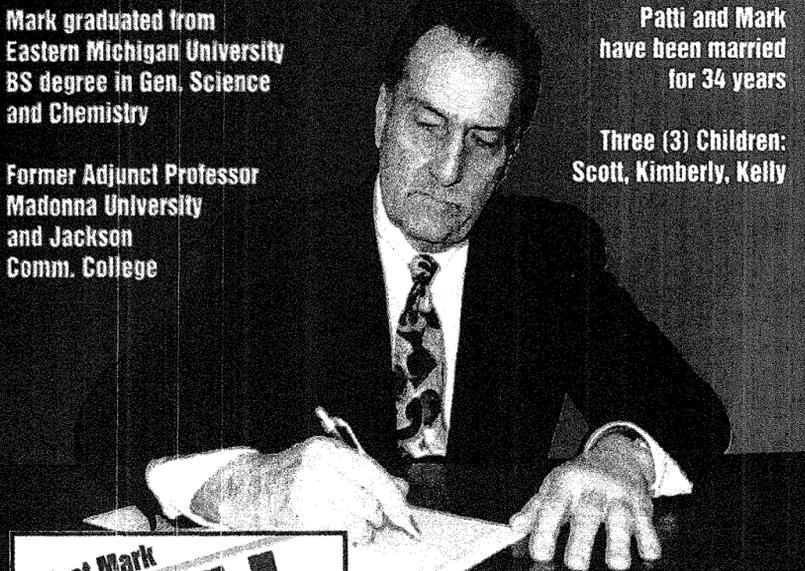
Patti and Mark have been married for 34 years

Three (3) Children: Scott, Kimberly, Kelly

Mark Neal knows the value of a good education and wants to insure that everyone has the same opportunities that he did.

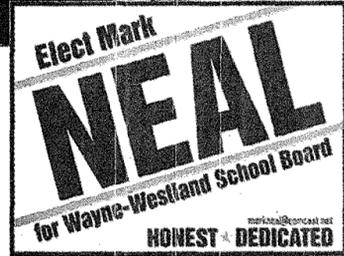
Mark Neal was Union President of Firefighters local 1279 for over ten years. He progressed through the ranks to become Chief of the Fire Department. This experience has given him the insight needed to interact with the administration, unions and employees. The knowledge he gained over the years at this high level position will be invaluable in finding the best possible solutions for the complex problems plaguing the District.

Balancing a good education at a reasonable cost is not easy but can be achieved with hard work, common sense and working together.



Mark and Patti with their seven grandchildren.

Front Row- (left to right) Xander, Alexis, Ashlyn, Dominic, Joshua  
Middle Row- (left to right) Patti, Mark Back Row- (left to right) Kaylee, Zachary



Please cast your vote for **Mark Neal** on May 5<sup>th</sup> for the Wayne-Westland School Board four year term

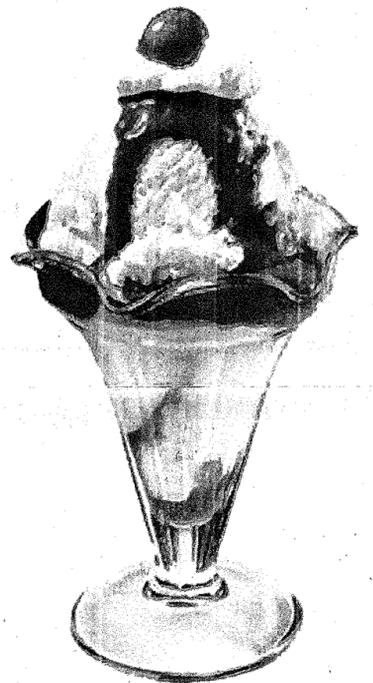
Paid for by: Citizens to Elect Mark Neal · 6418 Pembroke Drive · Westland, MI 48185

## You're Invited to meet Wayne/Westland School Board Candidates Mark Neal & John Goci for a FREE Ice Cream Social

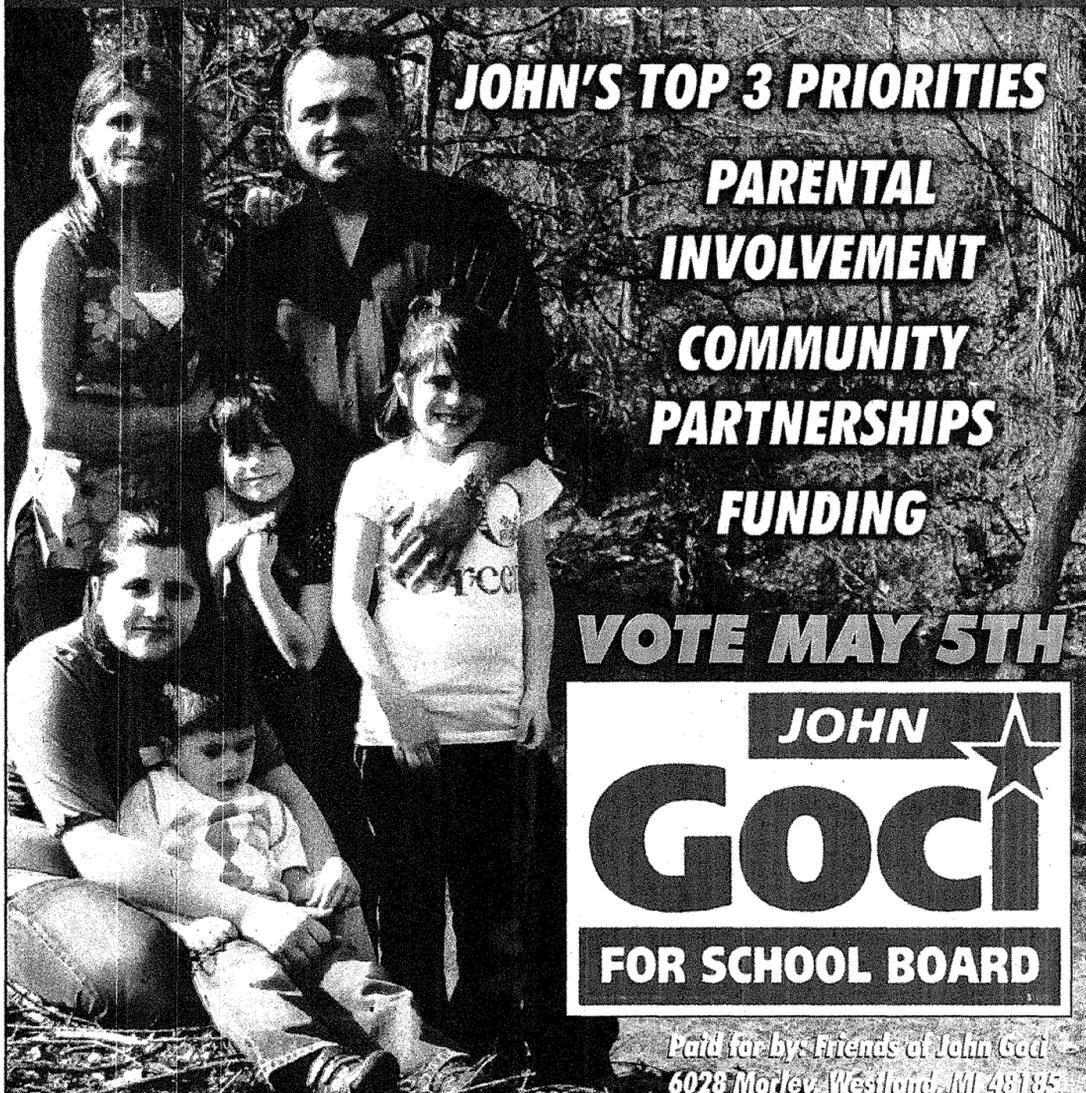
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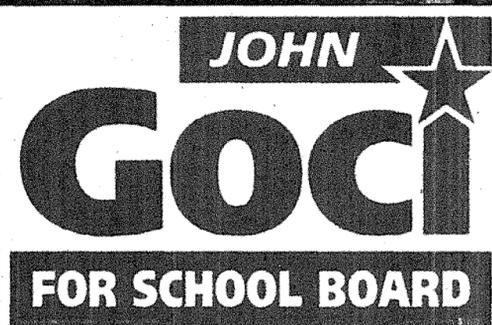
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**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

**FUNDING**

**VOTE MAY 5TH**



Paid for by: Friends of John Goci  
6028 Morley, Westland, MI 48185

I am a local business owner and entrepreneur, 39 years old, with a beautiful wife and four wonderful children. My eldest daughter attends Stevenson Jr. High School and her two younger sisters attend Patchin Elementary School. My son has just started preschool at Noah's Ark, in Wayne. I attended Wayne Westland schools and am a proud graduate of John Glenn High School, class of 1988. I decided to run for School Board because I am committed to seeing our children reach their full potential. When my family immigrated to the United States, I was very young and my family came here with nothing. The teachers at Patchin literally helped cloth me, educate me, empower me and make me the person I am today. I want to give back to the community that gave so much to me. I believe my personal and business experiences will bring a refreshing perspective to the School Board. I have run a startup business and raised over \$10 million in funding. I have unique insight, strong leadership skills, dedication, and the ability to solve problems effectively. I am eager to bring my skills to the School Board to improve our schools and provide the best possible environment for our children to learn and grow.

Please cast your vote for **John Goci** on May 5<sup>th</sup> for the Wayne-Westland School Board one year term

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Xbox among items taken from apartment

**1** A 23-year-old man and his wife told police that someone forced open the door of their Wilderness Park apartment, northeast of Warren and Newburgh, while they were out for dinner and a night at a Detroit casino. The incident happened between 4:30 p.m. March 24 and 1:40 a.m. March 25.

The couple told police that the master bedroom had been ransacked with drawers dumped on the floor. Items reported missing from the apartment included an Xbox game console, controller and games.

The couple told police they had no renter's insurance.

### Purse stolen from car

**2** A 31-year-old woman told police that someone broke into her Chevy Camaro in the parking lot of Ashford Court, a senior citizen complex on Joy

west of Newburgh, between 11 p.m. Saturday and 6:45 a.m. Sunday. The driver's side window had been forced open.

The victim reported that a purse containing money, credit cards, a Social Security card, birth certificates, a Starbucks gift card, cell phone, a driver's license and other items was taken.

### Truck's headliner taken

**3** A 50-year-old man filed a police report stating that someone got into his Ford pickup truck between 3 p.m. Sunday and 4 a.m. Sunday while it was parked in his driveway on Donnelly, southeast of Wayne and Ford roads. The man told police the rear sliding window doesn't lock.

The victim reported that the interior headliner of his truck was cut out and missing. He also said his Craftsman Voltmeter was taken.

### Wheel found missing

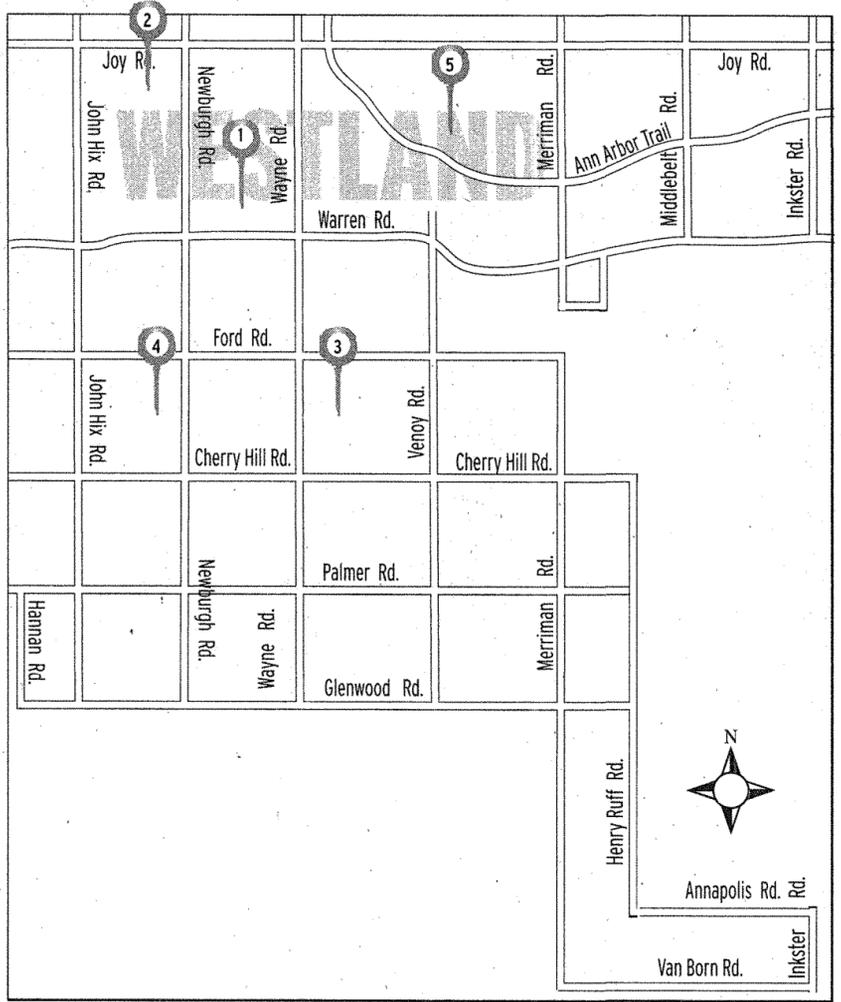
**4** A 70-year-old woman reported that someone stole the left rear wheel of her 2002 Ford Taurus while it was parked in a carport at Willow Creek Apartments, on Newburgh south of Ford. The incident happened between 12:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. March 24.

A police report said the thief used a tire jack that was left behind.

### Van window broken

**5** While on patrol, a police officer was dispatched to Rae Drive, southeast of Joy and Farmington, on a report that someone had broken out the window of a Dodge van. The officer reported that it appeared the damage had been done with a paintball gun. The house also had been struck by paintballs.

By Darrell Clem



## Newest officers

Westland Police Chief James Ridener (center), stands with his department's two newest officers, Joshua Simmons and Heather Holcomb. The pair was recently hired after the retirement of two longtime sergeants, Tim Kennedy and Michael Willard. Simmons came from the Ecorse Police Department, Holcomb from the Highland Park department.

## ACCIDENT

FROM PAGE A1

His job has included helping fire victims find shelter, food and even cash to help them through a weekend. He also has been involved in a pilot program of improving the

appearance of boarded-up homes to reduce neighborhood blight.

Szpara has been involved with numerous organizations, including the International Association of Arson Investigators, the charitable Westland Goodfellows, which helps needy children at Christmas, and the Wayne

County Family Shelter, where he has delivered meals during the holidays.

Still, Reddy called it necessary to discipline Szpara for the allegations against him, and Mayor William Wild has said such actions won't be tolerated.

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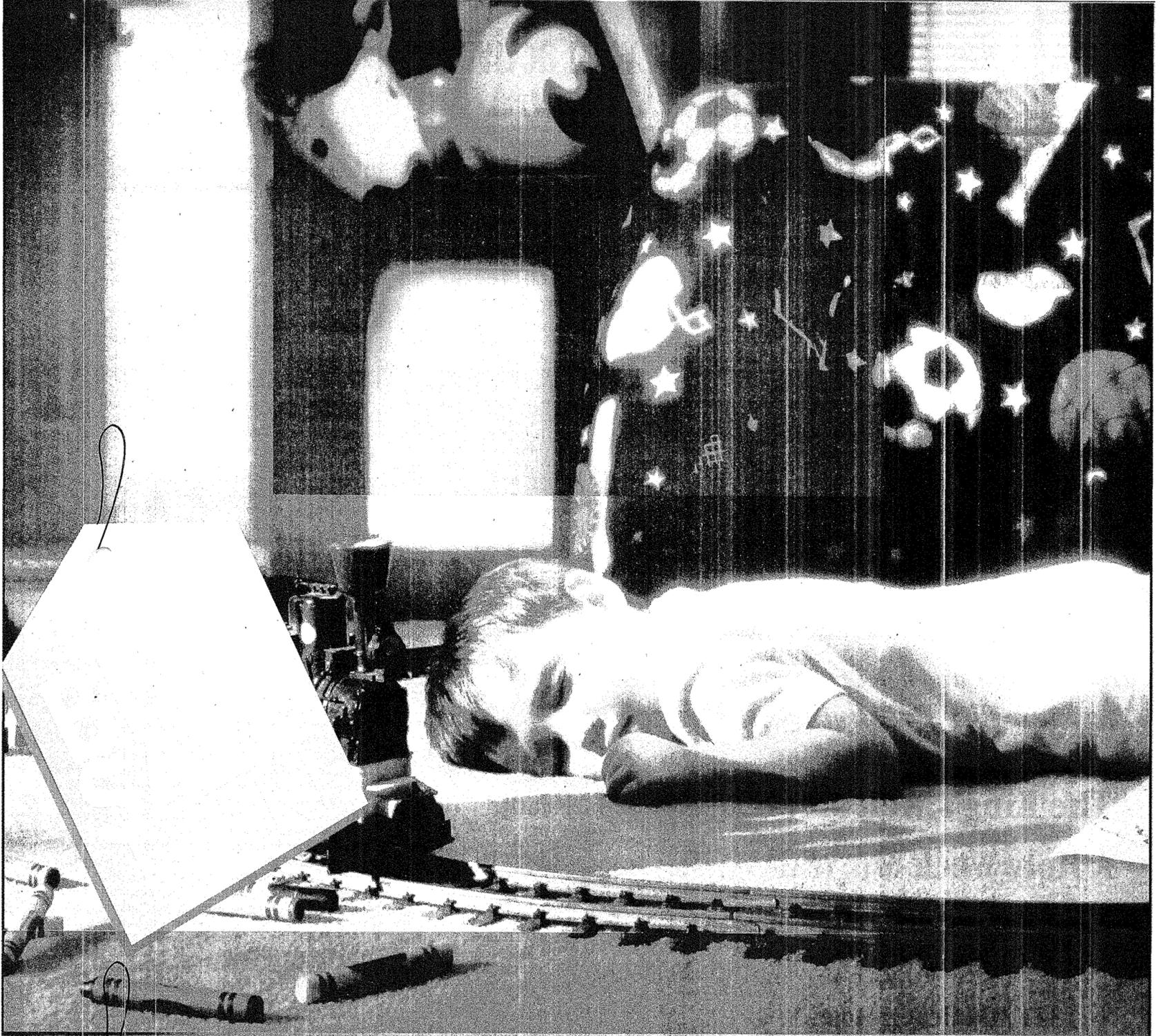
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# Westland Rec fills Easter break with activities

Easter break is coming and if you're a parent looking for activities to keep your children busy, the Westland Parks and Recreation Department has a lineup aimed to keep them entertained and active. On tap April 13-17 are:

**Play program**  
Kid Pizzazz's supervised play program offers arts and crafts, activities, games, sporting events, indoor gym time, and much more. The program is for ages 6-12 and runs Monday-Friday, April 13-17. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop off 8:30-9 a.m., after care 3-6 p.m. Drop off and pick up at the Bailey Center. Cost is \$170 per student for the week which includes all the Easter Fun Break, events, pizza lunch on Friday, and transportation to and from each event, or \$30 per day per person plus the cost of the sport activity for that day. After care costs \$35 per week or \$10 per day. Wear comfortable clothes and bring bag lunch and snack Monday-Thursday (and Friday, if you don't want pizza). Pre-registration for camp and after care required.

