

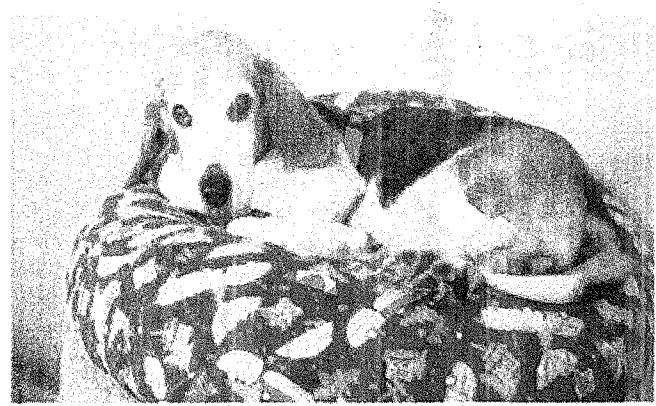
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Westland serves up eggs, opportunity at breakfast, A5

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Dog bed business lands woman on  
entrepreneur DVD - Neighbors, B5

## AROUND TOWN Early start

Spring weather came early, bringing with it a chance to clean up the yard.

Normally, curbside compost collection doesn't begin until April 15. However, this year, the curbside pickup started March 15, a month early.

"With the unseasonable weather and no snow, we started the pickup early," Westland Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford said. "The weather was nice enough that the compost yard in Taylor opened a little early."

The city's trash hauler, Midwest Sanitation, also handles the curbside yard waste collection and agreed to begin picking up a month early.

Leaves, grass clippings and other compost materials can be put at the curb in a 32-gallon trash container marked as compost or in kraft paper bags. Compost collection is done on the regularly scheduled trash pickup day.

The city is also encouraging residents to cut brush into three-foot lengths and tie it into bundles for curbside collection.

## Nominations

There is still time to submit nominations for 2010 First Citizen, co-sponsored by the *Westland Observer* and the Westland Chamber of Commerce, and Business Person of the Year, sponsored by the chamber.

The First Citizen is honored for community service while the Business Person of the Year is recognized for a combination of professional excellence, staying power and community involvement.

The awards will be presented at the Spring Awards program Thursday, April 22. The deadline for nominations is 4 p.m. Friday, April 1.

For nomination forms and complete criteria, visit the chamber Web site at [www.westland-chamber.com](http://www.westland-chamber.com) or call (734) 326-7222.

## Price increase

Effective Thursday, April 1, the single copy price of the *Observer/South Oakland Eccentric* will be \$1.

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## Energy grant lets city make needed upgrades

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Efforts to make Westland facilities more energy efficient are moving ahead, beginning with Mike Modano Arena.

The first step was the council awarding a split bid to J.S. Vig, a construction management firm, for up to \$23,715, and engineers Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment not to exceed \$33,600, for the \$731,000 federal grant funded project.

With a \$416,000 tab, the ice arena is the biggest part of the project receiving a refrigeration system, dehumidifier and heating and cooling systems.

"We hope to be completed by December. It all depends on the refrigeration equipment for the arena. We want to get those bids out in the next couple of weeks," said Community Development Director Joanne Inglis. "It takes three or four months to build the equipment. The installation takes only a week or two."

We're working on those bids right now."

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, awarded by the federal Department of Energy, will also provide \$153,000 to replace the frequency drivers and air handlers at the Bailey Recreation Center and \$75,000 to replace the boiler at the police department.

Much of this heating and cooling equipment is 25 or more years old. The police station boiler, for example, is original to when the building was constructed. The city is projecting a \$127,000 savings from an approximately 28 percent reduction in energy costs due to the retrofitting at a time when Westland is cutting spending in the face of declining revenues.

"This is wonderful timing for this grant. Also, it's great timing because the equipment is so old and we don't have to replace it on an emergency basis," said Inglis.

At the Mike Modano Ice Arena alone, the city hopes to save 830,000 kilowatt hours.

"The City of Westland is very thankful and excited to be awarded this grant to promote energy efficiency," said Mayor William Wild. "During these tough economic times there is not money to address these concerns and this money will help the city complete these projects and is consistent with the principles of our Mission Green initiative."

The city's EECBG Strategy Plan includes accomplishment and sustainability measurements, which the city will share with residents. Other activities include working with local vendors to provide energy efficient light bulbs to Westland residents at an affordable price and supporting the efforts of Mission Green to further educate the community about energy saving strategies.

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Dog bed business lands woman on  
entrepreneur DVD - Neighbors, B5

## AFSCME contract aims at avoiding layoffs

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A tentative agreement has been reached between Westland and its largest employee bargaining unit, the only union currently not under contract.

"We're waiting to receive it on paper so we can go on to ratification," said Larry Roman, president of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1602. "There was movement by both sides and it is beneficial to both sides. We didn't want more layoffs."

Last month, the city had laid off 10 work-

ers from the AFSCME unit, which includes Department of Public Services workers, clerical staff and parks and recreation employees.

Unlike police and fire unions, which had contracts in place through 2012 and have agreed to two-year extensions delaying scheduled raises, the AFSCME local had been without a contract for more than a year. The four-year tentative agreement is retroactive to 2009 and no raises would be received until the last two years — 1 percent in 2011 and 1.5 percent in 2012.

Like police and firefighters, AFSCME employees would have an opportunity to purchase up to five years credited service to allow an early

retirement. The employee would pay 5 percent of annual salary per year of credited service. The 5 percent per year payment could be made using unused sick/vacation banks that otherwise would have been paid off on retirement.

It's expected that about 15 AFSCME members would take advantage of the early retirement program. If those positions are left unfilled, Mayor William Wild estimated the city would save \$1 million annually. The savings from the 10 layoffs is projected to be \$750,000 annually.

"We hope those leaving will alleviate further

Please see CONTRACT, A2



Village of Westland residents Doris Spencer (from left), Louis Kovach and his wife Dona Kovach pose a photograph with Marilyn Monroe and Humphrey Bogart during the Hollywood Night gala.

## Village 'gala' has a touch of Hollywood

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Louis Kovach didn't expect Marilyn Monroe to fall over when he touched her. But that's what happened when the Westland resident met up with the starlet Thursday afternoon.

"I didn't even touch her," Kovach said as he helped the actress up off the floor.

"You had your arm around her ... a once in a lifetime," responded his wife Dona.

Monroe didn't seem to mind the nose dive, and there was nary a snicker from Clark Gable and Humphrey Bogart who watched the mishap. But that's to be expected when you're a life-sized cardboard cutout.

It was all in good fun at an Oscar-style Hollywood Night at the Village of Westland,

where residents dressed to nines to enjoy dinner served by a dapper wait staff and snacked on hors d'oeuvres while listening to music by Ginny Papper.

"We thought it would be nice to have them dress up and have their pictures taken with the movie stars," marketing director Nancy Roberts said. "There will be awards for things like the friendliest and the nicest dressed. We'll have ballroom dancing. It's really a nice thing to do for them."

Papper kept her audience busy singing songs from the 1920s through rock 'n' roll. Laying in front of her piano was her therapy dog Shorty who came appropriately dressed for the event with his black tie.

Please see HOLLYWOOD, A2



Staffer Karen Ziginow as a princess offers Village resident Willard Hattery the dinner "menu" for Hollywood Night.

## 3 Westland firefighters get top honors

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

About 150 turned out for an awards dinner honoring current and former Westland firefighters.

A 15-year veteran, Kevin Tomaszewski was honored as the department's Firefighter of the Year.

"He's always very motivated and people-friendly. He's all about community service — he's very active in charities and the community," said Capt. Brian Craft, who organized the awards program. "He's also a great firefighter and a very good paramedic."

Soon to be promoted to sergeant, Tomaszewski attended the Schoolcraft College Fire Academy after graduating from Westland John Glenn High School in 1992. He is 35 and married with two children.

"I always wanted to be a firefighter, I wanted to help people. I still want to help people," said Tomaszewski, who is active in fund raising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Westland Firefighters Charity Committee.

The major fund-raiser for the charity committee had been a golf outing which was discontinued about four years ago. Tomaszewski has organized a raffle which raises about \$15,000 for the fund, used for charitable donations, such as the recent contribution for the funeral expenses of the two brothers who died in an apartment fire.

"We have really picked up our fund raising and Kevin has been instrumental in that," said Craft.

Also recognized at the awards program were Capt. Eric Smith as Paramedic of the Year. With more than 18 years with the department, Smith was honored for his work keeping the department current on paramedic protocols.

"He's very knowledgeable and teaches other paramedics," said Craft. Married with two children, Smith is also a John Glenn graduate.

Please see AWARDS, A2

## Index

CLASSIFIED	C1
AUTOMOTIVE	C4
CAREER BUILDER	C1
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C2
EDUCATION	A4
HEALTH	B10
NEIGHBORS	B5
OBITUARIES	B9
REAL ESTATE	C1
SPORTS	B1

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**HOLLYWOOD**

FROM PAGE A1

"So many of these songs melded into rock 'n' roll," she said.

Singing along was Jim Brosious, who knew words to most of the songs and led Papper to substitute his name in her rendition of *Sitting in the Back Seat Kissing and a Hugging with Fred*.

"My mom used to play in a tavern on Livernois. She'd come home from work at 2 a.m. and I'd get up," he said. "She'd play the piano and I'd sing with her. I've always enjoyed music."

Hollywood Night is one of many festive occasions held at the Village of Westland. In addition to the "beautiful Christmas dinner," it has parties for

Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day and the other big holidays.

"It's a very festive dinner and some of the residents invited their families to the event," said administrator Erna Laza, who came as CoCo Chanel for Hollywood Night. "They're having such a nice time, a nice dinner and all the festivities."

Dona Kovach agrees. She and her husband moved to the village a year ago and don't miss a chance to be a part of the festivities.

"I think it's wonderful, it's nice to do all these activities," she said as she stood by Humphrey Bogart for a photograph.

"I liked Bogart," she added. "He had a lot of spirit. He seemed more real to me."

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**Hearing aid, clothing stolen from car****CONTRACT**

FROM PAGE A1

while she was visiting a friend who lives at an apartment in the 7500 block of Woodview. She said she had the only keys to the vehicle and she owned it out right.

**COP CALLS**

is located just inside the entry door where she works. The \$300 phone disappeared while she was away from the counter.

The woman said she checked the store security video once she realized her phone was missing. The tape shows a man entering the store, walk directly to the machine that checks lottery tickets and then reach over the machine and other items to take the cell phone. The officer noted the man took time to scroll through numbers on the phone before walking away with it. He was joined by a woman and they later returned to another part of the counter to request change.

**LARCENY**

A resident of an apartment in the 37000 block of North Orchard told police March 18 that a man he had met at a bar accompanied him to the apartment. The man stayed about an hour and used the resident's cell phone to call for a ride. After the man had left, the resident said he noticed his laptop computer was missing.

The guest, whose last name he didn't know, wasn't seen taking the \$500 computer but the resident said no one else had been at the apartment.

• An employee at Heartland Market, 34414 Ford, told police March 17 that while she was working she had placed her cell phone on the counter behind some taller items. The counter

**VANDALISM**

On March 18, a resident in the 33000 block of Avondale told police that someone had scratched the driver's door of her vehicle and part of the lower front grill was missing. The damage to the 2008 Chevy Cobalt was estimated at \$500.

**VEHICLE STOLEN**

A Livonia woman told police that someone had stolen her 1996 Ford Taurus March 17

**VANDALISM**

The manager of ACO Hardware, 31059 Ann Arbor Trail, told police she arrived for work March 21 to find someone had cut the plastic on the store greenhouse. The damage was set at \$50 but nothing had been taken. She noted the person would have had to jump the fence to get to the greenhouse.

**HIT AND RUN**

On March 16, a resident of Pointe West Apartments in the 1900 block of Cottrill told police that someone had hit his parked vehicle, damaging the front bumper/grill. The damage had occurred March 12-13 and the man said he filed the report for insurance purposes.

Also on March 16, a resident of the 32000 block of Anita told police that someone had hit his vehicle, causing damage to the rear bumper.

By LeAnne Rogers

layoffs," Roman said.

Other changes in the tentative agreement include new hires paying 10 percent of PPO2 medical coverage — current employees will switch to a PPO1 plan, which the city projects will save \$2,300 per family covered and \$1,300 for a single person.

Two other major changes include changing the pension for new hire AFSCME members from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. That means the city would pay 10 percent of the workers' base pay toward the pension and the worker would contribute 5 percent of base pay.

Even more significantly, the contract would end retiree health care benefits for new hires — something Wild said he will eventually seek from the city's police and firefighters. Currently, city employees get lifetime medical benefits after retirement.

Firefighters and the Westland Lieutenants and Sergeants Association have both ratified their contract extensions, with members of the Police Officer Association of Michigan scheduled to wrap up voting Saturday.

Wild has already met with the supervisors' bargaining unit, which is represented by the UAW and has a contract in effect through June.

"That meeting went very well. I assume we will reach a similar agreement," Wild said. "That would take care of everyone except the (18th District) court. I'm meeting with the judges to give them the information."

Reaching agreements with cost reductions became more pressing as the city deals with a projected \$3.5 million deficit for the fiscal year beginning July 1. That deficit was projected at \$12 million for the 2011-21 fiscal year.

Under city charter, Wild is required to have a proposed budget to council by April 1.

"I'll present council with a two-year balanced budget," he said.

Council is expected to consider the AFSCME agreement at its April 19 meeting.

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**AWARDS**

FROM PAGE A1

Battalion Chief Martin Reddy was named Officer of the Year, an award that notes in particular his work making the department current on technology through computers and online services. Married with two children including his son, Matt, a Romulus firefighter. He is a 1979 graduate of Huron Valley Lutheran High School.

"It was a coincidence, we have no Wayne (Memorial High School) prejudice," said Craft.

Receiving the Training Award was Capt. Mark Wilhide, who was a member of the department Urban Search and Rescue team since its inception in 2008. He was recognized as a valuable resource in his role as a team leader and devoted significant time and personal effort in creating an extensive, multi-jurisdictional training event for the USAR team. This training

involved extensive coordination and planning which was spearheaded by Wilhide.

A 24-year veteran with the department, Wilhide was cited for raising the level of training of the department USA members. Wilhide is married with two children including his son, Matt, a Romulus firefighter. He is a 1979 graduate of Huron Valley Lutheran High School.

Among other award recipients was Aris Argy, owner of Northside Hardware in Wayne.

"He is always generous with us, more than giving," said Craft.

A number of Life Saving Awards were also presented to firefighters, sergeants and captains. One of the more memorable moments was when the names of former firefighters who had died were read and the bell was rung for each name, Craft said.

"What we wanted was to make it an awards ceremony, but also retiree recognition.

We had retired speakers talk about the department," he said. "One would talk about the '50s or the '60s. Like when our firefighters helped out at the 1967 riots in Detroit. It was like an oral history."

When he organized the dinner, Craft said he hoped for 100 people to attend so he was pleased with a turnout that included a large number of retirees.

The dinner was catered by the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's culinary arts program.

"They had a big role in making the night a success and were a tremendous help," said Craft.

Some firefighters mentioned wanting to continue this type of program next year, but they'll have to do it without Craft, who will have joined the list of retirees before then.

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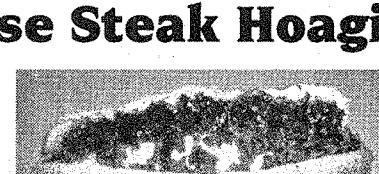
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Members of the choir rehearse for the Merriman Road Baptist Church production of "The Risen Christ," which will be presented at 7 p.m. Good Friday, April 2, at the church.

## Church provides multi-media Easter program

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Garden City's Merriman Road Baptist Church is known for its Easter dramas that transform the sanctuary into the streets of ancient Jerusalem.

But this year, people who attend the Friday evening performance will be treated with a multi-media production, featuring a 100-voice choir.

"It will still be the same story, the gospel of Matthew, but this will be a straight telling of the story," the Rev. Wayne Parker said. "In the past, it was stories told by different individuals like Paul or Mary, as side story to what was going on."

"The Risen Christ" will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, April 2, at the church at 2055 Merriman, just south of Ford, in Garden City. John Rowe will be the voice of Jesus, while Alan Hyma will play John, Elaine Weathers will play Mary Magdalene and Russ Weathers will play Peter.

Unlike previous dramas that were writ-

ten by Parker, this year's production is a purchased piece written by John Cason. It has an easier set design and costing — no biblical costumes — and short video clips. According to Parker, over-the-top music and the choir singing will depict aspects of the biblical scenes.

The story line will begin with the call of the disciples and because it isn't a dramatic portrayal, it will last just 1 hour, 15 minutes.

"In between the readers, there will be a vocal drama of the gospel story," he added. "We won't try to depict the biblical scenes. The stage will be dressed up a bit, but we're putting a lot of work into the staging."

Church members who come from Garden City, Westland and other neighboring communities have been working on the production since mid-January. The idea for it was based on the thought of "what nice music can we use that we use all year long."

"There will be more music because we don't have a long drama," he said. "It'll be nice music — old hymns that have been

redone like *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* and newer praise music like *In Christ Alone*. It's nice because we can blend the worship service with the old and the new."

The church always has a strong attendance for the Easter production. Many come year after year and a lot are the extended families of the performers, Parker said, adding that "Easter is family time."

The Easter production is one way to introduce people to the church. Parker normally works the technical end of the production and will see the newcomers come in.

"They look at the ceiling and they look like well, it hasn't fallen in yet," he said.

Seating will be first-come, first-served. The sanctuary can seat up to 650 people comfortably, and there also will be an overflow area with people able to watch it on TV screens.

For more information about the production, call the church at (734) 421-0472.

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## EASTER ACTIVITIES

Time is running out to get your kids in on some very bunny activities being offered in western Wayne County:

- Kids from all over the area will have the chance to turn in marshmallows for a prize at Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop 2010 on Good Friday, April 2, at Nankin Mills in Westland at 11 a.m.

More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped from a helicopter to children, who will scramble to collect these goodies during the county's 26th Annual Marshmallow Drop. Children will be divided into groups based on age, to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate fully.

Nankin Mills is located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

For more information on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call (734) 261-1990.

- Hop by Westland Shopping Center at Wayne and Warren roads, where the Easter Bunny is visiting with youngsters 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays in the mall's East Court. Be sure to sign up for Kid's World at the customer service desk for fun things for kids age 12 and under to do. Photos also are available at the Easter Bunny Loft.

## Police department gets new K-9 cop

The purchase of a new dog for the Westland Police Department was recently approved by the Westland City Council.

The adult male imported Belgian Malinois, a medium size dog similar in appearance to a German Shepherd, will cost \$6,500 and be paid for with drug forfeiture money.

The department currently has two dogs trained to track and alert to narcotics. Officer Grant Allen's dog Drago is expected to retire soon due his age at 8 1/2 years old. Drago will be allowed to live out his retirement with Allen, his partner of eight years, and the rest of the family at their Westland residence.

