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FOOD, B9



Hometown Life  
**WOMAN**  
SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE



**THURSDAY**  
October 7, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
Volume 46 Number 39  
\$1.00

**WESTLAND OBSERVER**  
hometownlife.com

**IN BRIEF**  
Pumpkin sale

Halloween wouldn't be complete without a jack-o-lantern or two. The Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road at Marquette, is holding a pumpkin sale. Everyone is invited to come by to pick out a pumpkin and learn about Westland history.

The pumpkin sale will be held 5-7 p.m. Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to noon Mondays through Saturday, Oct. 23.

Call (734)-326-1110 for information or visit the web site at westlandhistoricvillage.com/index.html.

**Democratic rally**

The Westland Democratic Club will join the Community, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and West Oakland Democratic clubs in sponsoring a rally 6-9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11, in the VisiTech Center on Schoolcraft College's Livonia campus.

Meet Democratic candidates Jocelyn Benson for secretary of state, Virg Bernero for governor, David Leyton for attorney general, Brenda Lawrence for lieutenant governor, Natalie Mosher for Congress, as well as Supreme Court Justices Alton Davis and Denise Langford Morris.

The event is free and open to the public. Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty, north of Six Mile, in Livonia.

**Church luncheon**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the folks at Ss. Simon and Jude Church are thinking pink by holding a Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon and Card Party 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland.

There will be table and door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$8 and can be reserved by calling (734) 722-1343. All proceeds will go to breast cancer awareness.

**Think Pink**

Starting Friday, Westland Firefighters will be in the pink to show support for women fighting breast cancer and to raise awareness in the community.

Fire Department staff will wear pink T-shirts Oct. 8-15 as they participate in the "Care Enough to Wear Pink" campaign. The shirts for staff members were purchased by the Westland Professional Fire Fighters in honor of October being breast cancer awareness month.

Fire Chief Michael Reddy was sporting one of the pink T-shirts at Monday's council meeting.

There will also be shirts available for purchase at Fire Station No. 1, 36435 Ford next to Westland City Hall, along with donation containers.

The shirts are being provided at cost by Alley Cat Designs on Wayne Road in Westland. The proceeds will be donated to a woman's cancer organization and a firefighter cancer support network charity.

**Charges send message to dog owners: They'll be held accountable for attacks**

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man is among three people facing felony charges over recent attacks by pit bulls in Westland and Dearborn Heights.

Geoffrey Moore, 37, was named in a warrant Tuesday charging him with two counts of dangerous animal causing serious injury, a four-year felony. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym

Worthy announced the charges against Moore, Eugene Runco, 51, and Laura Langston, 37, both of Dearborn Heights, at a press conference Tuesday. She said they were charged under state law which defines a dangerous animal as one that bites or attacks a person or causes death to another dog.

Moore was charged in connection with an Aug. 29 incident in which his two pit bulls reportedly attacked a Westland woman, 39, as she walked on

Dorsey at Oceana. The woman received approximately 52 stitches to repair injuries to her upper arm.

The woman told police she walked past the home on Oceana where the dogs were staying and heard growling and barking. She quickly walked away but the female pit bulls followed.

A neighbor assisted the woman and the dogs fled. One returned home and was found by police when they arrived. That dog was described as

being aggressive with the officers and was shot at the scene. The second dog wasn't located until the following day, held in rabies quarantine for 10 days at the Michigan Humane Society and then euthanized.

"We always have dog issues but this is the only incident that really stands out recently," Westland police Lt. Michael Matich said. "Now we know

Please see **CHARGES, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Helping hand**

When American Gear & Axle owner Jeff Emerson (left) needed a line of credit, he found banks unwilling to help. Emerson credits the financial backing his business received from the Michigan Supplier Diversification Fund with keeping the doors open for a 26th year. Governor Jennifer Granholm and Westland Mayor William Wild (behind Emerson) were at Emerson's Westland business Tuesday to talk about the state program and the federal government's new Small Business Act of 2010. For story and photos, see Page A6.

**Wayne-Westland student loss less than expected**

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If there's a silver lining for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools in the district's K-12 student count, it's that the numbers are better than expected.

The preliminary count, done Sept. 29, shows that the district continues to lose students, but not nearly as many as was projected.

"We did reasonably well," said School Superintendent Greg Baracy. "We're probably down less than 100 above our projections."

The district had anticipated losing 200 students, however, the preliminary count came in 130 students better than expected. That number could change. The district has up to 30 days to capture students for the September, and it has yet to add area shared time students from other districts who use Wayne-Westland programs, many at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

The district showed a significant increase in enrollment in its all-day kindergarten program and modest increases in the 5/6 and 7/8 programs. Wayne-Westland closed six elementaries and reconfigured its elementary program turning it elementaries into K/4 campuses and transforming two middle schools in 5/6 programs.

"Being up 130 students is a really good sign for Wayne-Westland," said Baracy. "I don't think

**"Being up 130 students is a really good sign for Wayne-Westland. I don't think there's any question that the reconfiguration had something to do with it."**

GREG BARACY, Wayne-Westland superintendent

there's any question that the reconfiguration had something to do with it. We've gotten a lot of good feedback. A majority of parents have expressed that they like the configuration and that they feel much more confident in their schools."

Baracy added that the numbers reflect a trend in Michigan of younger families moving in with parents and "a high number of families moving out of state to find jobs."

"We've been told that it looks like Michigan will lose 30,000 students this year with families moving out of state," he said.

The student count helps determine how much funding districts get from the state. The results of last Wednesday's count will be blended with one done in February to determine the district's enrollment figure.

Wayne-Westland has more than 12,400 students and is the state's 11th largest school district.

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**Majority of board wants to raise superintendent's pay**

BY KAREN SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

**LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Livonia school board agreed Monday it needs to raise its superintendent's compensation next school year to a level that is average among school districts of similar size.

"We need to do something to get our district in line; right now he (Superintendent Randy Liepa) is the bottom person of 16 superintendents," board president Lynda Scheel said Tuesday. "We're not looking to make him the top. We're just looking to get this compensation to be average."

Scheel said she will ask the district's legal counsel to prepare a contract for the 2011-12 school year in time for discussion and a possible vote Oct. 18. She emphasized that the increase is being considered for the position, not Liepa as an individual. However, she indicated the board would like to retain Liepa.