**Bowling Party**  
Enjoy bowling at Westland Bowl at 5940 N. Wayne Road, north of Ford,

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, April 13. Cost is \$5 per student and includes three games of bowling, a hot dog and a beverage. There will be prizes and other special activities. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children, but parents may not bowl on bumper lanes. The party is for children in kindergarten through eighth-grade. Pre-register by April 10 at the Bailey Recreation Center. For more information, call (734) 722-7570.

**Golfing Fun**  
Have an interest in golf? Ever wondered what it would be like to hit the ball around a course? Now is your chance to get an hour of golf instruction on the golf simulators 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, April 14, at the Westland Municipal Golf Course, 500 S. Merriman, south of Cherry Hill. The simulators are just like golfing on a real golf course. Cost is \$5 per student in first-sixth-grades. Pre-register by April 11 at the Westland Municipal Golf Course. For more information, call the golf course at (734) 721-6660.

**Hoops Basketball**  
Come to the Hoops Basketball Clinic 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 15, at the Bailey Recreation Center. Learn the fundamentals of basket-

ball, including dribbling, passing, shooting, and defense. Participants will improve their basketball skills through a variety of fun, challenging games and drills. There will be 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 games, free throw contests, and beat the counselor events. Wear comfortable clothes, athletic shoes, and bring a water bottle with your name on it. Cost is \$15 per student. For more information, call Ron Levin at Hoops Basketball at (248) 496-3268.

**Rockers Soccer Clinic**  
Rockers Soccer will be conducting a soccer clinic in the Bailey Center gymnasium 1-3 p.m. Thursday, April 16. Professional and college players will share their knowledge of the game in a clinic designed for boys and girls of all skill levels and in grades 1-8. Players will learn how to develop individual technique and team strategy. Cost is \$15 per student. Pre-register at the Bailey Center by April 14. For more information about Rockers Soccer programs, kick on to their Web site at [www.detroitrockers.net](http://www.detroitrockers.net), or send an e-mail the Rockers at [rockerssoccer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rockerssoccer@sbcglobal.net). Wear comfortable clothes, athletic shoes, and bring a bottle of water with your name on it.

**Learn to Ice Skate**  
Always wanted to try ice skating but need some instruction? Boys and girls ages 6-12 can learn the basics of this great sport at the Mike Modano Ice Arena! More advanced skaters welcome. Stay after the lesson for open skate. The clinic will be noon-12:45 p.m., followed by open skating 12:45-1:45 p.m. Wear comfortable clothes and good warm gloves. Helmet optional (bike helmet OK). The cost is \$5 per student. Pre-register by April 15 at the Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 North Wildwood. For more information, please call Joe Burton at (734) 729-4560.

**Detroit Lions Football Clinic**  
The Detroit Lions organization will conduct a football fundamentals clinic, focusing on the quarterback and running back positions, 10-11:30 a.m. Friday, April 17, at the Bailey Center. The clinic for ages 6-12 will focus on quarterback skills (throwing technique and footwork) and running back skills (ball security and footwork). Cost is \$20 per person and includes a Lions clinic T-shirt and additional Lions goodies. Register at the Bailey Center.

**Skate Park Blast**  
Special rates and surprises are on tap at the Concrete Jungle Skate Park 4-6 p.m. Friday, April 17. You must have your own skates or skate board to attend. Helmets, elbow pads, and knee pads are available for rent. The event is for children of all ages. The cost is \$1 per skater. For more information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7629.

# Non-athletes can learn from sports stars' money mistakes

You can't go anywhere these days without hearing or reading something about the economy. I pulled out my *Sports Illustrated* recently and there was an article — with a different twist — on what's happening in the economy.



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

The article dealt with athletes and how they go through money and what was a surprise was some of the statistics cited. For example, according to the *SI* article, 75 percent of all NFL players are in bankruptcy or in serious financial shape two years after they retire. Of course, you are asking how someone could be in serious financial shape when they have made millions and millions of dollars. As I always say, it is not what you make, it is what you save.

The *SI* article pointed out some of the common problems athletes have when it comes to investing money. There are some lessons to be learned from their mistakes. What's not surprising is one of the common mistakes athletes made was dealing with unscrupulous financial advisers. It is amazing how many athletes have been conned out of millions by their financial adviser.

Dealing with the wrong financial adviser is not unique to athletes. It happens to many people.

The lesson to learn from athletes is the importance of dealing with the right financial adviser. I believe the majority of individuals should be dealing with fee-only financial advisers. Fee-only financial advisers do not work on commissions. They are independent from investment products. One of the problems many investors have is that they're getting advice from an adviser who

has an inherent conflict of interest. When there is commission involved, you have to ask where is the loyalty. Is it to the product or to the investor? I believe an investor should deal with an adviser whose loyalty is to the investor and only the investor.

Another common subject amid the athlete's stories was excessive fees. Unfortunately, it's not only athletes who are paying excessive fees. For as long as I have been involved in the investment world, I have always preached to investors the need to understand fees. Never buy an investment unless you know what it cost to buy, to sell and to hold.

Fees matter and if you don't ask about fees there is no doubt that you will be taken advantage of. The reality of the situation is high fees equal low returns. Particularly in today's financial environment, high fees make it impossible for an investor to make money.

Another common issue involving athletes and their money is that they get involved in deals that are "can't miss." As far as I am concerned, investments and deals described this way are those to walk away from. All investments have risks. When an investment sounds too good to be true, it generally is.

Athletes have some unique issues when it comes to investing. After all, very few of us will ever make the money they do. However, we can learn from their mistakes and become better investors. The result of becoming a better investor is that more money stays in your pocket, exactly where it belongs.

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [monymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:monymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

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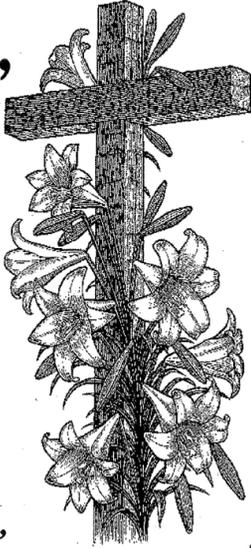
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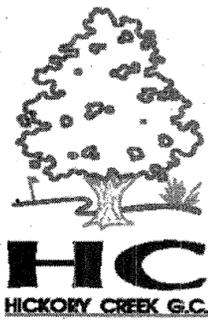
## McCotter to speak to Rotary

Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will speak Thursday, April 9, to the Westland Rotary.

The luncheon meeting will begin 12:15 p.m. at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland.

McCotter has been in the news lately expressing his views on the ailing U.S. automotive industry.

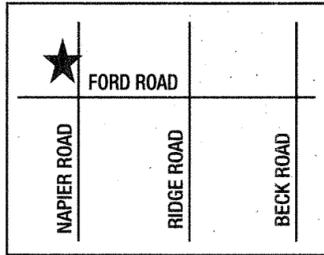
People interested in attending as a guest can call club secretary Dan Wilson at (313) 999-6685. Lunch costs \$10.



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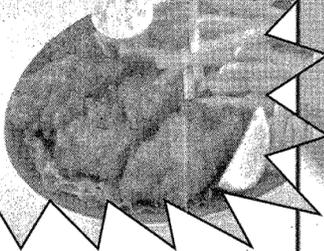
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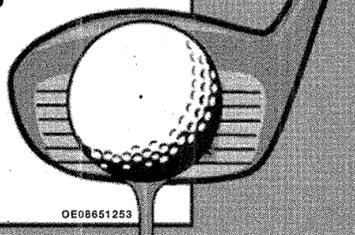


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# Musician shares message of social change

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



JULIE LEONARDSSON

Musician Anne Feeney doesn't agree with all of President Barack Obama's actions, but considers him a big improvement over his predecessor.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for us, isn't it?" the Pittsburgh area resident said during an appearance Monday at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland.

Feeney is an activist who uses her music to share a message of social change and justice. During last year's presidential campaign, she and others performed in a 23-city swing of Ohio.

"Of course, we were personally interested in seeing Ohio go blue," she said of her Obama support.

"We've proven we can elect a president," said Feeney, who thinks of Obama as the first president not elected by corporate interests. "Can we get national health care?" She asked her audience the same question about ending wars, with the refrain of *Yes, We Can*.

Her political leanings weren't secret at the library performance, with a song on

she still prefers him to George W. Bush.

She told of Florida college students she met who were largely unaware of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott of the 1950s. She asked them how long that boycott lasted.

"Their best answer was six days," she said of the more than a year long boycott. "Our history is not being taught right."

Based in Pittsburgh, Pa., Feeney is the granddaughter of a mineworkers' organizer, who also used music to carry the message of solidarity to working people. After two decades of community activism and regional performances at rallies, Feeney took her message on the road. Since 1991, Feeney has traveled to 42 states, as well as Canada, Mexico, Denmark, Ireland and Sweden.

Her anthem *Have You Been to Jail for Justice?* is being performed by activists everywhere, including Peter, Paul and Mary. She sang that song, like others with guitar accompaniment, in Westland. In 2005, she received the Joe Hill Award from the Labor Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. Past recipients include Cesar Chavez, Pete

Seeger, Faith Petric and Hazel Dickens.

Feeney was headed next to Elkhart, Ind., for an anniversary of a labor strike; she sang of Rosa Parks *My Feet Are Tired — But My Soul Is Rested*.

She writes her material and performs others' songs as well. Feeney cut back on Irish music as it became more prevalent, but did perform *I Married a Hero*, a song for Irish women.

"My kids were raised on picket lines and rallies," she told her Westland audience. The children would ask, "How come we always put signs in our yard for people who lose, Mommy?"

The Vietnam War and civil rights movement were strong influences on Feeney.

Feeney worked for about a dozen years as a trial attorney. She served as president of the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union.

Now, she's on the road more than 200 days a year, performing all over the U.S. and Canada, and more recently, Sweden and Denmark. Her Web site, [www.annefeeney.com](http://www.annefeeney.com), notes, "It's my privilege to spend most of my waking hours with people who are trying to make a difference in this world ... people on strike, or in a union or community

organizing drive, or defending women's rights, the environment, human rights ... working to end poverty and racism ... teaching peace."

Feeney performs at many rallies organized by teachers and other education unions to protest school cuts. She sang a song at the library urging there be more books, more learning, less fighting and less greed in schools.

She sang a song of the recently passed Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act as a tribute to Women's History Month. Feeney also sang songs of the Industrial Workers of the

World union, known as the Wobblies.

"I loved it," said Cheryl Napsha, Westland library director. "I'm a happy girl."

She noted the library is working to offer cultural and social events.

"We're doing a lot of music," Napsha said.

Another fan was Kathie Gladden, a Canton resident and Canton Public Library staffer.

"I think it's great," Gladden said during the break. "I'm enjoying it tremendously. It's perfect for the new era we're embarking on."

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OUR VIEWS

Law and order:  
let that happen

There has been a lot written on our Web site about Westland Fire Marshal Chris Szpara who was involved in a hit-and-run accident on March 24, and the actions of the Westland police related to that incident.

The authors of those comments believe Szpara was given special treatment because of his position with the city, that the police failed to do their job by not administering a Breathalyzer test. Szpara has admitted that he had a couple of beers before the accident.

The firestorm that surrounds this incident is understandable. There are steps that the police take when they encounter a drunken driver. We all know them, we've watched them play out on television shows like *Cops*. We also pretty much know the ramifications of being arrested and found guilty of driving drunk.

None of those things have happened here. Even before Chris Szpara's case has been completed, he has been tried and found guilty in the court of public opinion. He is already paying a price for his mistake. Being suspended without pay will cost him \$20,000 in wages. That is far more severe than the fines and penalties he potentially faces if charges are brought against him. How many of us could afford that?

Chris Szpara got caught and he is paying the price. How many of us have never made a mistake, exercised poor judgment or gotten behind the wheel of a car after having a couple of beers or mixed drinks? Let's face it, we all at some point in time have made mistakes. Sometimes we get caught, sometimes we don't.

What is lost in all this is the good things Szpara has done for the city during his 17 years with the fire department. According to Fire Chief Michael Reddy, Szpara has a good record and "does an excellent job for the city."

We are not here to say the police did right or wrong nor to demand Szpara's head on a plate. We believe city and fire officials have acted wisely in addressing the situation. We are here to urge residents to let justice take its course. Attorney James Nellis already has approved a warrant against Szpara for leaving the scene of a property damage accident, which could put six points on his driving record.

Enough stones have been thrown. It's time to back off and let the legal process go forward. Under our judicial system, Chris Szpara is innocent until proven guilty. That's what our country stands for and what needs to happen here and now.

WeslandRes

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you plan on taking a vacation this year?

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland.



"I'm not taking one. I don't have the money, especially with the economy. I have to use wisdom and try to pay mortgage and student loans."

Micrin Brittman  
Westland



"No, it would cost money. I've never had money to take a vacation, so nothing has changed."

Darci Gilbert  
Westland



"No, I'm not planning anything at this minute."

Ilene Fowler  
Westland



"I'm not sure because of my finances."

Maia White  
Westland

LETTERS

Help the people

Is the middle class being sold out?  
1. How is freeing up credit going to help the millions of middle class Americans that have lost their jobs due to the financial institutions' reckless lending practices obtain any type of credit to purchase homes or any other high end purchases?

2. Millions of middle class Americans have already been foreclosed on due to these job losses and are now faced with a bad credit score. What bank is going to go out on a limb and extend credit to them (without high risk interest rates)?  
3. How is middle class America that is still fortunate to have a job but have been subject to wage cuts and can barely, if at all, keep their heads above water going to be able to qualify for any type of credit to sustain their households?

While our government tries to fix this catastrophic problem, what happens to the people already in financial ruins (through no fault of their own)? Their credit scores will be so low that they won't qualify for any type of loan from the banks (who created this problem). These Americans will be left behind so to speak.

While billions and billions of dollars are being thrown around to the institutions that caused this mess, millions of households are going to have to struggle for years to overcome the mess they put us in. While tax credits for people buying homes is a good gesture, they don't help the millions already kicked out of their homes. These once proud homeowners are going to be forced into renting a home until their credit is repaired to the point that a bank might give them another chance. That could take years.

I constantly listen to the news and I fume over the fact that we have to act immediately to save the economy. How is this economy going to rebound when no one that has been left behind (millions of people) will be able to buy an automobile or a home because no one will finance them due to the fact that there is a foreclosure on their credit report?

With all the billions being thrown around I have yet to hear any politicians say "let's bail out the middle class Americans affected by this crisis." If this government (for the people) were to go that route, I think it would cost a lot less. The government could have given every American over the age of 21 \$250,000 dollars to take care of mortgages, student loans, auto loans and credit cards. With all that debt wiped away, what do you think would happen with the money they may have left over? I know what I would do, I would spend it.

That is just what this economy needs, me to spend my money. The government would save money due to the fact that the banks wouldn't have all these toxic assets on their books, they would be paid off by the people who own those debts.

Dan Storm  
Westland

Put blame on Congress

This "outrage" over corporate bonuses has to change directions. The outrage should be aimed at the problem, our government. They created this mess and



George Kell 1922-2009

What do you think?

Mail comments to the Westland Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to smason@hometownlife.com.

now that we're fed up paying through the nose for their mistakes, they are trying to slide the blame onto the banks and financial institutions.

What makes this all the more painfully ridiculous is the fact that those members of Congress who have had the most to do with creating the risks that led to the current economic dump, are making the most noise against others, and summoning people before their committee to be raked over the coals and humiliated on nationwide television.

No one pushed harder than Congressman Barney Frank to force banks and our financial institutions to reduce their mortgage lending standards, in order to meet government set goals for more homeownership. Those lower mortgage lending standards are at the heart of the problem of the mortgage market and the cause of the collapse of Wall Street and the global economy

Sen. Christopher Dodd has played the same role in the Senate as Barney Frank played in the House. Now both are summoning government employees and the officials of financial institutions before their committees to be hammered in front of the media.

Dodd and Frank know that the best defense is a good offense. Both know how hard it would be to defend their own roles in the housing debacle, so they go on the offensive against others who are in no position to fight back, given the venomous powers of Congress.

Dodd and Frank are creating this distraction from their own role because they voted for the very legislation that enabled contracted bonuses to be paid to companies like AIG from the TARP funds. If they and other members of Congress couldn't be bothered to read the laws they pass, then they have no basis for being there and therefore should at the very least, resign. I for one would like to see them convicted!

They were entrusted to oversee these operations and they have failed on multiple levels. President Bush asked Barney Frank and Maxine Waters on many occasions to report on the problems that were brought to his attention by the likes of John McCain and others as early as 2004 and was told by Frank and Waters that "Freddie and Fannie are fine, nothing to worry about"

President Obama stated that the company's (AIG) financial problems were the result of "recklessness and greed" and "under these circumstances, it is hard to understand how derivative traders at AIG warranted any bonuses, much less \$165 million in extra pay. How do they justify this outrage to the taxpayers who are keeping the company afloat?"