The new canine, a one-year-old who has not been named yet, will pick up where Drago left off. On March 26, he will begin his training with Allen. As a full service dog, he will be trained in narcotic detection, tracking, evidence searching, area searching and handler protection.

"We are very fortunate to continue providing this service in our community," said Mayor William Wild. "It is fitting that Drago will remain with Officer Allen in retirement, as these two truly became one crime fighting officer for the residents of our All American City for the past eight years."

The new dog is being purchased from Von der haus Gill German Shepherds Inc. of Wapakoneta, Ohio.

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# EDUCATION

## Sorority packs its bag for cancer patients

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It started out as a project to provide chemo care totes for cancer patients at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, but it ended up also helping American troops stationed overseas and people utilizing the services of First Step.

Members of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Beta Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an educational honor sorority, were able to make 150 well-stocked bags for the hospital, thanks to donations from staffers around the district.

"It was such a nice project because people got so excited about it," said Shawn Cornelissen, a kindergarten teacher at Madison Elementary School in Westland. "The little places like Annapolis get missed by things like this. We wanted to help in our community."

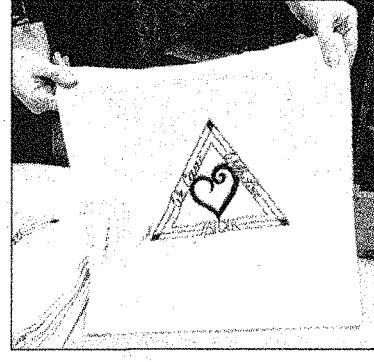
Cornelissen credits Annemarie Gantchart, who had lost a husband to brain cancer, with coming up with the idea for the bags. Sorority members have collected books and blankets for the schools in the past, but wanted to do something different this year. They researched the idea of providing a comfort bag for cancer patients going through treatment and came up with a list of items needed.

The sorority began collecting donations in January. Donation boxes were set in staff rooms at the different school buildings and even at Wayne-Westland's Central Office. Two student groups also got involved — the John Glenn High School Interact Club and the Stevenson Middle School National Junior Honor Society.

"The word went out and we collected so much that we had tables full of items," Cornelissen said. "We had tissue, hand sanitizer,



Helping assemble the bags are Susan Liggett (from left), Lisa Shepard, Chris Kowalczyk, Linda Willman, Cheryl McConnell, Tina Domagalski, Jacquie Norton, Dee Martin, Kathy Poole, Clare Maloney, Nancy Schlanser, Carlene Birchmeier, Kay Flogaus, and Cheryl Millerwise.



The chemo bag was designed by Tracey Cosgrove and coordinated by Ruth Ann Petras at William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

puzzles, books, water bottles and small blankets that CVS helped get for us. We did 50 bags for the guys and put baseball caps in them."

There also were several bags that were specific for breast cancer patients put together by Madison's Grammy — Linda Jackson.

"We put pink ribbons on them," Cornelissen said. "We heard from a woman who was going through chemo for a third time. She said, 'This is so great, it's such a good thing.'"

Cash donations helped pay for the bags that were gotten through the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, with the help of nurse Ruth Ann Petras. Stevenson Middle School teacher Tracey Cosgrove designed the logo which was printed on it at cost.

The media center at Stevenson was utilized for an assembly line with many of the 40 sorority members pack bags that were delivered Feb. 11 to Annapolis Hospital. The group decided not to put books in the bags, but instead gave them to the hospital to set up a lending library. According to Cornelissen, it took a minivan and several cars to get the bags to the hospital, where a wheelchair was pressed into service to get them inside.

"The nurse was overwhelmed. She called and said they gave out eight bags the first day," Cornelissen said. "Some of the stuff we couldn't use we sent to First Step; the kids at John Glenn were doing chemo bags for children so we sent them stuff. We sent stuff for the troops. This became a multi-layered project."

The sorority provides scholarships in alternating years to graduates at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial. Cornelissen said the group will have to look at the project to see if it will make the chemo bags again next year. Schools and uses the Parisian Community Sales — "our big fund-raiser currently" — to fund it.

"This was nice," she said. "Most of it was donated and we purchased the bags and the water bottles. We went in thinking we'd do 50 bags and buy a lot for them and then this happened."

[smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-6751

### SCHOOL BRIEFS

#### CMU honors students

Named to the fall 2009 Honors List at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant were Westland residents Blaise Christine Badynee, Erik Branden Brace, Carolanne Noel Cucci, Christopher Scott Florkowski, Chad Erin Foerster, Kelsey F. Garbutt, Alexa Janel Gholston, Katie Lynne Kalajian, Julie Ana Kobylarz, John Mitchell Moore, Grant Thomas Morgan, Lauren B Moss, Christie N. Music, Jillian Jae Novak-Alexander, Robert Melvin Padget, Brent Michael Patterson, Daniel Alan Pianowski, Kayana I. Sanders, Jessica M. Sanford, Aaron C. Sieloff, Matthew J. Steinbringer, Melissa Nicole Torok, Molly Anne Tracy, Chelsey Marie Trefney, Bridget Trevino and Dessislava C. Tzankova.

Receiving their degrees from CMU were Lori Lynch, bachelor of science; Lauren Moss, bachelor of science, and Aaron Sieloff, bachelor of science.

#### Academy scholarship

Michigan high school sophomores and juniors are being invited to apply for full scholarships to participate in the Bill of Rights Institute's Constitutional Academy, a six-week summer distance learning program that culminates with a week in Washington, D.C., and earns them three hours of college credit.

The scholarships are being funded by the Rodney Fund in Southfield.

The Constitutional Academy program challenges and enriches students as they read and study works written by and about the leading minds of the American Founding era. Participating students discuss the ideals of the American Founding along with contemporary issues in weekly online reading and discussions with university scholars and other students from across the country.

Five Michigan students will receive full scholarships to participate in the program and travel to the nation's capitol where they will, over the course of one week, work with historical documents at the National Archives and visit landmark sites, including George Washington's Mount Vernon and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

Upon successful completion of the program and all course requirements, students will earn three free college credits from Ashland University.

To apply, students must be a junior or senior for the 2010-2011 school year, meet the eligibility requirements listed on the program Web site at [www.ConstAcademy.org/ApplyNow](http://www.ConstAcademy.org/ApplyNow), and submit a teacher recommendation. Applications must be received by April 15.

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8684305

# Westland serves up eggs, opportunity at breakfast

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The old business axiom is that time is money and Westland officials are hoping efforts to streamline the city's processes will provide an edge in attracting development.

A group of developers, commercial real estate agents and other potential investors joined city officials Friday morning at Leo's Coney Island for Eggs and Opportunities, described as an insider's look at economic development opportunities in the city.

Along with an overview of tax incentive programs and run-through of some available properties, Westland's team approach was highlighted, including the new Fast-Trak to Business Team.

"Westland is very business-friendly. My background is in business and so is the council president's (James Godbout)," said Mayor William Wild. "When you are putting deals together, reach to us. There are a lot of buildings that need to be redeveloped. We realize that a lot of times after the third or fourth redevelopment, you're putting a square peg into a round hole."

The city can work with developers regarding special approvals, parking issues or other problems, Wild



Westland Mayor William Wild talks to developers about the business opportunities and help available in the city at his Eggs and Opportunities Breakfast Friday.

said. Cutting red tape and expediting projects is the aim of the Fast-Trak to Business Team whose members include the mayor, council president, planning director, economic development director, building director, Planning Commission chair and Zoning Board of Appeals chair.

"We understand your needs and what you are looking for. We have our

system nailed down. If you're deciding between communities and if you know you can get permits, incentives and things in place, that's a factor," said Planning Director Bruce Thompson. "Calls us, we can help you out. Customer service is an important part of the mayor's policies."

The various tax incentives were of interest to Nino Domenico of D and

G Building in Romulus, one of whose projects was the commercial center on Wayne Road south of Ford that includes the Golden Chopsticks restaurant and Gabriel's Hoagies.

"This was definitely useful. There are empty properties in the city and we're looking to take advantage of some of the incentives," said Domenico.

John Romano, also of D and G Building, noted the incentives would have been helpful when they were doing the Wayne Road project four years ago.

"It's still pretty slow. Money is the biggest issue. Unless the money loosens up, you can do nothing. You can't get the money," said Romano, whose company also had industrial property at Ford and Hix.

Based on his experience working in various communities, real estate broker Matt Haran of Howard Schwartz said that no city is more proactive in working with businesses than Westland. Specifically, he mentioned Wild and Economic Development Director Lori Fodale.

"Lori calls, I don't have any other economic development directors calling and aggressively selling," said Haran, who is working to lease commercial properties, including the former Joann Fabrics store located across

the parking lot from the meeting location.

While Romano said there seems to be a slight improvement in the industrial sector, Haran wasn't seeing much moving in commercial retail properties.

"We'd make deals below the debt service, there is a lack of demand now. Things are at the bottom," said Haran. "It remains to be seen for how long. Commercial was the last to go (bad)."

The city wants to be proactive in resolving issues that can hinder development, Wild said after the meeting, but that doesn't mean forgetting about residents.

"Developers want to know what the issues are before they put money on the table. We want to address those issues," he said. "We always encourage development. If they come in and about residential, those people will live there forever and they need to be residential-friendly. It's not giving away the store, time is money. We're not going to be lax on screening and other requirements."

Fodale is planning for another development meeting in the fall, adding she is hopeful by that time she'll have a list of leased properties to report.

[lerogers@hometownlife.com](mailto:lerogers@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-5428

## AROUND WESTLAND

### Garage sale

Ss. Simon and Jude Parish will hold a garage sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 9, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy. There will be a \$2 bag sale at 3 p.m., and all large items also will sell for \$2 at that time.

For more information, call Mae Bray at (734) 722-8209.

### Holiday hours

Westland city offices and the 18th District Court will be closed Good Friday, April 2. The Bailey Recreation Center and William P. Faust Public Library will be open on Good Friday, however, both will be closed on Sunday, April 4, for Easter.

The library, recycling center and the museum will be closed on Saturday, April 3.

### Democratic Club

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy between Palmer and Michigan Avenue in Westland. The board will meet at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact president Nan Melke at (734) 641-8895, by e-mail at [WestlandDemClub@robinwood.com](mailto:WestlandDemClub@robinwood.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 851304, Westland, MI 48185.

### Yoga classes

The Bailey Recreation Center is offering ongoing sessions of yoga classes for anyone 13 years and older. The classes are 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays or 11:30-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. The next sessions will begin April 1. The cost for a four-week session is \$20 for Westland residents and \$25 for non-residents.

Yoga is a combination of physical exercises with deep, relaxed breathing designed to improve strength, flexibility and relaxation. All levels of ability are welcome. You do not need to be strong, flexible, in shape, or relaxed for this yoga class but attendance will improve these qualities and probably many

more. If you are already strong then yoga will help improve circulation and allow for improved recovery time and muscle flexibility. Increased aerobic capacity from the deep breathing practice is an added advantage.

For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

### Belly dance class

Learn the intriguing art of belly dance at the Bailey Recreation Center 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays in an eight-week course that begins Wednesday, March 31.

Students will get a muscle-toning workout perfect for any fitness level. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable, form fitting clothes and bring a bottle of water. Optional coin scarves will be available in class.

The cost is \$50 for residents, \$55 for non-residents. Call (734) 722-7620 or stop by the Bailey Recreation Center 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily to register.

### Open House

Gaudior Academy will hold an open house for students in pre-K-eighth-grade 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today (March 25) and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 27.

There also will be a kindergarten open house noon-1 p.m. Saturday.

The school is located at 27100 Avondale, Inkster. For more information, call (313) 792-9444.

### Toy-Collectible Show

Head to the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, between Wayne Road and Newburgh, Westland, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 11, for a Toy and collectible show.

There will be pop culture, TV/movie items, games, comics, action figures, non-sport cards, new and antiques, hallmark, NASCAR, posters, Hot Wheels, video/music to buy, sell or trade. Win spendable money. Refreshments will be available.

Limited table space is available at \$35 per table or \$30, if paid by March 31. Three tables cost \$80.

Admission is \$2, kids under age 12 free. Early in at 9 a.m. is \$5. For

more information, call Gary at (734) 525-3712.

### Flower sale

The Wayne Ford Civic League will be selling Easter plants Friday-Sunday, April 2-4. Look for the plant sale at the 7-Eleven at 1826 S. Merriman, 31385 Joy and 8791 N. Wayne Road, Mobil gas, 1810 S. Wayne Road and Sunoco, 37400 Ford.

The group also will sell Mothers Day hanging basket plants Saturday-Sunday, May 8-9.

### Baby Shower

The Wayne-Westland Corps of the Salvation Army is holding a Community Baby Shower and Workshop for expectant or new moms 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, April 30, at the Salvation Army Center, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

There will be food, prizes and gifts for all as well as a learning experience for moms and mom-to-be. To reserve a seat, call (734) 722-3660.

### Road Rally

Kick out the jams at PsychSystems ACTS Annual Road Rally Friday, April 23. This year's theme is Detroit Rock City!

At the end of the evening the teams meet at the final destination where prizes are handed out to the winning teams. This is PsychSystems ACT main event to raise financial aid for local organizations that support people with developmental disabilities, including AUTISM SPEAKS, Friends of CLS, the Wayne Center Christmas Fund and the Wayne County Autism Society. All entry fees will go to the PsychSystems ACTS Charitable Fund.

The road rally begins at 4:30 p.m. at Goudy Park at the corner of Sims and Wayne Road, in Wayne.

The entry fee is only \$10 per person before April 1, or \$15 per person after April 1. People can register as a team or as an individual at [www.psychsystems.com](http://www.psychsystems.com). Mail entry forms to 35640 Michigan Ave., West, Wayne, MI 48184.

### Free tax preparation

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and the Wayne County Asset Building Coalition have once again partnered to provide free tax services to families throughout Wayne County.

Wayne Metro's Free Tax Preparation is available through April 15 with permanent and mobile sites located throughout the county. Many offer night and weekend hours, making it convenient for families in need of assistance.

Families living in the western Wayne County communities can get their taxes done at Dartmouth Square Neighborhood Networks Computer Learning Center, St. Clements Episcopal Church, New Birth Church, all in Inkster, or at the Wayne County Library for the Blind and Handicap in Westland. Dates and times vary by location. Appointments are offered on a first come, first serve basis and are strongly encouraged to ensure efficient service. Walk-ins are also accepted at various locations.

Appointments can be made by calling (734) 284-6999. A complete list of dates, times, locations as well as additional information on the program can be found on Wayne Metro's Web site at [www.wynemetro.org](http://www.wynemetro.org).

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Wayne-Westland Community Schools  
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### SECTION 00010 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Bid Package #29, Site Work for Edison Elementary School, Elliot Elementary School, Graham Elementary School, Hamilton Elementary School, Hicks Elementary School, Hoover Elementary School, Schweitzer Elementary School, Taft-Galloway Elementary School, Adams Middle School, and Marshall Middle School will be received until 1:30 P.M. local time on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education Office, located at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185. Bids received after this time and date will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.

Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

101	Earthwork / Site Utilities	Furnish & Install
102	Asphalt Paving / Exterior Concrete	Furnish & Install
106	Masonry	Furnish & Install
143	Electrical	Furnish & Install
148	Landscaping	Furnish & Install
149	Fencing	Furnish & Install
158	Playground Equipment	Furnish & Install

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room; CAM, Reed, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of bidding documents, beginning at 1:00 P.M. on Monday, March 29, 2010, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400. Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reprographics Technology, (248) 288-5600. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at the office of the construction manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Wayne-Westland Community Schools, as a guarantee that if



Debbie Wiesner and Lee Derrick show off their life membership awards they received from the Garden City Soccer Club Thursday evening.

## GC Soccer Club awards life memberships to two

The Garden City Soccer Club has recognized two members for 10 years of service each to the soccer club and community.

Debbie Wiesner and Lee Derrick received life memberships during a presentation Thursday evening. Life membership is one of the highest membership classifications for the club. According to Club President Carl Sheko, it can be granted to any member who has shown long and commendable service to the club and the game of soccer.

"We are all in their debt," said Sheko in making the presentation.

Wiesner "has gone above and beyond the call of duty numerous times and has set the standard of what this club defines as a volunteer," Sheko said in making the presentation.

"She has been so much more than a parent that has sent a child through the club," he said.

Wiesner has served as vice-president, in-house registrar,

travel registrar, referee assigner, assistant to the director of coaching, assistant coach and team manager. Her "ultimate accomplishment" was chairing the first tournament in Garden City Soccer Club history.

"As volunteers, we bring certain characteristics to the organization," Sheko said. "I have to admit her strongest asset for the club has been the ability to solicit other volunteers. At least 10 years ago, she approached me to come to a general membership meeting to fight a wrong that was going on with the club. Needless to say I am still here because of her. If you look around in our club today you will find that quite a few have been touched by her in a positive way."

"She has made Garden City a better place to live and play sports. We are definitely better off for having known her."

Derrick has served The Garden City Soccer Club in

many capacities, including interim president, vice-president, treasurer, equipment manager, coach and assistant coach.

"At one time he coached all three of his children on three different teams," Sheko said. "During special events for the club he was present and accounted for. His willingness to walk in the parade, help at the club picnic, or serve as chair during Senior Night at the high school. His energy and enthusiasm is an inspiration to all of us."

Sheko added that he has had the privilege of serving on the executive board with Derrick and they have "seen good times and bad times together."

"When others have cut and run, he has been steadfast to his beliefs, chose to do the right thing by the children of Garden City," Sheko added. "He has been a rock and Garden City is a better place for having known him."

### Garage Sale

All are welcome to come and shop 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at the garage sale at St. Dunstan Parish, 1515 Belton, south of Ford, Garden City.

Clothing, dishes, books, toys and more will fill the sale tables. There will be a \$2 bag sale in the final hour. The sale is a parish event, sponsored by the Rosary Altar Sodality. For more information, call (734) 425-6720.

### Card Party

The Women of the Immaculate Conception of the Garden City Knights of Columbus will hold their annual card party 6-9 p.m. Monday, April 19, at the K of C Hall, 30759 Ford, Garden City.

The cost is \$8 and includes refreshments and door prizes. For more information, call Shirley at (734) 721-1794 or Arline at 261-7915.

### Safari Day

Wondering what to do during spring break? Take your kids on a safari. The Maplewood Community Center and Garden City Library are sponsoring a Safari Day 1-3 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at the Maplewood Community Center.

The safari fun begins when children arrive. They'll receive a passport to Africa which will be stamped as they enter each into adventure room - the animal craft room, an obstacle course over crocodiles, dig in the sand to find insects. Try Toe fishing, play games and win prizes.

Little binoculars will be provided to each child to search for animals in the Jungle Room. Pizza, salad and jungle cake will be served in the Zebra Cantina.

The cost is \$7.50 per child, ages 4-9. Sign up at the center on Maplewood west of Merriman. For more information, call (734) 793-1850.