Patrice Mang was the only school board member to speak out against a raise. She said her objections were financial, not personal.

**TIMING OFF**

"I just don't feel as a school district we are in a position to raise the salary of any employee now," Mang said Tuesday. "We just do not have the financial means to be handing out raises, particularly ones this large. I would

feel that way if we were doing any other contract right now."

She noted the board this school year cut programs and services and has teachers still on layoff. Mang said she would consider a raise next spring when the board looks at its total budget for 2010-11. This year's budget is \$146.1 million, following \$11.2 million in cuts and revenue enhancements.

Resident Eileen McDonnell, who spoke out against a raise at Monday's meeting during citizens' comments, agreed the timing is wrong, especially since the district is projected to have only \$556,941 in fund equity at the end of the 2010-11 school year.

"These folks are hellbent on giving Randy Liepa that \$50,000 raise," she said in an e-mail Tuesday. "It doesn't matter what anyone thinks."

**25-PERCENT BELOW AVERAGE**

Consultant Jeff Rahmberg of Rahmberg Stover and Associates in Birmingham told the board Sept. 27 that Liepa's wage of \$148,919 is \$47,725, or 25 percent, below the average wage of 13 area districts with student populations of 10,000 or more and two smaller neighboring districts, Northville and

Please see **RAISE, A2**

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# RAISE

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Novi. Livonia has about 17,000 students.

Liepa's total compensation, including FICA and retirement, at \$203,637 is \$58,071 less than the going rate.

Scheel said the board needs to analyze its executive compensation package to make sure it's competitive with other districts, given that the state's early retirement incentives in May created superintendent vacancies across Michigan. She said Liepa is considered one of the top superintendents in the state and has been approached about openings in other districts.

Liepa would not comment Tuesday on any possible job offers from or interviews with other districts, saying it was personal.

Scheel said the board on Monday looked at two options - a straight salary with annual 4-percent raises and a base salary with approximate 4-percent annual raises and increases for longevity, having a doctorate degree and achiev-

ing goals. She said the board did not discuss dollar amounts, except for \$4,300 for a doctorate degree, \$5,000 for five to eight years as superintendent for Livonia schools and \$7,500 for nine to 11 years as superintendent for Livonia schools on top of the base salary.

Scheel said option two, if Liepa is superintendent again next school year, would put him in the average range.

## ELECTION DISCUSSION

In other action Monday, the board agreed it wants to change its elections from May to November in an effort to save an estimated \$40,000 a year.

However, Scheel said the majority of board members would like to switch to November elections without having to extend most of the board members' terms from four to six years. And, they would like to avoid even-numbered years when the president's and governor's races are also on the ballot.

The board will also discuss changing its elections at the Oct. 18 meeting.

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# WOW taps DeVore as its Woman of the Year

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Women of Westland gathered recently to honor their WOW Woman of the Year and celebrate their accomplishments.

Linda DeVore was honored as WOW Woman of the Year at the Think Pink Membership Dinner held at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

Among her recent efforts for WOW, which raises money to fund scholarships for women returning for higher education, DeVore started a Dining for Dollars program in which WOW would receive a percentage of sales at five or six different restaurants on given days. She has also been working on a grant for Westland John Glenn High School.

"You don't do these things alone. I have always been

appreciative of my husband Don and my family," DeVore said. "My WOW friends inspire me. They turn you loose to live up to your potential. I've had fun with it and we'll find new things we can do together."

The Business of the Year Award was presented to MPG Consulting Enterprises President Meghan Giersdorf, who said WOW had been her first client.

"Meghan helped us with the ATHENA Award (program), she was a lifesaver. She helped us turn that into a success so that we actually made a profit on the program," WOW President Mary Denning said.

Noting she had been involved in the ATHENA Award program for three years, Giersdorf said the award meant a lot. "Thanks so much, you gave me my start," she said.

Noting the organization's

mission of assisting women in personal and professional growth, WOW Vice President Cindy James recalled joining after attending a membership dinner.

"We have a very interesting mix of people. Most of us run a household one way or another. We work and run businesses," James said. "We also find ways to meet once a month and we make it happen."

In the last few years, James said WOW has assisted organizations such as Starfish Family Services and the Grange and raised money for Relay for Life, the Schoolcraft College Women's Resource Center and First Step.

"It's difficult for a small organization. It's all about teamwork. If I didn't see the worth, I wouldn't have stayed," James said.

WOW awards scholarships

to Westland women over age 21 who are returning to school. WOW has awarded \$10,000 in scholarships in the past 10 years. Fund-raisers include the annual ATHENA Award Chocolate Fantasy Ball, which is held in March.

Another event, the WOW Fall Bash, is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23, at Joy Manor in Westland. Part of the proceeds will go toward the Barbara Douglas Scholarship, awarded in memory of a late WOW member. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with dancing 7:30-11:30 p.m. to Over Easy. The cost is \$20 per person, including open bar and pizza.

Tickets are available at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 261-3680 for more information.

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# CHARGES

FROM PAGE A1

why it was taking so long to get these charges. This is a seldom used law, but we are seeing more frequent attacks."

In the Westland incident, Match said he thought the severity of the victim's injuries prompted a harder look at charges being filed against the dogs' owner.

"She (the victim) is recovering. I don't know what her condition is now. She was out of the hospital the day after the

attack," he said.

Putting dog owners on notice that they will be held accountable for their animals, Worthy said she is seeking funding for a team of full-time prosecutors to staff an Animal Protective Unit to handle the increasing number and complexity of animal-related legal issues. The cost was estimated at \$130,000.

Westland police are making arrangements to get Moore arraigned on the two felony counts.

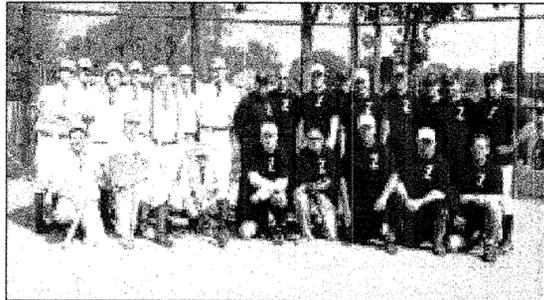
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Despite optimistic predictions of a win for the home team, the Westland Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dahs took a thumping from the Lah-Dee-Dahs of Greenfield Village during the annual Vintage Baseball Game at Jaycee Park.