Some of these "bonuses" were earned prior to the collapse. These traders work on commissions and these commissions were due them before the collapse happened. Now Congress wants to tax those bonuses at 90 percent because Geithner, Frank and Dodd got caught with their pants down and they are creating a smoke screen to save their own hides. They signed the agreement when they signed the stimulus package without reading it!

Now these traders have decided to return the money because our government told them that they were going to release their names and then they would be under public scrutiny, not to mention what harm might come to them and their families.

This should scare the hell out of all of us. If they can tax people like this because they feel they are getting too much money, then they can surely dictate to us how much money we can make by taxing us accordingly.

Remember to mail your tea bags to "The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20500" or just after April 1 to get it there in time for Tax Tea Day. There is also a Tea Party happening in Lansing on April 15, noon to 1 p.m. Show up if you can. More info on this can be found at: <http://tax-dayteaparty.com/>

Phil Solarz  
Westland

ONLINE  
VOICES & VIEWS

Questions need answers

I know that there are a lot of people who need to answer as to why this situation was handled or not handled correctly. Maybe people should call the mayor's office or attend the next council meeting and ask why our city is being run like the big D. Questions to ask would be why such an expensive car for city use. Why is he being paid while on leave? Why wasn't he tested? Why no ticket for causing an accident? Who is footing the bill? Enough of protecting the member's of the city's country club. I have lost what little respect I have left for Police Chief Reddy. Not only should the fire marshal be suspended without pay, so should the officers who failed to do their job! There are lots of people looking for jobs and I am sure that they would be willing to do their job according to set policies. Drunk driving is unacceptable no matter who you are, and some one needs to take a stand against the city in how this was handled.

Join the discussion

Do you agree that General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner had to be fired?

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

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# pink

## Short and sassy trends set stage for prom

Wensdy Von Buskirk, Editor . (313) 222-8883. wvonb@hometownlife.com

### MALLS & MAIN STREETS

#### SISTER & SISTER

**BIRMINGHAM** — The 3rd Annual Sister & Sister Luncheon and Fashionable Event for Men and Women will take place 3-5 p.m. April 5 at the Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, Birmingham. POH Regional Medical Center doctors will join cancer survivors as models, and WDIV Reporter Paula Tutman is mistress of ceremonies. Tickets, \$100, benefit the POH Riley Foundation, which provides free mammograms to uninsured and underserved women in Oakland County. For more information, call (248) 338-5385.

#### NCAA FASHION FLASH

**DETROIT** — Curator Laura Deljanin will host "Champions Play Here," an art, music and fashion event at Tangent Gallery April 4 in conjunction with the NCAA championship. The event features basketball- and Detroit-themed artwork, DJ Raj Mahal, V.I.P. reception with buffet and drinks, and a 313Fad halftime fashion show, \$10, reception; gallery show, free. Tangent Gallery is located at 715 E. Milwaukee in Detroit. Call (313) 873-2955.

#### DETROIT ROCKS!

**BIRMINGHAM** — Detroit Rocks! will host a grand opening event 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 22. The new store, launched by Robert Dempster and Steve Main at 115 West Maple in the old Sherman Shoe Store, carries "everything Detroit," including vintage clothing, men's and women's T-shirts, buttons, rock posters, decals, CDs, and women's shoes, sandals and boots. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. Call (248) 646-1032 or visit [www.detroitrockusa.com](http://www.detroitrockusa.com).

#### NADWA HAIR SPA OPENS

**WEST BLOOMFIELD** — Nadwa Hair Spa, a new salon and spa from owner Nadwa Yono, recently opened at 6923 Orchard Lake Road, south of Maple, in the Boardwalk Shopping Center. Nadwa's offers an array of hair, health and beauty services — including Australian Hydrotherapy, found nowhere else in Michigan. The new salon also provides the latest products for women suffering from diffused hair loss, including hair attachments, wigs and extensions; hand and foot hydrotherapy; manicure treatment bar; makeup area featuring pure, hand-made mineral offerings; chemical studio area which utilizes steam to promote color changes and enhancements in mere minutes; and a separate area for men's grooming. Call (248) 851-8100 or visit [nadwa.com](http://nadwa.com).

[hairspa.com](http://hairspa.com).

#### SHOE CARNIVAL GOES BOGO

**METRO DETROIT** — Shoe Carnival customers will receive a "BOGO When You Want 2" card with any purchase during its Spring Sale Event, April 1-11. The card allows shoppers to return anytime through Jan. 19, 2010 and get 1/2-off a second pair of shoes with another purchase. Shoe Carnival is a chain of more than 300 footwear stores located in the Midwest, South and Southeast. Visit [www.shoecarnival.com](http://www.shoecarnival.com) for locations and information.

#### SHIRT BOX COLLECTS CLOTHES

**FARMINGTON HILLS** — The Shirt Box continues to collect gently used men's professional clothing through "The Shirts Off Our Back: From Our Closet to Yours," in partnership with Detroit's Neighborhood Service Organization. Drop off dress shirts, slacks, ties and sports coats at The Shirt Box, 32500 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. The clothing will help NSO's clients dress for success when applying for new jobs and making the transition back into the workforce. Call (248) 851-6770.

#### VINTAGE CLOTHING SHOW

**SOUTHFIELD** — The Midwest Vintage Clothing, Jewelry and Textile Show and Sale will be held April 3-4 at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road. Show hours are 5-10 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

#### EASTER BUNNY ARRIVES

**METRO DETROIT** — The Easter Bunny is holding court at area malls through April 11. He has already arrived at Twelve Oaks in Novi, Westland Center in Westland, Oakland Mall in Troy, and Laurel Park Place in Livonia, and The Village of Rochester Hills. Somerset's bunny, Hester Fairweather, will arrive today at the North Grand Court amidst whimsical pop-up book decor and a labyrinth carpet. All locations offer photo packages. Check online for times.

This prom gown by Alyce Designs is short and sparkly in line with today's trends.



Today's teens are doing their research when it comes to finding the perfect prom dress.

That's according to Claudine Hamm at Alyce Designs, which has been designing dresses for over 40 years — including the one Britney Spears wore to her own prom.

"Today's prom-goers have been watching their favorite television shows, ripping out pages of inspiration from fashion magazines and taking notes on what young Hollywood stars wore during the recent award season," Hamm said.

So what's hot for prom this year? Hamm shares the top trends:

**Metallic mix:** From shimmer satins to silver lame, the gold standard is still metallics. Look for them in burnished tints, from bronzed and coppered satin to softly minted taffetas with a blush of shine.

**Animal prints:** The wild side of fashion remains in vogue. If you're not daring enough for a full leopard print gown,

try a hint of animal print in sashes, exposed lining or bead details.

**Brilliant hue:** Bright, juicy color choices are knocking out the little black dress this year. Whether you favor fuchsia, emerald green, neon yellow or radiant red, no color is too bold for prom night.

**Noticeable necklines:** From the recent Academy Awards to fashion runways around the world, varying one-shoulder silhouettes and sweetheart necklines have turned heads. Simple or striking, the necklines can also be embellished with sequins and beads.

**Short and sassy:** Cocktail length is completely acceptable for Prom 2009. Try on short dresses with bubble hems, belted bodices, full skirts or tulle for a fun and flirty look.

Alyce Designs Prom Collections are sold at over 1,800 retailers nationwide including Star Fashion, Troy; First Lady, Southfield; and Boutique Angelique, Rochester. Visit [www.alycedesigns.com](http://www.alycedesigns.com).

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## Ace effort

### Chargers' Matigian handcuffs CC, 6-3

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's still early, but Livonia Churchill notched a signature baseball win Monday at home with a 6-3 triumph over Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

Sophomore right-hander Ben Matigian showed maturity beyond his years by going all seven innings, allowing just four hits and three walks to pick up the victory as the Chargers improved to 2-0-1 overall.

Senior catcher Tyler Bledsoe provided the offense with a bases

#### PREP BASEBALL

loaded, 2-run single in the opening inning. He also added an RBI single in the third inning, while Mike Mato's sacrifice fly brought Matt Kowalis home with another run in the fifth.

CC (1-1) got three back in the top of the sixth highlighted by Keenan Hart's RBI double.

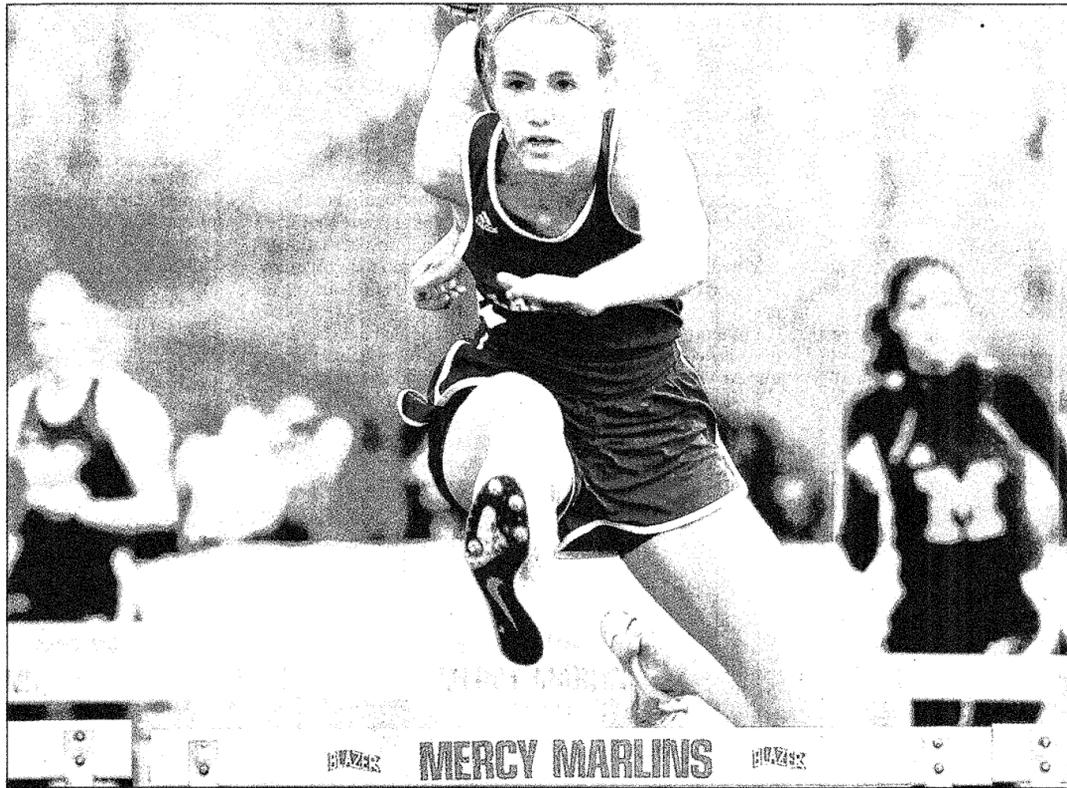
But Matigian closed out the game by blanking the Shamrocks in the top of the seventh to secure the victory.

"He's a quiet kid, but a competitive kid who pitches with a lot of composure," Churchill coach Ron Targosz said of his 10th-grade starter. "He kept the ball around the plate, and even when he missed, it was not by much, the umpire said."

CC starter Brett Gossett suffered the loss, while Tony Thomax collected two of the Shamrocks' four hits.

"The kids played well, they were fired up," Targosz said. "We have a veteran infield, but on Friday (a win and a tie with South Lyon East) we struggled at times in the field. Today our guys made some plays that were not easy and it helped Ben out."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851



Ladywood's Megan Yanik was the area's top hurdler in the both the 100 highs and 300 lows.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## On the right track

### Franklin girls have high aspirations in Kensington Lakes

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Could there be a changing of the guard in area girls track?

This could be the year for Livonia Franklin, which returns a trio of first-team All-Observer performers in pole vaulter Emily Quint, who has already equaled the school record (10 feet); high jumper Liz Holloway, who ranks second all-time in school history); and 400-meter runner Ashly Butkowski (1:01.9).

The Patriots move out of the Western Lakes and into the new KLAA Kensington Conference's South Division

See capsule outlook of area girls track and field teams on [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

along with defending Division 1 regional and Public Schools of Livonia champion Churchill; Canton, Plymouth, Westland John Glenn and Wayne Memorial.

"I know the other teams in the (KLAA) South division have improved a lot and will be gunning for us," said Franklin ninth-year coach Dave Bjorklund, whose team finished third at the regional last year. "And swapping Northville for Churchill means first place in the division will definitely go through them. We had a lot of third

places in the regional last year, and we are hoping to catapult that into a lot of state qualifiers this season."

Churchill was hard-hit by graduation losses, but coach Pat Daugherty will rely on junior Sara Kroll, who clocked a 2:17.3 in the 800 run en route to a sixth-place finish at the state meet. She also ran 5:14.8 in the 1,600.

"Last year, we relied heavily on our outstanding senior class and they did not disappoint carrying us to a division and regional title and runner-up to a very good Northville team at

Please see **GIRLS, B2**

## Passing the baton: boys squads ready

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It could be another sprint to the finish again this season for area boys track teams.

Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Franklin and Westland John Glenn all carried the baton effectively last spring in the 4x100-meter relay.

Stevenson, which captured the Observerland Relays, Western Lakes Activities Association and Division 1 regional titles, led the area with a time of 42.74 in the 4x100, which led to a fifth-place finish in the Division 1 state finals.

Stevenson, which lost its season opener Tuesday to Salem, returns three of the four legs including seniors Nick Anagnostou and Jacob Gudeman, along with junior Austin White.

Not far behind was Franklin, which clocked a sixth-place time of 42.8 with Isaac Cadet, Paul Voegele and Mike Baumgardner all returning.

Glenn's 400 (42.81) and 800 relay quartets (1:29.9) placed seventh and sixth, respectively, in the state.

Unfortunately for the Rockets, all four members have departed, three via graduation.

Wayne Memorial may have one of the area's top hurdlers in senior Renaldo Powell, who opened the outdoor season Tuesday against Livonia Franklin with an impressive clocking of 14.4

See capsule outlook of area boys track and field squads by visiting [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

in the 110 hurdles.

Livonia Churchill is also optimistic under 14th-year coach Rick Austin.

The Chargers return first-team All-Observer pole vaulter Derik Peterman, a senior, who cleared a school-record 15-3 en route to a fourth-place finish in the Division 1 meet.

Peterman also stands out as a hurdler.

Three of the Chargers' 4x200 relay team returns in seniors Travis Tomey, Jeff Ricketts and Devon Easterling.

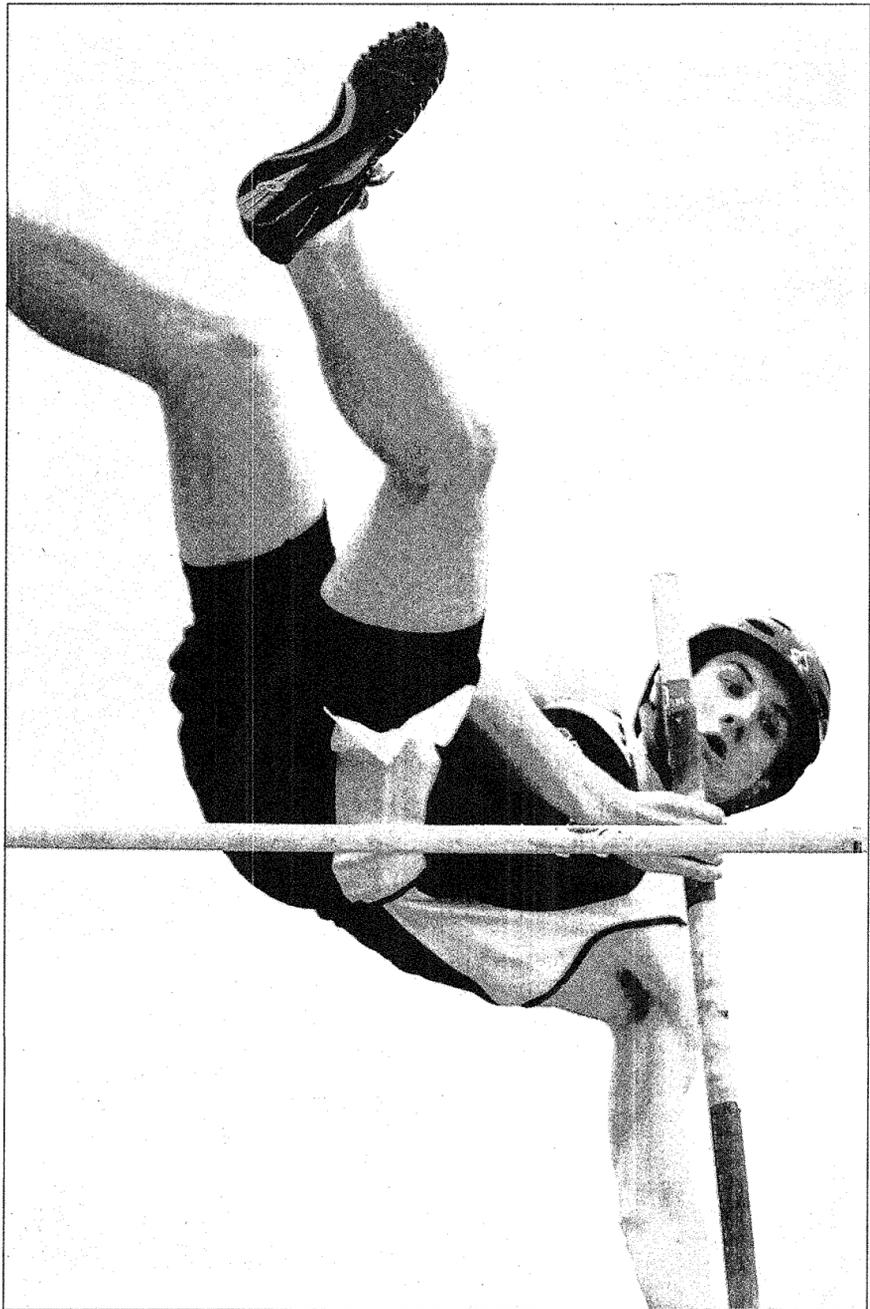
In the Metro Conference, Lutheran High Westland's Mike Unger enter his 37th season coaching the Warriors, who won the Division 4 regional.