### Open house

The Garden City Co-op Preschool is holding an open house 6-7 p.m. Monday, April 19. Bring your children and meet the teacher, visit the classroom and register for the 2010-2011 school year.

The preschool is located in the Garden City Presbyterian Church at 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford.

### Shop online

Help Garden City Schools support its staff and students whenever you shop at Amazon.com.

Simply follow the link at the bottom of the district's Web site — [www.gardencityschools.com](http://www.gardencityschools.com). A portion of any resulting purchases will be returned to Garden City Public Schools. Products do not cost any more by using the link, and residents don't have to do anything more than click on the link to start shopping.

### District hours

Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb,

### GARDEN CLIPPINGS

D-Garden City, has announced a regular schedule of office hours to meet with residents in the 9th District, which includes Dearborn Heights, Garden City and Redford Township.

Webb will hold office hours the third Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Dearborn Heights at the Berwyn Senior Center, 26155 Richardson, and at 11:30 a.m. at the Eton Senior Center, 4900 Pardee, and the fourth Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in Redford Township at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, and at 11:30 a.m. in Garden City at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood).

For residents who are unable to attend daytime office hours, Webb will hold evening hours on a monthly basis. Locations will rotate throughout her district.

Evening office hours and upcoming locations are the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. April 26 in Dearborn Heights at the Caroline Kennedy Library, 24590 George, and May 24 in Garden City at the Maplewood Community Center.

Residents also can contact her office directly at (313) 224-0930 or send a letter to her attention at 500 Griswold, Suite 725, Detroit, MI 48226.

### Office hours

Need to talk with Garden City Mayor Randy Walker? You'll find him Tuesdays at Garden City Hall. Walker will hold office hours 4:30-6 p.m. Residents can schedule an appointment by calling Administrative Assistant Margo Cicciarelli at (734) 793-1660.

### Keep walking

In the mood to walk, but don't like the weather? Westland Shopping Center has the answer - mall walking.

Westland Shopping Center opens its doors before usual operating hours for people who want to walk for exercise. Walking begins at 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Enter through Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen on the northeast end of the mall. All other doors are locked until approximately 8:30 a.m. On Sunday all doors are opened at 10 a.m.

Westland Walkers also hold a meeting at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Community Room on the lower level. Call (734) 425-5001 to check when a meeting has been scheduled.

It's easy to become a member of Westland Walkers. Just fill out a registration card available at the Customer Service booth in East Court. Return it to the Customer Service Associate or put it in the Walkers Box located on the side counter.

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**WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER**

## To buy or rent is a question only you can answer

**Q:** Dear Rick: I am a snowbird and I spend about four to five months a year in Florida. The last five or six years, I've been renting a condominium that costs a little over \$2,000 a month. I can buy a condominium in the same complex that I'm renting at and my mortgage payment would be about \$1,000 per month. Does it make sense to buy. If you agree, do you recommend a 30-year or 15-year mortgage?

**A:** In order to make an informed decision, you need to look at the total out-of-pocket cost of renting vs. buying. You

know what your rental price is per month. On the other hand, the cost of ownership is a little more complex.

If you did purchase the condominium, your mortgage payment — which includes your property taxes — would be about \$1,000 a month. However, there are additional costs that you need to consider. For example, there will be monthly condominium association dues. As the owner of the condo, you would be liable for all 12 months of association dues and any special assessments. As an owner, if there are repairs that need to be done inside the condo, it is your responsibility. Therefore, if you are thinking

about buying, you need to guessimate what your total out-of-pocket cost of owning would be.

Don't forget to take into consideration that there will be certain tax breaks for you. Not only will you be able to deduct your property taxes, but also the interest on your mortgage.

I also recommend that if someone is considering whether they should buy or rent, he/she should factor in some non-financial issues — for example, quality of life. Would owning a condo in Florida increase the quality of your life? If not, the decision is purely financial. On the other hand, if it would increase the quality of your life, then that is something only you can quantify.

One thing everyone should recognize is that buying real estate is not a short-term investment. Real estate is illiquid and, thus, you have to think long term. In addition, there are many people who are speculating on real estate assuming that, just like the stock market, the real estate market will have a significant turnaround. As far as I am concerned, I do not see a significant improvement in the real estate market anytime soon.

With regards to the type of mortgage, 15 or 30 years, all things being equal, I lean toward a 30-year mortgage. My reasoning is mortgage rates are still near record lows and I

would take advantage of these low interest rates for as long as you can. In addition, when you have a 30-year mortgage you can always turn it into a 15-year mortgage by making extra mortgage payments. If you have a 15-year mortgage, the only way you can turn it into a 30-year mortgage is to refinance.

One further note regarding mortgages: Always remember the key is not what is the best mortgage for everyone but, rather, what is the best mortgage for your situation.

In making that decision, one of the key questions you need to ask yourself is how long do you plan to be in your home? If you plan to be in your home for only a few years, sometimes an adjustable-rate mortgage would make sense. On the other hand, if you plan to be in your home long term, fixed-rate mortgages are where you need to be. Good luck!

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

## Let's talk: Trouble with property taxes? County wants to help

**A**s part of our expanded effort to educate and reach out to Wayne County residents about property tax issues during these extraordinarily tough economic times, I am asking taxpayers who are experiencing difficulty trying to pay their delinquent property taxes for 2007 and earlier years to make every effort to contact our office. It is not too late but time is running out.

The deadline to make payments or payment arrangements on your 2007 delinquent property taxes is March 31. Give us a chance to help you keep your property. The theme of this year's outreach campaign is "Let's Talk," which simply means we don't want delinquent taxpayers to panic, or to stick their heads in the sand and hope this all goes away. The best way to prevent

losing property to tax foreclosure is to come in and see us. Maybe there's something we can do. We can't guarantee that everyone who comes to see us will be able to save their property, however, we will do all that we can to advise you of your options.

In November 2007, the first year the state-mandated listing of delinquent parcels was placed in three consecutive Sunday editions of the *Detroit News* and *Free Press*, the total number of delinquent parcels listed was 18,110. Several news reports expressed shock and dismay that the problem was so serious. One year later, in November 2008, the total number of delinquent Wayne County parcels listed came to 21,269 — an increase of 17.18 percent. In last year's Sunday supplement listing, there were more than 23,000 delinquent properties listed.

As a means of meeting this challenge I have launched a massive educational/informational campaign designed to alert delinquent taxpayers to

the options we have available to help them resolve their property tax issues.

Those with delinquent 2007 taxes can apply for a substantial hardship extension, which would grant them up to an additional year to pay off those taxes.

The other option is to sign a payment agreement which requires the taxpayer to pay 20 percent of the delinquency by the end of March, another 20 percent by the end of May, another 20 percent by the end of August, and the remaining balance by the end of 2010.

More information about these two programs can be found on our website at [www.treasurer.waynecounty.com](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com), or by calling our Taxpayer Assistance Department at (313) 224-6105.

It's never too late to help us help you. So before you decide to throw up your hands in despair, first take a deep breath. Now let's talk.

By Raymond J. Wojtowicz Wayne County Treasurer.



**Money Matters**

Rick Bloom

taxes — would be about \$1,000 a month. However, there are additional costs that you need to consider. For example, there will be monthly condominium association dues. As the owner of the condo, you would be liable for all 12 months of association dues and any special assessments. As an owner, if there are repairs that need to be done inside the condo, it is your responsibility. Therefore, if you are thinking

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# Bread-making on the rise at Aunt Millie's bakery

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you buy store-labeled bread at Meijer or Spartan supermarkets, burgers at Burger King or sandwiches at Arby's, or favor the Sunbeam, Aunt Millie's or Hillbilly brands, chances are that a factory in Plymouth Township played a big role in making your food.

Aunt Millie's Bakeries, a family-owned company based in Fort Wayne, Ind., has a plant in the township that can turn out 230,000 loaves of bread and 700,000 dozen hamburger and hot dog buns each week. It opened in 2005 as a hamburger and hot dog bun bakery, and this January started a bread line as well, bringing in 36 new workers.

Aunt Millie's is scheduled to add a second shift to its bread production in mid-May, meaning 36 new jobs and a doubling of its output, said Tony Dalo, vice president for baking technology and quality assurance.

"It's been great for the community around here," said Dalo on Thursday as he began a tour of the plant with Michigan Department of Agriculture officials. "We've brought a lot of people in."

The high-ceilinged plant is a buzzing forest of automated dough troughs, conveyors, ovens, loaf-slicers and packaging machines. From the bins that each hold 1,200 pounds of dough it rises for four hours — and gets machine-kneaded three times during those hours — to the machines that slice and package the finished product — and even send wheeled carts laden with full bread crates toward the loading dock — the bread is largely untouched by human hands.

## MONITOR MACHINES

There's a machine for everything — not just kneading, baking and packaging but also shaping the loaves and buns, adding toppings, and delicately slicing the loaf tops, before they're baked, for the split-top variety. For the most part, workers are monitoring machines;



More hot dog buns than you can imagine pass over head at the Aunt Millie's bakery.

of West Bloomfield, has 33 years in the baking business, including 18 years at the now-closed Taystee factory in Detroit and 10 years at Awrey Bakeries in Livonia. He's a graduate of the American Institute of Baking in Manhattan, Kan., where Taystee sent him for training years ago.

Christie said he finds the work satisfying.

"I just want to make the best possible, the safest, product I can," he said.

Dalo, who is from the Philadelphia area, said he grew up in a bakery family in which hard-crusted Italian breads were the norm.

"Here, you can't make it soft enough," he said. Dalo began working for Aunt Millie's when the company opened a plant in Coldwater, where he now lives.

## A BRIGHT SPOT

Koivisto, the MDA director, said the agricultural and food-processing sector is a bright spot in Michigan's economy. Farming, food-processing and related businesses employ more than a million people in the state, and there are some 500 major processors, plus another 300 smaller ones, so-called mom-and-pop operations, in Michigan, he said.

"We have all kinds of these (expansions) that are going in," Koivisto said.

Aunt Millie's, Dalo said, uses Michigan-grown products, like sugar, as much as possible.

C.B. Jones, the director of production at three Aunt Millie's plants, including the local plant, said he likes the variety the work offers.

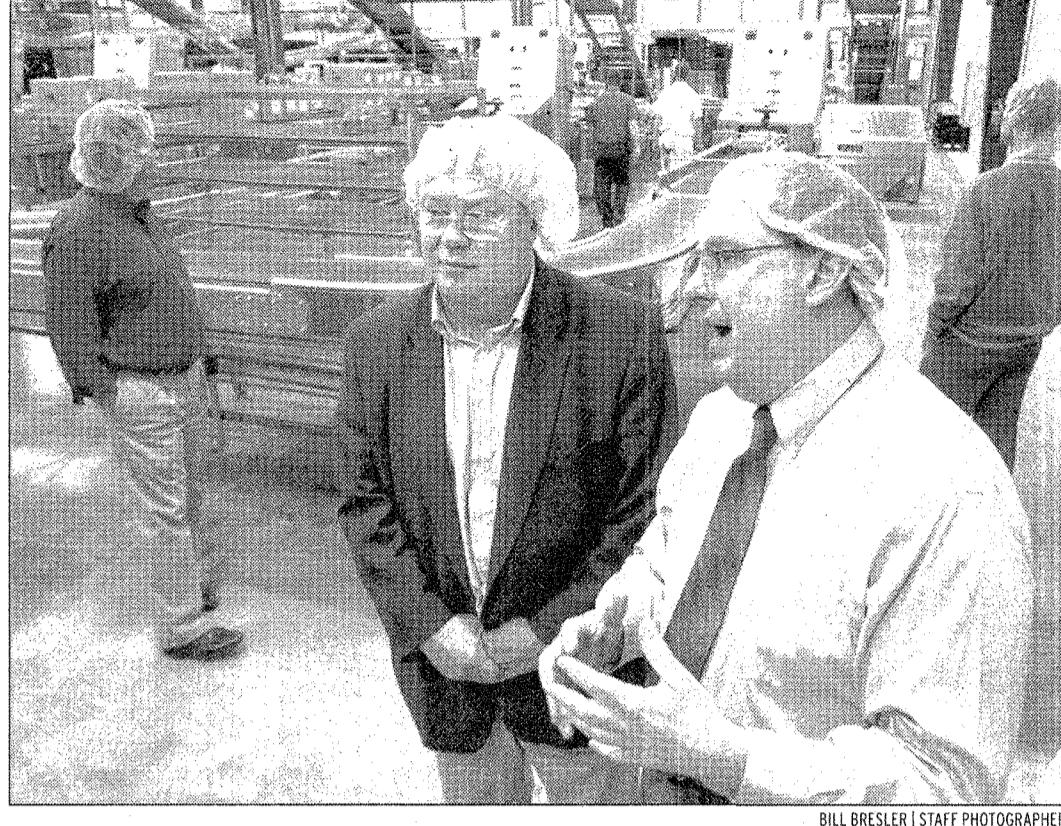
"It's a little different each day," said Jones, of Sidney, Ohio, where Aunt Millie's also has a plant. "It's not like standing at a machine all day putting a bolt on something."

Jones got his first bakery job, at a Wonder Bread plant in Knoxville, Tenn., through a brother-in-law.

"I guess it kind of just got in my blood that way," he said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

Plant manager Larry Christie,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Aunt Millie's vice president Tony Dalo explains the plant operations to Director of Michigan Department of Agriculture Don Koivisto.

## Family owned bakery has century-old tradition

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite being family owned for more than 100 years, with deep Midwestern roots, company officials say there was not really an Aunt Millie behind Aunt Millie's Bakeries.

Nevertheless, the Fort Wayne, Ind., company has built a proud history and an impressive set of baking statistics since its founding, as the Wayne Biscuit Co., by John B. Franke in 1901.

Aunt Millie's (the official corporate name is Perfection Bakeries Inc.) employs about 1,600 people in five states, including 168 people in Plymouth Township, where it opened a bakery on Port Street in 2005. Company president John F. Popp is a grandson of the founder.

There are five bakeries in Michigan — two in Coldwater, one in Jackson and one in Kalamazoo in addition to the local plant — plus the Fort Wayne bakery and another in Sidney, Ohio. The plant in Plymouth Township bakes 13 varieties of bread and 15 varieties of hamburger and hot dog buns for the Detroit-area market; lower-demand items, such as croutons and English muffins, come from Coldwater.

Meijer Inc. is the company's biggest customer, but Aunt Millie's also supplies Wal-Mart and Spartan stores, plus Burger King, Arby's and Red Robin restaurants. Products are made in the Aunt Millie's, Hillbilly and Sunbeam brands, in addition to the store brands.

In the Plymouth Township bakery:

- Production capacity is 9,000 loaves of bread and 48,000 buns per hour. A second bread production shift will double that output beginning in mid-May; company vice president Tony Dalo said the goal is to eventually turn out between 900,000 and 1 million loaves a week.

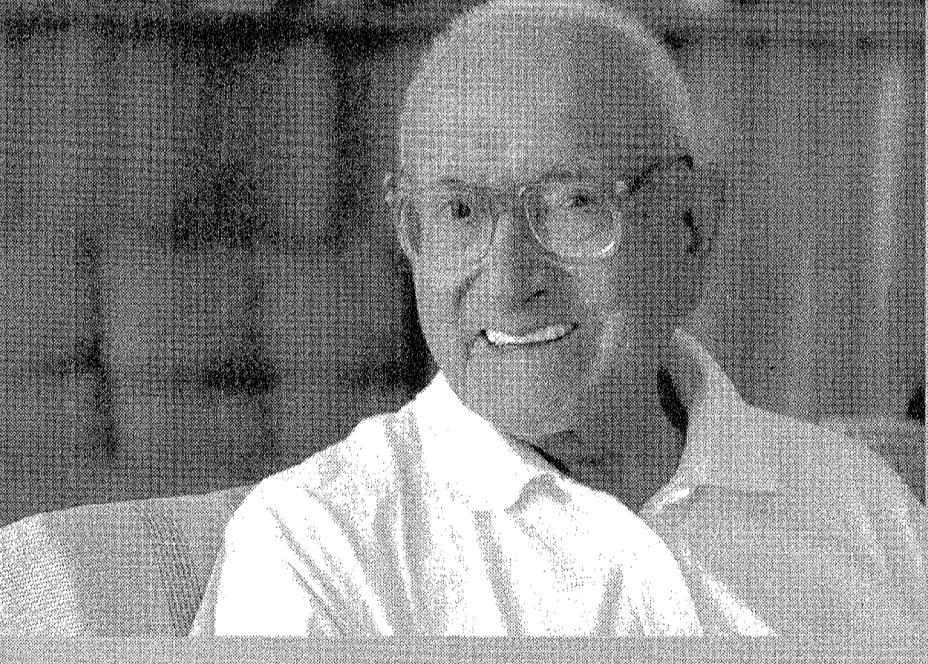
- The plant has seven flour silos, each with a capacity of 135,000 pounds of flour.

- A half-million pounds of white flour are used each week, plus 25,000 pounds of whole wheat flour, 50,000 pounds of yeast, 65,000 pounds of corn syrup and 10,000 pounds of salt.

- The stacked cooling racks, on which the baked loaves cool for an hour before they're packaged, would extend for three miles if taken down and stretched end-to-end.

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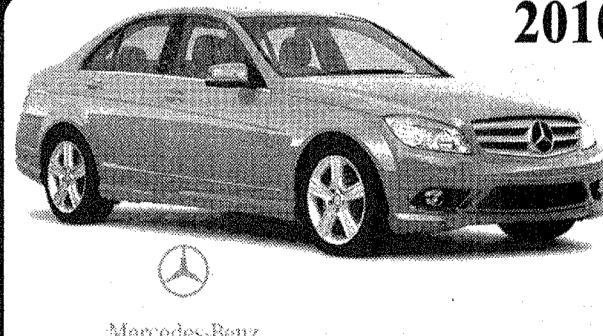
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# Senate GOP torpedoes foreclosure amendment

Michigan Senate Democrats are continuing to try and combat the negative impact of home foreclosure on Michigan families with an effort to lower property taxes for homeowners in communities hit hard by it.

However, an amendment to Senate Bill 395 that would have required tax collectors to consider foreclosed homes in a neighborhood when determining property values and taxes was defeated by the Republican majority on a party line vote.

"As homeowners struggle to stay afloat in communities being racked by foreclosure, we should be helping them in any way we can, including lowering their property taxes," said Senate Democratic Floor Leader Buzz Thomas, D-Detroit. "These people are sticking it out as homes are boarded up around them, and we want to help them stay in their homes and rebuild their neighborhoods."

Michigan has had one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation over the last three years. As the

foreclosure crisis continues to hit Michigan hard, Senate Democrats have been fighting to pass legislation to help keep people in their homes. They have proposed a moratorium on all home foreclosures, and helped pass a new state law that went into effect in July that freezes foreclosure proceedings for 90 days.

