

THURSDAY

June 25, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

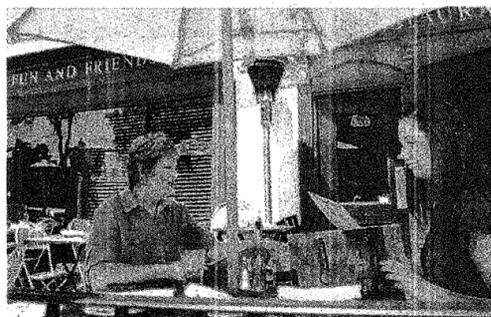
Volume 45 Number 9

75 CENTS

Talent abounds on All-Area baseball team - B2

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Food & Wine, B8

## AROUND TOWN

### Celebration

It's been around for 150 years, first in the city of Wayne and now in Westland. It's a milestone worth celebrating and that's what the 877 members of the Wayne Masonic Lodge No. 112 will do Saturday, June 27.

The lodge will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a series of activities, beginning with an open house from 10 a.m. to noon. There also will be a light lunch, followed by a Ceremonial Rededication of the building by the State Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers at 2 p.m., the burial of a time capsule at 3:30 p.m. and dinner and awards presentation at 5 p.m.

The lodge is at 37137 Palmer just east of Newburgh. For more information, call the lodge at (734)721-7950 or visit the Masons online at www.waynelodge112.org.

### Book sale

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County will hold its used book sale Friday through Sunday at the Westland Shopping Center, Wayne and Warren roads, Westland. There will be a preview 6-8:30 p.m. today (June 25). It costs \$3.

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Most books and magazines will be priced at \$1 or less; videos, CDs and DVDs will be individually priced.

### Get e-news

Sign up for the a free electronic Westland Observer newsletter and you could win a pass for two to Emagine Theatres and a free Buddy's pizza like Marilyn Konchel of Westland. Konchel signed up for the E-Newsletter and was selected in a random drawing. The alternate was Terry Banka.

Today's Headlines is an e-mail newsletter that will automatically send the latest news via e-mail to anyone who signs up at hometownlife.com. To sign up, click on the e-newsletters tab on Hometownlife.com (top left of the home page). The Observer Newspaper editions offer e-newsletters Thursday and Sunday. Local business and local entertainment newsletters will come out once a week.

Getting the newsletter is easy. The first thing you have to do is become a member of our Web site by going to Hometownlife.com and clicking on the link Become a member, which is just above the main carousel of stories. Once you are a member, click on the E-newsletters tab at the top left of the home page to sign up.

E-newsletter subscribers are entered in weekly drawings for Emagine Theatre movie passes, concert tickets at The Palace and DTE Energy Music Theatre and gift certificates for dinner at restaurants throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties.

# Park cleanup plan 'on right track'

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plans for rehabilitating a portion of the lead-contaminated Central City Park appear to be moving closer to approval by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The more than 200-page proposal was reviewed recently at the monthly DEQ Quality Review Team meeting.

"We asked for meeting dates. We want to meet in person so we give a review of our comments," said Beth Vens, MDEQ project manager.

"Overall, it looks like a good plan. There are some things they need to adjust but they are definitely on the right track."

Trying to coordinate a meeting date with Wayne County and the MDEQ, Westland Mayor William Wild said he is trying to get the meeting scheduled by the end of the month.

"I hope they'll give us their take on our plan and say OK or OK, do this," said Wild, who ordered the park fenced off when he became mayor in January 2007. "I hope we are to the point of being able to move forward."

Vens was also hopeful that the

remediation plan could soon move forward.

"I think the items will be relatively easy to correct," she said "I hope they can move forward very soon. If they are willing to modify the things the department wants, the plan could be approved in a few weeks."

The first phase calls for addressing environmental problems on the 12 acres at the east end of the park and installing new soccer fields, pavilions and concession stands.

Wayne County, which owns the property, would fund the \$1.2 million project and is hopeful it could

qualify for stimulus money. The plan calls for installation of a geo-textile membrane, 12 inches of fresh soil and other landscaping to prevent park users from coming into contact with contaminated soil.

Other areas would be covered by asphalt or concrete. Outside the 12 acres, the remainder of the park would remain fenced off until additional phases of remediation are completed. The county's plan also calls for several measures to address findings of methane gas from the former landfill.

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Phlebotomist technician Ann Coles gets Scott German ready to donate blood during the Westland Police and Fire Departments' annual Battle of the Badges.

# Firefighters claim victory in blood battle

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was the narrowest of margins but the Westland Fire Department can again claim victory in the Battle of Badges American Red

Cross blood drive.

There were 33 pints of blood collected Monday at the Bailey Center — 17 pints from donors designating support for the fire department and 16 pints donated on behalf of the police department.

"The fire department won, of course. I'll tell you that. It was very close," said fire Capt. John Adams, who coordinated the event. "It's not so much a battle between the two units but against the shortage of blood. We had people who

marked their donations for both departments. I noticed that about midway."

Historically, there is a significant decrease in the number of blood

Please see **BLOOD DRIVE, A3**

# Contractor to conduct city's rental inspections

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A private contractor will be taking over Westland's rental property inspections beginning July 1.

Last week, the council approved a professional services proposal from

Ken Buccilli LLC, Infrastructure Inspections for an amount not to exceed \$150,000. Buccilli's staff will handle administration of the program and also conduct the inspections.

"This is the first time the contractor will take over the (entire)

program. We will collect the money basically," said Building Department Director Roger Shifflett. "We will probably break even and maybe make a little money. It's not really meant to make money under state law."

Buccilli's firm works for a per-

centage of the inspection fees collected rather than a retainer or other fee. As a result of the subcontracting of the inspections, an inspector who had been on the city staff is being laid off. The Buccilli

Please see **INSPECTIONS, A3**

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# City updates charter on election filings

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Copies of Westland's city charter will be revised with new language to accurately reflect a state law setting the filing deadline for city offices 12 weeks before the election.

Copies of the charter will have new language added with a sticker overlying the existing language, which set the filing deadline at seven weeks prior to the election.

"We discussed the filing deadline with (Michigan) Attorney General's office. We could do it with a ballot proposal, but if it didn't pass we would be in the same position — state law supersedes the charter," City Attorney Angelo Plakas said. "We're going to put together some-

thing to place over that provision in copies of the charter."

Changes to the city charter require voter approval and the conflict between the charter came to light when proposed charter amendments were being reviewed by the Attorney General's staff as required by state law.

"The council has passed a resolution for two charter questions for November," Clerk Eileen DeHart said.

One question was to allow candidates to pay a \$100 filing fee rather than gathering signatures on nominating petitions. The second question was to move the filing deadline to 12 weeks before the election.

"We can't hardly get the ballots printed in seven weeks," DeHart said. "The

Attorney General's office said we didn't need a charter amendment because of the state law."

The timing on when the conflict was discovered resulted in the filing deadline being moved up unexpectedly. Nine candidates are in the race for four council seats. Mayor William Wild is running unopposed for his first full term as mayor. The change has resulted in complaints from a few of the regular council watchers.

"I talked on the telephone to all the candidates, mailed them registered letters and letters by regular mail," DeHart said. "None of the candidates complained."

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## AROUND WESTLAND

## 4-H workshop

Michigan State University's 4-H Extension in Wayne County is reaching out to youngsters interested in a craft workshop, hosted at the Wayne County Fair, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, June 30.

The 4-H program is trying to involve kids in the local fair by entering projects they have worked on. The workshop will have three crafts for each child to complete. They also will be given information on 4-H and how to enter those projects into the 2009 Wayne County Fair.

A fee of \$2 will cover these crafts and snacks for youngsters age 5 and up who may be interested. There are only 30 spots available so sending the money in ahead of time will ensure reservation. Send payment to Laurie Rivetto, Wayne County 4-H Extension, 5454 Venoy, Wayne, MI 48184. For

more information, call Rivetto at (734) 727-7236.

## In concert

The 2009 Concerts in the Park Series continues Sunday, June 28, with the easy listening music of Pam & Scott.

The free concert starts at 6 p.m. at Performance Pavilion behind the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford. The concert series is sponsored by the Westland City Council with cooperation of the Westland Parks and Recreation Department.

## Golf outing

The John Glenn High School Wrestling Program will hold its 12th Annual Golf Outing Fund-raiser Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Warren Valley Golf Course. The cost is \$85 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn

and dinner. Dinner only guests are welcome, cost is \$25. Contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595 for more information or to make reservations. More information also is available online at glennwrestling.com. Hole sponsorship and donations are being accepted. All donations are welcome!

## Citizens academy

Applications are now being accepted for individuals who want to learn more about how the fire department in Westland is organized and operates.

To participate in the 32-hour program, applicants must be 18 years or older and either live or work in Westland. Sessions are approximately three-four hours in length and will be held on July 31, Aug. 2, 7 and 9.

The deadline to submit an application is July 15. For more information, call (734) 467-3182 or visit the city

Web site at [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com).

## Wrestling camp

The Glenn Wrestling Program will hold its annual "Rocket Camp" 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 20-24 in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School. The camp is open to middle school and high school students. The cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 20. Registration forms are available during Road Rockets 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, which is held in Gym 4 or online at [glennwrestling.com](http://glennwrestling.com). For questions, contact Coach Polk at [rocketwrestling@gmail.com](mailto:rocketwrestling@gmail.com) or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

## Preschool sign-ups

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.

## Hazardous waste

The Wayne County Department of Environment has announced a Household

Hazardous Waste Collection day in the City of Westland.

The Westland event is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, in the lot behind J.C. Penney at the Westland Shopping Center, Warren Road and Nankin Boulevard. Household generated waste will be collected from any Wayne County resident.

For further information, contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at (734) 326-3936.

Another event has been scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at the Northville Public Works, 650 Doherty, just north of Seven Mile Road and east of South Main. It, too, is for Wayne County residents.

## Glow Skate

Grab your skates and head for the Mike Modano Arena on Friday nights for Glow Skate. Cruise around the rink with blacklight illumination from 7:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Skate rentals are \$2.50. The arena is at 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

## Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December) at the Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill. For information, call Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918.

## 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 [bonnie@prisonfamilies.com](mailto:bonnie@prisonfamilies.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.

## W-W school board says goodbye to Turner, Becher

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Turner

Becher

There will be two new faces at the table when the Wayne-Westland school board meets for its organizational meeting on July 14.

Joining the board will be Carol Middel of Canton who was elected to a four-year term and John Goci of Westland who will serve out the remaining two years of term that had been held by Frederick Weaver.

But as the board prepares for the change, school officials and trustees took time at this month's meeting to honor departing members Steve Becher and Ed Turner, and they, in turn expressed their thanks. Both men lost in their bid for re-election in the May school election.

"It's been a pleasure to serve on this school board, this district is amazing," said Turner.

Turner has served on the board for 12 years. He pointed out that he never missed a day of school, both elementary and high school, and never missed a school board meeting.

"I'm proud of my record, I served to the best of my ability," he said. "I always said I put students first, parents second and the administration and teachers third."

"I'm thankful that the residents allowed me to serve the last five years," said Becher. "I've enjoyed my tenure on the board. It has done an excellent job in providing an education for our students with no major layoffs or program cuts."

Becher expressed confidence that the district will endure the economic crisis and become the "lighthouse in the state." He also thanked school officials for "putting up with me every year I proposed single sex physical education classes."

"Great futures do begin right here," he added. "Thank you for allowing me to serve."

Board President Martha Pitsenbarger noted that the two men devoted them-

selves to the district and that they "surely will be missed by the board."

"I'm truly thankful for your years of service," she said. "By your willingness and dedication, you have enriched the lives of our students."

Board Secretary Cindy Schofield noted that Turner "set the standard for attending events in the schools and it still stands."

"People don't realize that besides the events, Ed provided scholarships to our students. He gave more than people realize," she said. "He set a good example for us."

She added that while she wasn't sure what to expect when Becher, a retired Wayne-Westland teacher, joined the board, she came to realize he had "expertise on issues we didn't understand because you had been in the classroom."

Board Vice President Skip Monit told the two men he will miss their "devotion to what we do as a board" and said their service was exemplary.

"You both contributed a great dynamic to the board," he said. "Ed, you were devoted to the kids and that never changed. Steve, I will miss your ability to speak frankly, your knowledge and your friendship."

The newest member of the board, Shawna Walker, said the two men "were right there" when she joined the board last August.

"Mr. Turner, you went to every event and that made me want to do that. Steve Becher showed me a lot in a short period of time," she said. "I'm going to miss you both. You will be truly missed."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

### NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN FOR THE AUGUST 4, 2009 PRIMARY ELECTION

Please take Notice that the Primary Election in the City of Westland will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009.

The last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at the City of Westland Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, is Monday, July 6, 2009. Persons registering after 4:00 in the evening on Monday, July 6, 2009 are not eligible to vote at the General Election.

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

EILEEN DeHART, CMC  
Westland City Clerk

Publish: June 25, 2009

CE0908248-2d3

### CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland, 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **July 1, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):

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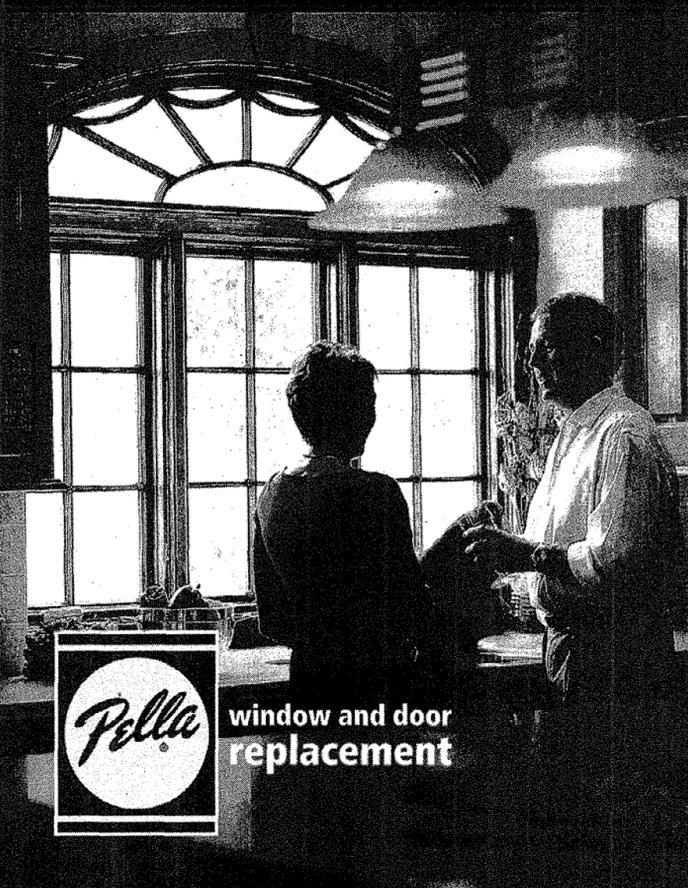
Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185, or at [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com). Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Brian Harnos, C&M Superintendent at (734) 467-3242. 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.

William Gabriel  
Controller

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# BLOOD DRIVE

FROM PAGE A1

donations and an increase in use during the summer. Donors participating in the "Battle of the Badges" blood drives help the American Red Cross maintain a safe blood supply at a time when additional supplies are needed, according to American Red Cross communications specialist Martha Roemer Kurtz.

Scott German, a Stevenson Middle School teacher, and daughter Rachael came to donate blood but neither happened to be there to support police or firefighters.

"I'm pretty much of a regular donor. I'm here with my daughter so she can get extra credit for her microbiology class," said German. "She just graduated from Central (Michigan University) and is taking a class at Schoolcraft College. We came here last year for the blood drive."

Needles don't bother him, German said, as phlebotomist technician Ann Coles got him ready for his blood donation. And with good reason.

"He's got Stevie Wonder veins," said Coles. "Stevie Wonder could draw blood on him."

Rachael German won't be getting that extra credit — she said it was contingent on her donating blood and she was rejected for low iron.

Westland Parks and Recreation foreman Terry Martin also wasn't there to donate for either department.

"I was a serviceman. I served," said Martin, a Korean War army veteran. "I donate once or twice a year. People don't realize how important it is, they always say they have a shortage."

One early donor designating his support for the police department was Officer Dan Serrano, who is assigned to the Youth Bureau.

"I cleared up a couple of cases, so I thought I'd stop by. It's been awhile since I donated," said Serrano, who was predicting a police department victory. "I registered as a bone marrow donor in 1997 but they have never called."

The 33 pints total donated at the Westland Battle of the Badges was from the 30 pints collected in 2008 but down from the peak year of 79 units of blood collected in 2006.

For next year, Adams said he will be looking at making changes to get the number of donors higher — like not scheduling the Battle of the Badges on the same day and times that the Bova VFW Post in Westland was having a blood drive.

"I'd like to schedule it before school gets out and people leave on vacation. I'd like to double the number of donors next year," said Adams. "I'm not sure how to explain the drop-off. Our first year (2005) we set the pace in Wayne County. The mayor and chiefs received an award."

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Westland Police Officer Dan Serrano was predicting a police victory when he stopped by to donate blood.