The top returnee for the defending conference champions is senior distance runner Spencer Lyle, a third-team All-Area selection in the 1,600.

Also hoping to make an impact in the Metro is Livonia Clarenceville, coming off a successful dual meet season (11-3) and a third-place finish.

The Trojans should get a boost from Livonia City Meet 100 dash champion Jeremy Gainer, a Michigan State football signee who was hampered most of last season with a sore hamstring.

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Churchill's Derik Peterman soared to a school-record 15 feet, 3 inches in the pole vault and finished fourth in the Division 1 state meet.

## GAME WRAPS

### KLAA baseball

**FRANKLIN 5, GARDEN CITY 1:** A five-run sixth broke open a scoreless game Tuesday as visiting Livonia Franklin (2-1) defeated Garden City (2-2) in a nonconference baseball matchup.

Going all the way for the Patriots was senior pitcher Garret Gumm, who scattered six hits and lost his shutout thanks to an unearned run in the seventh. Senior Michael Basner collected two hits for the Patriots.

Garden City got on the board on a muffed ground ball that followed singles by Ben Vera-Burgos and Mark Kirm.

**JOHN GLENN 4-5, HARRISON 3-8:** Senior Andrew DeLuca went 7-for-7 on Saturday as Westland John Glenn (2-2) earned a split of a twinbill with host Farmington Hills Harrison (1-1).

Glenn won the opener, 4-3, as DeLuca and Vince Creighton each collected three hits.

Glenn starter Jake Campbell got the victory, while Andrew McGrath came on to earn the save.

Harrison won the nightcap, 8-5, as DeLuca took the loss. He went 4-for-4 and scored twice. Nate Bovia added two hits and two RBI. Creighton went 2-for-4.

**WAYNE 5-5, GARDEN CITY 3-6:** On Saturday, Wayne Memorial (1-2) captured the opener 5-3, with two runs in the top of the seventh doing in the Cougars (2-1), who committed several key errors.

Garden City won Game Two, 6-5, spearheaded by five runs in the first.

Despite that early lead, Wayne nearly tied the game in the seventh.

Garden City led 6-4, but the Zebras loaded the bases when a Wayne batter stroked a single to right.

Gigactic Williams picked up the ball and threw out the potential tying run at home plate to end the game.

Nate McHugh earned the pitching victory, going 4.1 innings while Chad Even finished up for the save.

Gordie Dial collected two hits, drove in two and scored a run. What turned out to be the game-winning RBI was a sacrifice fly by Josh Merryman in the sixth.

### Metro baseball

**MADISON 6, CLARENCEVILLE 1:** Several first-inning errors cost Livonia Clarenceville (1-1) in Tuesday's nonconference setback to Madison Heights Madison (1-0).

The Trojans fell behind 5-0 in the first could not rally before starter Mike Schiffman settled down after the rough first inning and threw a complete game.

Schiffman also went 2-for-3 at the plate along with Ben Gehan, who contributed an RBI double.

**CLARENCEVILLE 14, LATHRUP 13:** On Monday, host Livonia Clarenceville (1-0) walked off with a win in this nonconference season opener on Ben Gehan's bases loaded free pass in the bottom of the seventh scoring Chris Diaz for the winning run against Southfield Lathrup (0-1).

Clarenceville actually grabbed a 9-0 lead, but the Chargers rallied for a 13-11 advantage. The Trojans, who rattled 15 hits around the home field, evened things in the bottom of the sixth thanks to a two-run single by Jimmy Moody (3-for-5, including two doubles, three runs, 4 RBI).

Earning the victory was Damien Sanchez, who gave up just two hits while striking out four in 2.1 innings.

Other offensive highlights for Clarenceville included an RBI single by Eric Trotter (2-for-2) and a run-scoring double by John James. Also with multiple hits was sophomore infielder Danny Blacker.



Courtney Calka Stevenson



Sara Kroll Churchill



Emily Quint Franklin



Liz Hollaway Franklin



Ashly Butkowski Franklin



Chanel Payne John Glenn

# Late Athens goals beat Spartans

Troy Athens scored a pair of goals in the final 12 minutes Monday to upend Livonia Stevenson, 2-1, in a non-league girls soccer encounter.

Stevenson jumped out to a 1-0 lead at the 18-minute mark on a goal by Krysta Kane off an assist from Renee Boudreau.

"I was proud of my girls tonight," Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said. "I thought overall they worked hard, and competed against a very solid Troy Athens team. For the amount of pressure they were under, I felt my backs did an impressive job tonight, many are currently still learning to play there."

Pinta singled out the play of Taleen Mergian on the backline, along with the play of Kayla Kimble in the middle and Boudreau up front.

FERDALE 3, WAYNE 1: In a non-conference matchup Tuesday, host

## GIRLS SOCCER

Wayne Memorial (0-2) fell to the visiting Eagles (1-1).

Alysa Escobar scored unassisted in the first half for the Zebras, who trailed 2-1 at intermission.

Goalkeeper Ashley Struppa made 15 saves in the loss.

LADYWOOD 1, SALEM 1: Ariel Dew's goal in the 61st minute Monday enabled the host Rocks (0-0-1) to earn a draw against Livonia Ladywood (2-1-1) in a non-leaguer.

Ladywood's Alexa Hyman scored in the ninth minute from Allison Bielski.

Michele Ring made six saves for the Blazers, while Tracey Whalen had five stops for Salem.

MARIAN 5, LADYWOOD 0: On Friday, three first-half goals carried host Bloomfield Hills Marian (2-0, 1-0) to a Catholic League Central Division triumph over Livonia Ladywood (2-1, 0-1) at Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac.

Goals by Stephanie Pilarski, Erin Ring and Anina Ciccerone

staked the Mustangs to a 3-0 halftime lead.

Danielle Mazur and Sara Zawacki added second-half goals.

Goalkeepers Whitney Sarkis and Marisa Opie combined for three saves and the shutout for Marian.

Michele Ring made 11 saves for the Blazers.

"They got two early goals and things avalanched on us," Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker said. "Marian was excellent from the opening whistle. The amount of injuries we have been dealing with has not helped us. We know we have work to do."

MILFORD 8, WAYNE 0: On Friday, Ryan Winn scored four times in the opening half and freshmen Sarah Bonhard added a pair of goals as the Mavericks (1-1) booted host Wayne Memorial (0-1).

Other goal scorers for Milford including Adrien Allward and Michelle Dant. Goalkeepers Alyssa Adams and Sam Sturgeon combined for the shutout.

## GIRLS

FROM PAGE B1

the last WLAA conference meet," Daugherty said. "I see Franklin, John Glenn, Stevenson and Northville as the top challengers for the division and conference titles."

Livonia Stevenson will once again rely on one of its most decorated track and field athletes in senior Courtney Calka, who clocked an area best 5:01.43 at last year's regional. She also placed fifth in the Division 1 state meet. She also ranked second in the area in

the 800 (2:21.4) and 3,200 (11:24.4).

Meanwhile, Westland John Glenn will be led by senior sprinter/long jumper Chanel Payne, while Wayne Memorial returns top sprinter Rochelle Woods, a junior.

Livonia Ladywood, with everybody returning, could make noise in the Catholic League's Central Division and the Division 2 regional as the first-team All-Observer and league champion 4 x 400 relay team of Meghan Clark, Katie Morasso, Megan Vitale and Megan Yanik remains intact (4:09.3).

Yanik, a junior, also led the area in the 100 hurdles

(15.4) and 300 hurdles (school record 46.5).

Another team on the rise is Livonia Clarenceville, led by Southfield-Lathrup transfer Syndi Clark, a state placer in Division 1 who has signed an NCAA letter-of-intent at Michigan State.

"It looks to be an exciting year for us as this is the most talented team I have seen in my years at Clarenceville," coach Brady Gustafson said.

Lutheran High Westland, co-coached by Alyssia Hall and Angie Matthews, will get a boost from 1,600 runner Nicole Zehel, a junior.

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# All-Observer grapplers secure hold on greatness

## FIRST-TEAM

**DUSTIN, GAJOWIAK, SR., JOHN GLENN (285):** The junior went 47-11 this year including a fifth-place finish at the Division 1 individual state finals following runner-up finishes at both the district and regional.

Sporting a career mark of 83-31, Gajowiak was also KLAAs Kensington Conference champion, second at the Observerland Invitational and third at the Novi Detroit Catholic Central Invitational.

"Dustin finished this year peaking at the right time," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "His fifth-place finish was the result of his work ethic in practice and on the mat in competition. He is also a three-sport athlete for Glenn as well as a good student. He is the most successful heavyweight I have coached thus far and he still has one year of competition remaining. He wants to play college football and we're helping him train for that opportunity. We look forward to great things from Dustin his senior year."

**STEVE WAKEFORD, JR., JOHN GLENN (103):** The junior, 45-15, took sixth at the state finals after placing runner-up at both the regional and district.

He also won the Kensington Conference crown and was runner-up at both Observerland and Napoleon. He also added third at the CC and Salem invitationals.

"Steve is a competitor and a very good athlete," Polk said. "A lot of kids his size would make excuse why they can't compete with bigger guys, but not Steve. He look forward to taking on all challengers. He is very strong for his size and can lift more than most of my guys that are 145 pounds. He is also on the varsity baseball and football teams. Not many kids are three-sport athletes anymore, but he is competitive in all three. Next year he'll be in the hunt for a title."

**NICK KIM, SOPH., SALEM (103):** Kim, who finished with a 37-13 record, enjoyed a sensational sophomore season, which was highlighted by a championship performance at the Fowlerville Invitational and an eighth-place showing at the Division 1 individual state meet. The effort earned Kim a spot on the Salem "Wall of Champions."

"Nick is only in his second season of wrestling and he proved what can be done when all the components of the sport are put together," said Salem coach Greg Wochuk. "We look forward to watching Nick develop even further in the future."

**WALEED FARAJ, JR., CANTON (112):** The junior went 45-12 to improve his career mark to 82-36. He was the KLAAs individual conference champion at 112 pounds before placed third in the District tournament, second at Regional and eighth at the Division 1 state meet.

"Waleed is one of our talented junior that will be back next season," said Canton coach Corey Mancuso. "It will be exciting to see how he makes the transition to a heavier weight class next season as he tries to improve on this season's eighth-place finish at the state meet."

**CARL LUCKE, SR., CANTON (119):** Lucke capped a spectacular high school career with a 51-13 record that closed with a stellar seventh-place finish at the Division 1 state meet. He earned second at the District meet and third at the Regional competition. His four-year varsity record was 146-54.

"Carl is nicknamed 'Tank' because he goes after his opponents at a hard pace for six minutes every time he steps on the mat," said Mancuso. "Carl was a captain the past two seasons and one cannot say enough about what he has done for the Canton program. Carl is currently looking for a college where he hopes to wrestle next season."

**ANTHONY PAVLICH, JR., JOHN GLENN (125):** The junior, 30-11 overall, earned an eighth-place finish at the Division 1 state finals after placing runner-up at the district and regional.

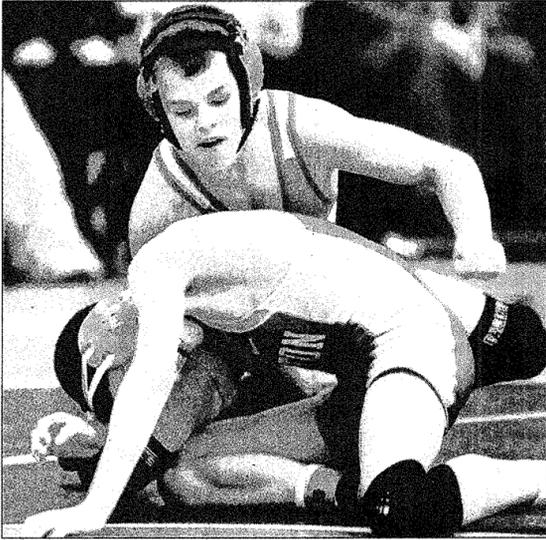
Pavlich, sporting a 115-30 career mark, also took first at the Salem Invitational and second at Observerland.

"Anthony has put a lot of time into this sport since he was in middle school," Polk said. "He wrestles all summer because he has his sights set on being Glenn's next state champion. He has had a humbling year and was able to finish strong medaling for the second time after jumping three weight classes from last year - and two during the season. We're proud of him and look forward to his senior year."

**JEREMY FILIPPPELLI, SR., CANTON (130):** Filippelli wrapped up an outstanding high school career with a 45-8 record, which improved his overall mark to 101-35. Highlights of his success-laden season were titles at Observerland and the KLAAs conference championship meet.

"Jeremy was the heart and soul of this year's team," said Mancuso. "A vocal leader who helped keep the team together through this transition season. Jeremy is currently looking for a college where he plans to wrestle next season."

**JARED STEPHENS, SR., JOHN GLENN (135):** The state runner-up, who fell in overtime in the finals, finished the



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn's Steven Wakeford, a junior, earned first-team All-Observer honors at 103 pounds following an outstanding season where he placed at the Division 1 individual state finals last month at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

season with a 27-4 record.

He was runner-up at the district and Kensington Conference meets, while adding a third at the regional.

He is a three-time state qualifier and two-time state placer who finished 130-39 for his career.

"Jared is the type of person that could make the entire room laugh or have to work extra for the day depending on the situation," Polk said. "Jared is a very intelligent young man that can accomplish anything he puts his focus on. He has had a few setbacks over his career and I'm glad to see him finish with another state medal. I look forward to seeing what Jared becomes in the future."

**DONNIE WATKINS, JR., CANTON (135):** Watkins is etching his name onto the list of the school's all-time great grapplers following a season in which he won 59 of 62 matches to improve his three-year prep record to 156-19. He won three top-level tournaments before placing first at the District meet, second at Regionals and third at the DI state meet.

"Donnie is one of our most talented juniors," said Mancuso. "He is a near-fall scoring machine as he broke the records for most two-point and three-point falls in a season. He is a three-time state placer who will look to cap next season off with gold."

**JIMMY MANN, SR., JOHN GLENN (140):** The transfer from New Boston Huron ended up 43-6 overall, including a fifth-place finish at the state meet.

He also took the district, Kensington Conference, Salem and Napoleon invitationals titles. He was runner-up at the CC Invitational and fourth at the regional.

His career record is 158-41 overall.

"Jimmy was the most consistent performer on our team," Polk said. "He's one of our quiet guys that came to practice and got the job done on a daily basis. Every coach enjoys having those guys in the lineup that you can depend on to get the win in whatever situation that is need."

"He was a great addition to our team and was in intricate part of contributing to our run to Battle Creek. It's tough to replace guys like Jimmy."

**BRENT WINEKOFF, JR., CANTON (145):** Winekoff was ranked No. 1 at 145 pounds most of the season by MichiganGrappler.com. The junior compiled a 62-2 mark that included first-place showing at the Observerland meet, the KLAAs individual conference tournament, the district tourney and the regional competition. He capped a remarkable year with a third-place showing at the state meet.

"Brent Winekoff is one of our most talented juniors," Mancuso said. "He led the team in pins with 36 and tied his own school record for takedowns in a season with 209. Brent is a two-time state placer and next season will be in the hunt for Canton's second state individual title."

**ZAID AMMARI, SR., JOHN GLENN (152):** The state qualifier posted a 46-16 record his senior year after placing third at the regional and second at the district.

Ammari also captured the Kensington Conference and Napoleon Invitational crowns. He added a runner-up finish at Salem.

"Zaid is proud of what hard work and dedication can do for you," Polk said. "In his younger days he scrapped with the best kids in our room and took it like a man. Because of all his determination and commitment, he made it to the Palace this season. Zaid is an example of what we want our wrestlers to become year after year. He was very easy to coach because he did whatever we asked him to do."

The two-year captain was 109-70 during his Glenn career.

"His work ethic is second to none and I'm sure it will lead him to many successes in life," Polk said.

**STEPHEN KEMP, SR., LUTH. WESTLAND (160):** A four-time individual state quali-

fier, Kemp ended his career with a fifth-place finish at the Division 4 finals. He was 45-6 this season and 192-30 for his career.

The team captain was also a district champion and third-place finisher at the regional. Kemp earned Metro Conference MVP honors and won both the Dearborn Fordson and Romulus Summit Academy tournaments, as well as going undefeated at the Franklin Tournament.

"His commitment and hard work is what set him apart from most," Lutheran Westland coach Dennis Tuomi said. "He was a tremendous leader. Kids like him don't come along often."

**KEITH ZECH, JR., CANTON (171):** Zech sparked in his first full season on the varsity, racking up a 40-18 record to improve his career mark to 69-49. He qualified for the state meet thanks to a third-place showing at the Regional.

"Keith was one of our major surprises this season," said Mancuso. "Last season Keith finished with a record of 24-25 and this season he was a state qualifier. Keith's success on the mat this season is a result of his hard work in the practice room."

**AUSTIN ROOT, JR., SALEM (189):** Root posted a 31-9 mark to improve his career record at Salem to 63-21. He advanced to the finals in six tournaments, including Observerland and the KLAAs conference meet.

"Austin is by far the best athlete on our team," Wochuk emphasized. "He is a large part of the success of our upper-weights this year because of how hard his teammates had to work to keep up with his natural ability."

**CODY HAY, SR., LIV. FRANKLIN (215):** The senior finished the year 55-15 overall, including an eighth-place finish at the state finals following a first at the district and a third at the regional.

He was also the Franklin Invitational champion. Hay's career mark is 100-44.

"Cody turned it on at the right time of the year," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "He's not the most physically dominate person on the mat, but he gives everything he has. He's very determined, and very tough to score on. When he's in a match he knows exactly what he needs to do to win. He's come a long way since his freshman year and should be very proud of his accomplishments."

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
**BILL POLK, JOHN GLENN:** The ninth-year coach is no stranger to success on the mat as he guided the Rockets to their most successful season in school history.

Under Polk's guidance, Glenn reached the Elite Eight of the Division 1 state team finals in Battle Creek as the Rockets posted a 27-8 dual-match mark.

After capturing the district, Glenn won a thrilling regional tie-breaker over Canton.

"Early in the season we beat some good teams, but we had some injuries, discipline issues and some things we had to fix," said the 35-year-old Polk. "This team came together at the right time and believed in themselves. We had come close the last few years, but everything had to come together for the run we had - and it did. We had a great year, it was fun and rewarding."