Played with 1867 rules, which means no gloves, the more experienced Lah-Dee-Dahs beat the Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dahs 19-5 - not exactly a pitchers duel.

Despite the 15-run deficit, Westland Mayor William Wild called the event a "Grand Slam!"

The true winner of the event was the Westland Historic Commission. Nearly \$1,000 was raised by the players and



Members of the Westland Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dahs took a thumping from the Lah-Dee-Dahs of Greenfield Village strike a pose before their annual baseball game.

concession stand with all proceeds benefiting the Westland Historic Village Park.

This was the fourth year

for the vintage baseball game and even though the Lah-Dee-Dahs have swept the games thus far, each year money

is raised for the Historic Commission. This year such funds are will likely help pay for vinyl siding for the Rowe House at the Westland Historic Village.

Not only did the Westland Historic Village win, but so did the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army. During the game, non-perishable food items were collected for its Food Pantry.

"It is always enjoyable to play an old-fashioned gentlemen's game with the Lah-Dee-Dahs but we are most proud of the generous contributions raised for the Historic Village park and the more than 500 cans of foods that we were able to collect and donate to our local Salvation Army," said Wild.

## AROUND WESTLAND

### Laugh it up

Put a chuckle in your life and help out the McKinley Cooperative Preschool which is holding a Comedy Night Fund-Raiser at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Hall, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale, Westland.

Doors open at 7 p.m. The professional troupe, PROJECT 2 IMPROV, will

be performing. There also will be a cash bar and snacks, 50/50 raffle and door prizes.

Tickets are \$10 each for those 18 years and older. For tickets, contact Allison Thiede (734) 308-7348 or by e-mail at allmath@yahoo.com.

### Wrestling Club

Westland Bottle Rockets is a wrestling club for ages 4-14. The club meets 5:30-6:45

p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School, beginning Nov. 18, 2010 through March.

Registration is 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, in Gym 4 of the high school, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan. Membership for the season is \$50.

More information and/or a copy of the registration form can be obtained by visiting the club link at www.glen-nwrestling.com. Questions may be directed to Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@

gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

### Glow skate

It's baaaak! Enjoy some glow-in-the-dark fun at Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena 8-9:20 p.m. for Friday Glow Skate. The cost is \$3 for kids and \$4 for adults. Skate rental is \$3.

The arena also offers open skating 1:30-3:20 p.m. Saturdays. The cost is \$4 for kids, \$5 for adults and \$3 for skate rentals.

The arena is at Wildwood

and Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information about ice arena programs, call (734) 729-4560.

### Turn off the violence

Families are invited to a free evening of activities, including Westland's Got Talent, at the annual Turn Off the Violence 6:30-9 p.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center Thursday, Oct. 14. There will also be performances by Circus Amongus, clowns, face painting, midway games and arts and crafts.

### Quilt show

Ladies United Voice of Westland Christian Union Church will hold their annual quilt show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, at the church at 1046 N. Wayne Road at Marquette, Westland.

There will be door prizes, vendors, a bake sale, make and take and lunch available. Everyone is welcome. A \$3 donation is appreciated. For more information, call Mary Surbrook at (734) 721-6871.

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1990 DODGE	VAN	2B6HB21X2LK776402
1999 DODGE	SW	1B4HR28Y9XF628013
1993 DODGE	4D	3B3XA5633PT501084
1999 FORD	2D	1FAPP45X8XF172888
1993 FORD	SW	1FMDA31X9PZA04416
1998 FORD	4D	1FAFP13P2XW181186
1998 FORD	4D	2FAFP74W4WX120655
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1997 PONTIAC	4D	1G2JB5246V7526017
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1996 ISUZU	SUV	JACDJ58V1T7908446

Publish: October 7, 2010

# W-W's Hoover School honored for student achievement

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland's Hoover Elementary School has been tapped to receive a state award for excellence in leadership in school improvement.

The school was among four to receive the 2010 Robert and Patricia Muth Excellence in Leadership Award from the Middle Cities Education Association. The annual award honors K-12 schools in urban school systems that demonstrate leadership in school improvement, specifically improvements that reflect gains in student achievement.

"The Muth Award recognizes schools that have made extraordinary gains in student achievement," said Ray Telman, executive director of Middle Cities, a coalition of 33 urban school districts in Michigan. "It also helps us identify best practices so that those successful methods could be shared with other schools."

The award was presented to Jennifer Curry, principal for the 2009-10 school year, and current Principal Jennifer Chambers. It includes a \$1,500 check to be used for school improvement.

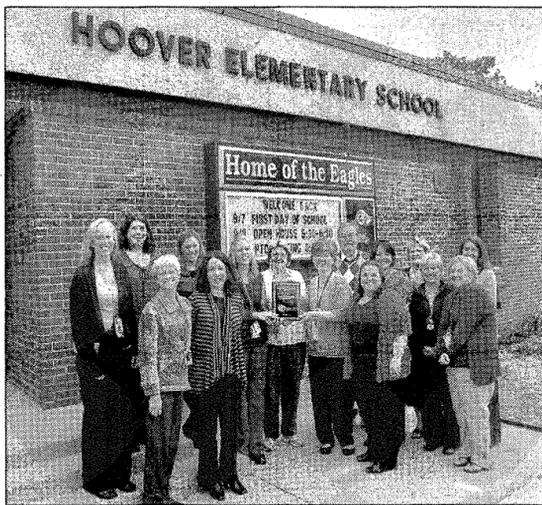
According to Paul Salah, senior executive director of instruction, the staff's "passion for the kids and clear commitment to education just really came through" at the award presentation in Lansing last week.

"I think what Hoover has done is one example of what takes place in Wayne-Westland," he said. "The staff is wholeheartedly committed to the children of the building and to the educational programs."

Curry told the board that with the help of a pilot rapid intervention program and the staff's commitment to improvement, students' test scores improved 10-14 percent.

"We had a plan and stuck to it and were consistent," she said. "When we said we would meet, we met."