Red Cross nurse Marilyn Wojtowicz talks with Terry Martin as he gets ready to donate blood.

# Volunteer Johnson was friend to Westland

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Over some 40 years, Ernest Johnson was an active volunteer in Westland — president of the Westland Historical Society, a member of the Parks and Recreation Board and president of the Westland Cultural Society.



Ernest Johnson

"Whatever needed to be done in the city, he would volunteer for it," said Georgia Becker, a longtime friend. "There were just so many things, you just can't name them all."

Mr. Johnson, 79, died June 18. Despite his health problems, Mr. Johnson continued to be active.

"He absolutely kept going. People were saying the other night at a meeting how well he looked," said Becker. "He and my (late) husband Howard were so alike — right up to the end, constantly on the go. Being active keeps you going — if you stopped, you don't last as long."

It was usually given that if you saw Mr. Johnson, you would also see his wife, Jo — she was equally active in the community.

When then-Wayne County

Commissioner Kay Beard honored Jo Johnson as a woman of achievement, she called Mr. Johnson out of the audience to join his wife.

"One of my fondest memories is when Kay Beard called Ernie up to share the honor. I think he was the only man to be recognized as a woman of achievement," said Carol Larkin, a local activist who works for Wayne County. "In his quiet way, he just kind of smiled and went up with Jo. It was a spontaneous thing when Kay called him up."

Becker has known the Johnsons so long that she said she doesn't remember when they first met.

"When Jo called to tell me he had died, I was broken up. He was just a good man, a good friend," said Becker.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Johnson is survived by his children, Donna (John) Swanson, Jan (Bill) Mackenroth, Vicki (Michael) Webster, Laura (Rick) Hazen, sister Dorothy Briggs, grandchildren Angela (Andrew) Hathikhanavala, Amanda Webster and Katie Webster. A son, Mike, and grandchild Kris Mackenroth predeceased Mr. Johnson.

Donations to Westland Historic Village Park are suggested. A note of condolence can be left at www.uhfh.com.

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# INSPECTIONS

FROM PAGE A1

firm also will be providing inspection services to Garden City as a subcontractor to McKenna Associates, which was recently hired to serve as that city's building department.

"When the city originally did this several years back, as a council member I thought we were sold a bad bill of

goods," said Mayor William Wild. "The contractor got most of the money and we got most of the work. We brought it back in house to sever ties with that company. We're going to do it the right way this time. It will be more efficient and cost-effective."

With 18,000 rental units — apartments, duplexes, quads and single family homes — housing about 35,000 people, Westland's rental inspection program examines the rental

units every three years.

The building department, which has five full-time inspectors, still handles other inspections and also has picked up additional ordinance enforcement duties.

"In the future we will see more and more of this (outsourcing). We've also been increasing the ordinance work to be able to keep our building inspectors," said Wild. "We've also brought

animal control into the building department. The animal control officer is doing ordinance enforcement, too. We've added work to protect those jobs."

Councilman Michael Kehrer abstained from voting on the contract, noting he didn't currently work for Buccilli but had previously and wanted to avoid any potential conflict.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Duo take cell phones, wallet from worker

### Robbery

A Detroit man told police he was robbed at knife point just after midnight June 22 in the parking lot of Kroger, 31300 Michigan Ave.

The man works for a parking lot cleaning company and was on foot blowing trash so that it could be picked up by the sweeper machine. He said two men approached him and one man asked if the company was hiring.

Distracted while talking to the first man, the Detroit man said the second man came up to his left side and pulled out a steak knife which the man held to his throat.

The man said he was told to "give up what you got." The man told police gave one man his wallet while the second man took the two cell phones which were on his belt.

### COP CALLS

Police dog Drago tracked the suspects to the area near Carlisle and Andover before losing the scent due to large amount of foot traffic in the area.

### Larceny from a vehicle

A Southfield woman told police June 22 that on June 14 she had visited her daughter at an apartment at Woodland Villa, 7550 Drew Circle, and left after about 30 minutes to find her vehicle rear hatch open.

Reported missing were a large suitcase containing clothing, shoes, make-up and toiletries, a lap top computer, a diamond necklace, a camcorder, a watch and topaz/diamond ring. The missing items were valued at \$3,780.

The woman said the vehicle might have been left unlocked. The report wasn't file immediately, the woman said, because she wasn't sure it was needed.

### Vandalism

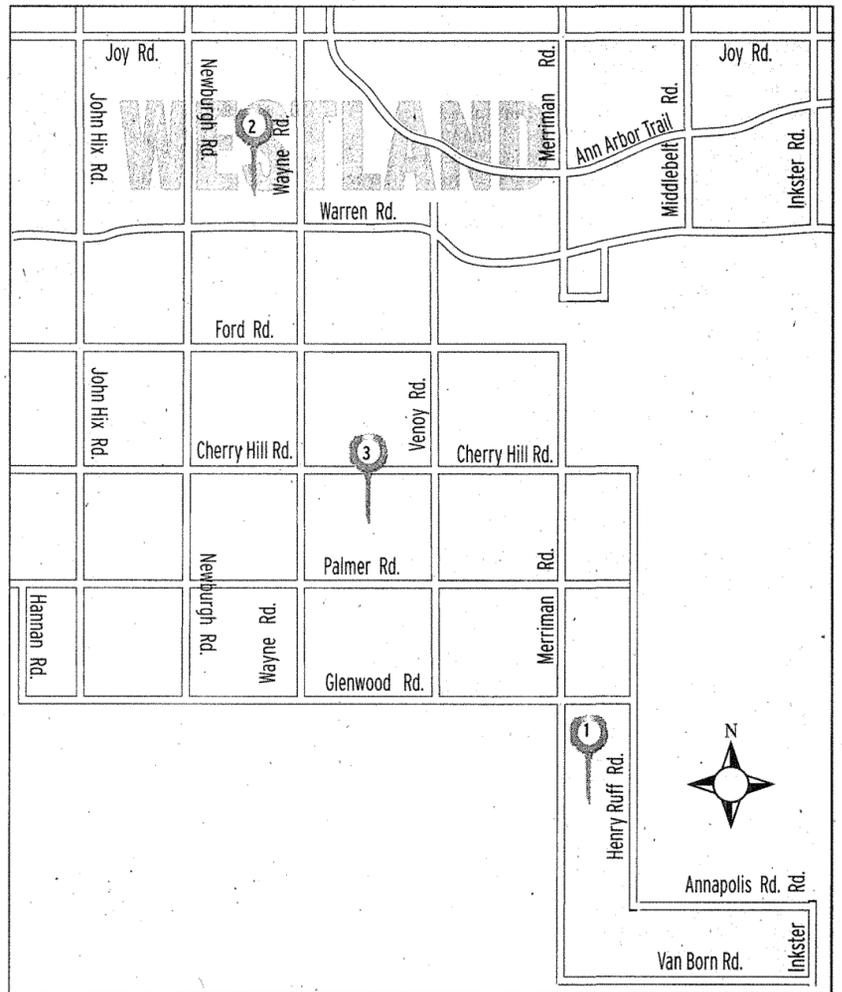
On June 18, a resident in the 36000 block of Melton told police that someone had thrown eggs at his vehicle while it was parked on the street. The damage was estimated at \$500.

The owner said it was the third time this year his vehicle had been egged.

### Larceny from a vehicle

A Romulus woman told police June 22 that someone smashed a window on her vehicle and stole a GPS unit, valued at \$200, while she was inside Fortneye, 35675 Warren Road.

— By LeAnne Rogers



## Holiday crackdown targets drunken driving

Choose to drive drunk and fireworks won't be the only flashing lights you see over the July 4 holiday.

The Westland Police Department is joining law enforcement agencies across the state for a summer "Over the Limit. Under Arrest" crackdown on drunken drivers.

Drivers in Michigan will find stepped up patrols looking for drunken drivers throughout Westland beginning Friday and continuing through Sunday, July 5.

This includes the July 4 weekend, which is a time for parties, picnics and celebrations. Last year, 14 motorists died in Michigan over the July

4 holiday, with five of those deaths involving alcohol and three of those motorists not wearing seat belts.

"We want people to have a good time and be responsible. By stepping up enforcement during the holiday season, we can keep motorists safe by removing drunk drivers from the roadways," Westland Police Sgt. Ron Kroll said.

The stepped up enforcement is funded by a grant through the federal Office of Highway Safety Planning administered by Wayne County.

"We will have two extra patrol units working the six nights of the grant. We will have 12 officers working," Kroll said.

In Michigan, a motorist can be arrested for drunken driving with 0.08 blood-alcohol content or higher. A drunken driving conviction is costly and comes with assorted penalties including fines, legal fees, driver responsibility fees, court costs and higher insurance rates.

"Not driving is so much easier than getting behind the wheel after drinking too much. Penalties can be avoided by designating a sober driver, taking a cab or spending the night at a friend's house," Kroll said.

In 2008, there were 317 alcohol-related traffic deaths statewide, a decrease of 8.2 percent from 2007.

## Trial date set in fatal pedestrian accident

An Aug. 10 trial date has been scheduled for a Livonia man charged with killing a pedestrian in Westland while driving drunk.

Wesley Sanborn, 22, is charged with killing Gary Brown, a 27-year-old Livonia father of two, in an Aug. 3 accident. Brown, who was also reported to be intoxicated, was walking along Joy east of Newburgh when he was hit by a vehicle.

Westland police arrested

Sanborn seven hours after the accident, when he drove back to scene in a damaged Chevrolet Blazer. Officers reported that Sanborn still smelled of alcohol.

Sanborn told police he was receiving a text message and cell phone call at the time of the accident and believed that he had hit a mailbox.

The trial date was scheduled after attempts to reach a plea agreement failed. In May, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Michael Hathaway

rejected as too lenient a plea offer that would have sentenced Sanborn to one year in the Wayne County Jail and five years probation. If convicted, Sanborn faced a maximum of 15 years in prison.

Hathaway had given Sanborn the option of a 2- to 15-year prison sentence under a new plea agreement or going to trial.

Through their attorney, the Brown family was willing to accept the original plea agreement.

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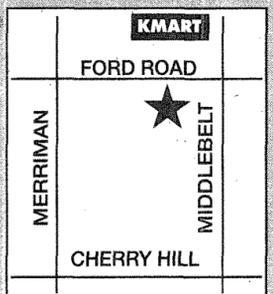
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# LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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

## OUR VIEWS

### Get signed up for recycling

The carts have been delivered, now it's up to Westland residents to make curbside recycling happen in a big way.

Please, no more excuses about having to pre-sort recyclables. No more complaining about having to peel labels off cans and bottles. No more grumbling about having to cart items to the recycling center on Marquette. About the hardest thing residents will have to do is rinse out jars, bottles and cans and wheel the cart to the curb.

This new program is light years ahead of the city's old curbside recycling program in which residents had to pay to have their recyclables picked up. In fact, it gives new meaning to turning trash to treasure. For that little bit of effort, residents who recycle will get rewards through RecycleBank which can be redeemed for gift cards, groceries and products from Coca-Cola, Kraft Foods and CVS/pharmacy as well as local participating Westland businesses like Westland Shopping Center, Heartland Marketplace, Nankin Hardware, Marvaso's Italian Grille and Palace Supermarket.

RecycleBank has more than one million members across 19 states who have cumulatively saved more than 1.5 million trees and more than 105 million gallons of oil through recycling efforts. So doesn't it make sense to sign up?

We urge residents who receive carts to activate their account today. Don't wait. You get 40 bonus RecycleBank points just for signing up. And as soon as you start setting your cart out on your designated collection day, you'll begin earning more.

This recycling program is a win-win for residents and the city. It offers rewards to encourage recycling which in turn cuts down on the amount of trash going to landfills. It costs the city money to have garbage hauled away. With the state's failing economy, every penny saved can help maintain city services.

You use your charge cards to build up frequent flier points, so why not use your blue cart to build up RecycleBank points? It's the smart thing to do.

## ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

### • A wonderful story

What a Great Story. Congratulations to Maggie and Roy. They are one in a million. Also thank you for publishing this story. It renews hope of everlasting love.

themotormouth

### • Thanks for recycling program

Kudo to city officials for instituting this great program. I've almost filled my container with recyclables. I hope the majority of Westland citizens take advantage of this program, as most will have more recyclables than trash if they recycle all they can.

ALMac7

### • Village is addition to city

I think it is incredible that in these economic times, there is someone willing to invest in our community and bring additional tax revenues up to where it will actually benefit the residents! I see this as an addition, not as a disruption.

lbiablahlah!

### • Project not good for city

I support good city planning and smart construction that benefit our community. This project fails both those criteria. It is more an act of desperation. There were numerous alternative sites to put a senior citizen high rise, which would have been more appropriate for this type of construction.

## WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason  
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek  
Executive Editor

Grace Perry  
Director of Advertising

## COMMUNITY VOICE

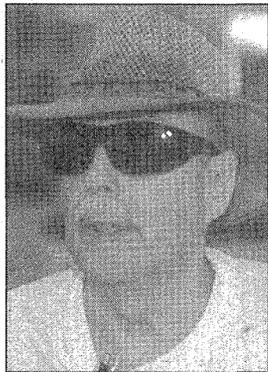
### Do you have any plans for vacation this summer?

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



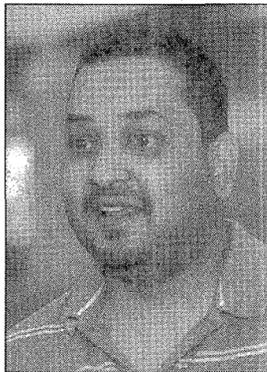
"I plan to camp at Bruin Lake in Pinckney."

Sherri McCabe  
Westland



"Nothing. I'm retired and I'll be taking care of my son who's ill."

Warren Brown  
Westland



"Right now, I'm unemployed. When I get a job, I'll think about a vacation. But right now, I have no plans."

Kotieswar Meghadri  
Shelby Township



"I'm going to Quebec and Montreal in August. I'm going with the seniors from the Dyer Center."

Betsy Spreen  
Garden City

## LETTERS

### • Recycling plan not fair

I live in Westland Meadows, where we have dumpsters for our trash. I have been recycling for many years now, making my weekly visit to the Westland dump. I don't think it's fair that they haven't put something in place for us to get rewarded. Maybe they need to give us a card that can be swiped when we bring our things to the dump.

I don't think this was very well thought out because people are being left out. It's bad enough I get treated like a second-class citizen because I live in a "trailer park," actually a mobile home community, but this really beats all. Unfair treatment to your citizens.

Lori Gabbert  
Westland

### Thanks for support

The staff, students and community of Taft-Galloway Elementary would like to thank you for your coverage of our first annual "Keep It Safe" community event on May 27.

Without the generous support of our local business and community partners, this fantastic event could not have been a reality. We look forward to a continued partnership with your organization, and we thank you for your support in keeping all children safe.

Stephanie Ormsby  
principal Taft-Galloway School  
Westland

### Health care reform needed

In less than five months, President Obama and his administration have already achieved an impressive list of domestic and foreign policy accomplishments for the near term as well as long-term benefit of America's people. However, the president's remarkable successes thus far are merely a prelude of what is still to come. Topping the administration's current agenda is the most important and difficult issue of all, that of health care reform.

The obstacles to real reform are many, most notably the entrenched and arrogant health insurance industry, perhaps the only American industry that is actually sleazier than Wall Street bankers, big oil, defense contractors and credit card companies. Notably, and unsurprisingly, each of the preceding considers the Republican Party as a wholly owned subsidiary. Thus, it is equally unsurprising that obstruction to health care reform, especially the absolute necessity of a public option, is led by the troglodytes of the GOP as well as the right-wing media noise machine. Unfortunately, even a few cowardly Democrats have been unwilling to break free of the filthy campaign money of the insurance industry.

However, unlike the past when conservative and corporate slime campaigns derailed health care reform, the hundreds of millions of dollars of dirty money being poured into efforts to sabotage the Obama administration's reforms will this time be for naught. All the endless right-wing cheerleading against the common good of America's citizens cannot stop the inevitable progress of our nation toward ensuring that the fundamental right of affordable health care is available to every citizen. A public option is the only way of ensuring this as a reality.

The insurance industry is outright terrified of competition, especially competition that significantly lowers medical costs for all Americans while ensuring that everyone has equal access to high quality and affordable care. How ironic that the self-anointed Republican defenders of free and competitive enterprise are so obsessed with shielding their pet industries from actual competition! It is time for our nation to break free from



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a health care system which is rigged to screw over American families. Never again should any citizen of our nation be refused coverage or have to declare bankruptcy because of health care bills. The arrogant conservative mind set of greed and selfishness blithely considers affordable health care as a "privilege." It is not. Rather, it is an inalienable right, directly derived from our intrinsic rights of life and liberty. Most of all, it is a right which America's citizens are about to reclaim once and for all.

Joe Golonka  
Westland

### Emphasize hygiene

So the PETA people were upset that Obama killed a fly. Actually, it should have been the World Health Organization that should have been upset when he didn't text anyone for a hand sanitizer. Instead of pushing for health care reform, Obama should consider stressing better hygiene.