"People should not be taxed the same for a house in an area struggling with foreclosure as they would for one in a more vibrant and affluent area," said Sen. Tupac A. Hunter, D-Detroit. "This proposal would aid the people who are fighting to help their communities rebound, and we should be offering them legitimate relief on their taxes accordingly."

"I have been working to help families protect their homes, and offering property tax relief to those who are in communities struggling with foreclosure is another way to do that," said Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland. "We should be taking foreclosed properties into consideration when assessing the value of neighboring property."

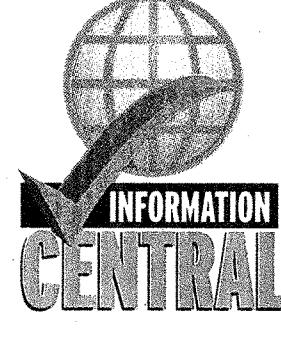
## Updating your look

Did you look in the mirror recently and see 1993 staring back at you? Are you still getting perms, wearing pants that go higher than your navel or sporting denim button down shirts? Perhaps it's time to update your look.

Sometimes people postpone modernizing their wardrobes because they just aren't sure what to wear. The library may not be the first place you think of when deciding to get a makeover but we have plenty of resources to help get you started.

You can start by checking out "Fashion 101: A Crash Course in Clothing" by Erika Stadler, "Style A to Zoe: The Art of Fashion, Beauty, & Everything Glamour" by Rachel Zoe, "Dress Your Best: The Complete Guide to Finding the Style That's Right for Your Body" by Clinton Kelly and Stacy London and "The One Hundred: A Guide to the Pieces Every Stylish Woman Must Own" by Nina Garcia.

If you are a guy you might want to take a look at "The Style Bible: The 11 Rules for Building



a Complete and Timeless Wardrobe" by James Bassil or, if you are fashion savvy teen, you might like "Seventeen Presents 500 Style Tips: What to Wear for School, Weekend, Parties & More!" by Emmy Favilla.

If your budget is holding you back from updating your look, you might want to give "Subversive Seamster: Transform Thrift Store Threads into Street Couture" by Melissa Alvarado, Hope Meng and Melissa Rannels.

If its magazines you like, the Westland Public Library has plenty for you to choose from: "Vanity Fair," "Elle," "Glamour," "Vogue," "InStyle," "Essence,"

"More" and "Harper's Bazaar." For guys we have "GO" and "Esquire." Magazines can be checked out for a week at a time. Only the newest editions of a magazine have to remain inside the library.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. and Sunday or visit us on the Web anytime at [www.westlandlibrary.org](http://www.westlandlibrary.org).

**Highlighted Activities**  
**Everyone's Reading:**  
February 15-April 28, Book Selection: Scott Turow's "Presumed Innocent."

Stop by the library to pick up a copy of the book and find when book discussions and many other programs are scheduled. Or visit [www.westlandlibrary.org](http://www.westlandlibrary.org) or [www.everyonesreadinginfo.org](http://www.everyonesreadinginfo.org) for more information. Last days to enter our drawing to win tickets for the Scott Turow - Author Visit. Fill out a ticket by March 31. Winners will be announced April 1.

**Fiction Writing Group:** 7 p.m. March 30, age 18 and up  
If you would like help developing your fiction or enjoy reading new and exciting fiction, please join us for one of our sessions. Two new stories will be covered

each month by the group. Check with the Reference Desk for this month's stories or send an e-mail to [andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org](mailto:andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org).

**Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club:** 7 p.m. March 31

Join us for a discussion of Mary Shelley's classic "Frankenstein." Victor Frankenstein is a young student who learns the secret of imparting life. Armed with this secret, he constructs a creature out of parts of the corpses he manages to obtain from churchyards and dissecting rooms. Once animated, this creature longs for empathy and human contact, but finds himself shunned by all. After a series of frustrating efforts at human connection, the hapless and enraged "monstrosity" turns to evil and brings a dreadful revenge upon his creator.

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**Zumba Dance Party:** 7 p.m. April 5  
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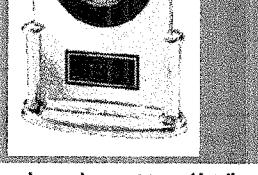
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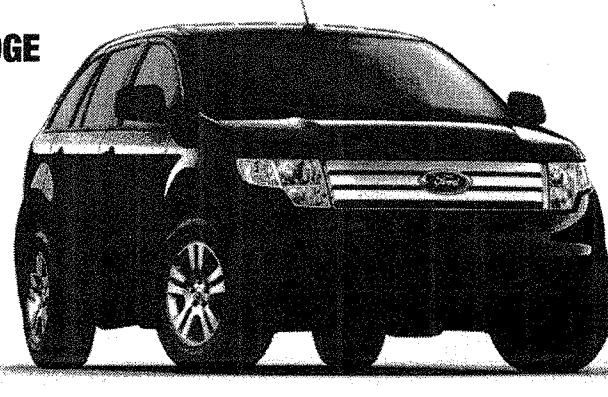
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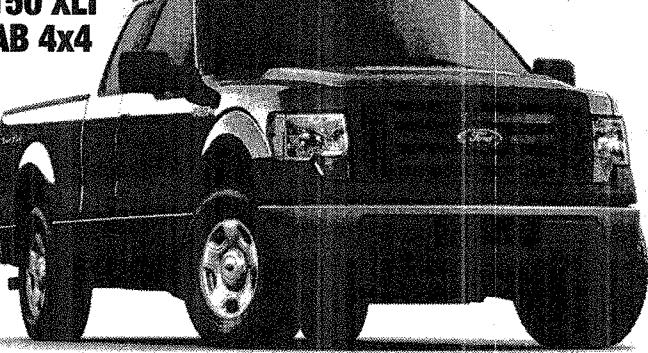
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SUNDAY  
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SECTION B  
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## SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

# HOMETOWN LIFE



## Armed and ready

Combs makes Blazers title contender again

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If pitching is the name of the game in softball, then Livonia Ladywood is set for another three years.

Last year's Division 2 state runner-up has one of the best in Briana Combs, who is coming off a sparkling 2009 freshman season where she finished with a 36-4 record to go along with an astounding 0.37 earned-run average.

The slightly-built Combs also fanned 305 batters in 285 innings of work en route to first-team All-State honors.

Those strikeout numbers could actually increase in 2010 as the Blazers will try to duplicate, if not surpass, last year's 38-7 season.

"Briana is 10 pounds heavier, she's stronger because she's put in the time," Ladywood third-year coach Scott Combs said. "As time goes by, she'll become bigger and stronger as she gets older."

Two big question marks will have to be answered when the Blazers travel Thursday, April 15, to take on Catholic League

### PREVIEW

### Softball capsule outlook, B3.

Central Division foe Dearborn Divine Child in their season opener.

Sophomore Alyssa Kashat assumes the role as Briana Combs' battery mate, replacing the graduated Jordan Searcy.

"Alyssa got her feet wet in a few games last year," Scott Combs said. "She's a very hard worker. She does gymnastics and she'll be pretty solid for us back there."

Cara Miller, the Blazers' first-team All-Area outfielder as a freshman and third hitter in the lineup, transferred to Divine Child. That means sophomore Carli SanMillan will now patrol center field.

The Blazers' infield should also be formidable with Rochester transfer Jenny Rohn going to short and Gina Sykes moving over to third.

Alysia Gietl returns to first and Jennifer Kelley returns at second.

"Rohn is a very good hitter and Gina goes back to her natural position at third," Combs

said. In the KLAAs Kensington Conference, defending champ Livonia Franklin (32-6) lost its dynamic All-State duo of Brittany and Brianna Taylor, along with second-team All-Area pitcher Natalie Sanborn (now at Madonna University).

Junior Chelsea Williams moves from second to shortstop, while senior Nicole Emery stays at third for the defending South Division, conference and Division 1 district champions.

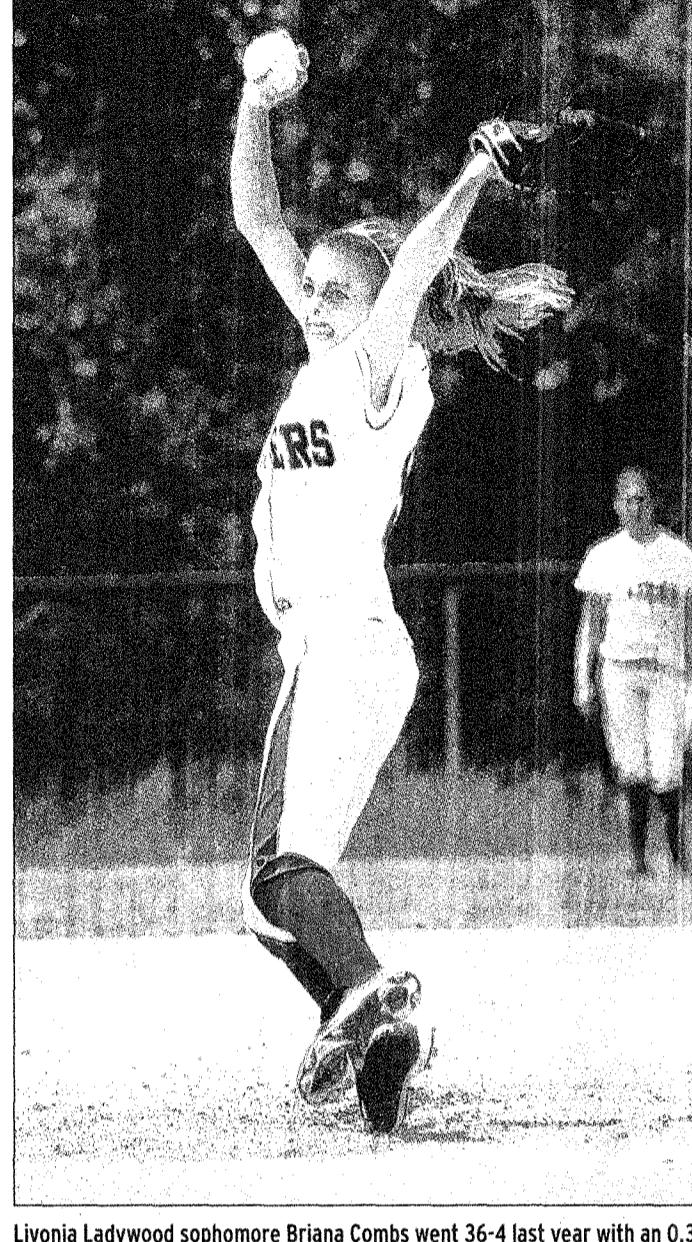
Tiffany Lamble, a sophomore, takes over the mound duties for the Patriots.

Livonia Churchill (15-16) could make a big leap this spring as second-year coach Lou Kuratko loses only one starter to graduation.

"On paper we should have a stronger team, but we play a strong schedule and all of those teams have skilled players and are improving as well," Kuratko said.

The Chargers will rely on

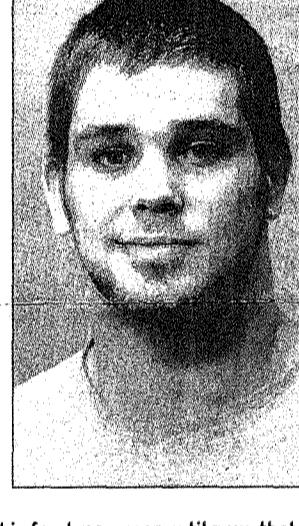
Please see PREVIEW, B3



Livonia Ladywood sophomore Briana Combs went 36-4 last year with an 0.37 ERA for the Division 2 state runners-up.

## All-Area matman

The photo of Curtis Castleberry, senior captain for the Livonia Churchill wrestling team, was inadvertently omitted from the Thursday, March 25 edition of the Observer. The first-team All-Area selection went 51-8 this season and was a state qualifier for the Chargers after earning runner-up finishes at both the district and the regional tournaments. Castleberry also placed runner-up at the Observerland Invitational and KLAAs Tournament. He was the Livonia City Meet champion. "He just one of those kids, from his freshman year until now, that wrestled two weight classes above the weight classes where he should have been and never complained about it," Churchill coach Marty Altounian said. "Because we were so young, he did what was needed for the team."



## Livonia tumbler second in Pan Ams

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cassandra Skinner thought she performed well enough to earn a gold medal in Friday's 2010 Trampoline & Tumbling Pan American Championships held at the Ocean Convention Center in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The freshman from Livonia Stevenson High School found herself deadlocked with two other Level 10 competitors in the Girls 13-14 finals — all achieving identical scores of 30.20.

But it came down to an eye test among the judges to break the tie and the gold was awarded to Tamara O'Brien of Team

British Columbia, with Skinner earning the silver and Hannah Nowak of Indiana Tumbling Express settling for the bronze.

The Girls 13-14 Level 10 division featured 11 tumblers, including some from Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Canada.

"It was a little bit disappointing, but I knew I did my best and it was good," said Skinner, who led after the first two preliminary rounds on scores of 30.0 and 29.0 for a total of 59.0.

Alicia Russell of Gymnastics Ontario was second in the prelims with a 58.60, while Nowak was situated in third place with a 58.10 followed by the eventual winner O'Brien in fourth with a 57.90.

All the preliminary scores were then thrown out and the three medalists earned the same marks of 30.20.

"My coach (Peter Roberts) said he was proud of me and he knew I should have won," said Skinner, who competes for AGT Flip City in Warren. "He was a little disappointed, but said it was not my fault."

Skinner's next competition will be June 26-27 at the U.S. Elite Challenge in Virginia Beach, Va. The Junior Olympic National Championships follow June 27-July 2 also in Virginia Beach.

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

## Lutheran Westland wins in rout, 20-0

It wasn't much of a warmup to the 2010 baseball season for Lutheran High Westland on Friday as the host Warriors rolled over Pontiac Academy of Excellence, 20-0, in a three-inning mercy.

"It was a great opportunity to be able to play on the 26th of March," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "Even though it was a little cool today, it wasn't too bad once we got going and into it."

Senior Austin Baglow pitched two scoreless innings. He struck out five of six batters and did not allow a hit. Junior Thomas Hanschumaker wrapped it up by fanning three straight batters in the top of the third.

Offensively, Baglow went 3-for-3, including a pair of doubles, two RBI and three runs scored.

Senior Gage Flanery also went 3-for-3 with a double, triple, three RBI, three runs and two stolen bases.

Junior Marc Rosin also got into the act, going 3-for-3 with three RBI and three runs scored, while junior Jake Andrezejewski went 3-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored.

Other contributions came from junior Kent Krzyske (2-for-2, four RBI); sophomore Taurrek Fikes (2-for-2, RBI, two runs); and senior Tony Cipolla (1-for-2, three walks).

"We did our best to work on things and get everybody who could play into the game," Wade said. "That's all we can ask for at this early stage of the season. We have some things to work on. But that is why you play the game, to get better and improve everyday."



## Skating's A-Team

The Livonia Ladywood 'A' figure skating team, coached by Allison Pace, will compete today in the State High School Championship in Midland after earning a runner-up finish in District 3. Team members include (from left) Catherine Garber, Melissa Yax, Bridget Hillman and Becca Camilleri.

## Blazers get late goal for season opening victory, 2-1

Livonia Ladywood got a sterling performance from goalkeeper Maddie Reed on Friday night in a 2-1 girls soccer victory over host Macomb Township L'Anse Creuse North.

Reed, a junior, made nine saves in the season opener for both teams.

"She was fantastic along with our back four defenders," Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker said. "It was a big win against a good team with two Division 1 players. We're excited about the win."

### GIRLS SOCCER

Kelly Capoccia scored the game-winning goal from Becky Babon with only four minutes left.

"She (Capoccia) took a through ball from Becky and timed it right," Shingledecker said.

It was 1-1 at intermission.

Catherine Garber opened the scoring for Ladywood at the 20-minute mark off an assist from Paige Brennan.

Angela Vulcaggio, an Eastern Michigan University signee, countered for the Crusaders at the 30-minute mark to knot the count.

L'Anse Creuse North goalkeeper Kaila Kujawa also stood out with nine saves.

"Both keepers were pretty good," Shingledecker said.

STEVENSON 1, ROCHESTER 1: Nothing gained, nothing lost in Chris Grodzicki's debut Thursday night as coach.

The former Spartan player and Schoolcraft College assistant coach watched from the sidelines as his host Livonia Stevenson (0-0-1) and the Falcons (0-1-1) battled to a draw in a non-association encounter.

Dayna Stevens scored off an assist from Molly McConnell to give Stevenson a 1-0 halftime lead, but the Falcons countered three minutes into the second half on Maddie Chillot's goal.

Please see SOCCER, B4

## SIDELINES

### Stansik All-America

Adrian College defenseman Chris Stansik (Livonia) was recently selected to the NJCAA Division II Second-Team All-America team by the American Hockey Coaches Association.

Stansik recorded eight goals and 30 assists this season as the Bulldogs finished 24-4 overall and reached the NCAA Division III Tournament before losing in the first round March 10 to St. Norbert (Wis.), 4-3.

Stansik led the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association in scoring by a defenseman and was sixth overall.

The All-MCHA pick ranked among the top players in Division III hockey in assists per game and his 38 points led the nation for a defenseman.

He reached a milestone this season, becoming the all-time MCHA career leader in points by a defenseman.

### Baker honorees

Andrew Carlson (Livonia Churchill), Jacob Wrigau (Livonia Franklin) and Danny Sager (Livonia Stevenson) were among the boys recipients for the 2010 Hobey Baker High School Character Award in recognition of exemplary character, sportsmanship and inspiration.

Livonia Ladywood's Veronica Fradette was also recognized as one of the girls recipients.

### MU harrier honored

The Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) announced its annual Outstanding Service Awards on Thursday (March 25) and Madonna University sophomore cross country runner Cassie Yarnall (Clarkston/Auburn Hills Christian) was among the honorees.

Yarnall was selected for the Heart and Soul award, which recognizes undergraduate and graduate students for their time, effort and personal commitment to their community through service on a MCC member school campus.

Yarnall recently helped organize a campus-wide dodgeball tournament and has taken an active role in the intramural program at MU in addition to being one of the cross country team's top runners last fall.

Michigan Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purposes of higher education. MCC has 42 member campuses and Michigan members are part of national Campus Compact, a coalition of nearly 1,100 college and university presidents, representing some 6 million students.

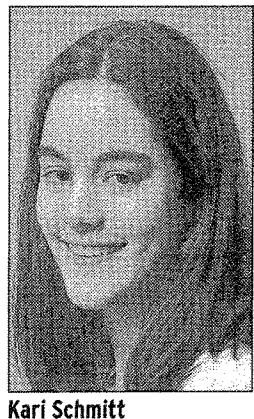
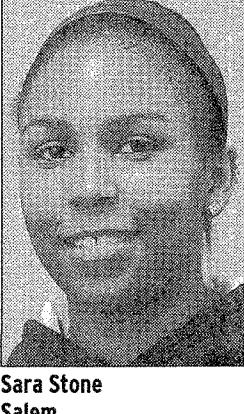
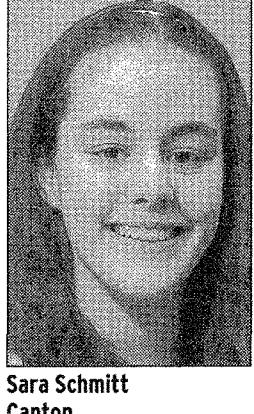
### Free golf clinic

A free golf clinic will be offered 1-2 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at Canton's Hickory Creek Golf Course, located on 3625 Napier Road (just north of Ford Road and west of Canton Center Road).