The award specifically recognized the school for offering strategic and timely intervention to engage and improve student achievement and its tremendous growth in scores



The staff of Wayne-Westland's Hoover Elementary School in Wayne - Lisa Rotenheber, Diane DeLuca-Smith, Linda Goodin, Andrea D'Amico, Maureen Twomey, Amy Morse, Cheryl Rujan, Katherine Brake, Principal Jennifer Chambers, Kim Renas, Rachel Dean, Pamela Cusumano, Kimberly Lepish, Donna Carol and Rachel Slovinac - show of the Muth Award the school received for excellence in leadership in school improvement.

on the state's standardized tests and its "incredible" intervention programs.

"I truly see the teacher leadership and teamwork; parents, teachers and students are working together as partners in education," said Chambers. "It's just an extraordinarily happy place to be, I'm lucky to be there."

According to Diane DeLuca-Smith, an interventionist at the school, the improvement plan is student centered and a collaborative effort. While students are responsible for learning, the differential instruction is geared to meet their individual needs.

"Students are grouped by instructional level, interests and needs," she said. "We have a shared focus for the students with goals and action plans. We're always talking about the success of the students and how to make it better for them."

She added that when the school applied for the award, they looked at what is done at Hoover. The reaction, she said, was: "Oh, my God, we do so much."

The school fosters reading with small guided groups and having children read at their own levels so they can practice.

It also has across-the-grades reading buddies and monthly writer's workshops and monthly writing prompts to help students master the MEAP's writing on demand.

"We use the standards to see where we need to go," said second-grade teacher Rachel Slovinac. "Our mini lessons drive instruction. It helps students with what they need."

DeLuca-Smith also praised parents for their involvement in the school, pointing out that they come in and does such things as running off copies and cutting out things out for the literacy stations.

"The neat thing is that it was organized by a parent," she said.

"Our school and principal have changed, but what has not changed is our passion for the children," she added.

Trustee Carol Middel thanked the staff for their efforts.

"We value what you do and the students value what you have done for them," she said.

"To me and my staff, we will continue to do what we're doing," said Chambers. "It's a matter of remembering to be consistent and persistent."

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## TIME TO GET SPOOKY

If you're into Halloween, here's a list of events taking place in Westland and Garden City in advance of the spookiest day of the year.

### Halloween Walk

Come have a Halloween adventure in the Friendly Forest, a non scary, guided tour event created for younger children. Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes, and all ages are welcome, including toddlers.

The walk will be Friday and Saturday, Oct. 22-23, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, behind Westland City Hall. Tours start every 10 minutes at the Bailey Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. and run through 9 p.m. The program runs rain or shine. If there is inclement weather, the tours will be inside the Bailey Center.

Tickets cost \$3 per person, and pre-registration is required. The tickets are available at the Bailey Center.

The walk is sponsored by the Shoe String Theatre Company, Westland Civitan Club, Dads' Athletic Club of Westland, and Westland Breakfast Lions Club.

### Science Spook-tacular

See how science can be as creepy as it is cool at the Science Spook-tacular with Mad Science of Detroit 7-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland.

The program is for all ages. Tickets cost \$5 each and are on sale at the Bailey Center. For more information, call Mad Science of Detroit at (734) 266-9444 or visit the website at [www.madscience.org/detroit](http://www.madscience.org/detroit).

### Trunk or Treat

Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church will hold a Trunk or Treat and Other Halloween Fun - a haunted house, cupcake walk, face painting and prizes- 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the church at 36660 Cherry Hill Road between Newburgh and Wayne Road.

All are welcome rain or shine. Animal treats will be collected for the Great Dane Rescue Inc.,



Poison Ivy and the Skunk will be among creatures youngsters will encounter during a friendly Halloween Hike sponsored by Wayne County Parks in the Nankin Mills picnic area of Hines Park in Westland this month.

and the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue. Treats needed include Milk Bones large and extra large, Cloud Nine Buddy Biscuits, Natural Balance potato and duck biscuits, and Zukes beef training treats.

For more information, call the church office at (734) 728-1088.

### Halloween concert

On Sunday, Oct. 24, Schoolcraft College's Wind Ensemble and Synthesizer Ensemble will present their annual Halloween Concert and Children's Costume parade.

The concert will be held at 7 p.m. at the Radcliff Center at 1751 Radcliff, south of Ford, in Garden City. Everyone who attends is encouraged to dress in costume and join the fun. Refreshments will follow the performances and parade.

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted and used to provide future free concerts for the community and support the various music programs of the college. For more information, visit the Schoolcraft College website at [www.schoolcraft.edu/music](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/music).

### Haunted Party

The Garden City Library will hold a free children's

Halloween Party at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, in the gymnasium of the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, in Garden City.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the party will feature a night of squeals, squiggles and ghostly giggles for children in kindergarten through sixth-grade. There also will be magic, treats and prizes.

Call (734) 793-1830 to reserve a seat.

### Haunted House

The Westland Jaycees are holding a haunted house located behind the Wayne Ford Civic Leagues, 1645 Wayne Road, south of Ford, Westland.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 years and under. Get \$5 off coupon good through Oct. 30 at the website, [www.westlandhauntedhouse.com](http://www.westlandhauntedhouse.com). Group rates available for parties of six or more.

Hours are 7-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday. It's open Friday-Saturday, Oct. 8-9 and 15-16, and daily Friday, Oct. 22, through Saturday Oct. 30. For more information, call (734) 226-0400.

## Share your Halloween photos and win

Share a photo of your favorite Halloween decoration - your home, your pumpkin, your costume - with readers at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) (see the Reader Submitted Photo Gallery on the homepage) and you could win a prize!

Post your photo there, then we will ask [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) visitors to vote.

The top three vote-getters will win a prize. First prize is two tickets (in a suite) to the Nov. 29 Carrie Underwood "Play On Tour" concert at the Palace with special guests Sons of Sylvia and Billy Currington. Second prize is two tickets to Rock of Ages Nov. 9 at the



Share your scary, spooky or kooky Halloween photos with us and win prizes.

Fisher Theatre, featuring Constantine Maroulis - the American Idol finalist who was nominated for a Tony Award for his starring role in a Broadway production. Third prize is

four movie passes to Emagine Theaters in Canton or Novi or the Palladium/Birmingham Theater in downtown Birmingham.

Readers can view the Halloween gallery and recommend your photo.