Dolores Kapanke  
Garden City

### No to health care plan

I will not support any new or higher taxes to cover the health care reform measure that Obama and the Democrats are forcing upon us. Any politician that does will not get my vote at the next election cycle. I have written my state and federal representatives daily and conveyed this message to them.

This is nothing more than yet another power grab by the Obama administration. This plan has failed miserably everywhere in the world it has been tried. Health care costs are just another example of the greed of our political system.

High costs can be directly blamed in most part on politicians, they write the rules that permit or deny actions by insurers, hospitals, doctors and patients. Politicians at both the state and federal level have turned what should be the best health care system in the world into a terrible mess, all to collect campaign funds for their re-elections. They've done the same with our financial system and now our manufacturing industry.

It's easy to blame patients for the overuse in the health care system, and indeed, they must share some blame. But physician overuse is greater as most patients generally dislike unnecessary doctor visits and hospital admissions.

As a former business owner, if I had an employee giving company assets to outsiders in exchange for money on the side, I'd fire

him and possibly even have him jailed. In any other venue we call it bribery, payola and theft. But in the American political system, we call it freedom of speech. We don't jail them, we re-elect them.

Joe Biden has admitted that the Obama \$1 trillion dollar stimulus plan has failed to do what they had promised us in creating new jobs and keeping unemployment below the 8 percent mark, we are currently at 9.4 percent and still climbing yet they still want to spend another \$1.6 trillion as a down payment on this health care "reform" that will force private insurers out of business and that includes the not-for-profit Blue Cross Blue Shield which is among the top health care companies in this country.

Obama stated that he could add 47 million to the Medicaid rolls and still save each family \$2,500 a year, how is this possible? He will tax the money that your employer pays for your insurance plan and use that to pay for the new national insurance coverage. It's the old government pea game, cut by a dollar what you pay a private insurer, take it away in taxes and then feed it to the federal government spending machine.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concludes that this plan will leave 36 million without insurance and 23 million will lose the current insurance they have. On top of that, they state that the cost will far exceed the estimation by the Obama administration.

The Obama administration wants everything done now and will not stop and look at the details of these plans because their goal is power and control over the people and ultimately, our money.

Congress should initiate a national health care database that would help eliminate errors in prescriptions and procedures. They should set caps on medical malpractice lawsuit awards and remove the restrictions from health care savings accounts.

Congress should also enact a Fair Tax Plan and abolish the IRS, saving us \$6 billion a year and initiate a Fair Trade agreement and then, just maybe, we the people would have restored faith in them, otherwise the next move Congress should make is return itself to a part-time status with corresponding reductions in salaries and the elimination of health and retirement benefits.

If we can bank online, we certainly can vote online. We can get any lawyer to write a piece of legislation for us for a whole lot less than \$5 billion plus a year.

Phil Solarz  
Westland

MALLS & MAIN STREETS

If you have an item for Malls & Main Streets, please e-mail Susan Steinmueller at [sssteinmueller@hometownlife.com](mailto:sssteinmueller@hometownlife.com) or Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com)

Book sale

The League of Women voters of Northwest Wayne County will hold a used book sale Thursday-Sunday, June 25-28 at Westland Mall, located at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland. Admission to the sale preview from 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, is \$3. Free admission 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

The League will sell books of interest to adults, children and youth; hard cover and soft cover books, cookbooks, fiction and books in many categories, some special books and some audio and video tapes. Most magazines and books are priced at \$1 or less. CDs, DVDs and videos are individually priced. Bag sale — \$6 per bag or \$11 for two bags — is Sunday.

This fund-raiser allows the League to honor a local political science student with a scholarship each year.

Comerica Cityfest

Two local merchants will set up shop at the LISC Street Market during the Comerica Cityfest, July 1-5, in the New Center area, on West Grand Boulevard, between Woodward and the Lodge Freeway. The street market will be located on Second Avenue within the festival boundaries. The local merchants are:

■ Middle Kingdom of Plymouth with Asian-inspired treasures, including beautiful pearls, and silk items

■ Vaidehi Design of Westland with henna body decoration.

Comerica Cityfest hours are 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, July 1-4 and 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday, July 5.

Trade electronics

RadioShack at Westland Mall will appraise your used electronics — MP3 players, GPS receivers, digital cameras, mobile phones, games and gaming systems, and camcorders — and give you their value in the form of a RadioShack gift card on trade-in. The program runs through December. Westland Mall is located at 35000 W. Warren Road, Westland. (734) 421-0291

Wall the mall

Too hot or wet to hit the pavement outdoors? Head to Laurel Park Place Mall where the doors open to walkers at 6 a.m., Monday through Saturday and at 9 a.m. on Sunday. You'll log more than a half mile for every completed trip through the mall, including hallways. Laurel Park Place is located on Six Mile, between I-275 and Newburgh, in Livonia.

Inline skating

Summit Sports and the Farmington Inline Skate Club will host inline skating events 6:30 p.m.-midnight. Intermediate/advanced skaters will meet every Monday in June in the rear parking lot of Our Lady of Sorrows, 23815 Power Road, Farmington for a 15-25 mile skate through hilly terrain.

Beginner/intermediate skaters will meet Wednesdays, through Aug. 26, in the public parking area on Orchard Street (behind the Farmington Shopping Center at Farmington and Grand River) for 4-12 miles of skating in two loops.

The store is located at 28942 Orchard Lake Road. On July 29 and Aug. 26, Summit Sports will hold a skate maintenance clinic at 7:30 in between the loops Call (248) 737-0970.

- Compiled by Sharon Dargay

# Midwest talent, locals, celebrities perform at comedy festival

Need a few laughs? Head to Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia where the summer comedy festival continues through July 11.

Bill Bushard, festival organizer and a stand-up comedian, says the festival focuses on Michigan comedians from throughout the state.

"We have a variety of shows planned."

Each show offers something different:

■ Thursday, June 25 — "The Freaks & Geeks Show!" featuring Mike Bobbitt (Detroit International Comedy Festival, DC Comedy Fest). The stand-up fringe hits the stage with smart edgy comedy.

■ Friday-Saturday, June 26-27 — "The 20Midwest Comedy Showcase!" featuring Dave Landau (*Comedy Central: Live at Gotham*, NBC's *Last Comic Standing*) this weekend will bring together some of the most talented comedians in the Midwest.

■ Monday, June 29 — "Comedy Jump Start Contest: Round 2!" Watch as 11 of the Detroit area's newest comedy talents compete for cash and prizes.

■ Tuesday, June 30 — "Joey's Summer Variety Extravaganza!" This one of a kind show will combine music, dance and comedy resulting in a night of high-energy entertainment.

■ Wednesday, July 1 — "Comedy Overdrive!" featuring Michael McDaniel

(Detroit International Comedy Festival) and the best talent on the Detroit comedy scene

■ Thursday, July 2 — "Red White and Butland!" featuring PJ Butland.

■ Friday, July 3 — "Joey's Comedy Club All Stars!" A line-up of the best comedians in the Detroit area.

■ Monday July 6 — "Comedy Jump Start Contest: Round 3!" Watch as 11 of the Detroit area's youngest talents compete for cash and prizes.

■ Tuesday, July 7 — "The Roche Show!" featuring Frank Roche (Boston Comedy Festival, clubs and colleges across the US.)

■ Wednesday, July 8 — "Funny Top Cops!" featuring funny cops Dwayne Gill, Khurum Shiek and Henry Forbes. The fundraiser show will benefit M I Concerns of Police Survivors.

■ Thursday, July 9 — "1001 Laughs!" --- The best in Arab American comedy from all over the country featuring Amer Zahr and Mike Batayeh.

■ Friday-Saturday, July 10-11 — "The Midwest Comedy Showcase!" The weekend will bring together some of the most talented comedians in the Midwest.

Show schedules subject to change. Admission prices will vary. Joey's is located at 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call the Joey's Comedy Club box office for details at (734) 261-0555.

## Furniture company awards grants to nonprofits

In honor of its 50th anniversary, Art Van Furniture is spending \$1 million to fund 50 grants for Michigan-based children, health and human services programs. The grants will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Art Van will design the grants as Challenge Gifts in order to encourage others to donate and maximize fund-raising opportunities. To be eligible for a grant, an organization must be recognized as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) and not be a private foundation. Organizations must also submit to a financial audit by an independent, certified public accountant, and not discriminate based on age, race, creed, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity, in policy or in practice.

Interested organizations must submit

a grant application through the Art Van web site at [www.artvan.com](http://www.artvan.com). Grant applications are due by midnight on June 30. Winners will be announced July 31. For online application form questions, call (586) 983-2050.

Art Van Elslander, founder of the furniture retailer, has made giving back a priority since the first Art Van Furniture store opened in 1959. His generosity has earned him honors such as Greater Detroit Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year, the University of Detroit Mercy President's Medallion Award and the Detroit News Michiganian of the Year.

"It is our honor to give back to communities and charities across our great state of Michigan that have supported Art Van

Furniture over the past 50 years," stated Art Van Founder Art Van Elslander. "The \$1 Million Charity Challenge will benefit 50 remarkable and deserving organizations to help them continue their work and improve the lives of people across our state. We encourage all eligible charities to apply for a grant."

Those not eligible for the grant program include: individuals, private foundations or endowment funds, religious organizations, political activities, parties or candidates, veteran organizations, fraternal or labor organizations, courtesy advertising program books and yearbooks, entertainment events, scholarships or conferences, sporting events or teams, and travel groups or tours.

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# Young Champions All Stars take aim at national title

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A group of youngsters from Westland and Canton are aiming high in cheerleading. Members of Westland Young Champions' All Stars, they're getting ready to compete for a national title after placing first in the state in Division 4.

"It's a nice group of girls. They're a well-rounded team, they fit together like a puzzle," said coach Danielle Santo. "They all get along fantastically. They're very caring to each other within cheer and outside cheer."

The team ranges in age from 9 to 16 and is part of the Westland Parks and Recreation Department's Young Champions, a division of Cheer America. They practice once a week at the Bailey Recreation Center.

According to Santo, the girls have been working hard in a quest for a state championship. They've done well at regionals, but never seemed to make the top spot at state competition.

"They did some difficult moves that raised the bar at the state competition," said Santo. "Some old coaches came and saw them and said they had improved 100 percent. They couldn't believe how fan-



Members of the Westland Young Champions All Stars show off the medals they won after placing first in the state championship last month. They're now preparing for national competition in Grand Rapids in late July.

tastically they pulled together as a team."

### 'FEARLESS'

The team has three fliers — Kelly Davis and Kelly Cossin of Westland and Becca McSorley of Canton — who Santo describe as "fearless." The team also includes twins Morgan and Mackenzie

Parrent, Jessie Gilmer, Kaitlin Koval, Kayley Riker, Rio Santo, all of Westland, Danielle Hart of Madison Heights, Bryanna Olsen-Williams of Dearborn Heights, and Aiyanna Perkins of Detroit. The assistant coach is Tara Krolowski.

Santo has plenty to say about each girl and what they bring

to the team.

About her fliers, Santo praised Davis, a fairly new to the Champions program, for doing split stunts. She's the only one at state competition to perform the stunt "that's very hard to do." Coffin is the team member who "really tries the hardest," while McSorley is the "daredevil."

The twins are an added bonus with their work and commitment to practice and competition, while Gilmer and Koval, the bases for stunts, "are a great pair, they complement each other."

"It's amazing how they work together," she said.

Riker has incorporated some stunt skills in her mounting skills "that are fantastic, and Rio Santo, Santo's daughter is a versatile cheerleader. She is an excellent back spotter and base."

Hart, the team's "power-house jumper," is new to the team this year.

"I actually think she was one piece of the puzzle needed to complete the team," said Santo about Hart. "She filled a hole in the team."

Santo describes Perkins as a "fantastic performer" who's "good at everything she does." Olsen-Williams has been with the team from the start when she lived in Canton. Her dance abilities shine in competition.

### TEAM EFFORT

Santo also has praise for her assistant coach who takes the girls' confidence level and keeps them motivated and for parents Kim Cossin and Charlotte Spiteri. Cossin runs the team and works with par-

ents, keeping Santo connected with the girls, while Spiteri handles the conditioning work.

The team will compete in the national competition in Grand Rapids on July 25 where they'll go against some 35 other Division 4 teams from around the country. Santo has high hopes of the team winning.

"They're all performers, when it comes to competition time, they thrive," she said. "They don't have the jitters. Once they're put in the situation of a competition the things I complain about at practice go away."

And the program's Division 3 team also is making news, winning a third place in regionals and a second in state competition.

"It's a huge accomplishment, they've never placed in regionals before," Santo said. "I had one little girl say, 'Now we have to place first in nationals and we'll have a first, second and third.'"

While the Division 4 girls prepare for a trip to nationals, they're also fund raising to go to cheer camp for Division 4 teams in August. The goal is to raise \$4,800, "to make sure everyone can go," Santo said.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

# Funeral planning can ease the strain on loved ones

A few weeks ago, I was talking to a client who unexpectedly had to bury a spouse. In the process of arranging the funeral he said he was in a very vulnerable situation and felt some people used that for their benefit. He asked for my advice in pre-planning a funeral.

Although it is a topic that most of us avoid having to talk about, the reality is that we are all going to leave this great earth some day. Since we generally do not know the timing of our demise, it is a good idea to plan ahead. After all, during our lifetime we try to do the best we can for our loved ones. Why not make our passing as



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

easy as possible on them? One issue people run into when making funeral arrangements immediately after a death is that they do not want to appear cheap. Whether it is deciding on the type of casket or other amenities associated with a funeral, the prices add up. One of the great benefits of pre-planning a funeral is it gives one the opportunity to be cost-sensitive. Funerals can be expensive but pre-planning

can help mitigate the cost.

If you are thinking about pre-planning your funeral, there are a few issues to consider. The first is the type of funeral arrangements that you want. Do you want your remains cremated or do you want to be buried? In addition, you need to decide on the funeral home and the type of service that you desire. Many people are no longer choosing a traditional service at a funeral home instead opting for a graveside service.

If you decide on burial, another important issue is the casket. In the past, the only way to purchase a casket was through the funeral home.

Caskets from a funeral home are a high-profit margin item and it is not unusual for caskets to be marked up 500-700 percent.

As morbid as it sounds, you can select your casket before you pass on. Not only are there internet sites that sell caskets, but retailers like Costco have gotten into the casket-selling business.

When I talk about pre-planning a funeral, I'm not necessarily referring to pre-paying. If you are considering pre-paying your funeral there are some things that you must consider. First, in today's world where people are constantly on the move, what happens if you no

longer live in your community?

If you have prepaid through one funeral home can that money be refunded or transferred to another? In addition, determine what happens if the funeral home goes out of business. Do you have the right at any point in time to cancel your contract and get a refund? If you do decide to prepay your funeral you need to do some homework. Check with the Better Business Bureau and the Michigan attorney general's office.

Death, dying and funerals are subjects that no one likes to discuss, however, they are a fact of life. There is one reason we do estate planning and that

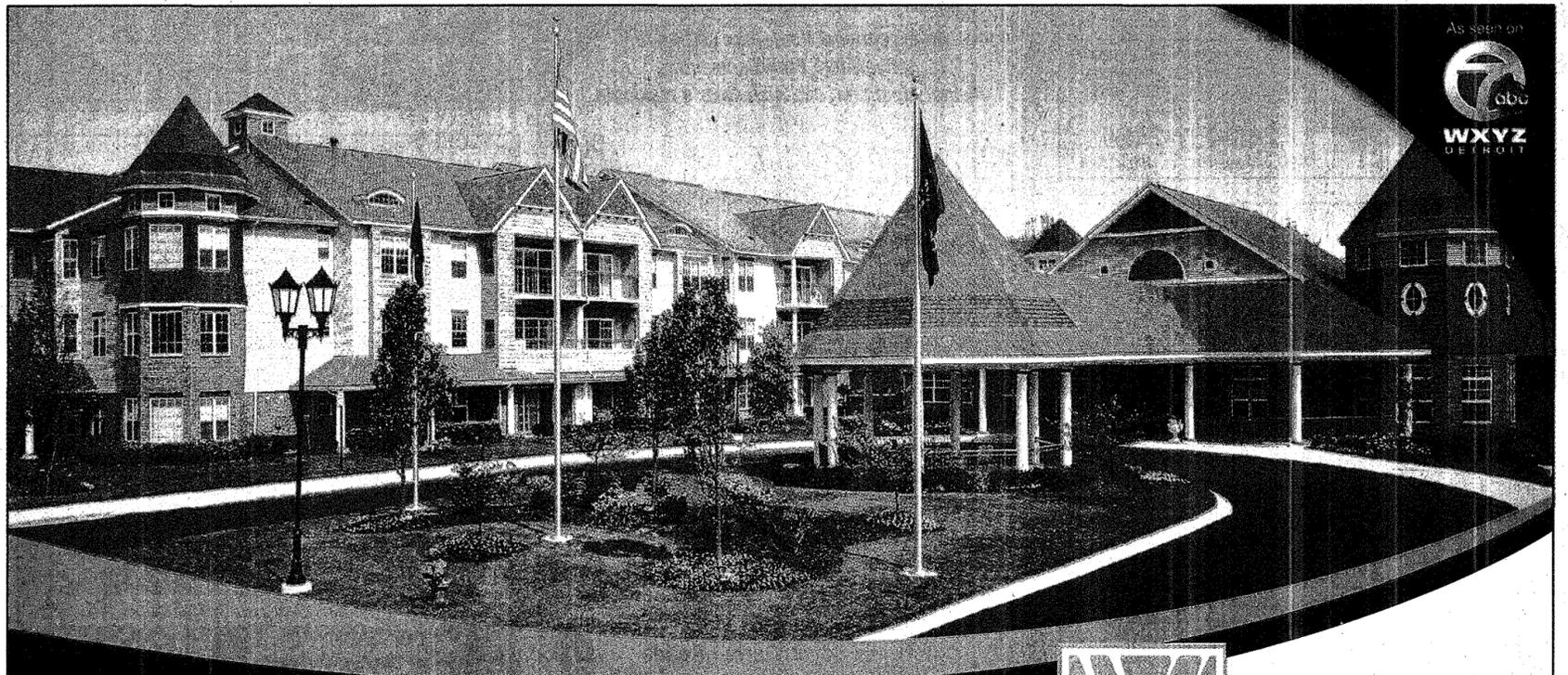
is because we love our family.