The Rockets were also KLAAs Kensington Conference champions and took runner-up team honors at the Observerland Invitational.

"We switched our lineup around, something we did not have the luxury of doing over the year," Polk said. "We had a lot of young kids in the lineup who got beat up, but no matter who we had in the lineup, we were always in the top two or three, which was very encouraging."

Glenn also qualified eight for the individual state individual finals and five placed.

"To say I'm not pleased is one thing, but like any coach I think we could have had more," Polk said. "But I'm still happy with what we accomplished."

## ALL-OBSERVER WRESTLING

### 2008-09 ALL-OBSERVER WRESTLING TEAMS

**285 pounds:** 1. Dustin Gajowiak, Jr., Westland; 2. Mike Modes, Sr., Livonia; 3. Blake Abbey, Jr., Salem.

**103:** 1. (tie) Steve Wakeford, Jr., John Glenn; Nick Kim, Soph., Salem; 2. Said Youssif, Soph., Plymouth; 3. Jacob Meadows, Soph., Livonia; 4. Churchhill; 112: 1. Waleed Faraj, Jr., Canton; 2. Steve Tuyo, Soph., Franklin; 3. Ian Phillips, Sr., Salem.

**119:** 1. Carl Lucke, Sr., Canton; 2. Josh Austin, Jr., John Glenn; 3. Brad LaRose, Sr., Lutheran Westland.

**125:** 1. Anthony Pavlich, Jr., John Glenn; 2. Mark Thompson, Jr., John Glenn; 3. Laith Francis, Jr., Lutheran Westland.

**130:** 1. Jeremy Filippelli, Sr., Canton; 2. Justin Robinson, Jr., John Glenn; 3. Jonny Bannoura, Soph., Churchhill.

**135:** 1. (tie) Jared Stephens, Sr., John Glenn; Donnie Watkins, Jr., Canton; 2. Mitch Gonzales, Sr., Livonia; 3. (tie) Tevin Hines, Sr., Wayne Memorial; Bryan Fortney, Sr., Churchhill.

**140:** 1. Jimmy Mann, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Duwan Burris, Sr., Redford; 3. Raz Markosian, Sr., Stevenson.

**145:** 1. Brent Winekoff, Jr., Canton; 2. Elvin Ferreira, Sr., Franklin; 3. Tyler Twigg, Sr., Garden City.

**152:** 1. Zaid Ammari, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Brandon Billiau, Sr., Franklin; 3. Anthony Abro, Soph., Canton.

**160:** 1. Stephen Kemp, Sr., Lutheran Westland; 2. Don Stratz, Sr., Franklin; 3. Zach Redden, Jr., John Glenn.

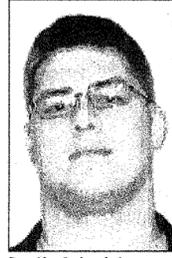
**171:** 1. Keith Zech, Jr., Canton; 2. Curtis Castleberry, Jr., Churchhill; 3. Garrett Hay, Sr., Franklin.

**189:** 1. Austin Root, Jr., Salem; 2. Andrew Schramm, Jr., Stevenson; 3. Zach Leuenberger, Soph., Franklin.

**215:** 1. Cody Hay, Sr., Franklin; 2. Sam Lepper, Sr., Salem; 3. Craig Kowalsky, Jr., Lutheran Westland.

### COACH OF THE YEAR

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Bill Polk, John Glenn  
John Glenn: Doug Wiley, Mikkel Tipton, Mike Johnson, Jeff Adkins, Kameron Jones, Gerald Powell; Canton: Mitch Wolski, Tyler Bourcier; Salem: John Bills, Colin Gross, Dylan Hatcher, Johannes Olind, Robert Schultz, Joe Williams, Chris Sweet, Adam Turner, James Middelditch; Franklin: Erik Czech, Matt Root, Justin Jacobsen; Stevenson: Josh Seibert, Matt Greenman; Churchhill: Matt Hecksel, Kane Kanouse, Jon Schreckel, Brett Appel, Grant Morgan; Garden City: Jake Johnson, Devin Ashley, Shane Miller; Wayne: Josh Mills, Mike Wallace, Barry Ison, Tristen, Jarosiewicz; Livonia Clarenceville: Jake Ruth, Derek Robbins, Joe Haapala, Andrew Jasmer, Patrick Walker; Plymouth: Vince Rizzo.



Dustin Gajowiak  
John Glenn



Steven Wakeford  
John Glenn



Nick Kim  
Salem



Waleed Faraj  
Canton



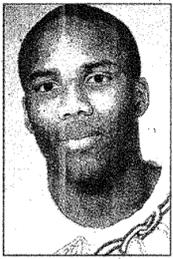
Carl Lucke  
Canton



Anthony Pavlich  
John Glenn



Jeremy Filippelli  
Canton



Jared Stephens  
John Glenn



Jimmy Marin  
John Glenn



Zaid Ammari  
John Glenn



Stephen Kemp  
Lutheran Westland



Austin Root  
Salem

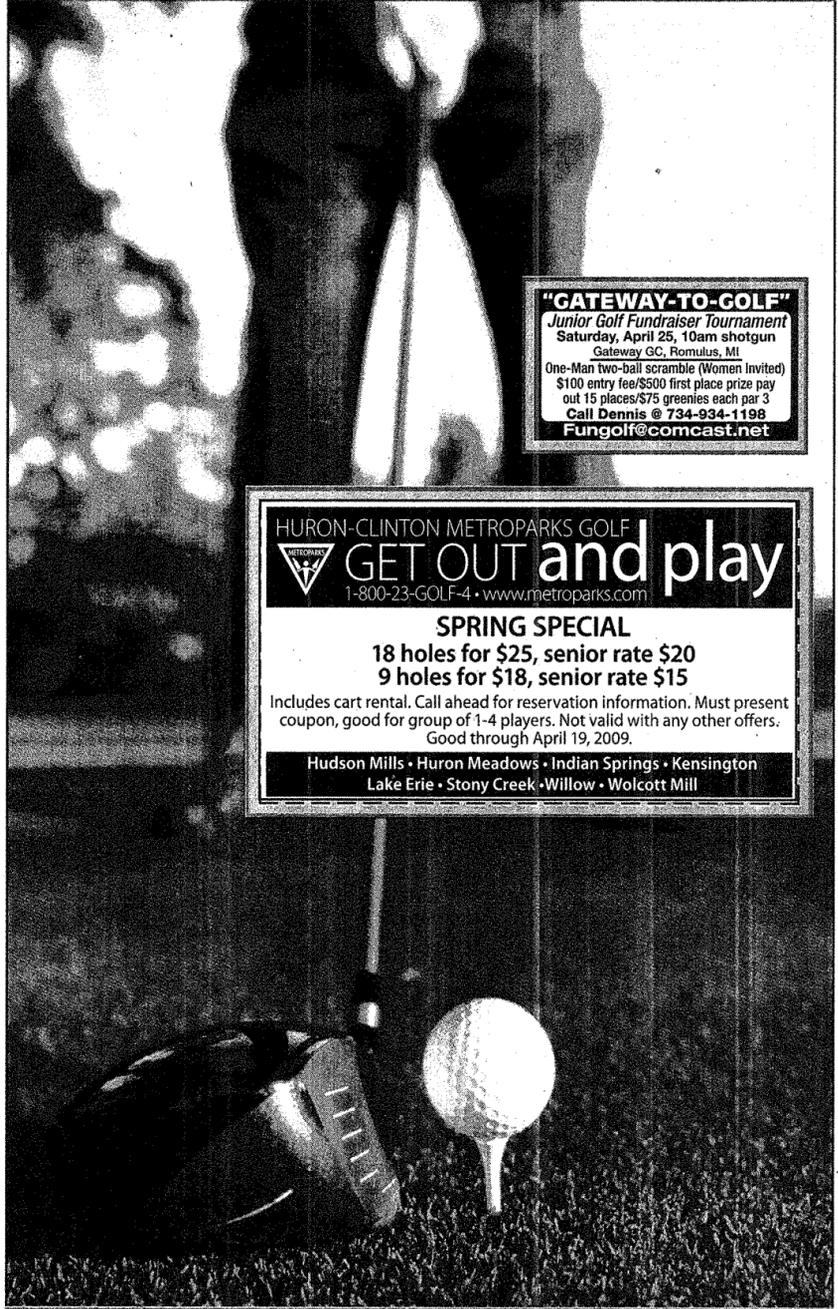


Cody Hay  
Franklin



Bill Polk-John Glenn  
Coach of the Year

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COLLEGIATE SPORTS REPORT

**MU baseball roundup**  
**MADONNA 9-2, DAVENPORT 4-1:** The Madonna University baseball team (24-3, 3-1) took both ends of make-up Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference double-header Tuesday against visiting Davenport University (21-11, 1-3).  
 Keegan Beaton pitched six shut-out innings in the nightcap as the Crusaders won, 2-1.  
 Beaton allowed five hits, walked three and struck out four before giving way to Jeff Sonnenberg, who earned his second save of the year.  
 After giving up two hits and a run, Sonnenberg fanned the final batter on a strikeout.  
 Kevin Zerbo (Farmington Hills Harrison) and Matt Kay (Canton) each had an RBI for MU.  
 In the first game, Kay knocked in three runs, while Zach Flavin contributed two RBI as the Crusaders outlasted the Panthers, 9-4.  
 Aaron Hacias also went 2-for-2 in the victory.  
 Reliever Andy Omilian earned the victory in 4.2 innings, allowing two runs (none earned) on four hits after replacing starter Tom Hansen.  
**MADONNA 5-2, DAVENPORT 0-4:** In the WHAC opener Saturday, host Madonna University (22-3, 1-1) and Davenport University (21-9, 1-1) divided a double-header at Ilitch Ballpark.  
 MU took the opener, 5-0, as pitcher Jeff Sonnenberg improved to 6-1 on a four-hitter. He struck out three and walked only two in going the distance.  
 Offensive standouts for the Crusaders included Shawn Little (2-for-2, RBI); Aaron Hacias (RBI triple); Canton's Matt Kay (RBI triple); and Zach Flavin (RBI single).  
 Davenport came back to win the nightcap, 4-2, as pitcher Tucker Gernhard allowed just four hits and two walks over seven innings. He fanned six.  
 Matt Collins led the Panthers going 2-for-2 with two RBI.  
 MU starter Tom Hansen lasted only an inning, allowing three earned runs on two hits. Reliever

Kyle Bolton went the final six, scattering eight hits while allowing one earned run.  
 Kay and Scott Boyer each had an RBI.  
**MU softball roundup**  
**MADONNA 5-2, HUNTINGTON (IND.) 0-0:** In a non-conference twinbill Saturday, host Madonna University (22-6) and Huntington College (8-8).  
 In the opener, Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week Jess Irwin (11-5) hurled a three-hit shutout and struck out 15 as the Crusaders rolled to a 5-0 victory.  
 Cat Sidor (Churchill) went 2-for-2, including a 2-run homer, while teammate Danielle Richardson also knocked in two runs.  
 In the second game, Hallie Minch (Garden City) and Irwin combined on a four-hit shutout in a 2-0 win.  
 Minch went the first 4.1 innings, allowing all four hits. She struck out four and walked two. Irwin fanned five and did not allow a hit in 2.2 innings to pick up the save.  
 Ashley Shay and Sidor each had RBI singles.  
**Crusader golfers fourth**  
 The Madonna University men's golf team placed fourth in the Bellarmine (Ky.) Intercollegiate held Monday and Tuesday at Persimmon Ridge Golf Club.  
 Host Bellarmine won the team title with a 600 total followed by the University of Findlay (Ohio), 618; Thomas More College (Ky.), 637; MU, 640; and Illinois-Springfield, 653.  
 Bellarmine's Kyle Leach took medalist honors with a 72-74-144.  
 Matt Robinson (Livonia Churchill) led the Crusaders with a 10th-place finish firing a 78-78-156. He was followed by Steve South (Livonia Franklin), 19th, 83-78-161; Kyle Lawery, 23rd, 80-83-163; Austin Stillman (Franklin), 23rd, 80-83-163; and Brett Quitiquit, 23rd, 81-82-163.  
 MU's non-scorers included Elliott Oscar, 30th (85-84-169), and Tom Voyer, 34th (89-87-176).

Patriots divide twinbill vs. Falcons

Livonia Franklin and Farmington divided a girls softball twinbill on Monday.  
 Franklin won the opener, 4-1, as pitcher Natalie Sanborn limited the Falcons to only one hit. Fourteen of the 21 outs were groundballs. She struck out four and did not allow a walk.  
 Offensively, Brianna Taylor went 2-for-4 with a 2-run triple in the first inning. Nicole Emery added two hits, an RBI and a stolen base.  
 Losing pitcher Chrissy

**PREP SOFTBALL**  
 Albrecht allowed nine hits, struck out nine and walked one.  
 Ali Robinson had the lone hit for the Falcons, who bounced back to win the nightcap, 3-2, as Katie Rankin, Albrecht and winning pitcher Caitlin Lock each collected two hits.  
 Lock scattered nine hits and struck out nine.  
 Losing pitcher Tiffany

Lamble, a freshman, gave up 10 hits and struck out four.  
 Brianna Taylor belted a 2-run homer for the Patriots, while Brittany Taylor went 2-for-4. Both Sanborn and Katie Neu doubled.  
 Franklin is 3-1 overall, while Farmington is 1-1.  
**STEVENSON 15-13, JOHN GLENN 0-0:** On Friday, Livonia Stevenson (2-0, 1-0) opened its season with a Kensington Conference sweep against visiting Westland John Glenn (0-2, 0-1).  
 Emily Hollandsworth went 3-for-4 with a pair of triples and five

RBI in Game One. Winning pitcher Laura Deacon and Amanda Paison each added two hits, two RBI and scored three times in the 15-0 four-inning mercy.  
 Deacon struck out eight, walked two and allowed just two hits.  
 Allie Murphy took the loss for Glenn.  
 In the second game, Amanda Shalts had three hits and three RBI in a 13-0 win. Shelby Wilson and Becca Zarras each added two hits and an RBI.  
 Hollandsworth, the winning pitcher, allowed just two hits and fanned 11.  
 Brandi Holbrook took the loss.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD RESULTS

**LIVONIA STEVENSON 92 SALEM 45**  
**March 31 at Salem**  
**Shot put:** 1. Allison Gudeman (LS), 29 feet, 1.25 inches; 2. Shireen Saah (LS), 25-3.5; 3. Becky Holubka (LS), 25-1.25.  
**Discus:** 1. Holubka (LS), 84-10; 2. Julie Saweck (LS), 78-5; 3. Saah (LS), 78-1.  
**High jump:** 1. Kretschmer (Salem), 4-8; 2. Marci Kovsky (LS), 4-6; 3. (tie) Claire LeBlanc (LS) and Belikov (Salem), 4-4 each.  
**Long jump:** 1. Melanie Bauer (LS), 15-3; 2. Kovsky (LS), 15-1; 3. Davis (Salem), 13-3.25.  
**Pole vault:** 1. Michelle Blackstone (LS), 9-0; 2. Lisa Black (LS), 7-6; 3. (tie) Emily Wolfe (LS) and Parvta (Salem), 7-6 each.  
**100-meter hurdles:** 1. Becky Adamcheck (LS), 17.7; 2. Parvta (Salem), 19.1; 3. Nikki Yon (LS), 20.1.  
**300 hurdles:** 1. Adamcheck (LS), 48.2; 2. Kovsky (LS), 54.0; 3. Parvta (Salem), 54.8.  
**100 dash:** 1. Deja Wright (Salem), 12.5; 2. Frye (Salem), 13.6; 3. Stephanie Matter (LS), 14.2.  
**200:** 1. Wright (Salem), 26.7; 2. Stephanie Batshon (LS), 28.4; 3. Belikov (Salem), 29.4.  
**400:** 1. Linda Ling (Salem), 1:05.0; 2. Gudeman (LS), 1:06.4; 3. Katie Glynn (LS), 1:07.6.  
**800:** 1. Courtney Calka (LS), 2:26.7; 2. Christina Joss (LS), 2:38.3; 3. Kelley Determan

(Salem), 2:41.3.  
**1,600:** 1. Calka (LS), 5:22.7; 2. Sarah Opdyke (LS), 5:56.3; 3. Moore (Salem), 6:03.3.  
**3,200:** 1. Victoria Tripp (Salem), 13:13.8; 2. Kara Booms (Salem), 13:22.3; 3. Victoria Saferian (LS), 13:25.7.  
**400 relay:** 1. Stevenson (Megan DeMarco, Alyssa Adams, Erin Erickson, Matter), 56.6; 2. Salem, 58.7; **800 relay:** 1. Stevenson (Erickson, LeBlanc, Kovsky, Batshon), 1:58.0; 2. Salem, disqualified; **1,600 relay:** 1. Stevenson (Batshon, LeBlanc, Glynn, Calka), 4:24.5; 2. Salem, 4:35.4; **3,200 relay:** 1. Salem, 11:16.8; 2. Stevenson, 11:17.2.  
**Dual meet records:** Stevenson, 1-0 overall; 1-0 KLA Central Division; Salem, 0-1 overall; 0-1 KLA Central.  
**LIVONIA FRANKLIN 116 WAYNE MEMORIAL 21**  
**March 31 at Wayne**  
**Shot put:** 1. Savannah Haig (LF), 31 feet, 8.5 inches; 2. Brittanie Askin (WM), 27-6; 3. Nicole Price (LF), 27-3.  
**Discus:** 1. Haig (LF), 101-3; 2. Price (LF), 80-10.5; 3. Grace Modes (LF), 65-6.  
**High jump:** 1. Emily Quint (LF), 4-7; 2. Meghan Powers (LF), 4-5; 3. Lauren Murphy (LF), 4-3.  
**Long jump:** 1. Amanda Borioe (LF), 14-0; 2. Jen Mueller (LF), 14-0; 3. Sam Campbell (LF),

13-6.  
**Pole vault:** 1. Powers (LF), 8-0; 2. Meghan Lark (LF), 6-6; 3. Quint (LF), 6-0.  
**100-meter hurdles:** 1. Mueller (LF), 17.0; 2. Campbell (LF), 18.2; 3. Katelyn Mills (LF), 18.7.  
**300 hurdles:** 1. Seneca Scott (LF), 51.84; 2. Shannon Niznik (LF), 54.66; 3. Campbell (LF), 58.22.  
**100 dash:** 1. Rochelle Woods (WM), 13.3; 2. Quint (LF), 13.7; 3. Scott (LF), 13.9.  
**200:** 1. Ashly Butkowski (LF), 27.7; 2. Woods (WM), 28.08; 3. Kathryn Chinavare (LF), 28.49.  
**400:** 1. Butkowski (LF), 1:02.4; 2. Woods (WM), 1:05.3; 3. Borioe (LF), 1:09.4.  
**800:** 1. Mallory Church (LF), 2:40.7; 2. Nikki Kaledas (LF), 2:52.9; 3. Holland Boertje (WM), 2:54.6.  
**1,600:** 1. Boertje (WM), 6:15.4; 2. Christa Mott (LF), 6:16.7; 3. Jennifer McCaffery (WM), 6:20.02.  
**3,200:** 1. Megan McPherson (LF), 11:52.3; 2. Brittanie Dilley (LF), 13:42.6; 3. Tiffany VanOrden (LF), 13:58.5.  
**400 relay:** 1. Franklin (Corinne Haro, Powers, Quint, Chinavare), 55.3; **800 relay:** 1. Franklin (Scott, Butkowski, Mueller, Chinavare), 1:53.3; **1,600 relay:** 1. Franklin (Chinavare, M. Church, Niznik, Dominique Jordan), 4:55.2; **3,200 relay:** 1. Franklin (Lark, Niznik, Jordan, Amanda Young), 11:32.0.