The clinic, which will also raise funds for the Susan K. Komen 3-Day for the Cure Walk to fight breast cancer, is open to all ages and skill levels.

To reserve a spot in the clinic, e-mail TrainWithTami@yahoo.com. (Reservations must be made by April 2.)

For more information, call (734) 731-0238.

Jenna Bachrouche  
North FarmingtonLyndsey Booker  
North FarmingtonKari Schmitt  
CantonChelsea Williams  
FranklinChelsea Carradine  
ThurstonSara Stone  
SalemSara Schmitt  
CantonMichelle Vanover  
John GlennChelsea Gaddis  
HarrisonKellyn O'Brady  
Garden CitySeneca Scott  
FranklinKayla Bridges  
CantonALL-OBSERVER  
GIRLS BASKETBALL  
FIRST TEAM

Jenna Bachrouche, Sr. F. N. Farm.  
Lyndsey Booker, Sr. G. N. Farm.  
Kari Schmitt, Jr. F. Canton  
Chelsea Williams, Jr. G. Franklin  
Chelsea Carradine, Sr. F. Thurston  
Sara Stone, Sr. F. Salem

## SECOND TEAM

Sara Schmitt, Jr. F. Canton  
Michelle Vanover, Sr. F. Glenn  
Chelsea Gaddis, Sr. G. Harrison  
Kellyn O'Brady, Jr. F. Garden City  
Seneca Scott, Sr. C. Franklin  
Kayla Bridges, Jr. F. Canton  
THIRD TEAM

Erin Menard, Soph. C. Churchill  
Brett deBear, Sr. F. Salem  
Jasmine Harris, Soph. G. N. Farm.

## FOURTH TEAM

Robyn Mack, Soph. G. Canton  
Kristen Balhorn, Jr. C. Stevenson  
Samantha Fischer, Sr. G. Garden City  
Ashley Wheeler, Sr. G. Thurston  
Janelle McQueen, Jr. G. F.H. Mercy  
Melanie Lockhart, Sr. C. Farmington  
Stacey Klonowski, Sr. F. Plymouth  
**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
Brian Samulski, Canton  
**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Churchill: Darcy DeRoo; Franklin:  
Nicole Emery, Amanda Borio; Stevenson:  
Jorden York, Molly Knoph, Emily Hollandsworth; Ladywood:  
Teresa Wojnarowski, Jennifer Kelley, Alyssa Anastas; Clarenceville: Kristen

## JOLLY, JENNA BURGESS; JOHN GLENN:

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Farmington: Haigian Tcholakian, Emily Arconia, Stevie Jones, Jewel Angelo; Harrison: Melissa Nordhoff, Bianca Vasovski, Eman Hubbard; Mercy: Abby Lovat, Elena Vlachos; Garden City: Alex Johnson, Justice Dean, Carley Shattieroe; RU: Nakia McKinney, Kim D'Arcangelo; Thurston: Sarah Schulz, Breanna Taylor.

## FIRST TEAM

Jenna Bachrouche, Sr. F. N.

**Farmington:** The 6-foot senior was a four-year varsity starter and standout for the Raiders, who were 76-17 with three OAA division titles during that time. She is athletic and versatile, contributing in all aspects of the game. Bachrouche, who signed with Oakland University, averaged 14.5 points and 9.4 rebounds to lead the Raiders in both areas. She also had 2.5 assists and 2.6 steals per game. Bachrouche scored 1,218 points and had 768 rebounds in 91 career games.

"We really needed her this year to play pretty much every position," coach Tim Carruthers said. "She played in the post and helped bring the basketball up the floor. She played a different position defensively for us a lot of the time, too. She was going to do whatever the team needed, which was a great tribute to her character and wanting to put the team first."

"She did everything — rebound, score and handle the ball. I thought she had a great senior year."

## LYNDSEY BOOKER, SR. G. N.

**Farmington:** Having started 93 consecutive varsity games at point guard, the 5-foot-7 senior was another four-year standout for the Raiders, who were 20-4 and won the OAA Red Division crown. North won three Class A district titles and made a state semifinal appearance during her career.

Besides being the floor leader, Booker excelled in all areas and, like her teammate, Jenna Bachrouche, had many double doubles and some triple doubles. She averaged 9.7 points, 6.5 rebounds, 4.9 assists and 3.7 steals. Booker, who will play at NCAA Division I Loyola-Chicago, had 912 points, 381 rebounds, 267 assists and 328 steals in her career.

"For four years straight, I never had to worry about who was bringing the ball up the floor and getting us into our offense," coach Tim Carruthers said. "She was always looking to get other people involved. She is truly a pass-first kind of point guard, or her scoring numbers could have been even higher."

"Lyndsey developed into a great rebounder this year. Her rebound totals skyrocketed. That was her biggest area of improvement for sure."

**Kari Schmitt, Jr. F. Canton:** Schmitt, one half of Canton's stellar twin tandem, pretty much did it all for the Chiefs on their march to the Class A state semifinals and 24-2 record.

The 6-0 junior averaged 13.4 points and 8.8 rebounds per game and connected on 49 percent of her field-goal attempts, providing the team and head coach Brian Samulski with plenty of timely buckets.

"You know what your going to get from her every night," said Samulski about Schmitt's consistency. "She is going to bring everything she has."

The All-KLAA selection also chipped in with 2.2 assists and 3.2 steals per game, helping the Chiefs enjoy an undefeated season in the KLAA South Division followed by sweeps through the districts, regional and state quarterfinal.

**Chelsea Williams, Jr. G. Franklin:** The 5-9 junior point guard averaged 15 points, eight rebounds, four steals and five assists per game for the Patriots, who finished 18-6 overall and reached the Class A regional finals.

Williams also was a key starter as a sophomore during Franklin's 2009 run to the Class A state finals.

"Chelsea was a spark-plug for the team all year long," Franklin coach Dave McCall said of the All-KLAA Conference pick. "The team seemed to play whatever level Williams was playing at. She is a great young lady who plays ball like she's been playing it all her life."

**Chelsea Carradine, Sr. F. Thurston:** A four-year letter-winner and two-year captain, Carradine was the focal point of the Eagles offense once again this season, averaging

18.5 points and 3.5 assists per game. The 5-10 senior, who also averaged 11.5 rebounds per outing for the 10-11 Eagles, spread her wealth all around the court as she handled responsibilities equally as well in the frontcourt and back-court.

"Chelsea is one of those players who has real good ability and sees the floor extremely well," Thurston coach Bob Ostrowski said. "She knows the game really well and can play any one of the five spots. The girls really looked up to her and she is just a great person on and off the court."

**Sara Stone, Sr. F. Salem:** The four-year varsity player capped off an excellent prep career with her second all-KLAA and team MVP award.

Stone averaged 15 points and nine boards for a second consecutive season, providing Rocks head coach Fred Thomann with a solid 1-2 punch (along with senior Brett deBear).

"She has been a four-year varsity player who has terrific talent," Thomann said. "Sara has played all the positions on the court, point guard, wing and post."

**Michelle Vanover, Sr. F. John Glenn:** Thomann said Stone is being recruited by a number of colleges to play basketball.

## SECOND TEAM

**Sara Schmitt, Jr. F. Canton:**

Listed at 5-11, she is the shorter of Canton's excellent Schmitt twins. But Sara also made a major contribution to the Chiefs' 24-2 season, not to mention to their postseason run that enabled the team to reach Breslin Center for the Class A state semifinals against Detroit Renaissance (a hard-fought 50-47 loss).

Schmitt contributed 8.4 points, 4.2 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.4 steals per game and made 43 percent of her shots from the floor.

Both of the sisters have physicality, desire and basketball smarts — along with an uncommon knack for knowing where each other is on the court. That intangible trait rubs off on the rest of the team.

"Sara, like her sister, has been very consistent all year," Samulski said. "Her scoring really picked up in the state tournament (she scored 20 points in the quarterfinal win over Midland Dow). She is a great defender and (led) us in assists."

**Michelle Vanover, Sr. F. John Glenn:** The 5-7 senior guard-forward averaged 19.6 points, eight rebounds, four assists and three steals per game en route to All-Kensington Conference honors.

"Michelle made the game so easy because she worked so hard," Glenn first-year coach Mark Anderson said. "She provided leadership in practice and was most improved because of her work ethic. A lot has to do with her dedication and love for the sports. She's just a good leader and a good student."

**Chelsea Gaddis, Sr. G. Harrison:** Gaddis was a four-year varsity starter for the Hawks, who were district runners-up to North Farmington. She is a solid all-around player, adept at all phases of the game, averaging 13.1 points as well as 5.1 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 4.5 steals the past season.

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"As one of our captains, she not only led us in scoring, but she was also a team leader in assists and steals and was second in rebounds, blocks and free throw shooting."

**Kellyn O'Brady, Sr. F. Garden City:** The Cougars talented senior forward culminated a stellar four-year prep career by leading her teammates in scoring (10.5 points) and rebounding (6). Her tenacity on the court spilled over into the win column as well as the Cougars

registered a 14-7 record overall that included a share of WWAC Red Division crown.

"She had a fantastic year and that was nice to see because for her first three years here wins were a little lean," Garden City coach Barry Patterson said. "She put in a lot of work in the off-season and got stronger and that really helped her game. She was a leader on and off the court and I think by being a four-year player she put it incumbent on herself to be that type of player."

**Seneca Scott, Sr. C. Franklin:** Though undersized in the post, the 5-8 senior center utilized her great jumping ability and strength to average nine points, 10 rebounds, three blocks and three steals per game.

Scott also was a key starter as a junior on Franklin's 2009 run to the state Class A championship game against Benton Harbor.

"Seneca is a great athlete and has built her basketball game on her ability to out-hustle her opponents," McCall said of the All-Kensington Conference pick. "She really improved her level of play this year."

**Kayla Bridges, Jr. F. Canton:** When the Chiefs needed an offensive spark, the 5-11 junior often provided it.

For example, she helped her team get off to a quick start against Midland Dow in the quarterfinals with six of the first eight points. In the semi-final at Breslin, she connected on back-to-back jumpers to give the Chiefs the halftime lead over Detroit Renaissance.

Bridges, who also got into the fray for loose balls and rebounds, averaged 8.9 points and 6.1 rebounds per game and shot 44 percent from the floor.

"Kayla had a great year," Samulski said. "She did a great job of scoring inside for us and rebounding. She is a tremendous offensive rebounder, always getting us second-chance opportunity points."

## COACH OF THE YEAR

**Brian Samulski, Canton:** The fifth year of Samulski's stint on the Canton sidelines was nearly perfect, with the Chiefs steamrolling past every opponent except one — Detroit Renaissance, the team that ultimately eliminated his team in the Class A state semifinal.

In route to a 24-2 record, the Chiefs won their division, conference and association titles. Then they kept winning in the state tournament, including Canton's first regional crown since 1994.

The 33-year-old Samulski remained steadfast all season that all of the success was due to the 11 players on his roster rather than anything the coaches did.

In fact, when it became time to accept the district and regional trophies, he stayed off the floor and let the girls accept the hardware.

"I think one of the things I helped them realize was their team, it wasn't 'Brian and then the girls,' it was 'the girls and Brian,'" he emphasized. "We were all in it together. I allowed them to lead, I allowed them for it to be their team. But their the ones that play and I think that's important."

Samulski also gave plenty of credit to the rest of his staff, led by veteran Bob Blohm, who coached Canton's girls from 1989-94. About assistants Blohm, Brandon Szwejkowski, Matt McNulty, Lindsay Charles, junior varsity coach Jason Priebe and freshman coach Sarah Orehek, Samulski said: "They're part of this as much as I am."

About being named Observer Coach of the Year, Samulski noted that "when you get something like this, I really do feel it's a reflection of the entire program."

Samulski is a physical education teacher at Westland John Glenn. He and his wife, Shannon, have two young children (daughter Emma, 3 and son Connor, 1).

## Carradine, O'Brady selected to Observer All-Area basketball teams

## FIRST TEAM

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## GIRLS SOFTBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

**LIVONIA CHURCHILL**

**Head coach:** Lou Kuratko, second year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division).

**Last year's overall record:** 15-16.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Katie Stodulski.

**Leading returnees:** Taylor Kerr, Sr. OF (All-KLAA); Katina St. Pierre, Sr. Inf. (All-KLAA); Natalie Hiser, Jr. P.; Abby Jewell, Jr. P; Missy Sidor, Soph. P; Rachel Jason, Soph. Inf.

**Promising newcomers:** Casey Bias, Fr. C; Nicole Salloum, Fr. Inf.

**Kuratko's 2010 outlook:** "We're hopeful that the experience that our younger players received last year will bring us dividends. Only one starter from last year will have to be replaced due to graduation, and we have welcome additions from our JV team as well as the two freshmen. Tryouts were competitive and we had a record number of girls coming out, and we have now settled into a good practice routine. The weather has cooperated and with our first game not scheduled until after the break. We have the advantage of working to improve fundamental skills."

**LIVONIA FRANKLIN**

**Head coach:** Linda Jimenez, 15th year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division).

**Last year's overall record:** 32-6.

**Titles won last year:** Division 1 District, Kensington Conference, South Division, Public Schools of Livonia Invitational and Farmington Invitational champions.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Brittany Taylor (first-team All-Area); Brianna Taylor (first-team All-Area); Natalie Sanborn (second-team All-Area).

**Leading returnees:** Alecia Geraghty, Sr. OF; Nicole Emery, Sr. Inf.; Amanda Nixon, Sr. Inf.; Keely Wilson, Sr. OF; Jessica Emery, Jr. OF; Chelsea Williams, Jr. Inf.; Audrey Geraghty, Jr. C; Mariah Barcus, Jr. C; Katie Neu, Jr. Inf.; Tiffany Lamble, Soph. P; Nicoli Williamson, Soph. P; Keese Ballou, Soph. OF; Cheyenne Hawthorne, Soph. Inf.

**Promising newcomers:** Maggie Leins, Fr. Inf.; Mackenzie Lukas, Fr. OF; Afton DeWyse, Fr. OF; Katelynn Devers, Fr. Inf.

**Jimenez's 2010 outlook:** "With 13 returning players, but only five starters, we are working hard to find the right combination. We are fortunate to have a very good freshman class since we were hit hard by graduation. Our pitchers and catchers have worked hard in the offseason. Both pitchers are sophomores so we do not have much experience on the mound. Nicole Emery remains at third base while Chelsea Williams moves from second base to assume the shortstop responsibilities. Jessica Emery, who will play center, will be the leader in the outfield."

**LIVONIA STEVENSON**

**Head coach:** Rob Witherspoon, eighth year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (Central Division).

**Last year's overall record:** 15-16.

**Titles won last year:** Gibraltar Carlson Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament champion.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Laura Deacon (second-team All-Area); Kathleen Hoehn, Amanda Paisson, Kristina Vaclavak.

**Leading returnees:** Emily Hollandsworth, Sr. OF-P; Shelia Wilson, Sr. C; Nina Bonanno, Sr. OF-IB; Anna Plumley, Sr. OF; Becca Zarras, Jr. OF; Katie Bone, Jr. Inf.-Utility; Jacqueline Johnson, Soph. P-IB; Molly Knoph, Soph. OF.

**Promising newcomers:** Ashley Avery, Soph. SS; Sarah Fier, Fr. 3B; Allie Koesterling, Fr. C-Utility; Becca Koesterling, Fr. OF-Utility; Morgan Copperstone, Fr. IB-P; Mackenzie Shea, Fr. OF.

**Witherspoon's 2010 outlook:** "Our team has a well balanced mix between veteran players and younger players. The returning players should provide the stability offensively, as well as defensively, while the younger

players gain valuable experience. We are replacing a group of very experienced group of infielders, including our starting pitcher Laura Deacon, from last season with a group of talented and athletic players that are only missing the experience at the varsity level. Shebie Wilson, as one of our only seniors on the infield, will be a workhorse behind the plate as she directs the younger players in the infield. The key to this season, defensively, is to be patient, make routine plays, and not let one mistake lead to multiple errors."

**WESTLAND JOHN GLENN**

**Head coach:** Kristin Potoniec, first year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division).

**Last year's overall record:** 0-29.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Stacey Truskowski, Amanda Murakami.

**Leading returnees:** Samantha Fox, Soph. C; Brooklyn Holbrook, Soph. OF; Brandi Holbrook, Jr. P-OF; Allie Murphy, Jr. IB; Katie Down, Sr. 2B; Amanda Caudill, Sr. 1B; Megan Murakami, Soph. OF.

**Promising newcomers:** Rachel Romanek, Jr. CF; Nicole Quaine, Soph. SS; Claire Truskowski, Fr. P.

**Potoniec's 2010 outlook:** "As far as our starting pitcher, right now it's between Claire (Truskowski) and Brandi (Holbrook). We prefer Brandi in the outfield. Claire has the talent, we just have to make sure the nerves are there. After coaching most of these girls on JV for the last few years, we are eager to utilize the Rocket talent at the varsity level. The KLAA can expect our girls to bring the competition necessary to making high school softball so exciting. We've had winning seasons on the JV, so I feel we should be able to do the same things this year."

**WAYNE MEMORIAL**

**Head coach:** Crystal Little, second year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division).

**Last year's overall record:** 8-29.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Kathy Harris, Megan Callahan, Ashley Ringel, Ashley Odom, Bianca Hayes, Taylor Krohn, Jessie Harris.

**Leading returnees:** Halee Lankton, Sr. SS; Jordan Berry, Sr. 2B-CF.

**Promising newcomers:** Shelby Hooper, Soph. OF; Alyssa Florn, Soph. OF; Nicole Odom, Soph. P; Kayley Porta, Soph. 3B; Edina Whittenberg, Sr. Inf.

**Little's 2010 outlook:** "We had nine seniors we lost from last year, so we're a young team rebuilding for the future. Hopefully some of the younger girls will step up and become leaders. Nicole (Odom) has been pitching for awhile, so our pitching should be pretty good. Offensively it will be an adjustment for a lot of the players coming from JV. That will be our biggest challenge because defensively we should be O.K."

**LIVONIA LADYWOOD**

**Head coach:** Scott Combs, third year.  
**League affiliation:** Catholic League (Central Division).

**Last year's overall record:** 38-7.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Jordan Searcy, Courtney LaValley, Sarah Stempin.

**Titles won last year:** Division 2 state runner-up, regional and district champions, Central Division, Michigan Stars and Pinckney Tournament champions.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Jordan Searcy (second-team All-Area), Courtney LaValley, Sarah Stempin.