The same thing can be said with regards to pre-planning your funeral. We all know that the worst time to think about a funeral is after you've lost a loved one. Therefore, as difficult as it may be, it makes sense to pre-plan.

What better ultimate act of love for your family is there than easing their burden during a very difficult time.

Good luck!

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



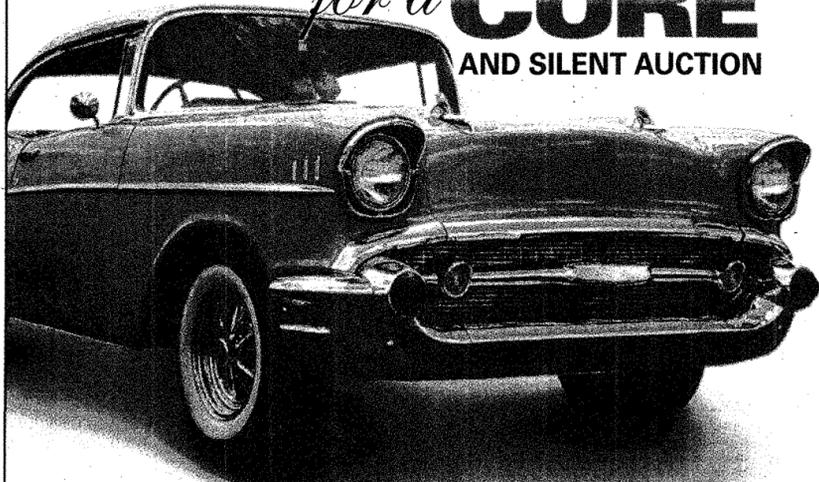
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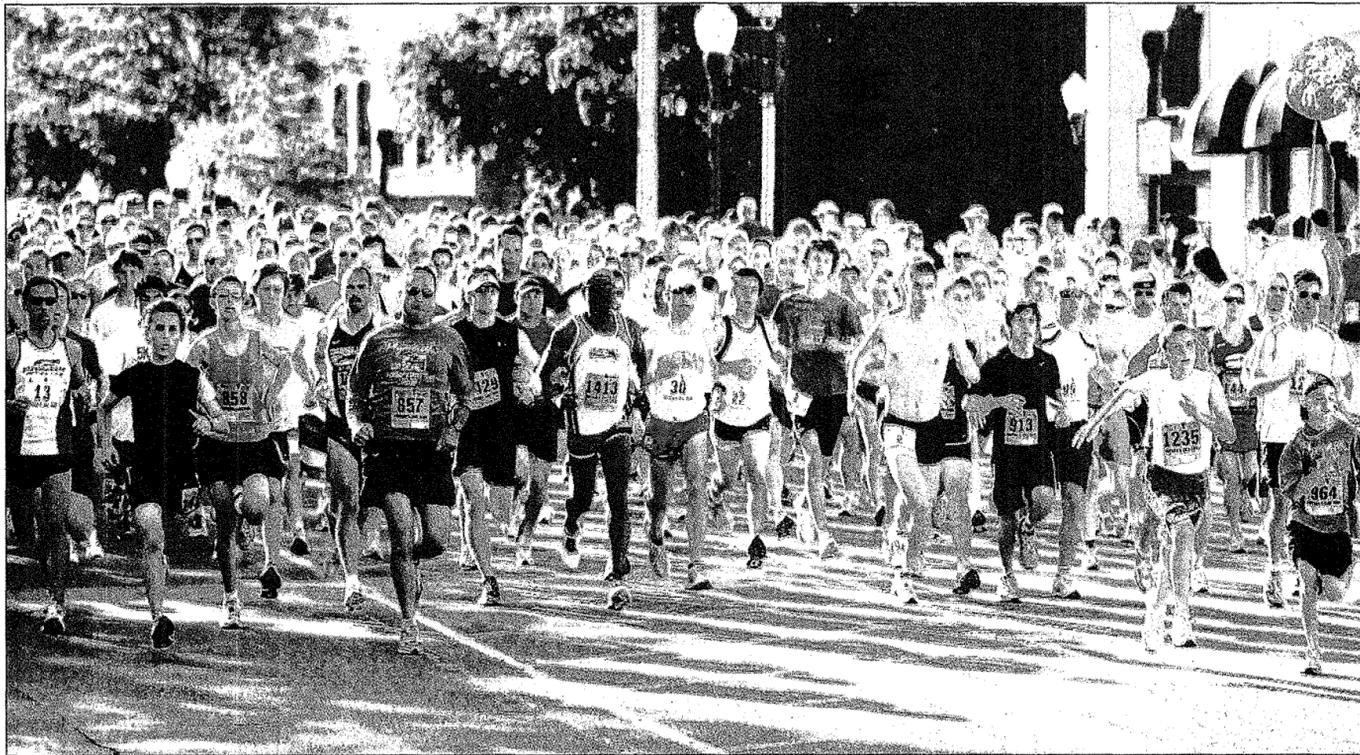
SECTION B  
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Tim Smith, editor (313) 222-2637  
tsmith@hometownlife.com

New Spree pole vault to attract competitors of all ages, B4

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

# HOMETOWN LIFE

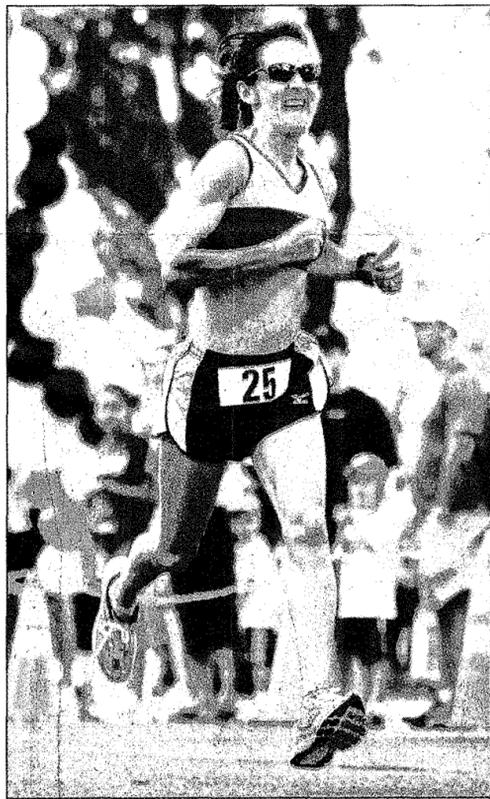


PHOTOS BY ANDREW RUBENSTEIN

Participants at the 30th annual Plymouth YMCA Father's Day Run try to get a jump on the competition as the 5K Run begins in downtown Plymouth. More than 2,000 people came out to compete in a number of running and walking events.

## DASHING WITH DAD

### Families enjoy holiday at Plymouth YMCA Father's Day Run



Motoring toward a triple victory Sunday is Lisa Veneziano of Fenton. She took first in the 10K, 5K and mile runs.

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Father's Day tradition in Plymouth keeps getting bigger and better.

Sunday's 30th annual Plymouth Family YMCA Father's Day Run provided families with a unique and hearty way to celebrate the holiday as more than 2,000 runners of all ages came out on "a beautiful day," YMCA spokeswoman Cindy Morency said.

"It was our most successful event to date," Morency said, estimating that overall registration was up about 500 from 2008.

There was something for everybody, whether seasoned race veterans from Michigan, other states and Canada or local families out to help raise money for the Plymouth YMCA Strong Kids Campaign (to benefit summer day camp programs).

One such "daddy daughter" tandem was Plymouth's Michael Sytniak and his 8-year-old daughter Francesco, who competed in the mile Run. In the 5K Run was Canton's Rob Shaver and his 14-year-old daughter Shannon. Many others ran with their dads more for the cherished memory than for the sheer competition of the event.

"It's a family tradition," Morency said about why the event

**'It's a way for families to come out every year and celebrate Father's Day.'**

CINDY MORENCY, Plymouth YMCA

continues to grow. "It's a way for families to come out every year and celebrate Father's Day."

Participants of different ages, experience and physical capabilities had plenty of choices. At 8 a.m., Gault Race Management simultaneously started the mile run and walk from downtown Plymouth, near Ann Arbor Trail and Union.

Fifteen minutes later opened the 5K run/walk, while the 10K run/walk started at 8:45 a.m. Some also raced in the MDG Triple — simultaneously competing in all three runs for a total of 10.3 miles, with all runners and walkers finishing up near the historic Penn Theatre.

Meanwhile, there were events for infants, toddlers and children. Those included the Diaper Dash (ages 0-1), Wee Walkers (ages 1-2), Kids Trot (ages 3-4) and Kids Jog (ages 5-7).

#### TRIPLE WINNER

The big winner of the day was Fenton's Lisa Veneziano, who

Please see **YMCA RUN, B4**



Carl Rundall, of Birmingham, sets the winning pace in the 10K run on Father's Day in Plymouth.

## Diesels avenge defeat

BY CHRISTIAN YOUNG  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

It's all about redemption for the Detroit Diesels this year.

After avenging last year's first-round playoff loss to the Southwest Michigan Punishers last week with a 28-14 victory, the engines were really cranked for their bitter Great Lakes Football League Eastern Division rival, the Michigan Vipers.

And last Saturday at Livonia Franklin High School, that dish of revenge was served, as Western

#### FOOTBALL

Wayne County's minor-league football team rattled the Vipers, 24-0.

The Diesels opened the scoring with a 6-yard quarterback keeper by Matt McCullough (Livonia Franklin) early in the first quarter. JaKendall Brown caught the two-point conversion pass.

The Diesels would strike again on their next possession, as McCullough would fire a 26-yard scoring toss to Jon Craven (Farmington). Venzal Russell caught another two-point pass.

The majority of the second quarter was give-and-take, as a fumble recovery put Detroit on their own 14-yard line. A turn of events caused the Diesels to get to the Vipers' 23, where Andrew Crushshon (Wayne Memorial) busted loose on a draw play for a 22-0 lead before halftime.

The Diesels sat on the lead for the second half, except for one play, as Jeff White crushed the Viper ball carrier in the end zone for a safety and a 24-0 lead.

McCullough finished 11-of-16 passing for 189 yards and a touchdown, and also rushed for 15 yards on three carries of his own, including the TD.

Craven, Brown, and Russell each had three receptions. Craven's 99 led the way. Crushshon gained 122 yards on the ground for the Diesels.

Defensively, Earl Blanchette led the charge for the Diesels with three sacks. Lamarr Miller, Brian Aneed, Rob Love, and White were also defensive standouts.

The Detroit Diesels, 3-1 overall and 2-0 GLFL's Eastern Division, will travel Saturday to Ada, Ohio, to take on the Dark Knights.



CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS

## All-Area baseball team

Farmington Harrison senior third baseman Steve Pelletier connects for one of his school-record 56 hits during the recent baseball season. Pelletier, who will continue playing at Madonna University, is one of 15 players selected for the All-Observer first team. The area includes Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Garden City, Westland, Wayne and Farmington. Eleven schools are represented on the first team. See B2 for the story.

## Bushart blazing trail in two sports

BY JIM TOTH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For Julie Bushart, summer vacation seems more like a continuation of the recently completed school year.

Take away classroom activities and there seems to be little difference as the Redford native is engaging in some sort of athletic competition pretty much every night of the week. A two-sport athlete who just completed her junior year at Livonia Ladywood High School, Bushart is virtually taking no time off between school years as she continues to hone her skills involving the sports she loves so much — softball and hockey.

Two nights a week, the starting right fielder on the Blazers softball team that earlier this month advanced all the way to the Division 2 title game, can be found competing for the Blazers summer softball team. Three to four nights a week, she is lacing up the skates and working out with the girls ice hockey squad at Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

"I try to be a normal teenager, but this is keeping me real busy," Bushart said of her commitment to the two sports. "Most people wouldn't think a girl would be playing hockey, but it's something different and I really enjoy being around my teammates."

There were plenty of smiles expressed by teammates last spring on the softball diamond as the

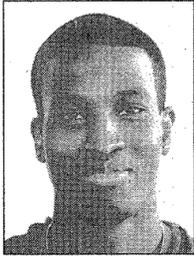
Please see **BUSHART, B4**



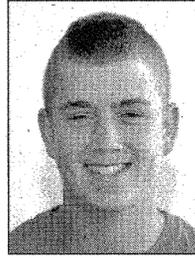
Redford native Julie Bushart, a two-sport athlete at Livonia Ladywood, played a key role in the Blazers' run to the Division 2 title game in girls softball.



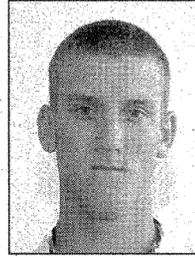
Kevin Delapaz  
Canton



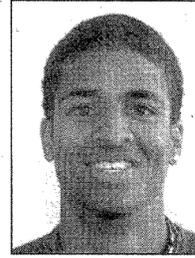
Justin Young  
Harrison



Nate McHugh  
Garden City



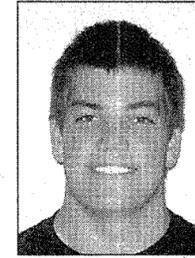
Dan Stoney  
Canton



Fred Sharp  
North Farmington



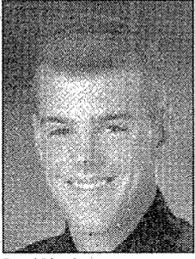
Matt Priebe  
Plymouth



Ricky Scully  
Churchill



Garrett Gumm  
Franklin



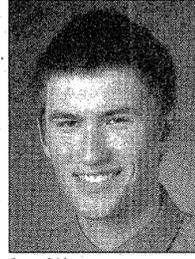
Brad Lineberry  
Plymouth



Sam Ahlersmeyer  
Lutheran Westland



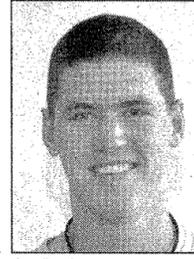
Steve Pelletier  
Harrison



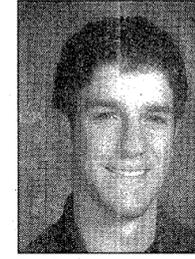
Sam Ott  
Salem



Andrew DeLuca  
John Glenn



Joe Posler  
Salem



Dan Pochmara  
Farmington



Mark Blomshield  
Canton coach

# Baseball season peppered with team, individual success

## FIRST TEAM

**Kevin Delapaz, Jr. P, Canton:** What a sensational season the lefthanded Delapaz had for the Chiefs, going 10-0 with a 1.22 ERA while fanning 79 batters in 59 innings.

icing on the cake was a victory over Detroit-Novti Catholic Central in the regional semifinal, allowing just one run in six innings. That followed a no-hitter in a pre-district game against Livonia Stevenson. He also helped out offensively, with a .315 average and 12 stolen bases.

"Kevin was a major component in leading the Chiefs to the second best record (25-12) in school history and back-to-back district and regional runner-up teams," said Canton head coach Mark Blomshield.

Delapaz earned selection to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams.

**Justin Young, Sr. P, F.H. Harrison:** The senior left-hander was a quality pitcher, even in games his team lost, and recorded some impressive numbers. Young struck out 93 batters in 67 innings while walking just 24. His ERA was a solid 1.25. He threw a no-hitter and a pair of one-hitters, and he is third all-time at Harrison with 168 career strikeouts.

Young's 5-4 record (with two saves) is not an accurate indication of his ability, according to coach Pete Lamerato. His losses were to 22-win Farmington, state champion

DeLaSalle, John Glenn and OAA White champion Seaholm.

"He pitched against every big team we played," Lamerato said. "He was our No. 1 all three years. I never saved him. He pitched in every game we had to have. More times than not, he came through."

"Every time I gave him the ball, I knew I was going to get 100 percent. He's all effort all the time. He never took a pitch off. He didn't care about his record. He wanted to go out there and pitch against the best teams, period."