Be sure to include a first and last name and the town where you live. Only contestants from Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties are eligible to win prizes, but anyone can recommend a photo.

Those who share photos that receive the most "recommend" votes as of midnight Oct. 31 win prizes and will be published in the *Garden City Observer*.

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For the location nearest you, call 1-888-889-EYES

# Lincoln School clinic open, move planned for November

The school it sits in is closed and on the real estate market, but the Oakwood Health Care Clinic at Lincoln Elementary is still open to residents of the Norwayne community.

Soon, officials at Oakwood Health Systems hope to move it to an even better location: where the children are. The school-based clinic, funded by the Oakwood Foundation, will move into Adams Upper Elementary School in November, according to Lisa Rutledge, corporate director of Community Outreach for Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. The plan has received all required approvals and construction will start soon.

"We're hoping to be up and running by Thanksgiving," she said.

Oakwood has operated the clinic since about 1997. The initial goals was to improve student and family health, increase family health knowledge and awareness of health-care needs, increase student

attendance and to bring health care to students and families that couldn't otherwise afford it.

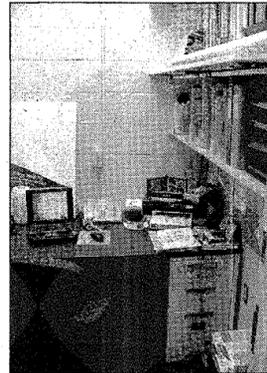
Physical exams, vision and hearing screenings, basic lab services and mental health services are available at the clinic a welcome and well-used amenity in the community. There were 512 users that accounted for 1,963 visits last year.

Declining enrollment and revenue faced by the Wayne-Westland Community Schools made the move necessary. The district was forced to close six of its elementary schools in order to better utilize its facilities and reduce annual costs. Lincoln and nearby Jefferson-Barnes Elementary schools were among the schools closed.

The clinic will be moved to Adams Upper Elementary School on Palmer at Schuman, and when it's complete, it will provide improved conditions for students, their parents and



The Oakwood Clinic at Lincoln Elementary School in Westland is still open to the public and will move into nearby Adams Upper Elementary School this fall.



One of the offices in the clinic is a converted closet with most of the shelves removed.

staff alike, said Lee Tobar, director of School-based Health for OHI.

The new clinic will feature three examination rooms and additional office space. In the current clinic, nurses had to

share an office, while another office was literally a converted closet with most of the shelves removed.

"We're moving from a tiny space into a much larger area," said Tobar. "Everyone will

have more room. It will be a much bigger, brighter area."

The new clinic will replace three home economic classrooms at Adams Upper Elementary, a converted middle school that now houses fifth-sixth-grade students.

Because the renovations are so unique, Rutledge estimated that it will cost about \$100,000 and take about six weeks to complete. The Oakwood Foundation is heading up a donation drive for the work, and to fund the ongoing costs of the clinic.

Rutledge said the new space would better accommodate students and allow for increased health education.

"Obviously, the focus will change from elementary school students to middle school students, but I think it gives us a better opportunity for health education," she said. "A fifth- or sixth-grader will retain the knowledge better."

The current Oakwood Clinic at Lincoln Elementary School is at 33800 Grand Traverse in Westland. It is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 1-8 p.m. on Wednesday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. To schedule an appointment, call (734) 728-2423.

# Don't be spooked by flash crash into rash decisions

Last May we experienced a flash crash, when in less than a 15-minute period the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped nearly 1,000 points. Within a short time, the market bounced back and what could have been a catastrophe turned out to be a bad day.

The day of the flash crash — and for a time afterward — there was speculation as to what caused the crash. There were people who speculated it was an error in entering an order to something more sinister, suggesting that someone



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

was trying to manipulate the market. The variety of speculation on Wall Street and in the media resulted in fear on behalf of investors. In fact, many investors, fearful that we were about to enter another period of extreme volatility, decided to liquidate their portfolios. The

good news is the report showed there was nothing sinister about the flash crash nor was there any attempt to manipulate the market. Rather, it was a series of events that all came together in the proverbial perfect storm.

According to the report, the epicenter of the crash was a trade done by a mutual fund company.

According to the report, the mutual fund company, believing that the market was set for a downturn, employed an aggressive selling strategy. Although, the strategy itself is not that unusual, what was unusual is the timeframe used to employ the strategy. As opposed to spreading out the transaction over a period of time which is normal, the

**This is not the last of the flash crash. Most likely there will be congressional hearings, new regulations and, of course, a fair number of conspiracy theories. As investors, we should focus on what we can learn from this event.**

company employed the strategy over a very short period of time. This event triggered other transactions and suddenly the Dow was down nearly 1,000 points. After certain market controls were triggered, the markets were able to stabilize and it turned out to be just a bad day.

This is not the last of the flash crash. Most likely there will be congressional hearings, new regulations and, of course, a fair number of conspiracy

theories. As investors, we should focus on what we can learn from this event.

The obvious is that speculation doesn't do anyone any good. Immediately after the flash crash, the talking heads were on TV with all sorts of theories. Although it was entertaining, it was pure speculation. Crazy things happen in the market over short periods of time and investors need to recognize that. As difficult as it may be, investors must be dis-

ciplined. It's been shown that investors who act out of fear or greed inevitably end up making the wrong decision. When market volatility occurs, it almost always pays to take a step back and let things settle down.

Another lesson is that we ought to discount the people who claim that upon any irregularity there is some sort of sinister conspiracy. People who claim the markets are fixed and controlled behind the scenes generally have no clue what they are talking about.

As investors, it behooves us to avoid any information coming from people who lack credibility. It's tough enough being an investor without having to deal with people who have no clue. Of course, that doesn't mean that you should turn a blind eye to the gyrations of the market. However, make sure that before you radically change your portfolio, you're not relying upon speculation and hearsay. Rely on the facts. 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).