**Dual meet records:** Franklin, 1-0 overall, 1-0 KLA South Division; Wayne, 0-1 overall; 0-1 KLA South.  
**KERMIT AMBROSE HURON TRACK & FIELD RELAYS**  
**March 28 at EMU's Bowen Fieldhouse**  
**GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 114 points; 2. Saline, 71; 3. Troy, 61; 4. Romulus, 46; 5. Detroit Mumford, 44; 6. Livonia Franklin, 29; 7. Macomb Dakota, 28.5; 8. Fort Wayne (Ind.) Wayne, 27; 9. Monroe, 25; 10. Livonia Stevenson, 24.5; 17. (tie) Westland John Glenn, 9 (22 schools).  
**Franklin 1st:** Emily Quint, pole vault (10 feet, breaks own school record shared with Meghan Powers, 2008); **2nd:** Quint, high jump (5-2); **4th:** Brittanie Dilley, Ashly Butkowski, Mallory Church, Megan McPherson, distance medley (13:39.89); **5th:** Liz Hollaway, high jump (5-0); **6th:** Katelyn Mills, Quint, Shannon Niznik, Jen Mueller, 60-meter shuttle hurdle (42:12); **7th:** Butkowski, Mueller, Kathryn Chinavare, McPherson, sprint medley (4:31.12); **10th:** Savannah Haig, shot put (31-5.5).  
**Stevenson 2nd:** Courtney Calka, 1,600-meter run (5:15.0); Becky Adamcheck, Stephanie Batshon, Marcy Kovsky, Calka, sprint medley (4:15.0); **5th:** Ashley Werner, Katie Glynn, Haley Babcock, Sarah Opdyke, distance medley (no time available).

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

**WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 6 LIVONIA STEVENSON 3**  
**March 30 at W.L. CENTRAL**  
**No. 1 singles:** Sayuri Toshiida (WLC) defeated Paige McNamara, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3; **No. 2:** Gabrielle Sabatini (LS) def. Stephanie Indianer, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3; **No. 3:** Rena Molnar (WLC) def. Laura Gumpfer, 7-5, 6-2; **No. 4:** Liz Slusher (WLC) def. Melissa Martinez, 6-3, 6-3.  
**No. 1 doubles:** Sarah Johnson-Madison Bartlett (WLC) def. Shannon Dwight-Ashley

Benvenuti, 6-2, 6-0; **No. 2:** Nicole Mehta-Cathleen Kennedy (WLC) def. Christine Steinmeyer-Danielle Jagodzinski, 6-0, 6-2; **No. 3:** Angela Stowaz-Nicole Stowaz (WLC) def. Andrea Burford-Michele DeBeaudry, 7-5, 6-2; **No. 4:** Simona Enea-Kelsey Futrell (LS) def. Marybeth Rice-Nicole Harrington, 6-4, 6-3; **No. 5:** Calla Miller-Kathryn Malkowski (LS) def. Leah Turner-Haley Kinkus, 6-1, 6-2.  
**Stevenson's dual match record:** 0-1 overall.

**SALEM 80 LIVONIA STEVENSON 57**  
**March 31 at Stevenson**  
**Shot put:** 1. Dana Baltazar (Salem), 48 feet, 5.5 inches; 2. Ed Mehri (Salem), 46-1; 3. Andrew Nelson (LS), 41-9.  
**Discus:** 1. Baltazar (Salem), 137-0; 2. Courtney Frazier (Salem), 124-5; 3. Mehri (Salem), 109-9.  
**High jump:** 1. Zach Gaskell (Salem), 5-11; 2. Wyatt Stahl (LS), 5-9; 3. Austin White (LS), 5-7.  
**Long jump:** 1. Nate Sergison (LS), 20-1.25; 2. Dominique Williams (Salem), 19-10.75; 3. Austin Root (Salem), 19-6.  
**Pole vault:** 1. Jon Gudeman (LS), 11-11; 2. John Krutty (Salem), 11-8; 3. Henry Weyand (LS), 10-11.  
**110-meter hurdles:** 1. Scott O'Connor (Salem), 16.35; 2. Will Burek (LS), 16.51; 3. Charles Williams (Salem), 17.34.  
**300 hurdles:** 1. O'Connor (Salem), 40.29; 2. Burek (LS), 42.51; 3. Williams (Salem), 44.25.  
**100 dash:** 1. Nick Anagnostou (LS), 11.2; 2.

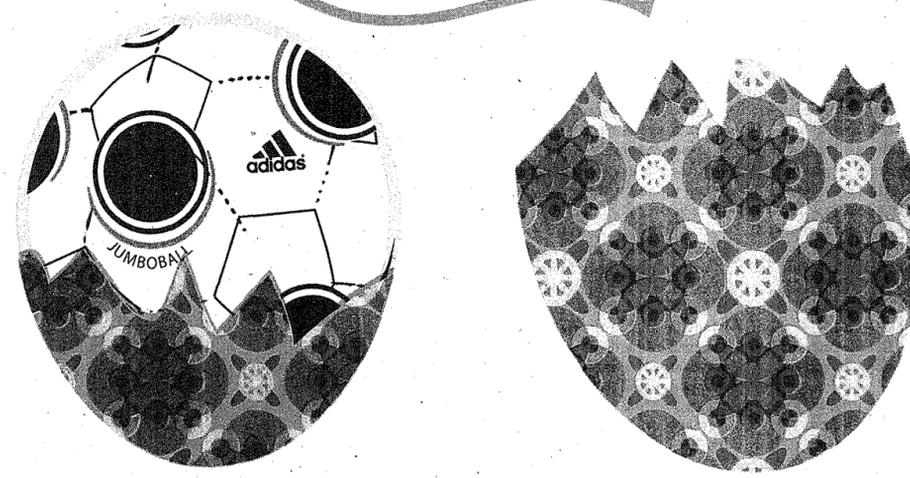
White (LS), 11.54; 3. D. Williams (Salem), 11.67.  
**200:** 1. Anagnostou (LS), 22.83; 2. D. Williams (LS), 23.13; 3. Pat Patin (Salem), 23.62.  
**400:** 1. Gaskell (Salem), 52.62; 2. Stephen Pollard (LS), 54.45; 3. Matt Williams (LS), 55.05.  
**800:** 1. Alex Lang (Salem), 2:07.14; 2. Dan Martin (Salem), 2:08.73; 3. Zach Basanese (Salem), 2:10.0.  
**1,600:** 1. Shawn Howse (LS), 4:46.29; 2. Lang (Salem), 4:48.14; 3. Martin (Salem), 4:50.73.  
**3,200:** 1. Matt Devey (Salem), 10:08.01; 2. Howse (LS), 10:08.41; 3. Mike Charara (Salem), 10:13.89.  
**400 relay:** 1. Stevenson (White, Jacob Gudeman, David Simor, Anagnostou), 44.68; 2. Salem, 45.37; **800 relay:** 1. Stevenson (White, Jacob Gudeman, Sergison, Anagnostou), 1:32.67; 2. Salem, 1:36.67; **1,600 relay:** 1. Salem, 3:37.65; 2. Stevenson, 3:41.25; **3,200 relay:** 1. Salem (Basanese, Dan Adgill, Devey, Charara), 8:42.02; 2. Stevenson, 8:43.38.  
**Dual meet records:** Salem, 1-0 overall, 1-0 KLA Central; Stevenson, 0-1 overall; 0-1 KLA Central.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD RESULTS

**LIVONIA FRANKLIN 89 WAYNE MEMORIAL 48**  
**March 31 at Wayne**  
**Shot put:** 1. David Fortin (LF), 45 feet; 2. Jay Woolfork (LF), 44-1.75; 3. Nate Coleman (LF), 43-1.  
**Discus:** 1. Coleman (LF), 137-9.5; 2. Sean McAuliffe (LF), 130-9.5; 3. Jamal Boyles (WM), 92-5.  
**High jump:** 1. Hudson Cadet (LF), 5-10; 2. Matt Mills (WM), 5-8; 3. Terrance Watson (WM), 5-8.  
**Long jump:** 1. Renaldo Powell (WM), 20-5; 2. Isaac Cadet (LF), 20-5; 3. Richard Haley (WM), 19-4.5.  
**Pole vault:** 1. Michael Kaplan (LF), 8-6; 2. Mike Beasley (LF), 8-0; 3. Dawson Barnes (LF), 7-6.  
**110-meter hurdles:** 1. Powell (WM), 14.4; 2. Cameron Wludyka (LF), 17.1; 3. Brandon Tower (LF), 18.4.  
**300 hurdles:** 1. Powell (WM), 38.5; 2. Tower (LF), 45.3; 3. Alex Balli (WM), 45.9.

**100 dash:** 1. Parish Clayborn (WM), 11.08; 2. Paul Voegelé (LF), 11.37; 3. Tevin Hines (WM), 11.51.  
**200:** 1. Powell (WM), 22.8; 2. Hines (WM), 23.9; 3. Beasley (LF), 24.5.  
**400:** 1. Beasley (LF), 54.4; 2. Dylan Taylor (LF), 56.8; 3. Josh Murphy (WM), 57.6.  
**800:** 1. Ryan Tarhanich (LF), 2:11.3; 2. Pete Walblay (LF), 2:14.1; 3. Mills (WM), 2:17.6.  
**1,600:** 1. Josh Fletcher (WM), 5:00.0; 2. Joe Lang (LF), 5:12.0; 3. Wilson (LF), 5:21.0.  
**3,200:** 1. Fletcher (WM), 10:35.3; 2. Austin Jones (LF), 10:36.9; 3. Nik Gherardini (LF), 11:04.0.  
**400 relay:** 1. Franklin (Voegelé, Chris Van Tuyl, Richard Duncan, I. Cadet), 45.2; 2. Wayne, 45.3; **800 relay:** 1. Franklin (Voegelé, Van Tuyl, Duncan, I. Cadet), 1:35.2; 2. Wayne, disqualified; **1,600 relay:** 1. Franklin (Andrew Crechiolo, Adam Koponen, Jake Jacobs, Taylor), 3:42.0; 2. Wayne, 4:03.6; **3,200 relay:** 1. Franklin (Taylor, Crechiolo, Koponen, Gherardini), 9:12.0.  
**Dual meet records:** Franklin, 1-0 overall, 1-0 KLA South Division; Wayne, 0-1 overall; 0-1 KLA South Division.

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# Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A buyout for one of the Big Three and a little research led Christian Allers to open the Game Yard, a video gaming center on Ford in Garden City two years ago.

## It's a gamer's heaven at the Yard

**Observer:** Tell us about your business, including the types of service and/or products you feature.

The GameYard is a Videogame LAN Center, featuring 19 Xbox 360's, 2 Wii's, and 11 custom-built gaming PC's. We have well over 100 games available for the various systems and try to stay current as new games are released. All for only \$3 per hour. We also offer birthday party packages, and host videogame tournaments.

**Observer:** What makes your business unique?

The GameYard is unique in that videogamers can come here and play their favorite games in a social setting. Many games today feature the multiplayer experience, and here gamers can sit side by side and experience these features together on their own screens.

**Observer:** How did you decide to open your first business?

After working at one of the Big 3 auto companies

### THE GAMEYARD

**Address:** 29552 Ford Road, Garden City  
**Name and Title:** Christian (Chris) Allers, owner  
**Hometown:** Southfield  
**Business Opened:** March 10, 2007  
**Number of Employees:** 4  
**Your Business Specialty:** Video games  
**Hours:** 2:30-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 2:30 p.m. to midnight Friday, noon to midnight Saturday and 2-9 p.m. Sunday. During the summer, we'll open at noon Monday through Saturday.  
**Business phone and e-mail:** (734) 261-0214, www.thegameyard.com, www.myspace.com/thegameyard

as a Mechanical Engineer for 17 years, I was offered a buyout package. I took the opportunity to research what it would take to open my own

business, and after working up a business plan pursued the chance to work in a field that I have always enjoyed - videogames.

**How did you decide to locate in the Westland community?**

I decided on our current location in Garden City because the space was right, the price was right, the space was available, and working with the city (and the DDA) was very straight-forward.

**Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business?**

The main bit of humor is that most people in the area have no idea what a LAN center is - I see a lot of people think they are going into a store like a Gamestop where they can buy videogames - they walk in the door, get hit with the wall of sound from all the TVs going, and just back away. I wish they'd at least come up and ask what we are all about, but I've seen some horrified looks so far.

## BUSINESS MILESTONES

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Now open

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 3, to celebrate the opening of PKSA Karate at 1535 S. Wayne Road, between Avondale and Palmer, in Westland. Stop by and see what it's all about.

#### Friendly films

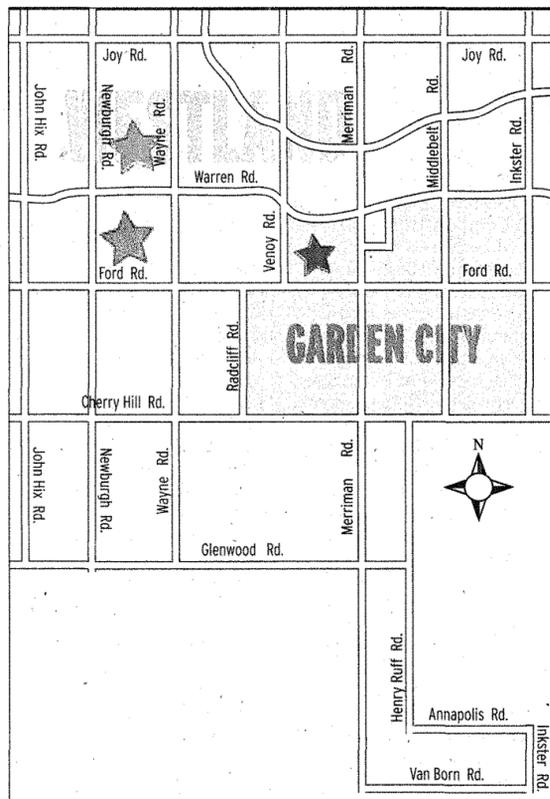
Autism Society of America and AMC Entertainment have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. Sensory Friendly Films premiered across the country in August 2008, and in honor of National Autism Awareness Month, there will be two special showings of new films: "Monsters vs. Aliens" on Saturday, April 4, and "Hannah Montana: The Movie" on Saturday, April 18. In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for this unique audience, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. Tickets are only \$4.75 and can be purchased on the day of the event. Catch the shows at the AMC Taylor 10, 22265 Eureka, Taylor.

#### See the Bunny

Parents, grab your kids and head to Westland Shopping Center for a visit with the Easter Bunny. The big guy will be at the bunny patch 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. His helpers will be on hand to take a photo of the special event, with photos available for a fee. Westland Shopping Center is at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

#### Donate Blood

Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in



Garden City will hold an Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, April 13, 2009.

The blood drive will kick off Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury's Annual Car Giveaway. All blood donors from April 13 through mid-July will be entered for a chance to win a brand new Mercury Milan lease from Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury. For more information, call Contact Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury at (734) 458-1929. Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury is at 32000 Ford, Garden City.

#### Ongoing

#### Honoring Mom

Now through May 1, people can submit at one-page maximum hand written essay about what makes their mom so special in a contest sponsored by

the Texas Roadhouse in Westland. The contest is for kids ages 5-12 and when a child brings in their letter they will receive a free kid's meal voucher for their next visit just for their efforts. The winner will get to take his or her family out to dinner to celebrate Mother's Day at Texas Roadhouse (up to \$60 value, tax and gratuity excluded). They also will receive a gift basket with a \$20 gift certificate to Biggy Coffee and a one-hour massage at Pure Massage. The letters will be posted throughout the restaurant. Five finalists will be selected, with Mayor William Wild picking the winning essay. Texas Roadhouse is at 36750 Ford, west of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 729-4570.

## BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

### New position

MARS Advertising, a leading shopper marketing advertising agency, has named Kim Pawlak of Westland vice president and director of creative operations in its Southfield corporate headquarters.

A MARS Advertising veteran, Pawlak joined the agency in 1989 as a junior account executive. She spent more than a dozen years serving on the agency's account services team working in various capacities with multiple CPG clients, such as H.J. Heinz Co., Philips Lighting Company and Nestlé Frozen Foods. She earned numerous promotions, eventually rising to the rank of director of operations.

In 1998, Pawlak took a brief hiatus from the day-to-day agency business to spearhead the launch of Little Martians Playcare, an on-site day care center for MARS employees. She ran the center for seven years until its closure following a fire at MARS' corporate headquarters, which forced the agency's relocation to a new facility.