"He lived for game day. He was focused on the game from 7 o'clock in the morning. I don't think I've coached a better all-around pitcher, someone who knew when to turn it on, how to hit the corners, how to drop in the curveball."

**Nate McHugh, Jr. P, Garden City:** This Cougar junior emerged onto the varsity scene in sterling fashion as he helped his teammates to 14 wins on the season and a berth in Division I state regional competition. The crafty left-hander posted a 6-4 mark with a 3.09 ERA in 54 1/3 innings of work. He struck out 47 batters and walked only 19. McHugh's contributions weren't limited to just the mound as he clubbed opposing pitchers at a .385 clip, scored 16 runs and drove in 24 more from the clean-up spot in the order.

"He's a ballplayer," Cougars coach

Steve Herman said of McHugh, who also excelled in the field at first base. "He didn't start out really strong because his stamina wasn't there, but near the end of the year, he proved his mettle. He's a placement pitcher who can hit his spot. He can throw his breaking ball anytime for a strike and keep hitters off stride."

**Dan Stoney, Sr. C, Canton:** A glimpse into the all-around player Stoney is came at regionals, where he homered against Catholic Central and also made a defensive gem in the regional final against Birmingham Brother Rice to save a scoreless tie.

But he was a stalwart all season, batting .414 for the Chiefs, belting six homers (two against South Lyon) and driving in 36 runs. In addition to being a solid catcher,

Stoney helped out Blomshield by playing other positions when needed.

For his efforts, he was named to the All-KLAA Division and Conference teams and was selected to the All-District squad a second consecutive year.

**Fred Sharp, Sr. C, N. Farmington:** The senior catcher had a solid season for the Raiders, hitting .381 with seven doubles, four triples and six home runs. Sharp, who was voted team MVP, also walked 10 times, stole 11 bases, knocked in 28 runs and scored 26 runs. Sharp had 37 hits in 97 at-bats. Behind the plate,

he posted a .966 fielding percentage with 118 putouts, 24 assists and just five errors. He was durable and dependable, catching every game but two. Sharp will be a walk-on player at Bowling Green.

"If you take one person over the last three years, he might be the most improved," coach Kevin Kansman said. "I think he still has potential to develop and play at a higher level. He's athletic, he has a good arm and he has speed. Those are all things colleges are looking at. My hope for him is he continues to improve and finds a spot at Bowling Green."

**Matt Priebe, Jr. 1B, Plymouth:** The junior first baseman was a cog for the Wildcats on offense and defense, batting .455 with 13 doubles, four homers, 26 RBI and registering a .979 fielding percentage.

Priebe was selected to the All-KLAA and All-District teams in recognition of his consistency.

"Matt has anchored the middle of our lineup since his freshman year," said Plymouth head coach Chuck Adams. "He's a power hitter that uses the entire field. He also has a very good glove at first base."

**Ricky Scully, Sr. 1B, Liv. Churchill:** The senior first baseman and third sacker was Churchill's most productive offensive player hitting .418 (41-for-98) with 11 doubles, one homer and 33 RBI.

The All-KLAA South Division selection also slugged at a .561 clip and sported an on-base average of .504. He also scored 27 runs and only struck out 13 times.

"Ricky was our most consistent hitter at the three- and four-spot," Churchill coach Ron Targosz said. "He got a lot of big hit throughout the year. He hit the ball hard whether he was on-base or out."

**Garrett Gumm, Sr. SS, Liv. Franklin:** The repeat first-team performer batted .469 (45-for-96) with 11 doubles, two triples, two homers and 39 RBI.

The senior shortstop also had a slugging percentage of .668 and an on-base percentage of .510.

Gumm, an All-KLAA South selection, also sparkled on the mound with a 7-1 record and a 2.77 earned run average. In 55.2 innings he struck out 45 and walked only 19.

"Garrett had another fantastic season for us," Franklin coach Matt Fournier said. "He has a very smart baseball mind. For three years he

anchored our infield at shortstop and our batting lineup in the three-spot.

"This season he also elevated his season on the mound. He loved coming to the ballfield and will be tough for us to replace."

**Brad Lineberry, Sr. SS, Plymouth:** The senior shortstop, headed to Madonna University, was All-KLAA, All-District and All-State along with team MVP after batting .400 with seven homers and 40 RBI for the Wildcats.

Lineberry, a slick fielder, joined Salem's Sam Ott in the MHSBCA East-West All-Star Classic at Comerica Park.

"Brad is just a flat out excellent baseball player," Adams said. "He comes to the park each day ready to go. I look forward to seeing him continue to improve at the next level."

**Sam Ahlersmeyer, Sr. 3B, Luth. Westland:** The Division 4 All-Stater (second-team) and All-Metro Conference pick led the Warriors in just about every statistical category this season including batting average (.508), doubles (12), homers (6), RBI (37) and runs (38).

Ahlersmeyer also finished with career records for hits (113), doubles (31), triples (9), homers (9) and RBI (90). He is the single-season school record holder for homers (6), hits (53), RBI (47) and slugging percentage (.1013).

"Sam is an exceptional athlete and has helped bring Lutheran Westland to a new level," Warriors coach Kevin Wade said. "As a junior he was instrumental in leading us to a state finals appearance, the first in school history. Sam is a great kid who will be truly missed."

**Steve Pelletier, Sr. 3B, F.H. Harrison:** The senior third baseman is the all-time hits leader at Harrison with 152, and his career batting average after four years as a varsity starter is .447. Pelletier broke Drew Stanton's single-season record (.560) with a .566 average this year.

His school-record 56 hits included eight doubles, a record 10 triples and five home runs. He had 39 stolen bases, 34 runs and 39 RBI. He was 3-3 as a pitcher with 34 strikeouts in 36.1 innings. Pelletier is the first player to receive a full ride to Madonna University.

"When you talk about an overall player, Steve is the whole package," coach Pete Lamerato said. "He hits with power, runs with speed, makes great contact and can bunt. He can

## 2009 ALL-OBSERVER BASEBALL FIRST TEAM

Kevin Delapaz, Jr. P, Canton  
Justin Young, Sr. P, F.H. Harrison  
Nate McHugh, Jr. P, Garden City  
Dan Stoney, Sr. C, Canton  
Fred Sharp, Sr. C, N. Farmington  
Matt Priebe, Jr. 1B, Plymouth  
Ricky Scully, Sr. 1B, Liv. Churchill  
Brad Lineberry, Sr. SS, Plymouth  
Sam Ahlersmeyer, Sr. 3B, Luth. Westland  
Steve Pelletier, Sr. 3B, F.H. Harrison  
Sam Ott, Sr. OF, Salem  
Andrew DeLuca, Sr. OF, Westland Glenn  
Joe Posler, Sr. A-L, Salem  
Dan Pochmara, Sr. A-L, Farmington

## SECOND TEAM

Austin Baglow, Jr. P, Luth. Westland  
Jimmy Tyler, Sr. P, Liv. Churchill  
Tyler Blasdeco, Sr. C, Liv. Churchill  
Brent Zinn, Sr. C, Ply. Christian  
Dominik Corredino, Jr. C, Wayne  
Dave Loos, Sr. C, Salem  
Kyle Sutton, Sr. SS, Harrison  
Nick Tomljenko, Sr. SS, Canton  
Danny Deutsch, Jr. SS, N. Farmington  
Andrew McCloud, Sr. SS, Garden City  
Micah Hausch, Sr. OF, Luth. Westland  
Ron Goble, Sr. OF, Plymouth  
Mike Basner, Sr. OF, Liv. Franklin  
Bobby Ray, Sr. A-L, Redford Union  
Jeff Sorenson, Jr. A-L, Liv. Stevenson  
Joel Fisher, Jr. A-L, Farmington

## COACH OF THE YEAR

Mark Blomshield, Canton  
**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Churchill: Jimmy Szymanski, Devin Moynihan; Franklin: Mark McRobb, Wayne Hawkins; Stevenson: Mark Wagner, Mike Tuttle; John Glenn: Jake Sperry, Steve Hickson; Wayne: Zeb Hancock, Jake White, Jon Bryant; Lutheran Westland: Gage Flanery, Tony Cipolla; Clarenceville: Mike Schiffrman, Jimmy Moody; Huron Valley Lutheran: Aaron Howell, Richie Mamo; Salem: Heath Parling, Drew Grabowski, Dave Hales, Dave Russell, Justin Bashi, Chris Kordick, Dominic Ciantar; Canton: Cody Blakita, Alex Dixon, Seth Tschetter; Plymouth: Mike Nadratowski, Matt Skubik, Travis Mewton; Plymouth Christian Academy: Jonathan Slater, Kevin Bottorff, Matt Dodson; Farmington: Erik Scott, Matt Pochmara, Matt Gutknecht, Brett Linden, Derek Mohr; Harrison: Dallas Sutton, Greg Griffin, Dan Leeb; N. Farmington: James Long, Brandon Bell, Tommy Doyle; Redford Union: Jake Anderson, John Matties, Julian Rivera, Matt Macek; Garden City: David Ciciora, Gegatic Williams, Thurston: Charles Melvin.

do it all on the field. He's a great defensive player, too — extremely quick at third base. I can't tell you how many diving plays he made, coming up and throwing guys out at first. "He's just a great kid, so easy to coach. You tell him to do one thing, and he's doing it as hard as he can in practice. He's dedicated and loves playing the game. He's as complete a ballplayer as you'll find."

**Sam Ott, Sr. OF, Salem:** The senior outfielder capped off an outstanding career with a base hit, run and inning pitched at the MHSBCA East-West All-Star Classic at Comerica Park.

Ott batted .486 for the Rocks, with 15 doubles, four homers and 40 RBI and was team MVP. Other honors included selection to the All-KLAA squad and All-State teams. "Sam Ott has become arguably

Please see **ALL-AREA, B3**

"I want people to know who I really am."

Exclusive interview with Jada Pinkett Smith



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# ALL-AREA

FROM PAGE B2

one of the top five players in the long and storied history of Salem baseball," said Rocks head coach Dale Rumberger. "He holds eight individual hitting records, the Salem Hitting Award is now named after him (and) he is All-State. But above and beyond all that Sam has become a better person than a player."

**Andrew DeLuca, Sr. OF, Westland Glenn:** The three-year varsity starter, bound for Adrian College in the fall, now holds offensive records in five different categories.

The senior center fielder hit .451 (46-for-102) with 12 doubles, four triples and four homers. He scored 32 runs and had 16 RBI. He struck out only two times all season. The All-KLAA South pick had a slugging percentage of .765 and an on-base average of .556.

"His love for the game and work ethic will be tough to replace," Glenn coach Tom Wakefield said. "His career at Glenn proved to be a successful one."

**Joe Posler, Sr. At-Large, Salem:** Posler did it all for the Rocks. On the mound, he was splendid, again earning the Salem Pitcher of the Year Award with a 6-1 record and 2.55 ERA.

At the plate, the All-KLAA selection contributed 45 hits (second to Ott) a .405 average, .541 slugging percentage and 26 RBI. "Joe Posler is an outstanding young man with a true love of the game," Rumberger said. "He truly plays every day to have fun, and if we win its frosting on the cake."

**Dan Pochmara, Jr. At-Large, Farmington:** The multi-talented junior was Farmington's No. 1 pitcher and shortstop when he wasn't on the mound. Pochmara batted .392 with 40 hits, which included six doubles, three triples and two home runs. He drove in 28 runs and scored 36. He was hit by a pitch eight times and was 7-for-7 stealing bases. Though his record was 3-5, the team MVP pitched in a lot of big games and threw an 8-0 shutout against Grosse Pointe South. Two of his losses were to OAA White champ Seaholm, 2-1, and Brother Rice. Pochmara, one of eight guys to pitch 16 or more innings for the Falcons (22-13), worked 46 innings

and had a 3.80 ERA. Pochmara's selection as the MVP of the Clarkston Tournament was "an example of what he is to our team — so many things," coach Pete Finn said. "He competes every day. That's the best thing you can say about a ballplayer. He hits for power, hits for average — all the things a good baseball player does."

"He impressed us most with his growth in terms of his emotional resiliency, especially as a pitcher, and that definitely helped a lot and contributed to his success."

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
**Mark Blomshield, Canton:** The second-year coach continued his run of success with the Chiefs. The team went 24-12 and went on to postseason success, highlighted by the second Division 1 district title in a row (only the second back-to-back in school history) and a victory over Detroit-Novu Catholic Central in the regionals. The Chiefs battled Birmingham Brother Rice in the regional final before falling short.

"The kids fought extremely hard to the end and took a 1-0 lead into the sixth before giving way (to the Warriors)," Blomshield said.

Canton combined hitting, pitching and defense to mow down oppo-

nents, jumping out to a 17-4 start. After a slump, the Chiefs revved it up again for the postseason, out-scoring teams in the districts by a 43-2 tally.

Posting 20-plus victories and winning the districts for a second year in a row, noted Blomshield, shows that the Chiefs are on the right track toward building a perennial winner. Canton also defeated three of four ranked opponents, only coming up short against Brother Rice.

"Our coaching and support staff continues to build a winning culture and competitive attitude," Blomshield said. "It seems even more enjoyable from the coaching box than it did as a player being able to teach baseball to a great group of young men and see them improve every day and be as successful as they have been over the past two seasons."

A pitcher at Western Michigan University during the 1990s, Blomshield earned his physical education degree and then began teaching in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools in 1999.

Blomshield then coached Salem in 2001 and the Canton junior varsity in 2002-07 before taking over the Chiefs' varsity job in 2008.

# Metro firefighters 2nd

## MOTOR CITY CLASSIC

The 2008 Open Division national champions from Louisville (Ky.) won the 29th Annual Motor City Firefighters Softball Classic for the second year in a row June 5-7 at Power Park in Novi.

The Kentuckians defeated the defending over-40 Masters Division national champion, Detroit Metro/Belfor, which is managed by Farmington Hills firefighter Denny Hughes.

With one loss going into the final round, the "old boys" needed to knock off the "young guns" from Kentucky twice to claim the crown in the double-elimination format.

The metro Detroit team surprised many in attendance with a convincing, 14-2 victory in the first game.

It needed to come up big again in the next game to take the title, but Louisville rebounded for a 12-2 win to retain its Motor City championship.

The Detroit Metro/Belfor players are Tim Prokop and Dan Cipolla (Dearborn), John McCoy (Shelby), Keith Lampear (Birmingham), Mike Albo (Southfield), Pat O'Dowd, Pat Wilson, Pat Harrison, Randy Gibson, Russ Schaller, Jimmy Nadolski, Russ Zarras and Eddie Nadolski (Detroit) and Ray DeWalt (Hazel Park).

The city references indicate the fire departments where the men work. Zarras is a CYO basketball coach at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington.

The all-firefighter softball tournament also attracted teams from Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo and Prince Georges County, Md. Many teams from Michigan also competed in the three-day event to raise money for various charitable causes.

Advertorial

# TEE TIME

Your local golf guide



**Congratulations to Lucas Glover of Greenville, S.C., winner of this year's U.S. Open Championship.**

Our readers predicted the outcome in an online poll throughout the last five weeks. Check out how the results compared:

Tiger Woods 52%	Phil Mickelson 24%	Padraig Harrington 0%	Sergio Garcia 4%
Geoff Ogilvy 0%	Kenny Penny 0%	Angel Cabrera 4%	Other 16%

## Best amateur golfers in Michigan

By David Graham  
GAM Executive Director

Since 1919, the Golf Association of Michigan has been hosting the best tournaments for the best golfers in the state. In that first year, we were known as the Detroit District Golf Association, and the first golf events conducted included Four Man Teams. The District Championship played at the Detroit Golf Club. T. Worden Hunter from the Country Club of Detroit won that first championship.

Throughout the last 90 years, we have grown into the Golf Association of Michigan, and in 2008, we hosted 16 state championships and 20 USGA qualifiers with almost 4,200 participants. These were great tournaments at great Michigan golf courses with outstanding participation.

The participants earned GAM honor roll points for finishing strongly in these events. In addition, they earn points playing and doing well in prestigious tournaments around the

country. At the end of the season, we summarize the results and determine a GAM Honor Roll by gender and age. The top point earner in each category is the player of the year and rightfully recognized as the "best amateur golfer in Michigan" in their category. Listed below are those GAM Champions from 2008.

**Jimmy Chestnut of Grand Blanc, GAM 2008 Men's Player of the Year.**

Jimmy won the Michigan Amateur and the GAM Championship. He was also a quarterfinalist at the U.S. Mid-Amateur. He attended the University of Michigan prior to transferring to Michigan State University and was an Academic All-Big Ten player in 2004 and 2005. Jimmy also was the club champion at Warwick Hills Country Club in 2007 and 2008.

**Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll of Haslett, GAM 2008 Women's Player of the Year.**

Stacy was the GAM Women's Mid-

Am Champion, for the fourth successive year and played well in the Michigan Women's Amateur, U.S. Women's Mid-Am, Michigan Women's Open and GAM Women's Championship. She has won the Michigan Women's Amateur in '96 and '98, won the GAM Women's Championship in '98 and earned Women's Player of the Year in '96, '98 and '07. She is coach of the Michigan State University Women's Golf team and was selected as Big Ten Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2007.