**Leading returnees:** Briana Combs, Soph. P (first-team All-Area); 36-4, 0.37 ERA; 308 Ks; Alysa Gietl, Sr. IB (captain); Gina Sykes, Sr. SS (captain); Jennifer Kelley, Sr. 2B (captain); Julie Bushart, Sr. OF (captain); Carli SanMilan, Soph. CF; Allysa Kashat, Soph. C.

**Promising newcomers:** Jenny Rohn, Jr. SS (transfer from Rochester); Andria Gietl, Fr. Inf.; Celeste Fidge, Fr. C.

**Combs' 2010 outlook:** "We have good players coming back - 12 letter winners returning. We have a pretty decent pitcher coming back. We won't sneak up on anyone and we don't talk about last year. If we avoid any drama, we could

have another good year."

**LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE**

**Head coach:** Joe DeCaire, ninth year.

**League affiliation:** Metro Conference.

**Last year's overall record:** 10-17.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Charmaine McQueen (first-team All-Metro); Lisa Wilson (second-team All-Metro); Brittany Brooks (second-team All-Metro); Miranda Cummings.

**Leading returnees:** Val Sochacki, Sr. P (first-team All-Metro); Stephanie Bishop, Jr. C; Kellie Ankiel, Jr. SS; Megan McLaughlin, Sr. CF; Joanna Burling, Jr. Inf.-OF; Angela McAlpine, Soph. Inf.; Chelsea Gehan, Sr. P-OF; Reba Bibik, Soph. OF; Rochelle Haddad, Sr. Inf.; Izzy Sidon, Jr. OF; Brittany Tallman (injured).

**Promising newcomers:** Jodi Ankiel, Fr. Inf.; Lauren Katz, Soph. Inf.; Rachel Grefe, Soph. OF; Cortney Brooks, Soph. Inf.; Nicole Grates, Fr. OF; Justine Bateman, Fr. OF; Jackie Bateman, Fr. OF; Kiana Smith, Jr. OF.

**DeCaire's 2010 outlook:** "We should go 10-to-12 players deep. Although three out of the four starting infielders have been lost to graduation along with a fourth in a season-ending knee injury, the starting lineup should be fairly competitive along with its reserves. The remainder of the team will contain newcomers with little experience, but demonstrate an eagerness to compete and learn the game and possess the athleticism needed to play. The coaching staff expects its experienced players to be ready to play and continue to lead on-and-off the field. We expect good things from Sochacki, McLaughlin, Ankiel, McAlpine, Bishop, Bibi, Burling, Gehan, Haddad, and Sidon. These players have three-to-four years experience within the program and understand the commitment needed to be competitive. The entire roster demonstrated their commitment to the program throughout the off season conditioning program and workouts."

**LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND**

**Head coach:** Paul Guse, seventh year.

**League affiliation:** Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).

**Last year's overall record:** 12-13.

**Titles won last year:** Division 4 district champs.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Emily Whitaker, Cathy Haller, Carla Krzyske.

**Leading returnees:** Emily Wilson, Sr. C; Allison Guse\*, Sr. P; Crystal Deel, Sr. RF; Mary Kreutzkamp, Sr. 3B-CF; Lindsey Smith, Soph. Utility; Erica Killian, Soph. CF-P; Marissa Hahn, Soph. SS; Hannah Conley, Soph. 2B.

**Promising newcomers:** Shannon Abbott, Fr. 2B; Shelby Fikes, Fr. 3B; Samantha Roberts, Fr. 1B-P.

**Guse's 2010 outlook:** "We have four seniors, while the other nine kids are freshmen or sophomores, so we're young. We're strong up middle. Wilson strongest two-way player we've had up middle. Hahn moves from third to short and she's great with the glove. Conley plays second. We think that's going to be our strength. Taylor Baptist Park team to beat. They're pretty good, but it looks like it should be competitive."

**WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN**

**Head coach:** Eric Ruth, 13th year.

**League affiliation:** Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).

**Last year's overall record:** 5-12.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Kayla Stockdale, Samantha Barber, Abby Hoff, Lindsay Buschong, Katie Markham, Crystina Gutierrez.

**Leading returnees:** Kelly Kubinski, Sr. SS; Claire Wood, Sr. 3B; Megan Kubinski, Soph. 1B.

**Promising newcomers:** Lauren Jones, Fr. P; Amy Cornwell, Fr. OF.

**Ruth's 2010 outlook:** "We return some key positions in the infield and look to them for leadership. Pitching is a question mark. The potential is there, we just need to get quality innings. We look to be able to compete in the MIAC."

## PREVIEW

FROM PAGE B1

two All-KLAA picks, senior outfielder Taylor Kerr and senior infielder Katina St.

Pierre. Junior pitchers Natalie Hiser and Abby Jewell both return as well.

Livonia Stevenson (15-16) will be one of the youngest teams in the area.

The Spartans, members of the KLAA's Central Division, lost second-team All-Area pitcher Laura Deacon, but senior Emily Hollandsworth returns on the mound along with sophomore Jacqueline Johnson.

"Emily throws the ball hard, but has been hurt and hasn't been as accurate lately," Stevenson coach Rob Witherspoon said. "But we're a better team when she's on the mound and we're able to move Jacqueline to first base. We will depend on them to keep the ball down and give our infielders a chance to make plays."

"Though the younger players will experience some growing pains along the way, I am fully confident that our team has the ability to overcome those challenges as a cohesive unit. The main question that has to be answered this year is our ability to be disciplined and make routine defensive plays."

Both Wayne Memorial (8-29) and Westland John Glenn (0-29) have nowhere to go but up in the KLAA's South Division.

Wayne second-year coach Crystal Little lost nine seniors and returns only two with significant varsity playing experience — senior shortstop Halee Lankton and senior second baseman-center fielder Jordan Berry.

Meanwhile, the Rockets have a new coach in Kristin

Potoniec, who will soon be going on maternity leave. She will be replaced during the interim by assistant Elisabeth Tyzo.

Next-door neighbors Lutheran High Westland (12-13) and Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (5-12) will both be members Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division.

Lutheran Westland, formerly of the Metro Conference, will be part of the MIAC Red along with Huron Valley, Taylor Baptist Park, Novi Franklin Road Christian, Plymouth Christian Academy, Warren Macomb Christian and Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (formerly of the Metro).

Taylor Baptist Park will be the favorite, according to Lutheran Westland coach Paul Gusé.

"We hope it's good for us because perennially we've been in seventh- or eighth-place in the Metro," Gusé said. "Last year we lost our senior pitcher (Emily Whitaker) four games in with a broken back and it knocked her out for season. Allison (Gusé) stepped in and got 11 wins for as a pitcher. Both Erica Killian and Samantha Roberts give us some depth there that we've never had before."

In the final year of the five-school Metro Conference, Livonia Clarenceville (10-17) will rely on All-Conference pitcher Val Sochacki and fellow senior pitcher Chelsea Gehan.

"Our pitching duo of Sochacki and Gehan, along with catchers (Stephanie) Bishop and (Joanna) Burling, are looked at as the oil that runs the engine," Clarenceville ninth-year coach Joe DeCaire said. "If these combinations are successful then the season should be very positive for us."

## Warriors roll in season opener

It was over before it even got started.

Lutheran High Westland opened its girls softball season Friday afternoon with a 24-1 mercy-rule victory in three innings over Pontiac Academy of Excellence.

Emily Wilson's grand slam highlighted the victory.

Winning pitcher Allison Gusé went the first two innings before giving way in the third to relievers Erica Killian and Samantha Roberts.

Gusé also collected three hits in the victory, while Killian and Hannah Conley added two hits apiece.

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# Whalers clinch in five games

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth Whalers coach and general manager Mike Vellucci pulled the trigger on a January trade to obtain center Phil McRae, he had games like Friday in mind.

The 6-3, 195-pounder scored twice — including the eventual game-winning goal — and was a force all night as Plymouth eliminated Sault Ste. Marie with a 6-2 victory at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth thrilled the sellout crowd of more than 3,700 in Game 5, taking the Ontario Hockey League first round series 4-1.

Barring a comeback by Saginaw against Kitchener in that series, the Whalers likely will face Western Conference leader Windsor in the second round.

"I think he (McRae) had a great series," said Vellucci following the traditional on-ice handshake line between the OHL rivals. "That's why we traded for him."

"We needed him to come up big and we needed some goals and he and (winger Ryan) Hayes played really well the whole series."

McRae scored his fifth and sixth goals of the series and along with linemate AJ Jenkins (1 goal, 2 assists) set up Hayes' goal at 44 seconds to get

Plymouth off and running.

On the early goal, which came on the first rush into Soo territory, McRae spun and sent a sweeping wrister from the right circle that Greyhounds goalie Robin Lehner (24 saves) stopped but couldn't smother. The energetic Hayes banged in the rebound from near the left post.

But with a string of four penalties called against Plymouth, the Greyhounds evened the score 1-1 with 13:18 remaining in the frame.

Ex-Whaler Myles McCauley tapped in a rebound past stellar Plymouth goaltender Matt Hackett (33 saves), who again showed why the National Hockey League Minnesota Wild recently signed him to a three-year contract.

## GLOVE WORK

Hackett flashed a mean glove hand on several occasions, stylishly snapping up a couple of hard point shots from defenseman Michael Quesnelle.

"(Hackett's) a great goalie, he played exceptionally well every game and kept us in," Vellucci said. "He made some big saves again tonight when the game was in question."

The Soo outshot Plymouth 15-10 in the first, but thanks to Hackett and the Whalers' strong penalty killing the

game remained 1-1 entering the second.

"It's been (key) the whole series, special teams," Vellucci noted. "Our penalty kill's been very good and our goaltender is a big part of it."

Plymouth regained the lead at 15:24 of the second on an outstanding individual play by Jenks. He skated from the right circle over to the left and then ripped a shot against-the-grain that beat Lehner inside the right post.

"I was trying to get myself a lane and shot through a screen and luckily it just found the net," said Jenks, of Wolverine Lake. "It's more luck than skill on that, I guess."

Then came perhaps the key stretch of the game. On a delayed penalty against the Soo, following a thunderous body check in the corner to the right of Hackett, the Whalers made it 3-1 with much of the crowd still riled up about the big hit.

Jenks and Hayes worked the puck down ice to McRae, who slipped it past Lehner at 19:35.

Hackett also was shaken up when a Greyhound apparently hit him with a stick as he was skating off the ice for an extra attacker.

After the period ended, Hackett exchanged words with Soo players who were obviously trying to get under his skin.

[tsmith@hometownlife.com](mailto:tsmith@hometownlife.com)

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### WYAA football-cheer

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association 2010 football and cheerleading will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning March 31, and from 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays, starting April 3, at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Both units, the Westland Comets and Westland Meteors, offer four squads each including Junior Freshman (ages 7-8), Freshman (8-9-10), Junior Varsity (11-12) and varsity (11-12-13-14). Age and weight restrictions apply. The age cut-

off date is Sept. 1.

A cheerleading unit for each age level is also offered.

For more information, visit [www.wyaa.org](http://www.wyaa.org), call (734) 421-0640.

### WYAA baseball-softball

Registration continues for the Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball and softball programs, 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays, at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Age groups for baseball include T-Ball (5-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14),

Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18).

Softball includes both slow- and fast-pitch (ages 8-18).

For more information, visit [www.wyaa.org](http://www.wyaa.org), call (734) 421-0640.

### Prep football combine

A pair of football combines for high school players will be from 4:30-6 p.m. (linemen) and from 6-7:30 p.m. (combine training) for eight sessions beginning Sunday, April 18 at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

To register, visit [coachjacksonspeed.com](http://coachjacksonspeed.com); or for more information call Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

## STAYING CALM

"Yeah, the whole series has been like that," Hackett said. "I just had to calm down and not let it bother me anymore."

McRae then widened Plymouth's lead to 4-1 just 5:15 into the third. Forward Tyler Seguin broke his stick trying to one-time a shot, which didn't go too far. But that didn't matter because McRae wired the loose puck top shelf.

A seemingly routine shot by Brandon Archibald fooled Hackett to make it 4-2 with 6:17 left and perhaps put some fans on edge.

But the always hard-working forward Tyler Brown tallied an unassisted goal at 17:52 to pretty much ice the victory. Brown, using Hayes as a decoy on the rush, snapped a shot over Lehner's trapper.

Plymouth added an empty netter at 18:46 when winger Josh Brittain scored (from linemate Jamie Devane).

Both Hackett and Jenks said it was good to wrap up the hard-hitting series early and get ready for the next round.

"The last game is always the hardest to win and our boys played real hard tonight and battled and competed," Hackett said. "We did all the little things right."

[tsmith@hometownlife.com](mailto:tsmith@hometownlife.com)

## SOCER

FROM PAGE B1

Stevenson later hit a cross-bar and just missed getting game-winner in the final 10 seconds. Rochester also rang a shot off the post as Michelle Krawczyk was in goal for the Spartans.

"We were good at times and not good at times for 80 minutes by any stretch," Grodzicki said. "Both teams had chances. We didn't play as well the second half as we did the first half. We made some mistakes and we've got work to do."

**R.U. CLARENCEVILLE 0:** Angie

Mancini's goal with 18 minutes left proved to be the game-winner Friday as Redford Union (1-0) downed Livonia Clarenceville (0-1) in the season opener for both teams.

Clarenceville goalkeeper Kristen Jolly stood out making 12 saves.

Trojan coach Trevor Johnson also singled out the play of senior midfielder Teresa Parent.

"Teresa had a good, all-around game," Johnson said. "I

told my team at halftime this was the type of game you win 1-0. We had a few opportunities. We were close, but we have issues offensively that we have time to sort out."

**FARMINGTON 6, FRANKLIN 0:** The Falcons (2-0) put it away with three second-half goals Friday in a non-association triumph over Livonia Franklin (0-2).

The Patriots were led by senior midfielder Erin Roulier.

"She kept us organized in the back and kept it close because they (Farmington) mercyed us last year," Franklin first-year coach Dean Kowalski said.

**W.L. WESTERN 6, FRANKLIN 0:**

Rachel Good scored a pair of goals and added one assist Wednesday as Walled Lake Western (1-0) spoiled the opener for host Livonia Franklin (0-1) and new coach Dean Kowalski.

Other goal scorers for the Warriors included Jenny Shaba, Alivia Kempster, Madison Schram (unassisted). Rachel Shuman and Shaba also collected assists.

Senior goalkeeper Jessica Gatten notched the shutout.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### PREP BASEBALL

Monday, March 29

S.L. East at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

Churchill at Novi-Detroit CC, 4 p.m.

Garden City at Franklin, 4:30 p.m.

A.A. Greenhills at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.

Huron Valley at Willow Run, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 1

Franklin at Dearborn, 4 p.m.

Clarenceville at S'field-Lathrup, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, March 29

Clarenceville at B.H. Lahser, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

A.A. Greenhills at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.

Huron Valley at Willow Run, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

Farmington at Franklin, 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 1

Clarenceville at S'field-Lathrup, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Monday, March 29

Waterford Mott at Wayne, 4 p.m.

Salem at Ladywood, 4 p.m.

Clarenceville at S.L. East, 6 p.m.

Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

John Glenn at Clarenceville, 5:30 p.m.

Franklin at Dearborn, 7 p.m.

Troy Athens at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS

Tuesday, March 30

Stevenson at Franklin, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

Franklin at F.H. Harrison, 4 p.m.

Stevenson at Howell, 4 p.m.

BOYS GOLF

Monday, March 29

John Glenn vs. Taylor Truman at the Woodlands (Van Buren), 3 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

Wayne vs. Garden City at The Woodlands (Van Buren), 3 p.m.

Huron Valley vs. Macomb Christian at Warren Valley, 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 1

John Glenn vs. New Boston Huron at Carleton Glen G.C., 3 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Monday, March 29

Ladywood at Saline, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

Ladywood at Farmington, 7 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL (all double-headers)

Tuesday, March 30

Indiana Wesleyan at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

Rochester College at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 3

Indiana Tech at Madonna, 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Thursday, April 1

Madonna at Huntington (Ind.), 3 p.m.

Friday, April 2

Madonna at Indiana Tech, 4 p.m.

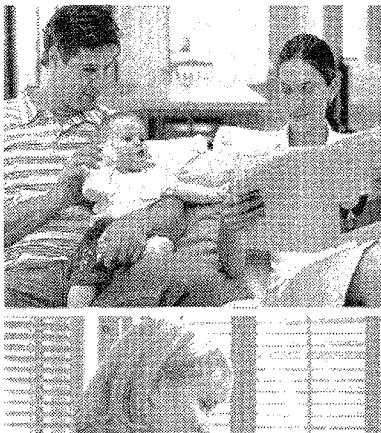
Saturday, April 3

Madonna at Davenport, 1 p.m.

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# NEIGHBORS

## Walking on air

Dog bed business lands woman on entrepreneur DVD

BY SHARON DARGAY  
OF STAFF WRITER

Julie King found a niche in dog beds.

"Use what you've got. Be smart about it. Use two covers and don't cheap it out. Make it the best, most easy thing that will last the longest," she said, sharing the philosophy behind her Gertie Gear air beds for dogs.

The Westland woman didn't plan to make and sell a new product when she began her search for an easy-to-clean, sustainable bed two years ago. She simply was tired of doing laundry generated by her potty-challenged pooch, Gertie, a senior Beagle with back problems and "an attitude" about piddling indoors.

"I bought one of every kind. I've gone through two dozen beds. The foam beds you can't wash. If you wash the stuffing beds they take days to dry. It's like washing a pillow," said King, who also owns a Beagle-Shepherd mix, Jackie, 8, and a cat, Veto, 16. She supplied multiple beds for Gertie, who promptly urinated on them.

"I noticed when I bought a bed with a pillow in the middle, she nests. I wondered how can I come up with something like that? It ended up being an air bed."

She bought two different brands at first. One quickly sustained a hole. The other had such a small zipper opening that King struggled to

pull the inflated tube in and out of its protective covering.

### DO-IT-YOURSELF

King, 39, had created a carpeted ramp for Gertie and figured she also could custom make a bed. She'd start with a doughnut-shaped inflatable pool toy, encase it in a canvas covering with a wide-zippered opening and top it all off with a colorful, soft fabric that would slip over the entire bed like a fitted sheet.

A few sewing lessons later from one of her four siblings, King assembled the bed and tested it on Gertie.

"She loved it."

So did dog owners who saw her handiwork.

Their interest compelled King to create Gertie Gear and begin making the beds herself. A Center for Creative Studies graduate, King had worked with branding, creative graphics, design, marketing at several firms in the Detroit area before creating Greenworld Creative LLC, her own creative services agency. The work from Greenworld helped her pay bills while launching Gertie Gear in March 2008 and getting ready to sell her product for the first time at a street fair in Ferndale two months later.

It was a rocky start. Her father, who had struggled with esophageal cancer during the prior six months, died just three days before the fair. King barely slept between the fair and her father's funeral, the



Gertie and Julie King are a dynamic duo.