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, October 7, 2010

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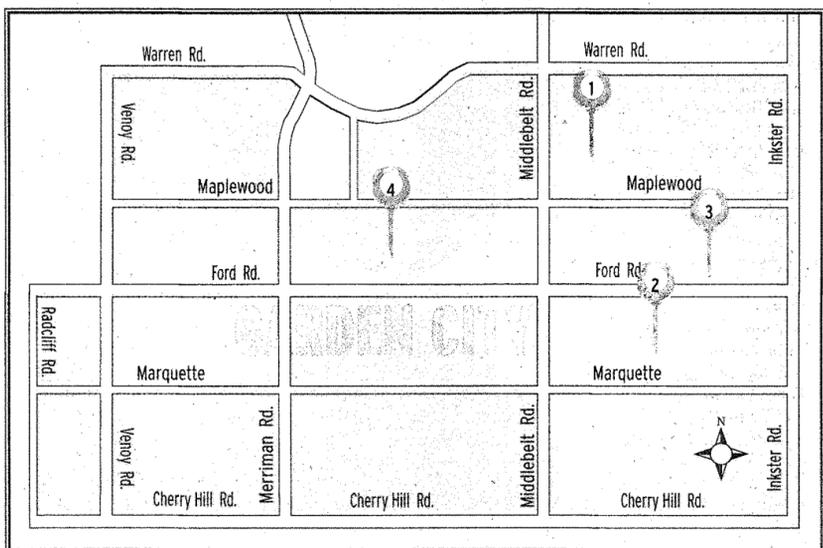
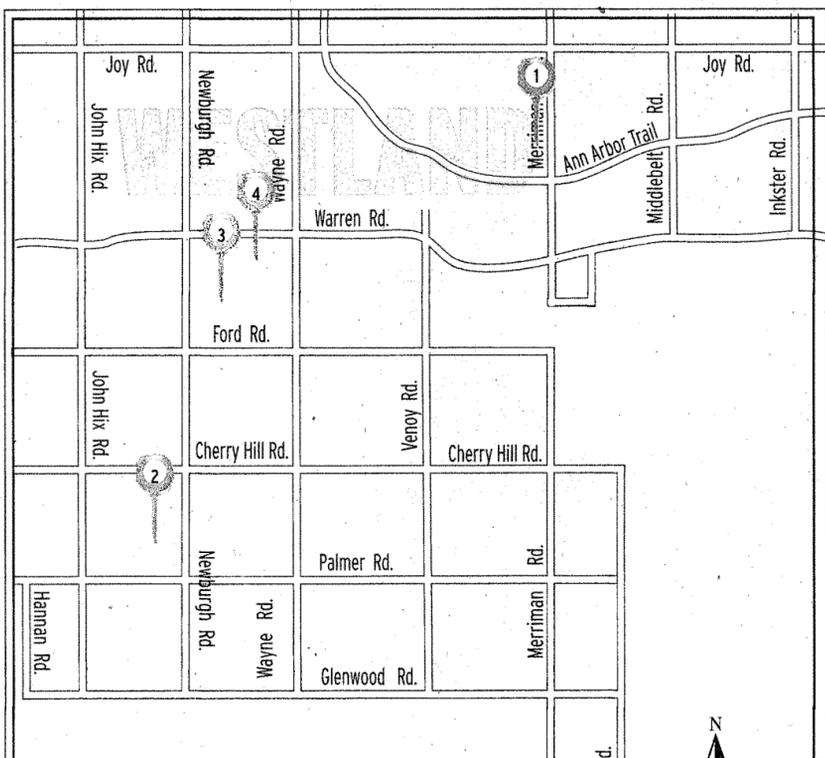
## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

E-mail: [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com)

Comment online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)



## Laptop, phone reported stolen from residence

### Larceny

Police were called to Blaze Construction, 7240 N. Merriman, Oct. 4 when 40 black manhole frames and covers valued at \$12,000 were reported stolen.

### Break-in

On Sept. 29, a resident in the 2500 block of Nichols Court told police that he was away for about three hours, returning about 1 p.m. Several hours later, he said he noticed his laptop computer and cell phone were missing from his bedroom.

The resident was unsure whether his sliding doorwall had been locked but the officer noted fresh pry marks near the door lock. The computer and phone were valued at \$1,075.

### Attempted break-ins

A resident in the 36000 block of North Deerhurst told police Sept. 29 that at 11:20 p.m. she was about to go to bed when she heard scratching at her kitchen window. When she turned on her kitchen light, the woman said she noticed her kitchen window was open and called police.

Officers found pry marks on the window and the screen was about 50 feet away in the yard. A police dog followed a

### WESTLAND

track but was unable to locate a suspect.

On Oct. 4, a resident in the 6600 block of Quail Run Circle told police that at about 11:40 p.m. she heard the alarm go off at her residence. She said she didn't hear anything else or notice anything wrong.

When the alarm went off a second time, the woman said she looked outside and thought someone was trying to break in. The alarm company had called and they alerted police.

An officer found a window screen laying on the grassy area north the residence's rear deck. Scratches were noted where the screen had been removed. The door wall was found open a few inches but the officer said it had been secured with two wooden blocks. The bulbs in two exterior flood lights were found unscrewed.

The owner told police that someone had moved the barbecue grill which she leaves in front of the steps leading to the back yard. She said she leaves it there to discourage people from coming onto the deck from the back yard area.

A police dog tracked a suspect to just past Building 18 of the Landings Apartments, but

no suspect was located.

### Break-in

A cash box containing \$400 cash, an estimated \$15,000 worth of money orders and a digital camera, valued at \$300, were reported stolen from the office of the Landings Apartments, 7000 Lakeview Blvd., Oct. 5.

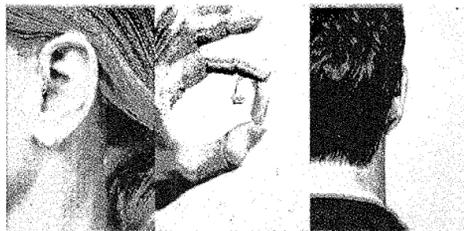
The office is located inside the clubhouse and employees told police someone may have propped a door open or hidden in the building until it was closed since there was no sign of forced entry.

The drop box was reported broken open and unknown contents were taken. It was also reported that packages meant for residents had been opened and some items possibly stolen.

### Vehicle stolen

An orange 2008 Dodge Dakota pickup truck, valued at \$8,000, was reported stolen Oct. 5 while it was parked in the 2000 block of Kaley. The owner, a New Hudson man, said he was current on his payments and had all of the keys to the truck which was parked on the street for nearly three and one-half hours.