**Bill Zylstra of Plymouth, GAM 2008 Senior Men's Player of the Year.**

Bill won the GAM Senior Championship and played very well in a range of other tournaments in Michigan and beyond. He played so well that he was ranked the No. 1 Senior Amateur in the country by the Titleist National Rankings and was the 2008 Golf Week Senior Player of the Year. Bill has also been GAM Senior Player of the Year in '06 and '07. He

also holds the record for the lowest round (65) ever recorded in the USGA Senior Amateur Championship (2007).

**Joan Garety of Ada, GAM 2008 Senior Women's Player of the Year.**

Joan was the medalist at the Michigan Women's Senior Amateur and a semifinalist in the match play segment. She also tied for 3rd at both the GAM Women's Senior Championship and the GAM Chrysler Club Championship. She is a two-time Michigan Women's State Amateur Champion in '82 and '97, GAM Women's Champion in '96m GAM Mid-Am Champion in '04, GAM Senior Champ in '06 and two-time Michigan Women's Senior Amateur Champion in '06 and '07. She was GAM Woman Player of the Year in '97 and '99, and GAM Senior Women Player of the Year in '06 and '07. Joan was inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame in 2005.

**Joey Garber of Petoskey, GAM 2008 Junior Boy's Player of the Year.**

Joey won the Michigan Junior Amateur Stroke Play Championship

and the GAM Chrysler Club Championship in 2008. He was very active in the AJGA tour. As a high school freshman, he finished second at the MHSAA State Championship and was selected to the first team All State.

**Elizabeth Ecker of Niles, GAM 2008 Junior Girl's Player of the Year.**

Elizabeth won the stroke play segment of the Michigan Girl's Junior Championship and finished in the top 20 at the GAM Women's Championship. During the fall season at Oakland University as a freshman, she competed in all five-fall events and finished with the third best stroke average on the team.

The above players are truly great champions of amateur golf in Michigan. They compete with a large number of outstanding golfers in our state. The GAM is proud to have the opportunity to host these fine players at our championships. To learn more about championship golf at the GAM, simply to [www.gam.org](http://www.gam.org). Who knows, you might be a future Player of the Year!

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# Spree Pole Vault to be unveiled

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia's Spree '59' week-long celebration will feature more than carnival rides, racing pigs, the circus, pie eating contests, battle of the bands and the Sunday night fireworks.

Saturday features a unique event that crosses all generations as the inaugural 2009 Spree Pole Vault competition will be unveiled at Ford Field.

The event is the brainchild of Livonia Churchill High multi-events coach Vern Williams, who will bring his own custom built 130-foot portable wooden runway to be placed on Ball Diamond No. 2.

"I've been trying to do it for years and finally I was able to find the right person, who happened to be connected with the Spree run," said Williams. "The runway is 10 inches off the ground. We'll have the normal planting box with Churchill's pads (and standards)."

The USATF-sanctioned event begins with Session 1 beginning at 10 a.m. with the starting height at 6 feet. Session 2 follows at 1 p.m. with bar being set at 10 feet.

This pole vault event is unique because it will attract competitors of all ages including 72-year-old Jim

Roth of Pinckney and 65-year-old Canton multi-events coach Matti Kilpelainen, both listed in the Masters category.

"Matti coached me when I was at Churchill," Williams said. "He just cleared 12 feet the other day."

Williams said vaulters from both the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University are expected to compete, along with some of the state's top high school vaulters including Churchill's own Derik Peterman, a Division 1 state runner-up who placed third recently in the prestigious Midwest Meet of Champions.

Peterman, headed to Michigan State in the fall, cleared a personal best 15-8 as a prep. He will be joined by Fowlerville's Max Babits, who went 15-9 this spring and is part of the infamous Redford Union High family vaulting tree which also includes his father Bob, who will compete in the Masters age category.

On the girls side, Northville High's Amy Reynolds, who placed fourth in the Division 1 state finals, will be joined by Division 2 state champion Tori Wesley of Marine City.

Williams said he has 30 competitors already registered and hopes the event

will continue grow.

The entry fee is \$27. All competitors will receive a T-shirt. Checks should be made payable to: Skysark Athletics.

For more information, visit [www.livoniaspreevault.com](http://www.livoniaspreevault.com); or call Williams at (734) 732-0840.

## Spree Freedom Run

The Livonia Spree Freedom 10- and 5-kilometer runs, along with the 1-mile run-walk, will start at 7 a.m. Sunday in front of the Livonia Family YMCA, located at 14225 Stark Road.

The event is sponsored by State Farm Insurance (Ken Wagner Agency).

The registration fee (before June 26) is \$20 for adults and \$15 for student and seniors. Registration fees are \$25 and \$20, respectively (after June 26).

Included in the cost is a race T-shirt (while supplies last) and all-you-can eat pancake breakfast at nearby Eddie Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon.

Trophies will go to the top three male and female finishers (including Masters age group).

For more information, visit [www.justsayrun.com](http://www.justsayrun.com); or call Chris Odgen at (734) 891-1639; or e-mail [chrisodgen@justsayrun.com](mailto:chrisodgen@justsayrun.com).

# BUSHART

FROM PAGE B1

Blazers came within one victory of claiming their first softball state title. And Bushart was a big part of the team's success as her clutch hitting, solid fielding and a work ethic second to none helped provide the ingredients that saw the Blazers come out on top in 38 of 45 games played.

"She is one of the favorite people on the team," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said of Bushart. "She just has a great attitude, works very hard to get better and I love the fact she plays hockey, too, because it helps with hand-eye coordination and she just comes in physically fit and ready to play when it's softball season."

A part-time starter as a sophomore, Bushart made the most of her opportunity to contribute in a starting role last season as a junior. She took over duties in right field and managed to handle those responsibilities like a veteran. At the plate, she became the team's RBI leader hitting from the No. 5 slot in the order.

"When she first came up, Julie was someone who was raw, but someone who wanted to be a softball player," Combs said. "I knew she could be a very good one with a little work."

"She always had that pop in her bat, but what we had to do was work with her and get her to cut her swing down a little," Combs went on. "When she was able to do that, she became one

of the constants in the lineup and a very clutch player overall."

Bushart, whose achievements in the classroom include Honor Roll and the Ladywood National Honor Society, believes her experiences as a defenseman with the ice hockey team have contributed greatly to her success on the softball field. The competition factor has been the main component and the compassion and chemistry among teammates a close second as both squads continue to strive for excellence.

"We're just great friends and we just go out there and push each other so hard," said Bushart, whose postseason accolades in softball included all-league, all-district and all-region. "From day one, our coaches told us we had so much potential and we just went out there and ran with it. It was awesome being in Battle Creek playing for the championship. What more could you ask for?"

A state title, maybe, next time?

No need to worry. That is why Bushart, who will be a co-captain next season, and her teammates are spending much of their summer vacation working on the little things that make the difference in crowning champions.

"We want it," Bushart said. "We want it bad. Just getting that taste of being there, we know we have the potential to get back. We have the confidence and we're going to work hard to get better."

# Michigan Rams earn split with Concealed

The Michigan Rams corrected the error of their ways Saturday at Ford Field by earning a split of a Livonia Collegiate Baseball League double-header against Concealed Security in a battle of 20-and-under teams.

Craig Sacha went 2-for-2 and drove home John Potts with the game-winning RBI sacrifice fly to give Concealed a 6-5 triumph in the opener.

Cory Amble and Billy Hardin each knocked in two runs for Concealed.

John Ponte was the winning pitcher in relief going three scoreless innings. He did not allow a hit and walked only two after coming on in the fifth inning for starter Ryan Schario.

Kyle Vesey went 2-for-3 with a triple and two RBI to lead the Rams. Aaron Cieslak and Dan Augustine also knocked in runs.

The Rams used three pitchers with middle reliever Taylor Robson, who went two innings after replacing starter Tom Whiting, taking the loss.

Three Rams errors, including two in the second inning when Concealed scored four times, proved costly.

In the nightcap, the Rams improved to 8-4 in the LCBL with a 4-3 win as Joe Barnes doubled home Alex Trojan with the game-winning run in the top of the sixth inning. Justin Forster went 3-for-4 with an RBI to pace the Rams' nine-hit attack.

Barnes was 2-for-3 with two RBI, while Trojan doubled twice and scored two runs. Tom Hansen also knocked in a run.

Winning pitcher Ben Schroeder went the first five innings, allowing three runs on five hits and a walk. Ryan Abraham pitched two scoreless innings of relief to earn the save as the Rams played an error-free game.

Drew Ordakowski belted a solo homer for Concealed (4-10), while Amble and Hardin each collected an RBI. Casey Haggerty, the losing pitcher, gave up four runs on seven hits and two walks in five innings of work. Reliever Andrew Klinkman finished up, allowing no runs on two hits in two innings.

# Solstice Run has new start point

Northville Downs is known as a famous harness racing venue.

But on Saturday, June 27, it's the start for the annual Solstice Run, a five- and 10-kilometer event presented by the Foresters.

The new starting spot features a half-mile loop around the horse track with the finish at nearby Ford Field. The hilly course winds through the neighborhoods and streets of Northville.

The 10K run begins at 7:30 a.m. followed by the 5K run-walk to benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute at 8:45 a.m.

There will be \$700 in cash awards for the overall male and

**The new starting spot features a half-mile loop around the horse track with the finish at nearby Ford Field. The hilly course winds through the neighborhoods and streets of Northville.**

female winners in the 10K and 5K runs. Classic medals will also to the top 500 finishers in the 10K.

The Solstice features timing mats at the start and finish. Runners will be scored with disposable Champion Chip (attached to the shoe).

Entertainment, including

live music by three bands, will follow at the course's finish line area at Ford Field.

Registration fees (before June 27) are \$30 for the 10K run and \$25 for the 5K run-walk. Kids can run for \$12. Race day fees are \$35, \$30 and \$15, respectively. (Shirts are guaranteed if registered by June 23.)

On site packet pick-up and registration will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday June 26; and 6:45-8:45 a.m. Saturday, June 27, both at the Northville Square Mall, located at 133 W. Main Street (near Center Street), in downtown Northville.

To register online, visit [www.solsticerun.org](http://www.solsticerun.org).

# YMCA RUN

FROM PAGE B1

took first place in the Female Division in the 10K (38:47), 5K (18:28) and mile run (5:27.5).

For the men on Father's Day, taking first in the 10K was Birmingham's Carl Rundall (33:23), edging out Peter Hogg of Livonia (35:42.5).

Rundall placed second in the 5K with his mark of 16:09 trailing Pinckney's Nick Katselas, who took the top spot with a time of just under 16-minutes flat.

Plymouth's Warren Buzzard nearly won in the mile run. He finished in 4:47, two seconds behind Jerome Recker of Lansing.

The mile walk also proved very competitive. Earning the

victory was 8-year-old Jace Barackman of Northville, with a time of 8:36.7. Taking spots 2-5 in that event were Canton's Amanda Albin (12:59.8), Plymouth's Barry Wallman (13:29), Westland's Joan Evans (13:29.8) and Plymouth's Carol Wallman (13:55.4).

Morency added that something special was done for the 30th anniversary run.

"To celebrate our 30th year, we had a video done by *Michigan Runner*," Morency said. "It can be found on their Web site," with photographs from past races included.

Go to [www.michiganrunner.net](http://www.michiganrunner.net) and click on the "MR Video" button at the top of the home page to check out the 30th anniversary video.