Julie King sews a covering for her Gertie Gear dog bed.

day before, but managed to break even on the show.

### NETWORKING, SELLING

Later that summer she began promoting her work

on Etsy.com, a Web site for artisans. She joined Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and networked with other individuals selling dog-related products. By the following summer she

resumed selling at dog shows, craft fairs and farmers' markets.

Her work caught the eye of a "swag bag" supplier for West Coast events that draw celebrity dog lovers. She supplied beds and vouchers for beds for Earthday in Hollywood and HollyWOOF last year. That led to a call from Jai Rodriguez, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* star, who expressed interest in



Gertie lounges on a stack of Gertie Gear airbeds.

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**INFORMATION**

Usually, what doctors need most from a patient is information. What is the reason that the patient made the appointment? What data does the patient bring that bears on the matter at hand? Does the patient have notes that detail what made pain come on and how the patient tried to stop the discomfort? Are there recent laboratory tests, x-rays, CT scans or MRIs that other physicians ordered? If the patient came because the doctor wanted a second opinion, is there a letter or notes that describe the other doctor's thinking and what question the other doctor wanted answered?

It is not sufficient at the time of an appointment to say: "Just call the other doctor's office, and get what you want?" Fax machines, phones, and even E-mail are everywhere, but the office asking for the information depends on someone to be at the other end of the line who is willing and able to get the information. The chart that holds the reports may be misplaced, or the office person who handles such requests may be at lunch.

The best way to provide the doctor with information is for the patient to have it in hand and bring it to the doctor at the time of the appointment. Computer entry, Internet storage, a chip embedded in the patient's insurance card will never replace the patient with information on paper for the doctor to review. Any electronic communication is subject to breakdown, glitches and problems of compatibility.

Doctors, now and for the foreseeable future, are experienced in reading words and taking notes.

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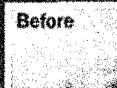
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**Simply Self Storage**

Notice is hereby given that on Apr. 16, 2010 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are preferred cash only but will except debit/credit. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

A140	Amanda Sills	Couch, Loveseat, 2 Speakers
A459	Mark Schwendemann	Washer, Computer monitor, Dresser
B112	Edward Watkins	Motorcycle parts, 5 totes, 10 boxes
B113	Edward Watkins	Engine stand, Sanding machine, Drill press
B128	Shawn Moore	Dresser, Air conditioner, 2 speakers
C107	Denise Namyslowski	Mattress, Computer monitor, 5 totes
C139	Ethan Clemons	Bike, Couch, Dresser

Publish: March 28, 2010

OE08694789 - 2x25

**Legal Notice**  
With a Prebid Meeting  
Detroit Service Learning Academy  
Attention: Food Service Vended Meal Companies

The Detroit Service Learning Academy is requesting proposals for school food service vended meals. The Vendor would provide meal services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as State of Michigan Department of Education policies and guidelines.

Vendors and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:  
Detroit Service Learning Academy  
21605 W. 7 Mile Rd. Detroit, Michigan 48219

The Detroit Service Learning Academy Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

**A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2010 at 9:30 am at**  
21605 W. 7 Mile Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219

**All proposals must be submitted no later than 12:00 pm on May 5, 2010. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Detroit Service Learning Academy and be clearly marked: Food Service Vended Meal Proposal.**

Publish: March 28, 2010

OE08694935 - 2x4

**REUNION CALENDAR**

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays as space allows, and online in its entirety at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com). Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

**Dearborn Heights Haston High****Class of 1965**

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at [patkopczyk@aol.com](mailto:patkopczyk@aol.com).

**Detroit Cooley High School****Class of 1960**

50th Reunion May 1 at Crown Plaza-Metro Airport. Call (248) 625-4598

or (734) 464-1692 for more information.

**Detroit Mackenzie****Class of 1962**

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at [mackenzie1962@gmail.com](mailto:mackenzie1962@gmail.com).

**Class of 1960**

50th reunion will be held Oct. 16 at The Marriott in Livonia. For more information contact: Tim Yarde at (248) 573-7147 or Russ and Judy (Mackinder) Sarns at (734) 464-7166

**Detroit Pershing****Class of 1960**

50th reunion festivities in September will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby

in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

**Farmington High School****Class of 1970**

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at [dblehn@aol.com](mailto:dblehn@aol.com).

**Garden City High School****Class of 1960**

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor

Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to [GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com](mailto:GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com).

**Garden City East****Class of 1964**

Picnic, Aug. 21, in Garden City Park. For more information e-mail Karen Berry at [kbarber@comcast.net](mailto:kbarber@comcast.net) or Teri Friedman at [sweetit2001@yahoo.com](mailto:sweetit2001@yahoo.com)

**Garden City West****Class of 1970**

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ for \$50 per person. Classmates from 1968-72 also invited. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

**Oak Park High School****Class of 1980**

30th reunion, July 2-4; for information e-mail to [ophighschool1980@yahoo.com](mailto:ophighschool1980@ yahoo.com)

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

**Redford Union****Class of 1960**

50-year reunion, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 14. For more information contact Mike and Carol (Gerogeoff) Pontius (248) 446-9948 or e-mail to [mikecarol191500@att.net](mailto:mikecarol191500@att.net). Or call Tena (Fear) Keith at (248) 437-6827.

**St. Suzanne****The West Grands Catholic Youth Organization**

at the Detroit parish school plans a July 10 reunion and is looking for participants. Call Rose at (248) 437-6621 or Sharon at (734) 522-7924.

**Warren Fitzgerald****Class of 1968**

6 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 9, at DeCarlo's Banquet Center, 10 Mile and Mound, Warren. Buffet

dinner and cash bar. Tickets are \$35. Contact Ken Rix at (586) 781-4552, kenrix@ameritech.net, or Bill Ziembal at (248) 689-6216, [bilziembal1968@aol.com](mailto:bilziembal1968@aol.com).

**Wayne High****All classes**

Reunion banquet, 5:10 p.m., Friday, May 14 at Wayne Tree Manor, Wayne. Call Wanda Boice at (734) 326-7767 or [www.waynehighalumni.com](http://www.waynehighalumni.com).

**Westland John Glenn****Class of 1965**

25-Year Reunion, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., Sept. 25 at Doc's Sports Retreat in Livonia. Tickets are \$25 per person before Aug. 1. Includes appetizers. Mail payment to JGH Class of 1985, P.O. Box 87103, Canton, MI 48187 or contact Tracy Dunsmore at [tracy420@wideopenwest.com](mailto:tracy420@wideopenwest.com) or (734) 748-8904.

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33112 Grand River (East of Farmington Rd.) 248-474-6573

[www.FarmingtonFUMC.org](http://www.FarmingtonFUMC.org)

**Easter Services**

Sunrise Easter Service 7:30 a.m.- lead by our youth  
9:30 a.m. Traditional & 11:15 a.m. Casual  
(Communion served at all services)

**Labyrinth Walk**

April 1 & 2nd 1:00- 6:00 p.m. and April 3rd 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
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**Holy Week & Easter****Palm Sunday 3/28**

8:30am Low Mass/10:30am High Mass

**Maundy Thursday 4/1**

7:00pm

**Good Friday Liturgy 4/2**

12noon

**Stations of the Cross 4/2**

7:00 pm

**Easter 4/4**

7:00 pm

8:30am Low Mass/10:30am High Mass

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SERVICE OF SHADOWS & HOLY COMMUNION

7:30 PM

**APRIL 2 GOOD FRIDAY**

SERVICE OF REFLECTION

12 NOON - 1 PM

Calvary Baptist Church | 43065 Joy Rd. Canton | 734.455.0022

Good Friday: 7:00 pm | Easter Sunday: 10:45 am | [www.cbcjoy.org](http://www.cbcjoy.org)

**APRIL 4 EASTER SUNDAY**

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

8 AM - 9:30 AM - 11 AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

9:30 AM - 11 AM

40000 Six Mile Rd | Northville, Michigan 48168

248.574.7400 | [www.wardchurch.org](http://www.wardchurch.org)

**APRIL 5 MAUNDY THURSDAY**

SERVICE OF SHADOWS & HOLY COMMUNION

7:30 PM

**APRIL 6 GOOD FRIDAY**

SERVICE OF REFLECTION

12 NOON - 1 PM

**APRIL 7 EASTER SUNDAY**

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

8 AM - 9:30 AM - 11 AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

9:30 AM - 11 AM

**APRIL 8 MAUNDY THURSDAY**

SERVICE OF SHADOWS & HOLY COMMUNION

7:30 PM

**APRIL 9 GOOD FRIDAY**

SERVICE OF REFLECTION

12 NOON - 1 PM

**APRIL 10 EASTER SUNDAY**

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

8 AM - 9:30 AM - 11 AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

9:30 AM - 11 AM

**APRIL 11 MAUNDY THURSDAY**

SERVICE OF SHADOWS & HOLY COMMUNION

7:30 PM

**APRIL 12 GOOD FRIDAY**

SERVICE OF REFLECTION

12 NOON - 1 PM

## &lt;b

# Encountering Jesus: See Shroud of Turin replica at Livonia church

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Todd Lajiness hopes worshipers feel a profound encounter with Jesus Christ after viewing a replica of the Shroud of Turin on exhibit at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia.

Lajiness, dean of studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, weekend associate at Holy Family Parish in Novi, and former associate pastor at Our Lady of Victory in Northville, will be the guest speaker at the exhibit, which opens today and runs through noon, Good Friday, April 2. His presentation starts at 1:15 p.m. in the church, located in the gymnasium of St. Michael's School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia.

"I'd like to give the people in part some historical background — the history and experiments that scientists currently are doing and what they tell about the authenticity of shroud."

He'll also look at the shroud from an artistic perspective.

The Shroud of Turin is a centuries old linen cloth that bears the image of a crucified man. The Roman Catholic Church, which has custody of the original Shroud in Turin, Italy, does not require belief in the authenticity of the artifact as part of its dogma, but millions believe the image it bears is of Jesus Christ. The Church encourages research and scientific investigation, but does not formally espouse the authenticity of the shroud.

## PRAYER PORTAL

"It's unique in terms of the image of Christ," said Lajiness, who became interested in the artifact after writing a



The face on the shroud

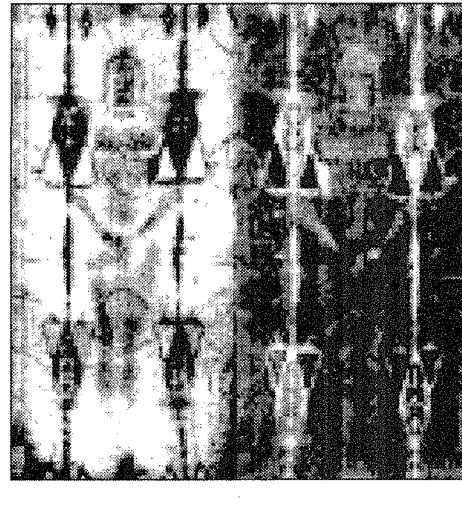
research paper on it in the mid-1980s. "It gives us an image of Christ we don't normally encounter." During the second half of his presentation at St. Michael the Archangel, he'll lead worshippers through a meditation on the shroud.

"I want to use the shroud as doorway or portal to encountering Christ more deeply."

Lajiness said the faint image on the shroud is unlike most other representations of Christ found in sculpture and painting through the ages.

## UNUSUAL CHARACTERISTICS

"In artistic or photographic terms, we normally see everything in positives," Lajiness noted, adding that the image on the shroud looks similar to a photographic negative. "That's one of the first and many odd characteristics of the



Shroud images

## shroud.

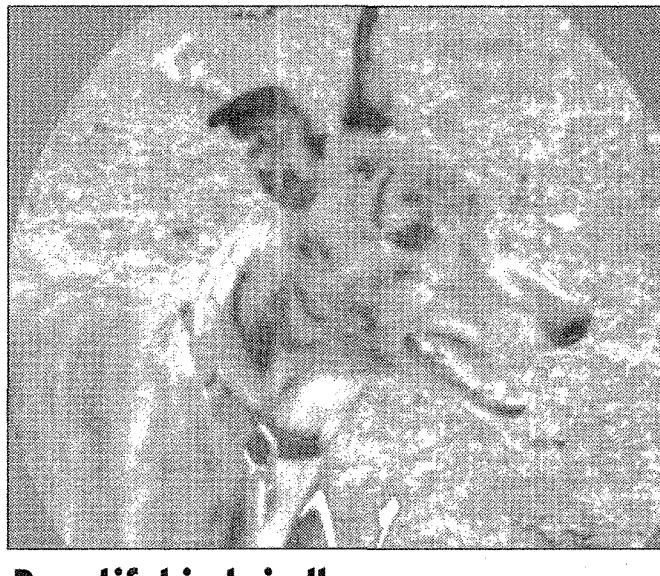
"The second is the wounds you see on the shroud. They are accurate from a pathologist's perspective. Most have said they are a very accurate picture of a crucifixion — the nails through the wrist and not the palm. A lot of traditional art does not do that."

Lajiness, who has visited Turin, said pollens in the authentic cloth demonstrate that it is exclusive to the Middle East and that the style of the weave is consistent with first century cloth making.

"The actual image itself pathologists say is consistent with a real body and execution. It's remarkable."

But Lajiness said value of the shroud lies in what it reveals for spiritual life today, "the way we as individuals can encounter Christ."

The Holy Week display is open to the public at no charge. Exhibit times are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2:30-7 p.m. Sunday, March 28; 7-9 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, March 29-30; noon to 6 p.m., Thursday, April 1 and 9 a.m.-noon, Friday, April 2. (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200; [www.livoniamst-michael.org](http://www.livoniamst-michael.org).



## Beautiful in brindle

Happy Spring everyone, my name is Venus. Are you looking for something special in your Easter basket? How about me? Let me tell you a little something about me. Well, to begin with, I am adorable. I'm a beautiful little red brindle girl with a sweet personality. I'm easy going and laid back and I love cozying up with my comforter and window watching. Did I say that I'm looking for my 'Forever Family?' I will make you smile every morning when you get up and you will thank me every evening when you go to bed for opening your heart to me. It's all true and much more. If you would like to meet me over a little Milkbone and chat, please call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 and check out the Web site for another adorable photo of me. [www.greyheart.org](http://www.greyheart.org).

## GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature items to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com)

## At English Gardens

- Ashton Ritchie, Scotts Company, will share 40 years of lawn care tips and tricks and answer all your questions about weeds, bare spots, shade and other lawn problems, 3 p.m., Sunday, March 28, in West Bloomfield.
- "Gardening 101," 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, in West Bloomfield and 10 a.m., Saturday, April 17 in Ann Arbor and Dearborn Heights.

"Grow your own Food," will include information about planning, planting, maintaining and harvesting an edible garden, 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 7, in West Bloomfield and 10 a.m., Saturday, April 10 in Ann Arbor and Dearborn Heights.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto [www.EnglishGardens.com](http://www.EnglishGardens.com).

"The Thrills and Spills of Container Gardening," 10 a.m., Saturday, April 3, at all stores.

To place your ad here contact us at [careers@hometownlife.com](mailto:careers@hometownlife.com) or call 1-800-579-7355

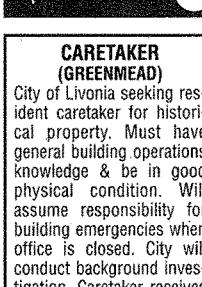


# Guide to Employment

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!



Help Wanted-General 5000



Help Wanted-General 5000



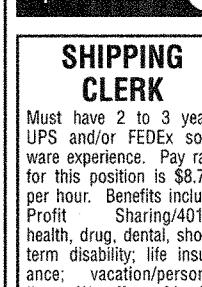
Help Wanted-General 5000



Help Wanted-General 5000



Help Wanted-General 5000



Help Wanted-General 5000



Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020



Help Wanted-Medical 5060



Help Wanted-Sales 5120



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734-728-4572 or email:

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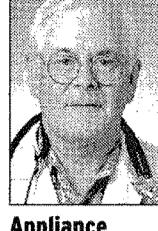
1-800-579-7355

Real Estate One

# Information, please: Is customer satisfaction a thing of the past?

In the old days of not so many years ago a homeowner was capable of doing most of the service needed on major home appliances. Today I believe it is harder by far to do repairs such as replacing the light bulb inside of a microwave oven.

Could it be possible that the manufacturers don't want the homeowner doing their own repairs? Could they be engineering the products in such a way that only their service technicians can do the repairs and therefore reap the monetary gain? I don't think the above are possibilities, I think they are a fact. Brand loyalty is being deflated one customer at a time by appliance manufacturers and they won't be happy until all products are coming from China. The following e-mails are just two examples of the



**Appliance Doctor**

**Joe Gagnon**

I get a lot of inquiries from homeowners who are very angry that one dishwasher rack can cost more than \$150 or that they are no longer available. Such expense can cause a consumer to go out and purchase a new dishwasher and that is exactly what the manufacturer has in mind. There is a repair kit made by Maytag which comes in a liquid form using a bottle and brush for application that will certainly help you to repair that rack.

many stories I hear and read from the American consumer.

Ann writes: Let me start by saying how I've enjoyed seeing you and hearing you on radio and TV. You have helped save people lots of money and given great advice for many years.

I have a Maytag dishwasher ... works great. I used to have well water and it corroded parts of the racks inside. It does an excellent job and looks like new but I am planning on selling my house soon and wanted to replace those racks. Unfortunately

after calling Servall parts I find that those particular racks for that dishwasher are no longer available from Maytag. My question is this: Is there any kind of tape or plastic that can be wrapped around those racks where the corrosion is (Would like to make it look cleaner) and still able to withstand the heat and also to be non toxic? I really can't afford to go out and buy a new one. This economy is such that I have to try and make do with what is already here. Would appreciate any advice you can give

me on this. Thanks so much.

Reply: I get a lot of inquiries from homeowners who are very angry that one dishwasher rack can cost more than \$150 or that they are no longer available. Such expense can cause a consumer to go out and purchase a new dishwasher and that is exactly what the manufacturer has in mind. There is a repair kit made by Maytag which comes in a liquid form using a bottle and brush for application that will certainly help you to repair that rack. The metal rack is dipped into a tank at the factory and coated with the plastic surface and the repair kit is the same plastic product put on at the factory. They also have plastic tips that you can put on the prongs of the rack. Before doing this you will need to take your emery board and clean off the old rust and clean the surface using white vinegar. You may also get on the phone and call appliance retailers who sell dishwashers. Years ago, I did have an appliance store and I always had 20 or so used dishwasher racks in my back yard

which I gave away at a special price. Marilyn writes: We have an older (14 years) Panasonic microwave oven that works fine, except the light burned out. Is there any way to replace the light? Thank you for your time in answering this.

Reply: I went into our kitchen and looked at my two-year-old, under-the-counter microwave and checked out how to replace the light bulb. There is a grill on the outside top part which is removable or else I have to take the whole thing down (two-man job) to get at the light bulb.