By LeAnne Rogers



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## Vintage Corvette stolen from garage

### Vandalism

An ex-boyfriend is being blamed for breaking the door of a home in the 29000 block of Cambridge Sept. 29.

The homeowner told police the Livonia man came to the home to borrow money and when the woman refused, he became upset and kicked in door, breaking the door jamb.

The woman told police it's an ongoing problem with the man who breaks her belongings when she refuses him money. She also showed police a text message he sent, apologizing for breaking the door, police said.

### Stolen vehicle

A 1974 Corvette was reported stolen from a garage of a home in the 1500 block of Gilman Sept. 29.

The daughter of the homeowner told police she received a call from her father, asking her to check after getting a call from

### GARDEN CITY

a neighbor. The owner was up north fishing. The daughter said the garage door was closed when she got to the house. Her father usually parks his truck in the driveway, but left in a hurry the day before and left it parked at the curb. She also produced the only set of keys to the car which were in the house.

The side door to the garage was locked and there appeared to be no damage to it and the overhead door.

The neighbor told police he saw a young white man in his 20s back the car out of the driveway and drive away about 11 a.m. Another neighbor reported that her remote doorbell kept going off and that she found a garage door opener will set it off.

The car was valued at \$15,000.

### Careless driving

A 16-year-old Dearborn youth was ticketed for careless driving and having no driver's license Sept. 16 following an altercation with a group of teens at Beechwood and Deering.

The teens told police the dispute happened over a traffic accident in Dearborn Heights. The driver backed up the vehicle on Deering, nearly striking several parked cars, then spun into a driveway before driving off at high rate of speed, police said.

Police reportedly located the vehicle pulling out of an apartment complex in Dearborn Heights near Warren and Inkster roads. The driver was an 18-year-old Dearborn Heights woman who told police she had switched places with the teen because he had driven the vehicle to the Deering-Beechwood area without a license, police said.

The teen was also ticketed for never acquiring a license.

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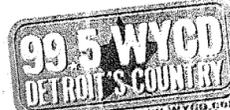
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Hometown

# MEDC program boosts small business

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jeff Emerson was happy to see Gov. Jennifer Granholm come to his Westland business, American Gear & Engineering, to talk about the new federal Small Business Jobs Act.

Emerson credits the financial backing his business received through a similar state program operated by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with keeping the doors open for a 26th year.

American Gear & Engineering was recently approved to receive financing for diversification projects through the Michigan Supplier Diversification Fund (MSDF), that was, in part, a model for the Small Business Act of 2010 recently signed into law by President Obama.

With about 45 employees, American Gear & Engineering had been profitable for more than 24 years but ran into a problem in year 25.

"The MEDC helped us secure a bank loan and we were able to stay in business. It's a great day when the governor came here," said Emerson, who gave Granholm a tour of his facility that produces gears of all sorts and sizes for a wide range of industries. "Companies were only able to survive by (the owners) taking money from 401Ks and home equity loans."

When his business sputtered due to the economy, Emerson said he wasn't able to get bank financing.

"My bank ... turned their back on us. They tried to take the money. I spent a year trying to find another bank," Emerson said.

Another bank did offer him financing, but he felt the offer was poor.

Luckily, he said, another bank came forward after reading an article about the situation.

"Within five weeks, we had a line of credit," he said.

That's exactly the type of situation the MEDC program was designed to address, Granholm said.

"The banks were not positively disposed towards manufacturing. You have a company that for 24 years always met payroll and paid its bills," Granholm said. "They have trouble in one quarter and their credit freezes up like an engine."

The MEDC works with banks to keep the lines of credit open by depositing funds with the bank that reduce the loan risk amount.

"We told the Obama administration about the plan and said they should offer it nationwide," said Granholm, adding about 25 business took advantage of the program to save nearly 9,000 jobs. "The president signed the bill last week. Michigan will get \$78 million to offer to other businesses what was offered to Jeff and American Gear & Engineering."

The program isn't designed to have the state directly fund a business.

"Any business has access to the program, if they feel credit has been choked off," said Granholm, who posed for photos with workers on the shop floor during her tour. "We buy down the risk and let it be paid down as the loan is repaid."

Following the tour, Granholm told American Gear & Engineering workers that she hoped they felt proud to be a great example of how the small business program can succeed.

"Jeff (Emerson) is a great guy. He's not an absentee owner as you can see," said Westland Mayor William Wild, noting Emerson was dressed like his employees wearing a uniform with his first name embroidered on the shirt. "This is a great program and a great approach."

Wild noted another business lesson from American Gear & Engineering. More than a decade ago, the company diversified its customer base from more than 90 percent automotive to other industries such as agriculture, military uses and cranes. Today, the firm's automotive customers are less than 10 percent of their business.

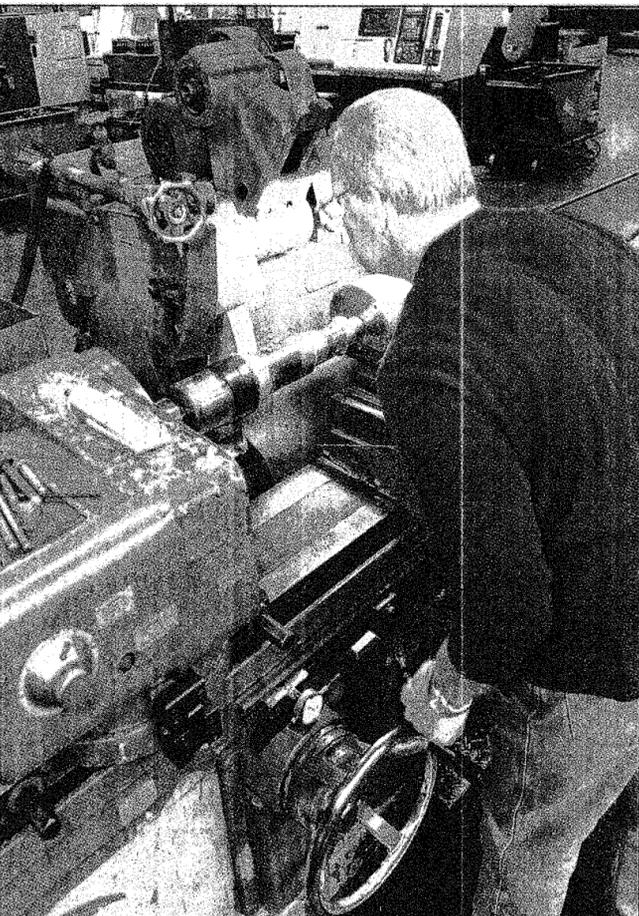


Owner Jeff Emerson explains a metal lathe, operated by Mike Cronk, to Governor Jennifer Granholm.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