Pawlak later rejoined the account services team and,



Pawlak

in 2008, transitioned to the agency's creative side as director of creative operations. Having served in both creative and account service capacities, she brings a unique perspective and depth of understanding to her role in executing MARS' shopper marketing expertise on behalf of its clients.

Pawlak hold a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

### Joins Alliance

The Family Service Alliance for Southeastern Michigan has added Starfish Family Services to its regional collaborative model which aims to build organizational capacity for its members in order to improve services and access for children and families throughout the region.

As a leading family service agency in western Wayne County, Starfish Family Services joins Oakland Family Services, Macomb Family Services, and Family Service Inc. of Wayne County, bringing to the Alliance expertise in children's services including an array of early childhood and mental health services, an expanded service footprint, and additional scale.

"I cannot think of a better way to celebrate the first anniversary of the Alliance than to welcome Starfish Family

Services as a member," said Michael Earl, Oakland Family Services CEO and spokesperson for the Alliance. "The Family Service Alliance was created on the fundamental belief that the community is better served when non-profit organizations work together. The addition of Starfish affirms our belief and accelerates us towards realizing our potential."

Last year, Starfish Family Services worked as a business partner with the Alliance to jointly adopt a regional technology platform to support the agencies' behavioral health practices.

"At Starfish, we recognize the need to be smarter and more efficient in everything we do and truly believe in the power of collaboration. Through the Alliance, we can share information, standardize practices, and reduce redundancy in administrative services," said Ann Kalass, CEO of Starfish Family Services. "As an alliance, we will leverage the collective expertise and resources of four agencies as we pursue our missions to help strengthen families across three counties."

An advisory group composed of the four chief executives and a board member from each agency will direct the Alliance's priorities and activities.

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KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's sports section

# Archives hold history of metro Jewish community

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

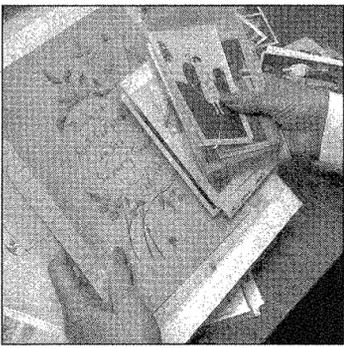
Joanie Schott sorts through photographs of her ancestors. The Livonia woman takes pride in the family whose association with Temple Beth El goes back to her mother's confirmation in 1914. At the time the synagogue was located in Detroit.

Today Schott sits in the second floor climate-controlled archive on the campus of the Bloomfield Hills location where she volunteers every Monday. The historical records tell a story not only of the temple but the Jewish community since 1850 when the congregation was founded by 12 German immigrant families who gathered in the home of Isaac and Sarah Cozens.

It's the job of Jan Durecki as director to make sure the collection is preserved, so once a week volunteers Schott and Marlene Lipman of Southfield spend hours cataloging materials. The rest of the time Durecki is on her own in the archives named after Rabbi Leo M. Franklin who led the temple from 1899 to 1941 and was one of the leaders of the Reform Movement.

"The reason for the archives is to maintain and make accessible for the community administrative documents for auxiliaries like the sisterhood," said Durecki. "Of special interest is families. We have over 800 family files from a complete history to a few documents. It's good to have one safe place instead of being dispersed to cousins."

"I can always visit my aunt and uncle here," added Schott.



Joanie Schott of Livonia looks through her family's historical records now housed at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills. There are thousands of documents at the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives there.

"I can visit this whenever I want. Someday my great grandchildren can come and look in the boxes and have access to all this information. My grandmother's wedding invitation, Emma Epstein, from 1891, pictures of me and my twin brother, my mother and father in the 1920s, poetry my grandmother wrote."

Schott could go on and on about Rabbi Franklin marrying her parents, William and Marguerite Stark, her wedding ceremony to Arthur Schott in front of The Ark in 1956. Durecki is presently researching the craftsman who carved the receptacle which holds the temple's Torah Scrolls. The Ark originally was housed in the 1903 temple at Woodward and Elliot (now the Bonstelle Theater).

Records relating to construction of the present-day temple show Minoru Yamasaki, best known as

architect of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, as designer of the building opened in 1973 at the corner of 14 Mile and Telegraph in Bloomfield Hills.

At one point Albert Kahn was a member of the congregation and designed the temples at Woodward and Gladstone in 1922 and Woodward and Elliott. The archive treasures the contributions of members in the area. The war collection features paintings of World War II soldiers, like Roy Green, who died

in service to their country. Last year the temple became archivist for the Jewish War Veterans of Michigan.

"It's an important part of our service to the community," said Durecki. "We have history about Temple Beth El but also the community. We welcome family histories from all congregations. I like to think there's a story to be told."

Schott found eulogies for her mother and father who died in 1954 and 1977 which gave her further insight to her parents. Marlene Lipman is currently making a spreadsheet of more than 2,000 eulogies delivered by Rabbi Richard Hertz from 1953 until 1996. He wrote notes about the deceased on envelopes which sat in filing cabinets for years until Robbie Termin, an intern from Wayne State University, began organizing the material.

"This is history," said Lipman, whose family back-



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joanie Schott of Livonia, Jan Durecki, and Almont and Marlene Lipman of Southfield (front to back) go through photos and past eulogies at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills. Durecki is director of the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives, and Schott and Lipman are volunteers.



Jan Durecki, director of the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives at Temple Beth El, holds up a painted portrait of Roy Green, one of the synagogue members who died in World War II.

ground is traced back to Europe. Her father was the first to come to this country. "There's a sermon given after President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. It's been interesting to look back at the death of Abraham Lincoln."

Letters written during the Great Depression from temple members to Rabbi Franklin tug at the heart as they ask for financial assistance. Even though she is not Jewish, Durecki has been moved by the stories.

**'It's an important part of our service to the community. We have history about Temple Beth El but also the community. We welcome family histories from all congregations.'**

JAN DURECKI

"Even if you don't like history as a youngster, as a parent family ties pull at you. Where do you go to retrieve history? A time will come when they want to know more," she said. "You have to put things together for yourself, have to be a history detective, be willing to go down some dead ends and find different ways to approach."

"The archives are like the local Smithsonian," added Lipman.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

## RELIGION CALENDAR

To submit an item for the religion calendar, e-mail lchomin@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday. For a complete listing of events online please go to hometownlife.com.

### Open house

Ice Cream Social 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, April 2, at St. Michael Christian School, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton. St. Michael offers 3-year-old preschool-fifth grade including a Young Five Program and All Day Kindergarten. For information, call (734) 459-9720 or visit www.stmichael-church.org.

### All-you-can-eat

St. Michael the Archangel Parish's "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish Dinners continue 4:30-7 p.m. April 3 in the cafeteria of St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia. Dinners feature hand-dipped fresh Alaskan cod, fried or baked, along with an assortment of side dishes and beverages. Cost, \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$4 children ages 3-11, free ages 3 and under. Carryout orders, \$7. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

### Fish fry

Last fish fry 4-7 p.m. Friday, April 3, First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square. Choose fried or baked fish with baked potato or french fries, cole slaw, roll, and coffee, tea, or punch, \$8. Kids meals include chicken nuggets, corn dogs and fries, \$4. Call (734) 721-4802 or (734) 891-2523.

### Lenten schedule

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites the community to any and all of its Lenten activities including Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 7 p.m. followed by Benediction. Holy Thursday April 9 features the Mass of the Last Supper at 7 p.m. followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:30 p.m. Good Friday devotions will begin with Stations of the Cross at 12:15 p.m. followed by Liturgy of the Passion at 1:30 p.m. An Easter Egg Hunt begins 9 a.m. Holy Saturday followed by Blessing of Food at noon and Easter Vigil Masses at 8 p.m., 10 a.m., and noon April 12. For information, call (734) 261-1455 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

### Kids Easter fun day

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia hosts Kids Easter Fun Day 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 4, at the church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road. Includes games, crafts, an Easter egg hunt, prizes and more for children ages 4-12. All are

welcome to this free event. Ccall (734) 422-1470.

### Mom to mom sale

Connection Church in Canton is having their Spring Mom to Mom Sale 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 4, 3855 Sheldon, Canton, north of Michigan Ave. Table rentals are at capacity with over 75 moms selling kids' clothes, toys, baby equipment, etc. \$1 admission.

### Prom dress sale

2-4 p.m. Saturday, April 4, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia. There are more than 80 dresses to sell.

### Bethany west singles

■ Saturday, April 4, Monthly Dance at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Two Step dance lesson, \$10, refreshments included. 8 p.m. to midnight; doors at 7:30 p.m. Call (734) 261-5716.

■ Saturday, April 18, Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. at Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479.

Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

### Holy Week music

Kirk in the Hills will present a recital of organ and vocal music by organist Glenn Miller and renowned Kirk Chancel Choir soloists Nicole Greenidge, Lenora Green, Peiyi Wang, Charles Freeman and Tobey Miller, featuring classics, spirituals and contemporary selections, 4 p.m. Palm Sunday, April 5; and a program of choral music for Good Friday by the Kirk Chancel Choir, including music ranging from plainsong, Renaissance composers, spirituals and contemporary works, 7:30 p.m. April 10, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Free. Call (248) 626-2515 ext. 109, or visit www.kirkinthehills.org.

### Lenten vespers' services

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit continues 2009 Lenten Vespers services 6 p.m. April 5, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Farmington Hills. The general public, as well as Orthodox Christians, are invited to attend. All proceeds will fund COCC charities and projects. Call (734) 422-0278 or e-mail paschabooks@sbcglobal.net.

### Passion play

Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Church Chancel Choir and Friends present "The Passion According to Saint Mark" by Jan Bender 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday, April 5, at the church, 33360 West 13 Mile and Farmington

Please see RELIGION, B7

*Passages* 4/2/09  
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View Passages Online: [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

**SANDRA LYNN BESSERT**  
Age 63. Passed away on March 27, 2009. She was raised in Plymouth and moved to Hartland after her marriage. Her life was spent living and caring for others. Beloved wife of Harold. Mother of Kimberly (John) Maniaci. Grandmother of Luke. Daughter of Frances and the late John Adams Sr. Sister of John Jr. and Jeffrey Adams and Pamela (James) Mason. Services were held on Wednesday at the Schader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Contributions suggested to Angela Hospice or the Kellogg Eye Center. Share your special thoughts and memories at [www.schrader-howell.com](http://www.schrader-howell.com)



**VICTORIA LOUISE GEORGE**  
Age 58, of Bloomfield Hills, died March 30, 2009 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She was born January 17, 1951 in Detroit. She graduated from Berkley High School, and received an Associate's Degree in Applied Science from Oakland Community College. She had been employed with Interim Occupational Health Care in Bloomfield Hills as an Account Executive since 1996. Victoria was a very kind lady who enjoyed making other people happy. She was very positive, persevering through any difficulties that came along. She enjoyed reading, gardening, traveling, crossword puzzles, sports cars, and watching the Woodward Dream Cruise. Her most favorite pastime was spoiling her grandchildren. She is survived by her children, Melissa Baltz (Douglas) and Mathew George (Melanie); her mother, Roszella Hallmark (the late Owen); and her grandchildren, Gibson, Nolan, and Macabe. Memorial Service Saturday, April 4, at 11 a.m. at A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road (between Maple and Big Beaver). Family will receive friends Friday, April 3, from 2-8 p.m. Memorial Tributes to Quest For Breath or Arbor Hospice Foundation. View obituary and share memories at [www.DesmondFuneralHome.com](http://www.DesmondFuneralHome.com)

**In Memory Of**  
**YOUSEF HEGAZI**  
Nov 17, '18-Mar 24, '84  
Gone 25 years, but not forgotten. Remembering all the wonderful years we had together. Your loving wife Selma & children Adnan & Lila.



**SHIRLEY JORDAN**  
Age 61. March 27, 2009. Beloved wife of Lee. Loving mother of Raymond (Toni) Jordan, Eva Jordan and step-mother of Lee (Andrea) McCarthy. Proud grandmother of Jessie, Caitlyn Jo and step-grandmother of Lee Jr. and Katie. Dear sister of Joseph Stasack and Susan Stasack. Dearest aunt of Aisha. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Shirley worked at the Half Off Card Shop in Waterford and Madison Heights. Visitation Thursday, April 2, 2009, 2-4pm & 5:30-8pm at 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills. Funeral Service Friday, April 3, 2009, 11:00am at McCabe Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. [www.mccabefuneralhome.com](http://www.mccabefuneralhome.com)



**EVELYN BOYD**  
Age 87. March 26, 2009. Beloved wife of the late Belvel. Loving mother of Deborah (Brian) Mitchell, Christine (Dennis) Behring, Jeannette (Rodney Owen) Hayward and Jonathan (Michael Hickey) Boyd. Cherished grandmother of Brian and David Mitchell, Eric (Martha) Behring, Rachel Kotylo, Daniel and Nicholas Behring, and Walter (Sherri) Hayward. Great-grandmother of Marshall, Erica and Kyle. Born in Iliion, N.Y. Attended Plattsburgh State Teachers College, and Eastern MI University. Member of D.A.U., A.A.U.W., and M.E.A. Member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for over 50 years. Memorial contributions to MI Humane Society or Herkimer Home, Little Falls, NY.

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**RELIGION**

FROM PAGE B6

Road, Farmington Hills. The choir and string ensemble will be conducted by Cantor Amy Studt. The work describes the history of the passion of the Lord as written by the evangelist St. Mark. Using the Biblical text of the passion, traditionally read on Palm Sunday, it is sure to be a powerful and meaningful history through the chorales and soloists. Contact Amy Studt at astudt@sbcglobal.net or (248) 626-7906.

**Holy week services**

April 5, Palm Sunday, Traditional Worship Services 8 a.m. Hess Chapel; 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sanctuary; Contemporary Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Knox Hall; Easter Concert in the Sanctuary at 5 p.m. (childcare through age 4). April 9, Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows and Holy Communion 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (childcare thru Age 4). April 10, Good Friday noon to 3 p.m. (Sanctuary). April 12, Easter Sunday Traditional Worship Services at 8 a.m. Hess Chapel, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sanctuary, Contemporary Worship Services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Knox Hall. All services at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400.

**Dining in the kingdom of God**

Luke's Gospel revealed in 10 meals that describe different dimensions of the Eucharist, presented by St. Aidan's Faith Formation Director, David Conrad, M.A. Theology, 7-9 p.m. April 8. Free. Call (734) 425-5950.

**Midweek Lenten services**

Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will have mid-week Lenten services at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday evenings. Call (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523.

**Lenten services**

Passover Seder Dinner at 6 p.m. for \$8 followed by the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. April 9, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313) 534-7730. Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. April 12.

**Lenten services**

Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

**Holy Week**

Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m. April 9; Good Friday Service Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.; and Easter Sunday Events 9 a.m. breakfast, 10:30 a.m., baptisms, 10:45 a.m. worship with music from "The Mass of the Celtic Saints," Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 425-2800.

**Holy Week**

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, 7:30 p.m. April 9, celebration of Holy Communion concludes with "Stripping of the Altar" as a reminder of Lord being stripped of His power and glory in preparation for crucifixion. Festival Choir and Jubellation Handbell Choir enhance this worship service. 12:30 p.m. Good Friday, April 10, meditative worship service centered on "The Passion of our Lord" and 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae service of darkness with music by Christ Our Savior Festival Choir. 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 12, festival worship services include the singing of favorite Easter hymns accompanied by brass and timpani and the celebration of Holy Communion. Children (up to 8) celebrate Easter at a fair 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11 featuring crafts, Easter video, egg hunt, cookie decorating, and more. Call (734)

522-6830. Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. www.christsaviors.org.

**Men's Good Friday breakfast**

Former Detroit Lion Quarterback Eric Hipple will be the guest speaker at the 34th Annual St. Michael Men's Good Friday Breakfast 8 a.m. Friday, April 10, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon Road, Canton. Tickets are \$5 adults, \$2 for boys 10 and under. Call (734) 459-3333 for tickets.

**Easter weekend services**

1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 10; 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, and 9:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 12, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial at Ridge, Plymouth. Call (734) 414-7777 or visit northridgechurch.com. A weekend series about relationships runs April 18 to May 17.

**Fish fry Fridays**

4-7 p.m. (or until dinners run out) Friday, April 10, at St. Robert Bellarmine on the corner of West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. All you can eat fish dinner is \$8, \$7 seniors, \$4 kids under age 12, \$8 baked cod dinner, \$6 fish sandwich, \$2 cheese pizza. Dinners include choice of fries or mac & cheese, coleslaw, roll and butter, coffee, tea or milk. Carry out dinners do not include beverage.

**Easter eggstravaganza**

10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, east of Haggerty. Call (248) 348-7600. Over 6,500 eggs to hunt, plus "Eggciting" show by Two Can and Araya Sonshine; photos with the Easter bunny; games and prizes; hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. Rain or shine. Don't forget your Easter basket.

**Easter sunrise gathering**

8 a.m. Sunday, April 12, in Kellogg Park on Main Street, downtown Plymouth. Revival Outreach Center pastors Shawn and Sonny Hennessy are Plymouth residents and want to offer this gift. Live Band, short message, children's activities, free muffins and coffee provided by Plymouth's Caribou Coffee at Five Mile and Sheldon. Call (248) 719-2380.

**Easter festival**

Harvest Ministries, 23233 Drake Road, north of Freedom Road will host an Easter Festival Sunday, April 12. Festival includes an egg hunt for ages 3-12 at 9:30 a.m. with prizes. Guests from Servanthands will also be present with inflatables and other exciting items. Food, fellowship and fun for the whole family. All are welcome. Call (248) 478-1511.

**All-you-can-eat pancakes**

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard. Expanded menu features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns and assorted beverages served buffet-style, \$5, adults; \$3, children 4-11; free, under 3; \$15, family (two adults and all children). Everyone welcome.

**Registration opens**

St. Mary School, 34516 Michigan Ave., Wayne, recognized as a School of Distinction, is now accepting registrations for the 2009-10 school year for grades Kindergarten through 8. Call (734) 721-1240.