Counter top units may require taking the whole cabinet off to get at the light bulb. In the old days you had a little trap door you removed and it was easy to do. You didn't have to spend \$60 to have a technician change a light bulb. Stay tuned.

**Joe Gagnon** can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twmi.rr.com](mailto:appldr@twmi.rr.com)

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Palm Sunday, March 28  
~ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. The Holy Communion with the Blessing and Distribution of Palms and the Responsive reading of the Gospel of the Day.

Maudy Thursday, April 1  
~ 12:10 p.m. The Holy Communion in commemoration of the first Lord's Supper.

Good Friday, April 2  
~ 12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m. Psalms, The Stations of the Cross & the Good Friday Liturgy, with choral music throughout the Three Hours.  
Enter when you can; leave when you must.

Easter Day, April 4  
~ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. - The Easter Liturgy Festival Choral Communion at both services.

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**Christ Our Savior Lutheran**  
Easter Sunday  
April 4 at 6:30, 8:30 & 11am  
Maundy Thursday  
April 1 at 7:30 pm  
Good Friday  
April 2 at 12:30 & 7:30 pm Tenebrae

**Hosanna - Tabor Lutheran**  
9600 Leverne • Redford  
**Holy Week Services**  
**Thursday**, April 1 • 7pm  
**Friday**, April 2 • 1pm • 7pm  
**Easter Sunday**  
April 4 • 9:30 am  
**HE IS RISEN**  
**HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

## Resurrection Catholic Church

48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187 • **734-451-0444**

*Rev. Richard A. Perfetto, Pastor*

### GROUP CELEBRATION WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Wednesday, March 31 - 7:30 p.m.

**HOLY THURSDAY** - April 1 - 7:30 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper - Adoration following the Liturgy until Friday 8:00 a.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY** - April 2 - Scripture Service, 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. Rosary - 1:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross & 1:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.

**HOLY SATURDAY** - April 3 - 1:00 p.m. Blessing of Food - 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY** - April 4 - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church & 10:30 a.m. Mass All Saints School Gym - Blessing of Food after all Masses

### NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

36520 W. Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills, MI

Phone: (248) 848-1750 [northcongregationalchurch.org](http://northcongregationalchurch.org)

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen, Rev. Mary E. Biedron

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1

7:15 p.m. Worship with Communion

### GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

April 2, 12:00 p.m.

### EASTER SUNDAY, April 4

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

10:30 a.m. Easter Family Worship

"Not Here, Yet Here"

## Celebrate the Risen Christ with St. John's Episcopal Church

**9:00 AM**  
Holy Eucharist with SonShine (contemporary music ensemble)

**11:00 AM**  
Holy Eucharist with organ, choir, trumpet and handbells

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## Christ the King Lutheran Church

9300 Farmington Road - Livonia, MI 48150

**(734) 421-0749**

[www.christthekinglivonia.com](http://www.christthekinglivonia.com)

The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor

April 1 - **Maudy Thursday** worship 7:00 pm

April 2 - **Good Friday** worship 7:00 pm

April 3 - **Easter Egg Hunt** 10:30 am (ages toddler to 12 years old)

April 4 - **Easter Breakfast** 8:00 am

**Resurrection Celebration** 9:30 am

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## MILESTONES

## MAY WEDDING PLANNED

Aubry Lyn Nivens and Colin Michael Parks-Fried announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Patti Nivens of Woodstown, N.J. and Ted Nivens of Winston-Salem, N.C., is the marketing manager for Primary Stages, an Off-Broadway theater company. She graduated from The University of South Florida and received a bachelor's degree in theater arts.

Her fiancé, son of Michael Fried of Farmington Hills and Rosalind Parks of Royal Oak, is the manager of partnerships at Dailymotion, a video sharing Web site headquartered in Paris, France. He graduated from Michigan State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in telecommunication.

The couple met in the winter of 2004 in the most romantic place of them all — the mall. Nivens was a college student working a holiday job at a record store in Tampa, Fla., when Parks-Fried was transferred to the Tampa location as the assistant manager.

"I noticed him right away, but quickly settled myself into thinking he was 'too old,'" Nivens stated. He was five years older than she "had had



Nivens-Parks-Fried

a beard."

"She would always ask me how my day was and I remember feeling that she genuinely wanted to know. One morning I found a note she had left for me the previous night that simply said, 'How is your day?' Parks-Fried said. "Something clicked for me then."

After some gentle nudging from co-workers and a confirmed chemistry outside of the workplace, she asked him for a date. He paid.

"Six years, two major moves and an adopted dog later, I still want to know how his day was," Nivens added.

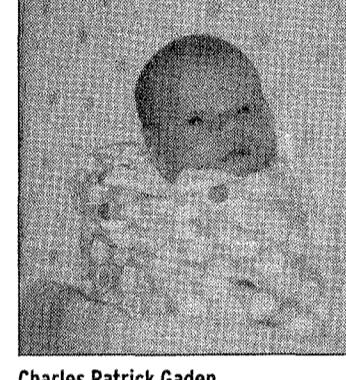
They'll marry in May with the Rev. David James officiating at MyMoon in Brooklyn, NY.

## CHARLES PATRICK GADEN

Charles Patrick Gaden was born March 12, 2010 in St. Peters, New Brunswick, N.J. Proud parents are Charles and Milyne Gaden of Raritan, N.J.

Grandparents are Jeff and Lynne Matheny of Canton and Richard and Shieila Gaden of Rockaway, N.J.

Great-grandparents are Loraine Gaden of Redford, Lucile Schnell of Bradley, Ill., and Charles and Shirley Matheny of Bonita Springs, Fla.



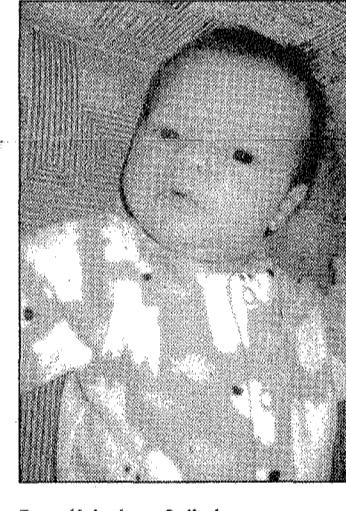
Charles Patrick Gaden

## EVERETT ANDREW GALINDO

Everett Andrew Galindo was born at 7:35 a.m. Feb. 23, 2010 at Providence Novi. He weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches.

Everett joins his proud parents, Brian and Nicole Galindo, and big sisters, Mya and Isabel, at home in Livonia.

Grandparents are Mario and Joyce Galindo of Livonia, Darla Margosian of Fenton, and Ron Margosian of New Hudson.



Everett Andrew Galindo

## Greet spring at Kensington fest

Celebrate spring with a weekend of farm events for the whole family at the "Spring Festival," to be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25, from noon to 4 p.m. at Kensington Metropark Farm Center near Milford/Brighton.

Farm activities, entertainment and horse-drawn wagon rides will take you out of the city, back to the good ol' days on the farm. Rosco the Clown will be on hand with balloon fun and giggles for all. Kelly Murningham and his border collie will be herding sheep, farm staff will be shearing sheep, and the Spinners Flock will demonstrate wool spinning. Watch Char's Kitchen

make old-fashioned apple butter "from scratch" and taste a sample. Check out the Kid's Cottage, a remarkable house made of natural materials. Watch dogs fly through a timed obstacle course at the dog agility demonstration, and discover the world of bees with John Beemer.

Most events are free. Hayrides cost \$5 per adult and \$3 per child or senior citizen. Climb the rock wall for \$2. For more information, call Kensington Metropark at (800) 477-3178.

The Spring Festival schedule of events:

11 a.m. Harnessing demon-

stration; noon to 3 p.m. Kid's Cottage – explore the world

of nature; noon to 4 p.m. Discover the world of Bees with John Beemer; noon to 4 p.m. Horse Drawn Hayrides – Adults \$5, Children & senior citizens \$3; 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Apple butter making demonstration by Char's Kitchen; 1-2:30 p.m. Sheep shearing demonstrations; 1-3 p.m. Border collie demonstra-

tion by Kelly Murningham; 1-3 p.m. Old Fashioned Candle Dipping; 1-4 p.m. Rosco the Clown featuring "Balloon Man"; 1-4 p.m. Ongoing wool spinning demonstrations by Spinners Flock; 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Dog Agility Demo – watch dogs fly through a timed obstacle course.

## 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. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form. For a complete listing online, go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

the Cancer Relay for Life; April's

proceeds will go to the Capital Improvement Fund.

**Contact:** (734) 751-1957 or (734)

422-0494

## St. John's Episcopal Church

**Time/Date:** Palm Sunday service, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., March 28; prayers, 6:40 p.m. and Mass, 7 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, March 29-30; Prayers, 11:40 a.m. Mass, noon, Wednesday, March 31

**Location:** 555 S. Wayne Road,

Westland

**Contact:** (734) 721-5023

## APRIL 1-7

## Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m.-noon,

Saturday, April 3

**Location:** 14175 Farmington Road,

Livonia

**Details:** Congregational Seder on the second night of Passover will include Seder plate, matzo, gefilte fish with red horseradish, salad, roasted chicken, roasted potatoes, sweet baby carrots, sheet cake and fresh fruit with wine, grape juice, coffee, tea and soft drinks. Cost is \$37 for adults, \$20 for children 4-12 and no charge for age 3 and under. Reservations – and requests for special dietary restrictions – by Monday, March 22.

**Contact:** (248) 788-0600

## Hosanna Tabor Lutheran

**Time/Date:** Through March 31

**Location:** 9600 Leverne, Redford

**Details:**

Hosanna Tabor Lutheran is collecting gently worn footwear and donations for Soles4Souls, Inc., a national charity that ships shoes to individuals in need, whether they are victims of a natural disaster or living in extreme poverty. A collection box is stationed at the Orangelawn covered church entrance. A \$1 donation per pair of shoes helps defer shipping costs.

**Contact:** (313) 937-2424

## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

**Time/Date:** 9:30 a.m., Sunday, March 28

**Location:** 28000 New Market,

Farmington Hills

**Details:**

Free Palm Sunday brunch

**Contact:** (248) 553-3380

## Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church

**Time/Date:** 6-7 p.m., March 28 and April 11, 25

**Location:** 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

**Details:**

Ballroom dancing lessons,

followed by a practice session, with music. A dance party will be held 7-9:30 p.m., March 28 and April 25. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$6 for each lesson and \$6 for the dance. Attend the class and dance for \$10. Pay at the door in Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the March classes will go to

JUNE I. BEAUVAIS  
March 24, 2010. Age 90. Wife of the late Don. Dear mother of Philip (Darlene), Laurel, Carolyn (Bill Newman) and the late Beverly. Also survived by eight grandchildren and one great-grandson. Services will be held privately. Memorial tributes to the American Heart Association.

A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at: [www.DesmondFuneralHome.com](http://www.DesmondFuneralHome.com)

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# Retailer offers tips for sports safety for youth

In recognition of National Youth Sports Safety Month, which is observed in April, Brian Kean of Play It Again Sports of Livonia offers a few reminders:

- Wear the right gear for your sport: Protective gear such as wrist and shin guards, and knee and elbow pads should be worn during all active sports. For children who participate in hockey, baseball, lacrosse, fastpitch softball, ski and snowboarding, a helmet should be worn at all times.
- Make sure it fits: If a helmet is the wrong size, it cannot do its job. Avoid the temptation of letting your kids borrow equipment from friends or siblings.
- Maintain quality: Analyze your child's gear at the start of each sporting season. If padding is worn or buckles are missing or broken, it's time to get something new.

"There is always the risk of injury when a child participates in a sport, but the prevalence of injuries can be diminished with proper prevention," Kean stated in a press release. "In particular, being equipped with gear that is safety approved and designed for the specific sport is a child's best defense again sustaining an injury."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than half of the seven million sports and recreation-related injuries that occur each year are sustained by youth between ages 5-24, Kean noted.

In addition to the use of inefficient gear, causes for injury include varying sizes of participants and slower reaction times in growing children.

"Fortunately, thanks to the popularity of events such as the X Games and the Olympics, children are growing more accustomed to seeing athletes wearing protection," Kean stated. "However, parents should never allow wearing protective gear to be a choice. It's a prerequisite for participating in sports."

Play It Again Sports of Livonia, which is part of a nationwide chain that sells a wide selection of new name brand fitness and sports equipment, and also buys, sells, and trades quality used sports and fitness gear.

Staff members are trained to properly fit both children and adults for the protective gear needed for a wide variety of sports.

For more information about Play It Again Sports, call Kean at (734) 266-1999.

## Spring Wolverines football game benefits Mott Children's Hospital

See the University of Michigan football team play its annual spring game and help C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the same time.

The spring game, set for 1 p.m., April 17, is a free public event, but U-M football and Mott are partnering in a fund-raiser to help build the new C.S. Mott Children's Hospital scheduled to open in Fall 2012.

"We are thrilled for the opportunity to partner with the U-M football team and Coach Rodriguez to benefit the patients at U-M Mott Children's Hospital," stated Pat Warner, Chief Administrative Officer for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's

Hospital. "The annual spring game is always a great way for U-M fans to come out and support the team and we are truly grateful that the team has offered their support to Mott."

Fans can make a donation of choice to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital upon entering the gates of Michigan Stadium. Donations are accepted at any level but fans will receive giveaways for donating at the following four levels:

- \$5 donation receives an "All in for Michigan Towel"
- \$20 donation receives a spring game "All in for Michigan, All in for Mott" T-shirt
- \$250 donation receives
- four passes to a pre-season scrimmage

All of the money raised will benefit the Michigan Football Experience, an interactive play area for patients at Mott to experience what it's like to be a Wolverine football player. In addition, there will be a silent auction on the concourse during the spring game.

For more information call Mott's Office of Medical Development and Alumni Relations at (734) 998-0370.

## APRIL

### St. Mary Mercy

• "Pet Preparation for Baby," 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 8, in classrooms 1 and 2, will educate dog and cat owners about common behavior problems and strategies to prevent them – when a new baby is brought into the home. Topics covered are what to expect from your pet, how to prepare for success, simple tips on an easy transition and how to anticipate and prevent potential behavior problems. Registration is required. Fee is \$10 per person. Call (734) 655-1159 for more information, or to register. Register online at [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org) and click on "classes and events".

• "Heartsaver" Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation class (CPR), 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, in the Community Outreach Department, Classroom 10. The class is being offered through a partnership with the American Heart Association.

Learn CPR and choking techniques for children and adults. To register, call the Community Outreach Department at (734) 655-8950, or register online at [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).

• "Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby" runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 17, in classrooms 1 & 2. Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. This class is based on the "Lamaze Method" and includes exercise, relaxation, breathing techniques and comfort measures to assist expectant moms through the different stages of labor.

\$75 per couple. (734) 655-1162 or visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org) and click on

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### "classes and events".

The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

### Cancer screening

The University of Michigan Health System, the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center will offer free throat cancer screenings by appointment in conjunction with Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week and World Voice Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 17, at the U-M Health System, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor. Priority for screening appointments will be given to people with symptoms or risk factors related to throat cancer, and to those without health insurance. Exams will take less than 45 minutes to complete. Refreshments will be provided, and free transportation or parking will be available. Registration is required. Call the U-M Cancer AnswerLine at (800) 865-1125 or visit [www.mcancer.org/throatcancer](http://www.mcancer.org/throatcancer).

### Dawn Farm

• Ed Conlin, addiction counselor for Detroit Capuchin Service System, will present, "Spirituality and Recovery from Addiction," 7:30-9 p.m., April 20 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium (ground floor), 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. This program will describe how spirituality relates to recovery from chemical dependency, explore personal spiritual needs and life choices, and discuss the Twelve Steps as a spiritual program which can benefit anyone.

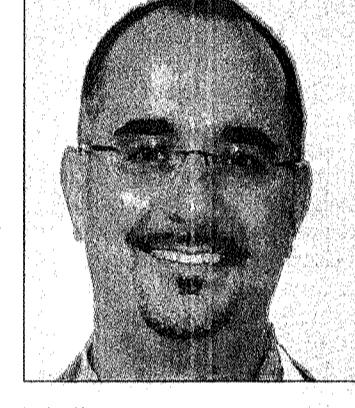
• Dr. Patrick Gibbons, adjunct clinical instructor in psychiatry at the University of Michigan will discuss

"Psychiatric Disorders in Chemically Dependent Individuals: Diagnostic and Treatment Considerations" at 7:30 p.m. April 27, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. The program will provide an overview of co-occurring addiction and psychiatric illness, including standard diagnostic criteria, individual considerations for determining the appropriate course of treatment, available treatment interventions, and the perspectives of both the addict and the treatment provider on addiction. Admission free. A certificate to document attendance can be provided. The series is organized by Dawn Farm, a nonprofit organization that provides a continuum of programs for treatment of chemical dependency. (734) 485-8725.

## MAY

### Karmanos Cancer Institute

The 2010 Annual Dinner gala, 6:30 p.m. to midnight, May 8, will include a reception, an elegant dinner, a super silent auction, a raffle sponsored by Tiffany & Co., and a fashion show designed by creative icon Linda Dresner, also a breast cancer survivor. Master of Ceremonies will be radio legend and long-time Karmanos supporter Dick Puritan. Special tribute will be given to Gerold Bepler, the new president and chief executive officer of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. Entertainment will be provided by the Bay Area Blues Society. The event will be at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. Tickets are \$375 to \$750. For information, call Karry Samulski at (313) 576-8106 or e-mail [samulskik@karmanos.org](mailto:samulskik@karmanos.org).



Valenti

## NEW FACES

Matteo Valenti, D.O., has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital.

Board certified in Internal Medicine, Valenti is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American College of Osteopathic Internists and the American College of Physicians. He is a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists and the Society of Hospital Medicine.

Valenti practices at Midwest

Internal Medicine Associates located at 20317 Farmington Road, in Livonia. The office number is (248) 615-0777.

He studied medicine at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his internship and Internal Medicine residency at Mount Clemens General Hospital, where he served as chief resident.

## ST. MARY MERCY LIVONIA

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## Healthy Families Expo 2010

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Bring your kids for an afternoon full of demonstrations, fun activities and information to help you and your family live a healthy lifestyle.

### Speaker Sessions



**1 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Children's Health and Fitness**

**Peter Nielsen - Motivational Health Expert**  
Learn the importance of health and fitness at a young age. Get your kids motivated - and participate with them. Get take-home tips.

**Book signing and Q & A after the presentation!**

**1:50 - 2:20 p.m. and**

**2:40 - 3:10 p.m.**

(Both sessions offered at both times)

**Cooking Demo: "Easy, Healthy, Fun and Kid-Friendly Foods"**

■ **Executive Chef Kevin Green,** Embassy Suites

■ **Dietician Judy Swancutt,** St. Mary Mercy Hospital

**Preparation and Injury Prevention for Sports**

■ **Peter Galea, DPM,** St. Mary Mercy Hospital and former Michigan State University Men's Soccer Player

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