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<p><b>3000-3890</b> <b>Real Estate For Sale</b>  Lakeland/Waterfront Homes <b>3580</b></p> <p><b>FREEMONT, IN. AUCTION ESTATE SALE</b> Home on 278 ft lakeland, Snow Lake. (260) 580-3400</p> <p><b>Condos</b> <b>3720</b></p> <p><b>NORTHVILLE</b> - Kingsmill CO-OP, 18426 Jamestown Circle. 1 bdrm, full bsmt, newly redecorated, hardwood floors, new appls, washer/dryer incl, patio, \$68,000. Dawn: 248-349-5570</p> <p><b>Florida Homes/Properties</b> <b>3805</b></p> <p><b>NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY IN SW FLORIDA</b> Low interest rates Great home prices Check out my website and see for yourself! Joanne LaFleur-Realtor swfloridaareaproperty.com Florida Golf Coast Realty Network, Inc. (239) 634-0982</p> <p><b>Jobs/Autos/Real Estate/Apartments/Ravage Sales/A Top Notch Service Directory!</b> The best local classifieds! <b>1-800-579-7355</b></p>	<p><b>4000-4980</b> <b>Real Estate For Lease</b>  Apartments/Unfurnished <b>4000</b></p> <p><b>GARDEN CITY</b> - Very nice 1 &amp; 2 bdrm apts \$450-550/mo. 31075 krauter near Merriman/Ford Rd. Call: (313) 384-6029</p> <p><b>GARDEN CITY:</b> 1 bdrm upper level, private entrance. \$500 mo. + deposit, includes all utilities. Call: 313-530-8776</p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH</b> - 1 bdrm, in a 4 unit bldg., new appliances, new flooring, c/a. \$595/mo, plus security. (231) 392-6373</p> <p><b>SOUTH LYON Downtown</b> 2 bdrms, remodeled, appl. incl., good area, heat, water, trash incl, bsmt storage, backyard, quiet. \$595/up. 248-980-4558</p> <p><b>WESTLAND</b> 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, close to schools. \$600/month. 248-992-0262</p> <p><b>Condos/Townhouses</b> <b>4020</b></p> <p><b>NORTHVILLE</b> 2 bdrm, 2 bath, carriage unit, 1 car garage, \$1000/mo. 248-212-4474</p> <p><b>Redford:</b> 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 2nd floor, courtyard. Close to 196. Ideal for single professional. \$595/\$595 734-716-7771</p>	<p><b>Homes For Rent</b> <b>4050</b></p> <p><b>WESTLAND</b> 3 Bdrms, bath, central air, basement. Clean new carpet/paint, fenced yard. John Hix/Cherry Hill. No pets! \$925 734-673-7713</p> <p><b>Vacation Resort/Rentals</b> <b>4110</b></p> <p><b>CADILLAC</b> Spend a week on beautiful Lake Mitchell! Condo on lake has modern kitchen, lg living room, 2 bdrms, 1.5 bath, dock w/kayak &amp; row boat. \$700/wk. Call Tom or Dorothy at 231-876-9339</p> <p><b>Living Quarters To Share</b> <b>4120</b></p> <p><b>REDFORD/ROSEVILLE SOBER TRANSITIONAL LIVING</b> Beautiful homes with private yard, fully furnished, many extras included in rent, walking distance to Metro West Alamo Club. Coming soon: Livonia Locations. Accountability &amp; sobriety equals opportunity. Nathan: (248) 974-6534</p> <p><b>7000-7790</b> <b>Merchandise</b>  <b>7100 Estate Sales</b> <b>7100</b></p> <p><b>LIVONIA ESTATE SALE</b> 6/25-6/28, 9-5pm. 31103 Robert Dr., East of Merriman, off of Denne, between Orangelawn and Richland. Furniture, Clothing, Household Items, Books, Collectibles, etc. Everything Must Go!</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> - 23104 Glenmoor Heights, Middlebelt &amp; 9 Mile. Sat. June 27, 9-4. Christmas, bike rack, kid's bike seats &amp; household.</p>	<p><b>Garage Sales</b> <b>7110</b></p> <p><b>BERKLEY</b> - HUGE Multi-Family Sale - Fri., Sat. &amp; Sun., (6/26-6/28), 9am-5pm. Furniture, Baby/Kids, household. 1933 Gardner, Berkeley, S. off 11 Mile, W of Coolidge.</p> <p><b>CANTON</b> 40031 Cherry Hill Rd. between Lotz and Hix. 6/26-6/28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Furniture, baby items, household, misc. No early birds.</p> <p><b>CANTON</b> 45200 Twining Ct. Misc. Household items, books, clothes, etc. Fri. and Sat., 6/26-6/27, 9-4 p.m.</p> <p><b>CLAWSON</b> - Charity Sale. Raising money for Autism treatment. 326 S. Webk Ave., S. of 14 E. of Crooks. June 18-20, 8am-4pm.</p> <p><b>Dearborn Heights Estate Sale</b> 6/26 &amp; 6/27, 10 to 6, 6/28, noon to 4 pm. Belleek, Buddy L &amp; toys, Tools, clock &amp; watch parts, Bernister Bookcases, Brunswick pool table, Lazy-boy sofa. 6541 Rosemary, off Charlesworth at Warren, W of Telegraph.</p> <p><b>DETROIT ESTATE SALE Historic Rosedale Park 15945 Warwick, Detroit Fri-Sun, 10am - 5pm</b> Quality furniture: Century, Baker, Drexel, Heikman, Weidman Warren Lloyd, fine china, Wedgwood, Coalport; Crystal: St. Louis, Waterford, Franciscan Dessert Rose, Baldwin baby grand, ladies clothing 2X, iron lawn furniture, tons of books, Opera CD's, TVs, 2002 Ford T-Bird, house is loaded! See estate-sales.net for photos.</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> - 23104 Glenmoor Heights, Middlebelt &amp; 9 Mile. Sat. June 27, 9-4. Christmas, bike rack, kid's bike seats &amp; household.</p>	<p><b>Garage Sales</b> <b>7110</b></p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> - Great Garage Sale. 25521 Arden Park, S of 11 Mile, 1 blk W of Inkster, 11th house from 11 Mile. Fri-Sat, 10-5pm.</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS BIG GARAGE SALE</b> 28156 and 28072 Thorny Brae, Farmington Hills. Fri/Sat., 10am-4pm. Household items, antiques, comics, furniture, toys, crib, etc.</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS MOVING</b> Everything Must Go! 22981 Tuck Rd., N of Shawasee, W of 9 Mile. Sat. June 27, 8am-5pm. FURNITURE, small appliances, dishware &amp; misc. No clothing or children items.</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS Moving Sale:</b> A little bit of everything for everyone. Rain/shine Sale in Garage! June 27th, 11am-6pm; June 28th: 11am-4pm. 25716 Power Rd., Farmington, btwn 10 and 11 Mile.</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Ramblewood Sub Annual Sub Sale - June 25-27, 10am-4pm. Enter on Tanglewood (Southside of 14 Mile, between Drake and Halstead).</p> <p><b>GARDEN CITY</b> 1st EVER O.B.O. GARAGE SALE! We have EVERYTHING: Bicycles, clothes, electronics, tools, toys, and MUCH, MUCH, MORE! This weekend: Friday, Saturday, &amp; Sunday: 9am-5pm. 31335 Marquette, Garden City, MI 48135.</p> <p><b>GARDEN CITY</b> Garage Sale - 28912 Cambridge, S of Warren, E of Middlebelt. Furniture, misc items. June 25-27, 8am-4pm. 734-427-1905</p>	<p><b>Garage Sales</b> <b>7110</b></p> <p><b>HOWELL</b> Huge 3 Family Garage Sale - 2074 Crooked Lake Rd., off Chilson or D-19. June 25-27th, 9am-5pm. Something for everyone!</p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> - Multi Family Sub Garage Sale. Sat June 27, 9-4pm. Windridge Village, S of 8 Mile, W of Farmington.</p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> 18376 Mayfield, E. of Farmington, N. of 6 Mile. Roll top desk, Computer Desk, Jenny Lynn bed, hand saw with mounting table and much more. June 25-26, 9am-4pm.</p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> 32659 Greenland Ct., off Hubbard, btwn 5 &amp; 6 Mile, June 26-28th, 10am-6pm. EVERYTHING MUST GO!</p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> 36645 6 Mile, btwn Newburg &amp; Levan. Fri. &amp; Sat., June 26-27, 9am-4pm. Furniture, clothes &amp; misc.</p> <p><b>LIVONIA BIG SALE!</b> 29606 Mark Lane, 7 Mile/Middlebelt. Thur-Sat. June 25-27, 9-5. Indian jewelry-Squash Blossoms, microwave, tables, etc.</p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> Fri-Sun., 9am-3pm. 32351 Oakley, 1 blk N of Lyndon, S of 5. Collectibles, misc. HUGE!</p> <p><b>LIVONIA GARAGE SALE</b> - June 25-27, 8-5pm. 9805 Roseland, Farmington &amp; Plymouth. Furniture, Books, Video Games, Home Decor, etc.</p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> Garage Sale - Wed-Sat., 6/24-6/27, 9am-5pm. 9924 Norman, Livonia 48150, Lots of items.</p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> PARKVIEW SUB (Roselinda Dr.), located off Plymouth, just W of Newburg. Fri. &amp; Sat., 9am-7 Children's toys, furniture, lots of misc. items.</p>	<p><b>Garage Sales</b> <b>7110</b></p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> The One Sale You Don't Want To Miss! Brand New never opened items. 27530 Bentley, Schoolcraft/Inkster. June 25-27th, 9-5pm.</p> <p><b>MILFORD</b> 1680 Cooley Lake. June 25, 26, 9:30am-5pm; June 27, 9:30am-3pm. Lots of glass and crystal, hobbies, tools, Ping Pong table. Sorry, no clothes!</p> <p><b>MILFORD GARAGE SALE!</b> 2601 W. Buno, Milford. Furniture, dishes, household items, toys, strollers. Milford Rd., to Huron Valley Pkwy, inside Kensington Metro Park, just past Park Office. Thurs., 6/25 &amp; Fri., 6/26 9am-4pm.</p> <p><b>MILFORD</b> Multi-Family Sale Heritage Hill Sub - Thurs-Sat., 6/25-27, 9am-4pm. Furniture, lawn mower, home decor, sports, clothes, bike, toys &amp; much more!</p> <p><b>NORTHVILLE</b> - June 25-27, 9-4pm. 8080 Pine Ridge Ct, 6 Mile &amp; Curtis. Household goods, clothing &amp; furniture.</p> <p><b>NORTHVILLE</b> Huge Sale! Indoors &amp; Outdoors - 41763 Ladywood, btwn 5 &amp; 6 Mile, off Winchester. Sat., 6/27, 8-4pm. Furniture, china, tools, seasonal, kitchen &amp; more!</p> <p><b>NORTHVILLE</b> Multi-Family Garage Sale - 53229 8 Mile, btwn Currie &amp; Chubb Rds. Thurs-Sat., 9am-5pm. Men's tools, misc. household items. No Early Birds!</p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH</b> Multi-Family Garage Sale - June 25-27, 8am-6pm. 40300 Schoolcraft, btwn Eckles &amp; Haggerty. Household &amp; misc. electric material/furniture, girl's brand name clothes &amp; women's, books, shoes, toys, lots more!</p>	<p><b>Garage Sales</b> <b>7110</b></p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH</b> Woodlore South Neighborhood Garage Sale - June 25-27, 9am-5pm. Corner of Beck &amp; Joy. Furniture, clothing, kids' items, misc.</p> <p><b>REDFORD</b> Everything Must Go! 9010 Kinloch, Joy &amp; Beech. 6-27 &amp; 6-28, 9-5pm. Tools, pool table, furniture, clothing, audio video &amp; more!</p> <p><b>REDFORD</b> June 25th-27th, 9am-5pm. Furniture, appliances, tools, baby, much more. Fri/Sat., 9am-3pm. 27545 Henry, at 12 Mile and Milford.</p> <p><b>ROYAL OAK</b> 934 E Third, 2 bks S of 11, E of Main. See Craigslist ad: key words "Royal Oak Third". Fri/Sat, 9-4</p> <p><b>SOUTH LYON</b> - Huge Sale! 26909 Johns Rd, Street is off 10 Mile. Sat-Mon, 9-6pm. Computers, game systems, electronics, tools.</p> <p><b>SOUTH LYON</b> Garage Sale-6/25-6/27, 9am-3pm. 12803 Woodgrove, 10 Mile Rd., E of Rushton. Teacher's books, exercise equipment, games, other items.</p> <p><b>WESTLAND</b> VERY NICE GARAGE SALE! Sat, 6-27, Sun, 6-28. Open 9:00am. 1517 Berry in Westland, Off Palmer, btwn Wayne &amp; Newburgh 734-673-4487</p>	<p><b>Moving Sales</b> <b>7130</b></p> <p><b>LIVONIA</b> MOVING SOON. Lots of furniture! 35558 Orangelawn, between Levan and Wayne Rd. June 26-27, 8:30-4:30pm</p> <p><b>SOUTH LYON HUGE SALE</b> - Furniture, appliances, tools, baby, much more. Fri/Sat., 9am-3pm. 27545 Henry, at 12 Mile and Milford.</p> <p><b>Miscellaneous For Sale</b> <b>7500</b></p> <p><b>Oak Roll Top Desk \$600;</b> Amigo Scooters \$100-\$600 Call 586-292-0930</p> <p><b>Dogs</b> <b>7840</b></p> <p><b>Bernese Mountain puppies</b> Adorable, ready for you on July 3rd. Four males and three females. \$500. (734)667-2511</p> <p><b>Golden Retriever Puppies</b> AKC Pure Brad, Shots Wormed, Vet checked, 7 weeks old. \$400. 248-684-0833</p> <p><b>Horses &amp; Equipment</b> <b>7860</b></p> <p><b>QUALITY HORSES:</b> 12 to pick from. Days: 248-347-2887 Nights: 248-348-1264</p> <p><b>IT'S ALL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!</b> The best local classifieds! <b>1-800-579-7355</b></p>
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Place your ad on-line 24-7 @ [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

# Local Strictly Business

## BUSINESS MILESTONES

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Merchant Blow-out

Six stores at Westland Shopping Center are offering discounts now through July 11 and all you need to do is make a copy of their coupon in the mall's online events calendar. It's 35 percent off all purchases at Exotic Image, 50 percent off all merchandise at Silver Point, 20 percent off at Nail Art & Smooth Legs and International Gifts, 25 percent off all merchandise at Lucy's Hut (beach accessories) and 30 percent off select candles and receive one free tea light at America's Flame. You'll find the shopping center at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland and the coupon at [www.westlandcenter.com](http://www.westlandcenter.com).

#### Grand opening

The Westland Kroger at 36430 Ford at Central City Parkway has unveiled its \$2.5 million renovation, following a ribbon cutting ceremony this week. The store includes expansion of the deli and produce sections, an in-store pharmacy and a new bakery. A fresh olive bar, a sushi bar and a gourmet soup bar are also among the new amenities.

#### Blood drives

Role up your sleeve and give a unit of blood at American Red Cross blood drives scheduled for July 6-7 at two Garden City businesses. Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury, 32000 Ford, will hold a blood drive 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, July 6, while

Garden City Hospital will hold on 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday July 7, in the lower level classrooms of the medical office building on the hospital campus at 6245 Inkster Road. You can sign up online at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) for blood donation appointment or just stop by. Walk-ins are always welcome. And added plus? By donating at any blood drive between now and Sept. 13, you have a chance of winning 2010 Mercury Milan from Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury.

#### Free concert

Toarmina's Pizza is celebrating its 22nd anniversary by hosting a free concert called Weststock 1-9 p.m. today at the outdoor performance pavilion at the William P. Faust Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland. The event features some 22 local bands. There also will be food, such as pizza and sandwiches available for sale, along with Weststock T-shirts. For more information, call (734) 377-3413.

#### Food drives

Co-op Services Credit Union is hosting its second annual food drive to benefit the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Metro Detroit. Now through June 27, collection boxes are available at its credit union offices, including its Westland branch at 35050 Ford, east of Wayne Road, to accept non-perishable donations of canned goods, diapers, baby formula, toiletries and other items. The credit union's goal is to collect more than 1,000 pounds of food to help feed the hungry.

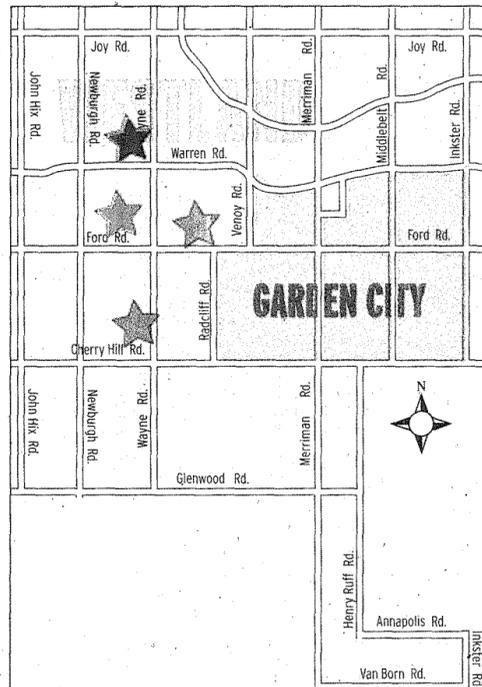
For more information about Co-op Services, visit the credit union web site at [www.cscu.org](http://www.cscu.org) or call (800) 321-8570

The Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union is collecting nonperishable food for the Lighthouse Home Missions in Westland and the John Bolde Food Bank at the St. Mary's Outreach Center in Wayne. Food can be left in a collection bin in the lobby of the credit union during business hours - 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The credit union is at 500 S. Wayne Road, south of Cherry Hill, Westland. It also is accepting monetary donations for the Lighthouse Home Mission, based at the Full Gospel Temple, on Palmer Road. The Mission has a soup kitchen open year round and also has a warming center for the homeless January through March.

### ONGOING

#### Quick eats

You'll find Krispy Krunchy Chicken, panini sandwiches, fresh salads and homemade soups and hand-dipped ice cream for your dining and catering needs at 2 Chefs Carry-out Xpress, 172 S. John Hix, south of Cherry Hill, Westland. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and noon to 9 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (734) 721-9535.



## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

# Candle shop focuses on hand made

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

We make hand-poured soy candles, gift baskets, air fresheners and are just starting out in handmade soups.

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

Everything is hand made right in the store. The display shelves are also hand made - big pine log shelves - made by my husband.

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

I made and sold the candles out of my home for awhile. I outgrew my home, so I looked for a building to rent.

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

It's a good location, cheap rent and there really isn't a soy candle store around.

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

Not at this time.



Owner Julie Shafe makes her soy candles right at her store, Northern Lights Soy Candles on Wayne Road in Westland.

### NORTHERN LIGHTS SOY CANDLES

**Business name:** Northern Lights Soy Candles  
**Address:** 244 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Name and Title:** Julie LaShafe, owner  
**Business Opened:** April 29, 2009  
**Number of Employees:** 2  
**Your Business Specialty:** Hand-poured soy candles  
**Hours:** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday  
**Business phone and e-mail:** (734) 326-2277, [www.northernlightssoy-candles.com](http://www.northernlightssoy-candles.com)

## BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

### New physicians on staff

Garden City Hospital's medical staff is growing. The new staff members are:

- Dr. Michael Fill and Dr. Essa Hisham, Emergency Medicine at Garden City Hospital Emergency Department, 6245 Inkster Road.

- Dr. Barry Lewis, with offices at 37799 Professional Center Dr., Livonia.

- Dr. Anand Thakur, M.D., Pain Management, at Garden City Hospital.

- Dr. Bruce C. Washington, Cardiac/Thoracic Surgery, with offices at 18181 Oakwood, Suite 102, Dearborn.

Located in Garden City, the hospital provides comprehensive health care services, osteopathic medical education, and health care related programs to the community at large. For more information about Garden City Hospital or for more information or to make an appointment with one of Garden City Hospital's new or existing physicians, call 877-717-WELL or visit [www.gchosp.org](http://www.gchosp.org).

### Sweet support

Farmington Hills-based Sweet Dreamzzz Inc. recently received a donation of \$3,831 from the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of REALTORS®

(WWOCAR). Nancy Maxwell, executive director of Sweet Dreamzzz, made the announcement.

The donation was raised at the WWOCAR annual bowling fund-raiser on May 6, 2009 at Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia. The nearly \$4,000 raised will be used to educate elementary school aged children in southeast Michigan on the importance of sleep through the R.E.M. (Rest. Educate. Motivate.) Sleep Program, and to provide the at-risk children with bedtime essentials.

"We are honored to be the recipient of this year's WWOCAR fund-raiser," said Maxwell. "Through local contributors like WWOCAR, we are able to continue to carry out the Sweet Dreamzzz mission and will be able to help thousands of children achieve a warm and healthy night's rest this year."

Sweet Dreamzzz, a non-profit organization, administers the R.E.M. Sleep Program with the belief that well-rested children are better prepared for classroom learning. The program is twofold, bringing both warmth and comfort to the children as well as vital information they need to ensure a good night's rest.

The R.E.M. Sleep Program starts with a 30-minute interactive program for the children that educates them

on the importance of sleep and good sleep hygiene habits. After the presentation, each child receives a sleep kit consisting of a sleeping bag, a backpack filled with a nightshirt, socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, stuffed animal, a R.E.M. activity book, and crayons.

Several metro-Detroit schools are scheduled for the R.E.M. Sleep Program in the fall of 2009, including Lincoln Elementary in Westland. To date, Sweet Dreamzzz has been able to serve more than 25,000 children.

For information on volunteering or organizing collections for Sweet Dreamzzz, call the office at (248) 478-3242 or visit [www.sweet-dreamzzzdetroit.org](http://www.sweet-dreamzzzdetroit.org).

### Send it

Get in on the Strictly Business Page of the Westland and Garden City Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones.

It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to Sue Mason, editor, at [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com) and she'll take care of the rest.

Our local business page runs each Thursday in your Westland and Garden City Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We look forward to hearing from you.

## CHAMBER CHAT

### WESTLAND CHAMBER

The Westland Chamber will be slowly "going green" over the next three months. To help us do that if you would like to start receiving the monthly newsletter in electronic form, instead of paper, please let us know. Since many of our chamber events are taking place in the first part of the month, several of you are not getting your newsletter in time to adjust your schedules.

By receiving this information in an e-mail you will be one of the first to know what's coming up, along with helping to save a few trees. If you do wish to continue receiving your newsletter in print, note that there will be a \$10 fee added to your yearly membership renewal.