**New worship schedule**

Sunday worship at 8 a.m., Faith Forum at 9 a.m., worship and Sunday school 10 a.m. Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650

Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

**Historic Polish church tour**

West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society, a nonprofit organization with headquarters in historic St. Hedwig Catholic Church in Detroit, will hold its second annual west side Detroit historic Polish church pilgrimage and wi conka (traditional Polish Easter meal) Saturday, April 18. The pilgrimage starts at 10 a.m. at St. Hedwig, 3245 Junction, and includes St. Francis d'Assissi (4500 Wesson), and St. Stephen (4311 Central) in Detroit, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (976 Pope John II Ave.) and St. Stanislaus Kostka (266 Antoine St.) in Wyandotte. The wi conka will be held at Biddle Hall, 3239 Biddle, Wyandotte. The menu includes kielbasa, ham, potato salad, tossed green salad, beet horseradish (cwikla), bread, butter lambs, dessert (variety of cakes, or babkas), and beverages. Coaches do not have wheelchair lifts. Return to St. Hedwig between 5-5:30 p.m. Optional Our Lady Queen of Angels Mass at 5 p.m., and confession at St. Stephen, 5:30 p.m. Advance reservation only by April 8. Call (248) 477-8518, e-mail lpalazzolo@detroitpolonia.org, or visit www.detroitpolonia.org. As a special feature, during dessert a video will be shown about traditional palm weaving by Sr. Cecilia Schmitt, a Franciscan nun in St. Cloud, Minnesota, who wrote "the" book on weaving palms. There will be emphasis on weaving the Polish palm cross.

**Open house**

And Science Fair 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at All Saints Catholic School, 48735 Warren Road, Canton. Call (734) 459-2490.

**Landscape project**

Trinity Church of Livonia is holding a Native Landscape informational

meeting 12:30-1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 26, in the church library at 34500 Six Mile, next to Stevenson High School, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. The meeting is to discuss native landscape plans for the church property. They have been working with the City of Livonia and the Friends of the Rouge at ways to be good stewards. Goals include reducing air and water pollution, embracing a sustainable aesthetic, and building community. All are welcome. A planting day is scheduled for May 16. The church is also hosting a site at a Livonia Park for the Rouge Rescue set for June 6. Call (734) 425-2800.

**Clothing bank**

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month, at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive. The bank continues in April. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

**Families in action workshops**

The National Association for Mental Illnesses 10-week educational program continues at St. Regis Parish School Campus in Bloomfield Hills. The program is for people with a loved one diagnosed with a serious mental illness. The workshop meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays or Thursdays through April 30. \$20 per person; \$30 per couple. Families In Action is funded in large part by the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation and the Oakwood Heritage Hospital Auxiliary. Call (248) 348-7197 to register.

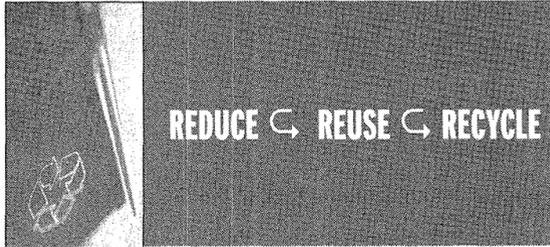
**Music at St. John's**

The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts free except The Saline

Fiddlers (\$7). Call (734) 453-0190.

# Your Invitation to Worship

<p><b>CATHOLIC</b></p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</b></p>	<p><b>UNITED METHODIST</b></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b></p>
<p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121 Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. CE08062544</p>	<p><b>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH</b> 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 A.M. Contemporary 11:00 A.M. Traditional Child Care Provided At All Services Youth Groups - Adult Small Groups CE08062540</p>	<p><i>"More than Sunday Services"</i> Worship Services 9:00 a.m. &amp; 11:30 AM Sunday School &amp; Nursery 9:00, 10:30 &amp; 11:30 AM Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert <b>First United Methodist Church of Plymouth</b> 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org CE08062515</p>	<p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 <b>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ</b> Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden CE08062507</p>
<p><b>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church</b> St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile &amp; Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a <b>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church</b> 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a CE08062544</p>	<p><b>Redford Aldersgate</b> United Methodist 10000 Beech Daily 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship &amp; Sun. Sch. 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org CE08062549</p>	<p><b>NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> "Open Hearts, Minds &amp; Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne &amp; Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149 Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 am &amp; 11:00 am Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org CE08062528</p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b> 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DAILY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP. Worship Service 9:15 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor CE08062517</p>
<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</b></p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</b></p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p>
<p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 8:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 CE08062528</p>	<p><b>Timothy Lutheran Church</b> A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail &amp; Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Heather, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available) CE08062555</p>	<p><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH CE08062520</p>	<p><b>WARD</b> Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M. Nursery &amp; Sunday School During the 9:30 &amp; 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ World Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org CE08062528</p>
<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p>	<p><b>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA</b> 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette CE08062548</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 11:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY: 6:30 P.M. www.stpaulsilivonia.org CE08062520</p>	<p><b>GREEK ORTHODOX</b></p>
<p><b>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia • Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan &amp; Schoolcraft Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org CE08062511</p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 36375 Joy Rd., Westland Sunday Services: Matins 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am Rev. Fr. Teodor Petrutiu Parish Office: 734-525-6789 www.stcoons.org Hellenic Cultural Center Banquet Hall 734-525-3550 CE08062528</p>		



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# 'Joey' hosts 2 nights of high-flying comedy

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK  
O&E STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you cross a pilot and a comic? Find out as Joey Bielaska hosts two nights of comedy at Karl's Cabin in Plymouth April 3-4.

Bielaska, a senior captain for Spirit Airlines, gets plenty of fodder for his standup routines from his day job. His act includes a healthy dose of cockpit humor, including a gay flight attendant character named Curtis.

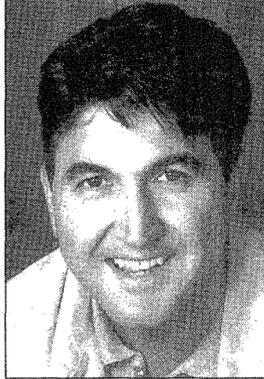
Likewise, the comic isn't shy about using his improv skills in the friendly skies.

"Say the plane's a few minutes late. I throw a joke in over the loudspeaker to lighten things up," he said. "Look out the left window and you'll see your luggage. Look out the right and you'll see your stuff."

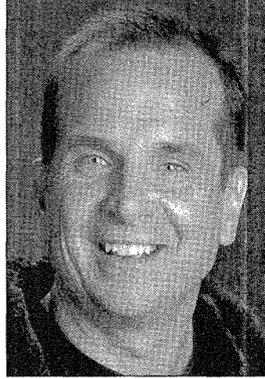
Bielaska, a Plymouth native, grew up idolizing comics who appeared on the Johnny Carson Show, and first took the stage in 1979 at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak, where he appeared with the likes of Tim Allen and Dave Coulier.

"Mark was my mentor. All us guys started out there and I decided to take it one step further," Bielaska said.

Partnering with his brother Ed, who now owns Stone Fire Bistro in Brighton,



Sal Demilio, "Detroit's Don of Comedy," focuses on his Italian upbringing, current events and his battle with the bulge.



Comic Joey Bielaska, founder of Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia, will stage two shows at Karl's Cabin April 3-4.

Bielaska eventually operated three comedy clubs in metro Detroit including Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia, which still bears his name.

Bielaska has shared the stage with many talented comics, including Soupy Sales and Bobby Collins, and has performed across the country, including several appearances at the Riviera Hotel Comedy Club in Las Vegas.

With fellow pilot/comedian Mike Orensteen, Bielaska now operates MinneHAHA Comedy Club, which stages comedy at venues throughout Minneapolis.

Bielaska describes his humor as "gently shocking"

and "Bill Cosby-ish — real life with a twist."

"It's a set routine with ad lib moments. I like thinking on my feet. That's why I love hosting shows," he said.

Bielaska will emcee the shows at Karl's Cabin, which also feature Sal Demilio, "Detroit's Don of Comedy," whose jokes focus on his Italian upbringing, current events and his battle with the bulge.

Bielaska said he decided to stage shows at Karl's Cabin after being inspired by the atmosphere at the cozy restaurant.

"I came here for dinner with my wife and thought it would be perfect. It's a great venue," he said. "You should

## KOMEDY AT KARL'S

What: Comedians Joey Bielaska and Sal Demilio

When: April 3-4; dinner at 8:30 p.m., show at 9:30 p.m.

Where: Karl's Cabin, 6005 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth

Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door, available at [www.minnehahacomedyclub.com](http://www.minnehahacomedyclub.com)

Information: Call (734) 455-8450 or visit [www.karlscabin.com](http://www.karlscabin.com)

see this place at night." Set on a rural stretch of Gotfredson Road off M-14, Karl's has a log cabin feel, with twinkling lights accenting the rustic wood interior.

Before the comedy shows, guests will be seated at private tables and booths in the dining room and order off the menu, which includes an extensive wine list and entrees like Herb Roasted Prime Rib, Salmon Chardonnay and Smoked Mozzarella Ravioli (\$12.95-\$19.95).

The laughs start at 9:30 p.m.

Bielaska said he expects good attendance, as people are turning to comedy to get their mind off the economy.

"It's going to be a fun night. I think people need a good chuckle," he said.

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**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2009-10 BUDGET**

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Act of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2009-10 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at the Grote Administration Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

Jill F. O'Sullivan  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Publish: April 2, 2009

**SIMPLY SELF STORAGE**

Notice is hereby given that on April 16, 2009 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

A111	Latvia McDaniel	Microwave, Air Conditioner, Speakers
A118	Saria Johnson	Mattress, 2 Boxes, Bookshelf
A145B	Randall Frye	File Cabinet, Fax Machine, Microwave
A160	Rosanne Stevens	10 Bags, Clothes, 5Boxes
C103	Avon Adams	Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator
C120	Robert Powell	Refrigerator, Freezer, Big Screen TV
D132	Marco Davis	Couch, Tools, Bike
D166	Kenneth Siebert	4 Tables, 2 Show Cases

Publish: March 26, and April 2, 2009

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# FILTER

## Sit in on a rehearsal with Ed Nuccilli & Plural Circle

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Ed Nuccilli is like the name of his 18-piece band Plural Circle, never ending. At age 84 he just keeps traveling around the Detroit area playing gigs. The Southfield trumpeter has no intention of stepping down from the stage.

On Sunday, April 19, Nuccilli brings his straight ahead jazz to Schoolcraft College in Livonia from 3-5 p.m. This time though he's donating their talents so the Michigan Jazz Festival can continue to provide fans with an entire afternoon and night of the American art form July 19, on campus. But this isn't any jazz concert — he and the band will let the audience sit in on a live rehearsal.

Nuccilli started studying trumpet at age 12 with his father Peter who played the instrument with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. While the classical music foundation did serve him well over the years, Nuccilli wasn't about to sit and wait for 90 bars to play a few notes. For him trumpet was all about jazz.

"I got exposed to Swing when I went to Cass Tech," said Nuccilli. "I used to go across the street to a confectionery store for Cokes and chips for a nickel, and put a nickel in the nickelodeon. That's where I first heard Benny Goodman and Jimmy Lunsford. I started performing professionally at age 14 in a little neighborhood band and began writing arrangements during my junior year of high school."

Nuccilli didn't stop playing even when drafted into the U.S. Army infantry during World War II. He managed to find a group of musicians who shared his love for Count Basie, Woody Herman and the big bands. Nuccilli returned home only to leave again to tour the Midwest and East Coast with Shorty Sherock and Bobby Sherwood. In 1949 he came back to Detroit, this time to stay.

Nuccilli began studies at the

### JAZZ CONCERT

**What:** Ed Nuccilli & Plural Circle Big Band Jazz Orchestra  
**When:** 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 19  
**Where:** Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia  
**Tickets:** \$15, and available by calling (248) 474-2720

Detroit Institute of Musical Arts, but met wife Jean and decided to raise a family. He took a 4-year hiatus from music in the mid 1950s but couldn't stay away from the trumpet. Nuccilli played nights while first working in property accounting at Ford Motor Co, and then as a Metropolitan Life Insurance Company agent. In 1960 he formed a Latin band and started playing at Elmwood Casino in Windsor where he was asked to become band leader in 1972.

Because of the training his father gave him, Nuccilli was able to read all styles of music and by 1963 was house trumpet for performers like Paul Anka. In 1969 he retired from Metropolitan Life and made the rounds of clubs including the Roostertail.

It wasn't long before he was writing commercials, one of which brought him to Motown in the early 1970s. When the record company moved to the West Coast he decided to stay in Detroit. He formed Plural Circle around 1972.

Nuccilli and the group's CDs will be available at the April 19th concert at Schoolcraft College. The program combines Nuccilli's original arrangements with standard jazz classics. "My philosophy for jazz emanates out of improvisation, creating on the spot. That's what jazz is all about," said Nuccilli. "I enhance it with a lot more horns with the emphasis on improvisation."

Midge Ellis is grateful Nuccilli is bringing his sound



Ed Nuccilli, trumpet, of Southfield and his 18-piece band let the audience experience a rehearsal session in a benefit concert at Schoolcraft College in Livonia Sunday, April 19.

to Schoolcraft College for the fund-raiser. It was she who suggested they hold their regular Sunday rehearsal on campus so ticket sales could go to the Michigan Jazz Festival, which features nearly 200 local musicians. It should be an interesting experience.

"The audience gets to sit in on their rehearsal. Most are closed rehearsals and the audience doesn't know how they got there. Ed is a composer and he's going to bring some new music

and they're going to discuss it and the audience is going to hear that," said Ellis of Livonia. "Our mission with the festival is to get people to appreciate jazz

more so they're learning about what they're hearing. It's very innovative, jazz, and the solos are off the tops of their heads. To hear somebody do that is

incredible."

For more information and tickets (\$15), call (248) 474-2720.

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# GO WONDER AROUND.

**Friday Night Live:**  
Due to a special event, Friday Night Live! musical performances have been cancelled. The museum will remain open, and there will be drawing in the galleries and a drop-in workshop.

**Saturday:**  
Watch artist Sabrina Nelson create her version of Norman Rockwell's poster - Freedom of Worship.

**Target Family Sundays:**  
Corinne Stawish shares stories about "American Family."

**Now on View:**  
American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell

Programs are made possible with support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Detroit.

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# Best bets for French wine values

If you read this column regularly, you know that we've been scouring the world of wine to bring readers top wine values available in this market.

This month, the French brand La Vieille Ferme has wines on one of the best sales ever. Don't miss it because if the economy turns around, you may never see such



**Focus on Wine**  
Ray & Eleanor Heald

aggressively competitive pricing again - really good French wines at \$8 per bottle!

La Vieille Ferme wines are made by the Perrins, the most heralded wine-making family in France's southern Rhone Valley and producers of the legendary Chateau de Beaucastel Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape.

**WHO ARE THE PERRINS?**

Three highly-educated Perrin brothers (Marc, Pierre

**WINE PICKS**

- Prices for California ZINFANDEL, considered an American heritage by aficionados, have gone through the roof. Here are five yummy zins at sensible prices.
- 2006 Bogle Old Vine, \$11
- 2006 Ravenswood Old Vine Sonoma County, \$15
- 2007 Dry Creek Vineyard Heritage, Sonoma County, \$18
- 2007 Artein Mendocino County, \$18
- 2006 Ferrari-Carano Dry Creek Valley, \$28

and Thomas), all in their 30s, are the fifth generation running the family wine business. Started in 1970, La Vieille Ferme focuses on value for money (even more so today!) with the following three wines priced at \$8.

La Vieille Ferme 2007 Cotes du Ventoux Rouge comes from vineyards high on the slopes of Mont Ventoux, east of the Rhone River. There the Perrins select grenache, syrah, carignan and cinsault, to a

make a wine reflecting their Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape tradition. It's supple and fruity with blackberry and ripe plum aromas and flavors.

La Vieille Ferme 2008 Cotes du Luberon Blanc comes from the hillside vineyards in the ancient Cotes du Luberon, where the wind known as mistral cools grapes in the heat of summer. Made from four white Rhone varieties, among which 10 percent of the Grenache Blanc is fermented in new Limousin cooperage, the wine is floral, and slightly spicy with a crisp finish.

La Vieille Ferme 2008 Cotes du Ventoux Rose is the ultimate warm weather wine that combines not only a deep pink color, but the richness of a blend of grenache, syrah, carignan and cinsault, grown in the Cotes du Ventoux.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

**CITY BITES**

**VISTA GALA PATRONS ON APRIL 4**

**LIVONIA** — The Art of Fine Dining is on tap at the VisTa Gala, 6:30 p.m. Saturday April 4 at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center. Patrons will stroll through Schoolcraft College's six state-of-the-art culinary kitchens, while mingling with world-class chefs and instructors and tasting their creations.

Under the direction of Chef Kevin Gawronski, the college's award-winning Salon Team will prepare Paupiettes de Sole a la Trouvillaise and Golden Oak Roasted Organic Chicken.

Other menu highlights include Chef Dan Hugelier's Morel Mushroom Ravioli with Chervil Cream, and Chef Brian Polcyn's Back and Girth, slow-roasted smoked pork loin and crispy braised belly. Chef Jeff Gabriel will present the Sushi Station; Chef Marcus Haight will prepare Wood-Grilled Lamb Rack; and Chef Joe Decker will fill the dessert buffet with an assortment of tempting pastries.

Tickets, \$150, include valet, photos and silent auction. Call (734) 462-4518 or visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation).

**GOVERNOR DECLARES "WINE MONTH"**

**LANSING** — The Michigan International Wine Expo, April 3-4 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi, coincides with the kickoff of "Michigan Wine Month."

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has declared April a time to honor Michigan's wide selection of quality wines and the wine industry's significant contribution to the economy, which amounts to nearly \$800 million each year.

Sales of Michigan wines rose 5 percent in 2008, while total wine sales experienced no increase.

"With eight new wineries slated to open this year, Michigan's grape and wine industry demonstrates that our state is ripe for growth and opportunity," Granholm said. "Michigan's wine industry is an important component of the state's \$71.3 billion agri-food business sector and is vital to our tourism efforts."

For more information, a complete list of events or to request a free copy of 2009 Michigan Wine Country magazine, call the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council at (517) 241-1207, or visit [www.michiganwines.com](http://www.michiganwines.com).

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—Silvia Rector-Detroit Free Press

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