To start helping us be "green" and receive your newsletter by e-mail, call us at (734) 326-7222 or e-mail us at [www.westlandchamber.com](mailto:www.westlandchamber.com) with your correct e-mail address.

- Brookellen Swope, president and CEO

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## Northville's 21st Annual Fine Arts Festival



# Art in the Sun

June 27 & 28, 2009

Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 11-5

Experience over 100 juried artists, lively music, food, kids activities and the ambiance of downtown Northville.

ATLAS HOME IMPROVEMENT, TRIPP ENTERPRISES, Infinity Windows, EVERDRY WATERPROOFING, ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL, RENEWAL by Andersen, Achieving Health Chiropractic Plus, Relax the Back, Northville Art House

For more information: Northville Art House 248-344-0497 or [www.northvillearts.org](http://www.northvillearts.org)

6/25/09

# Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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**HELEN M. AUBERLIN**  
Age 95, of Farmington Hills, June 21, 2009. Cherished wife of the late Marvin (2002); devoted mother of Beverly (Dan) Darnell; beloved grandmother of Jason and Christopher (Amy); dear great-grandmother of Mathias, Solana, Olivia and Addison. Mrs. Auberlin is also survived by her sister Jenny Tompor and nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her siblings Frank, Walter, Edmund Hardy and Stella Kondracki. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday, June 24, 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Farmington. Interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Arrangements entrusted to Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Downtown Farmington. (248) 474-5200. [heeney-sundquist.com](http://heeney-sundquist.com)

**ERNEST W. JOHNSON**  
Age 79 of Westland. Loving husband of Jo. Dear father of Donna (John) Swanson, Jan (Bill) Mackenroth, Vicki (Michael) Webster, Laura (Rick) Hazen and the late Mike. Brother of Dorothy Briggs. Grandfather of Angela (Andrew) Hathikhanavala, Amanda Webster, Katie Webster & the late Kris Mackenroth. Funeral Wednesday 10 am at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive friends Mon. 4-9 pm & Tues. 3-9 pm. Donations to Westland Historic Village Park appreciated. Please visit & leave a note of condolence at: [www.uhtfh.com](http://www.uhtfh.com).

**OBITUARY POLICY**

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

**Deadlines:**  
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday  
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

*Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.*

e-mail your obit to  
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or fax to:  
Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson  
313-496-4968

For more information call:  
Char Wilson  
586-826-7082  
or Liz Keiser  
586-977-7538  
or toll free  
800-579-7355  
ask for Char or Liz

**MARY E. BRIGHT**  
Age 92, of Garden City, MI. Loving and devoted mother of Ernest, Arthur and Eugene (Michelle). Grandmother of Misty. Stepsister of Robert Phillips. Former wife & lifelong friend of Dutch Eichenberg. Passed away peacefully. Mary will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

**WALTER B. GENTILE**  
Age 86, of Westland, June 21, 2009. Beloved husband of Ehtel. Loving father of Loretta (Ken) Clary, Walter (Jackie) Gentile Jr., Linda Sampson and Catherine (Joe) Clairmont. Dearest grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of 11. He was preceded in death by his parents, Adam and Bertha Gentile, Barbara Ann Gentile, three sisters and three brothers. Funeral services are private. Arrangements by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Interment at Michigan Memorial Park.

**CORDIA "Corky" (Pursell) NIPPER**  
Age 75, Prudenville formerly of Livonia and Plymouth died June 22, 2009. Services 6:00 pm Friday, June 26, 2009, Christ Lutheran Church, Oakley, MI. Please visit Corky's webpage at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com).

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



## Church offers job-hunting resources in challenging times

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia will kick off a series of job workshops Monday.

"We have a team of members starting a workshop to help people who are looking for work find jobs," said the Rev. Mary Margaret Eckhardt.

"Our team has been through that experience — they have quite a few resources — you can check our church Web site for some of this info. The site address is [www.stmatthewslivonia.com](http://www.stmatthewslivonia.com).

The church's upcoming Monday night workshops are:

- June 29, 5:30-7 p.m.: Julie Pugginni from Schoolcraft College will talk about setting goals and motivation.

- July 13, 7-8:30 p.m.: The topic will be communication — using the right words in the right way.
- Your "elevator speech" says it all. Business cards, too.
- July 27, 7-8:30 p.m.: Interviews — on the phone and in person. Practical tips on preparation and presentation.
- Aug. 10, 7-8:30 p.m.: Retraining Resources — when it's right for you and how. There also will be a presentation on "No Worker Left Behind."
- Aug. 24, 7-8:30 p.m.: Family Finances — The topic addresses the importance of having a plan and making sure everyone is "on board."

- Sept. 14, 7:8:30 p.m.: Discovery — What's the Market Like Now

Eckhardt said Pugginni, the first speaker in the series, "comes to us with excellent recommendations as a counselor who understands what people need to hear and do as they face unemployment and start looking for the next job."

The workshops are designed to help people in employment transition put together a useful job-hunter's tool box. They include a presentation and small group discussion.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church is located at 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038.

### RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com) or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. For a complete listing of events online please go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

study series, 9 a.m.-noon on four Tuesday mornings - June 30, July 7, and 28, and Aug. 4, at the church, 11441 Hubbard. Based on Jeff Cavin's "Quick Journey Through the Bible," the study offers a survey of salvation history, using a combination of individual reading, group discussion, and lecture commentary. Cost is \$19.95 for the study guide and materials. A Children's Ministry is available at \$2 per child per session. For additional information and registration, see [www.livoniastmichael.org](http://www.livoniastmichael.org) or call the parish office at (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207.

#### JUNE 25-JULY 1

**Bethany Suburban West**  
A Day at the Races 10 a.m. Saturday, June 27, at Pinnacle Race Track, 18000 Vining, between Sibley and West, New Boston (Exit 13 off I-275). Buffet at 11 a.m. For details, call Robtn (734) 676-4515.

**Food pantry**  
Saturday, June 27, at Trinity Church, 10101 Ann Arbor Road, west of Beck, in Plymouth. Reserve a pick-up time in advance by calling (734) 459-9557 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25.

**Garage sale**  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Friday, June 25-26 and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, June 27, at St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 23300 W. Chicago Road, Redford. (313) 538-1142

**Bible study**  
St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia offers a Bible

**Armenian Folk singer**  
Armenian-Canadian vocalist Mariam Matossian and the world music group, Free Planet Radio, will perform at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 27, at St. John's Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$50 for priority seating. Reserve tickets by calling (248) 357-2234.

**Mom's retreat**  
A series of four summer retreat days starts July 1 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia, 11441 Hubbard. A children's ministry will be offered for the little ones while Mom enjoys Mass, a continental breakfast, and conversation and discussion with other moms. The discussions will introduce the Doctors of the Church and the steps of spiritual development, based on noted Catholic evangelist Ralph Martin's newest book, "The Fulfillment of All Desire." Sessions run 8:30-11 a.m. July 15, 29 and Aug. 12. Cost is \$8 per meeting. Register at (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or e-mail to [swilliams@livonistmichael.org](mailto:swilliams@livonistmichael.org).

# Your Invitation to Worship

### CATHOLIC

**ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Tridentine Latin Mass  
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8  
38100 Five Mile Road  
Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200

Mass Schedule:  
Fri. 7:00 p.m.  
Sat. 11:00 a.m.  
Sun. 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.  
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass  
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions  
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. CE0802544

**St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church**  
St. Genevieve School - PreK-8  
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220  
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)  
MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a,  
Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

**St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church**  
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616  
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)  
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a,  
Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a CE0802546

### CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

**PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
46801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525  
Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.  
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.  
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.  
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER  
(734) 455-3196 CE0802528

### EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Timothy Lutheran Church**  
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation  
8820 Wayne Rd.  
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)  
Livonia • 427-2290  
Jill Heather, Pastor  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
(Nursery Available) CE0802555

### UNITED METHODIST

**Redford Aldersgate**  
2 blocks South of Plymouth  
10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170  
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.  
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship  
[www.redfordaldersgate.org](http://www.redfordaldersgate.org) CE0802547

**NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
"Open Hearts, Minds & Doors"  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail  
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.  
734-422-0149  
Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 am  
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley  
Visit our website: [www.newburgumc.org](http://www.newburgumc.org) CE08067846

### PRESBYTERIAN

**Fellowship Presbyterian Church**  
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 & Schoolcraft  
Nursery provided • [www.fellowship-presbyterian.org](http://www.fellowship-presbyterian.org) CE08026511

### PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

**St. James Presbyterian Church, USA**  
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 CE08085045

**ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**  
9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)  
(734) 422-0494  
Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am  
Traditional Service 10:30 am  
Visit [www.rosedalegardens.org](http://www.rosedalegardens.org)  
For information about our many programs CE08067653

### LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96  
734-522-6830

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional  
Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am  
Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

Staffed Nursery Available

**Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ**  
Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden CE08085607

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD**  
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.  
Nursery Provided  
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor CE08065817

**Risen Christ Lutheran**  
David W. Martin, Pastor  
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (E. W. of Hubbard)  
(734) 455-5252  
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am  
Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30  
Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are.  
[www.risenchrist.info](http://www.risenchrist.info) CE08065806

### EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

**WARD**  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

40000 Six Mile Road  
"just west of I-275"  
Northville, MI  
248-374-7400

Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours  
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.  
Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560  
The WMUZ Word Station  
For additional information visit [www.wardchurch.org](http://www.wardchurch.org) CE08065877

### LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

**ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360

WORSHIP SERVICES  
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.  
THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.  
website: [www.stpaulslivonia.org](http://www.stpaulslivonia.org) CE08065800

### GREEK ORTHODOX

**NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI  
Sunday Services  
Matsins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  
Rev. Fr. George Vapouris  
Parish Office 734-420-0131  
Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
[www.nativitygochurch.org](http://www.nativitygochurch.org) CE08065413



# Dine al fresco

Fresh air comes with every meal on a restaurant patio or deck

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

An outside patio at Compari's in Plymouth on a balmy spring afternoon was like a magnet to two sisters when they needed a break from shopping.

Sitting comfortably at a table facing Kellogg Park with all its greenery and charm, they talked about how much they enjoy restaurants that allow patrons to dine in the fresh air.

"People gravitate to patios," said Susan Clark of Lansing, who was visiting her sister, Mary Khoshnegah of Hamburg Township.

A few tables away, Catherine and Todd Mueller enjoyed lunch with their daughter, Anna, 6.

"We live downtown and enjoy being able to walk downtown, sit outside and enjoy a great meal," Catherine Mueller said.

Restaurant patios are good for business and seem to be a trend that will last well into the future, according to Nichole Jacobs, manager of Leo's Coney Island in Plymouth.

"More and more restaurants are adding patios," and if they're new construction, outdoor seating is built into the plans.

Like many cities with a downtown area, Plymouth is teeming with restaurants offering dining outside even where space is limited. The Sweet Afton Tea Room and Simple Sandwich face each other on Forest Avenue in Plymouth. Each business has only a small patch of sidewalk, but it's enough for a couple of tables and chairs.

"The Porch" was added last year at the longtime dining establishment, Ginopolis of Farmington Hills, which is owned by brothers, John and Peter Ginopolis.

It's been good for business, said John Ginopolis.

"The nice weather is so short in this state people really enjoy sitting out there having lunch, dinner or cocktails," he explained. "They take advantage of it. They will specifically come here just to sit outside."

Across town, CJ's Brewery, a res-



Lisa Beneges and her daughter Carolyn Beneges are almost ready to order lunch at Compari's in downtown Plymouth.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

taurant attached to Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township, also recently opened a patio.

"If you go to any downtown you see more diners outside than you do inside," said David Doyle, Compuware Arena food and beverage director.

"We thought we would try it in our setting to draw people up to our restaurant and so far so good," Doyle said.

Front lot patios are the key feature of a block-long stretch of restaurants on Haggerty Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

The Claddagh Irish Pub, Mitchell's Fish Market and Bravo Cucina Italiana sit side by side with ample outdoor seating.

The Livonia block looks like a scene from a small town in Europe, and with the various ethnic groups represented, it's up to you to pretend which country you're visiting.

Jason King, general manager of The Claddagh Irish Pub, thinks most people are relieved to be outdoors after spending harsh Michigan winters inside buildings. Fresh flowers and a full power gas fire pit are extra features on the patio that lure diners.

Luciano Del Signore, owner and chef of BACCO Ristorante in Southfield, invites customers to "come, relax, sip some wine, treat yourself to a savory dessert, and share the joys of summer with friends and family."

"In Michigan people are cooped up for so long, to go outside is a bonus," DelSignore said. "On perfect summer days, our patio tables are the first ones reserved. We have actual furniture with table cloths outside. We keep it very much the same as inside."

At Penn Grille & Bar in Plymouth, the atmosphere is much more casual.

Marykay Marocco, day manager, said, "As soon as the patio opens we do twice the business. We also have a television facing outside and you can watch sporting events even if you're out on the patio."

Outdoor seating was added this year at Michnos Café, in Redford.

"We opened up on a Friday during the Wing's game and it was a blast," said Anthony Michnos, who is the son of the restaurant owner, Ron Michnos.

"People tend to want to relax and talk outside," he added.

Mike Lucaj, manager of Grand Tavern in Farmington Hills, says patios "put people in a better mood."

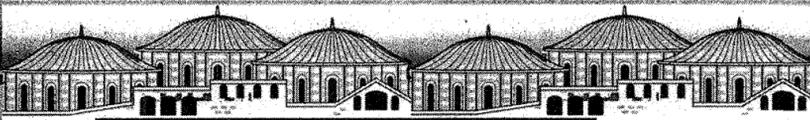
And that is definitely the case with the sisters visiting Plymouth at Compari's.

"It's great to be able to sit outside, have the action of the city and people walking by," Khoshnegah said. "And we can people watch."

## Local eateries with outdoor dining

Here's a sampling of restaurants with outdoor seating:

- Athenian Coney Island**  
43324 W. 11 Mile, Novi; (248) 305-9700  
Seating capacity outdoors: 40
- BACCO Ristorante**  
29410 Northwestern Highway, Southfield; (248) 356-6600  
Seating capacity outdoors: 50
- Bravo Cucina Italiana**  
17700 Haggerty, Livonia; (734) 591-5600  
Seating capacity outdoors: 65
- CJ's Brewery in Compuware Arena**  
14900 N. Beck, Plymouth; (734) 453-4455  
Seating capacity outdoors: 70
- Compari's on the Park**  
350 S. Main St., Plymouth; (734) 416-0100  
Seating capacity outdoors: 40
- Fiamma Grille**  
380 S. Main St., Plymouth; (734) 416-9340  
Seating capacity outdoors: 60
- Ginopolis**  
27815 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills; (248) 851-8222  
Seating capacity outdoors: 60
- Grand Tavern**  
35450 Grand River Ave., Farmington; (248) 476-5700  
Seating capacity outdoors: 40
- Hermann's Olde Town Grille**  
195 W. Liberty, Plymouth; (734) 451-1213  
Seating capacity outdoors: 30
- Leo's Coney Island:**  
41496 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth; (734) 416-8200  
Seating capacity outdoors: 40
- Michno's Café**  
25524 Five Mile, Redford Township; (313) 532-9212  
Seating capacity outdoors: 36
- Mitchell's Fish Market**  
17600 Haggerty, Livonia; (734) 464-3684  
Seating capacity outdoors: 60
- Penn Grille & Bar**  
820 Penniman, Plymouth; (734) 453-3570  
Seating capacity outdoors: 40
- Pi of Southfield**  
28847 Franklin, Southfield; (248) 358-3355  
Seating capacity outdoors: 50
- Sandy's by the Beach**  
25853 Five Mile, Redford; (313) 534-0333  
Seating capacity outdoors: 34
- Stone House Coffee & Tea**  
16923 Ridge Road, Northville; (248) 449-2669  
Seating capacity outdoors: 16
- Tanglewood Golf Course**  
53503 W. 10 Mile, South Lyon; (248) 486-6217  
Seating capacity outdoors: 112
- The Claddagh Pub of College Park**  
17800 Haggerty, Livonia; (734) 542-8141  
Seating capacity outdoors on two patios: 75



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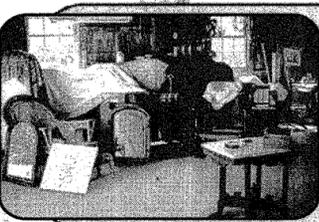
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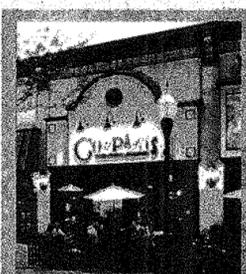


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No Carryouts. Dine In Only. Minimum of 3 people • No Groups.

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FOR PARTIES OF 25 OR MORE

(Not private) Reservations Required  
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Choice of Roasted Chicken (about 1 1/2 pieces per person), Ham or Kielbasa and Kraut, Penne Pasta, House Salad, Bread and Butter.  
Upgrade entree choice to Roast Beef for an additional \$1 per person, Boneless Baked Chicken Breast for an additional \$2 per person, or Sautéed Veal Cutlets for an additional \$4 per person.



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