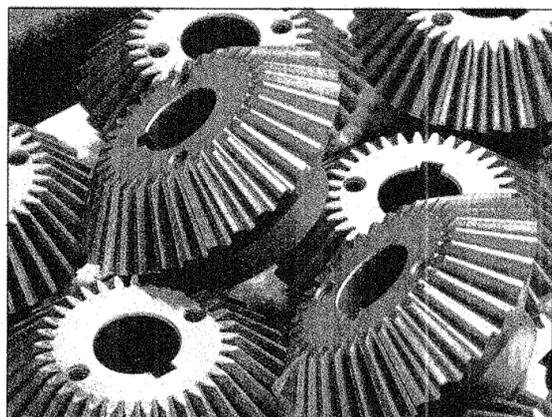
Governor Jennifer Granholm speaks to employees of American Gear & Axle. With her are State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, Westland Mayor William Wild, owner Jeff Emerson and MEDC vice-president Ned Staebler.



Wayne Lanning of Redford grinds a metal shaft to precise specifications. A Chinese manufacturer didn't get the job right, and American Gear and Axle fixed it.



American Gear & Axle owner Jeff Emerson and Governor Jennifer Granholm walk the shop floor.



Gears made by American Gear & Axle has moved away from the auto sector and now provides products for industries, such as agriculture, military uses and cranes.

**Listings** for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Metro Fibromyalgia Group**  
**Time/Date:** 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14  
**Location:** Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, south of Ford, Garden City  
**Details:** Dr. Barry Hobbs, a cervical chiropractor, will be the guest speaker in observance of Spinal health Care month. The Metro Fibromyalgia and CFS Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. The second and fourth Thursday of the month at the church. There are no dues, but donations are accepted.  
**Contact:** For more information, call Ruthann at (734) 981-2519 or go online to www.MetroFibroGroup.com.

**Railroadiana**  
**Time/Date:** noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28  
**Location:** SS. Simon and Jude Church Hall, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland  
**Details:** The SS. Simon and Jude Church's Ushers Club is sponsoring sponsor a Toys and Train Show. Admission to the show is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10. Dealer set-up is at 9 a.m. the day of the show.  
**Contact:** To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327.

**Fish Dial-A-Ride**  
**Details:** Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, designate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.  
**Contact:** For more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

**Craft shows**  
**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9  
**Location:** St. Theodore Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** St. Theodore Fall Craft Show will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. In addition to crafters, there will be a bake sale, raffles and refreshments. Admission is free.  
**Contact:** For more information, call Mary at (734) 425-4421, voice-mail 10.  
**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16  
**Location:** St. Linus School, 6466 Evangeline, north of Ford and west



PHOTO BY DAVID L. MALHALAB / M NEWS SERVICE / MNS PHOTO

**Early holiday cheer**

Garden City party goes Susie McGraw, Sheila McGraw, Naudean McGraw and Mary McGraw-Kosch meet Santa's helpers, John Booth and Curtis Posuniak of Bloomfield Hills, who brought their custom glass Christmas ornaments to the Artisan Boutique, a part of the recent Childs' Hope & Neiman Marcus - Hopes and Dreams 'A Girls' Night Out benefit at the Ford Motor Company Conference and Event Center on the grounds of The Henry Ford. The benefit was for child abuse and neglect prevention programs in Wayne County.

of Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights  
**Details:** Space is still available for the St. Linus annual fall craft and vendor show. Admission is \$1, students free. There will be more than 50 craft and vendor tables, concession stand, bake sale, raffles and 50/50 raffle. All proceeds will help support the CYO Athletic Program through St. Linus Church  
**Contact:** Donna at (313) 561-6840

**Crafters Wanted**  
**Time/Date:** Saturday, Nov. 20  
**Location:** Sts. Peter & Paul Church Hall, 750 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights  
**Details:** Crafters are wanted for the church's 22nd annual arts and crafts show.  
**Contact:** For more information, call Deb Moga at (248) 946-0173 or Virginia Moore at (734) 522-9653.

**Earth Angels**  
**Details:** Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's an opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.  
**Contact:** www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangell1986@comcast.net

**Higher Rock Cafe**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.  
**Location:** Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.  
**Details:** Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.  
**Contact:** www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660

**ORGANIZATIONS**

**Friends of Eloise**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. third Tuesday

of the month (except July, August and December)  
**Location:** Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.  
**Contact:** Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

**Writing Group**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month  
**Location:** Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne  
**Details:** The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free.  
**Contact:** www.storycircle.org or send an e-mail to sheptry@yahoo.com

**Toastmasters**  
**Location:** Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M. in the lower level of the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh.  
**Details:** Toastmasters provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.  
**Contact:** For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

**TOPS 869**  
**Time/Date:** Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.  
**Location:** Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.  
**Details:** The group is for people age 18 and older.

**Contact:** The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

**Legion Post 251**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.  
**Details:** All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.  
**Contact:** www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

**TOPS M128**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Mondays  
**Location:** Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland  
**Contact:** Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879

**Garden City Dems**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June)  
**Location:** Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City  
**Contact:** Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344

**Citizens for Peace**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. on the second

Tuesday of each month  
**Location:** Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia  
**Details:** The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome.  
**Contact:** Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079

**In Harmony**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays  
**Location:** Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** For men interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting  
**Contact:** call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal

**Veteran's Haven**  
**Location:** Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne.  
**Details:** Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays.  
**Contact:** (734) 728-0527

**Silver Strings Dulcimer**  
**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month  
**Location:** Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City  
**Details:** Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam. Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, penny-whistle, ukulele and upright bass.  
**Contact:** (734) 482-2902, http://geocities.com/ssdsociety

**Garden City Kiwanis**  
**Time/Date:** 12:15 p.m. Thursdays  
**Location:** Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City  
**Details:** Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to bettering the world one child and one community at a time. Guests and potential new members are always welcome.

**Garden City Rotary**  
**Time/Date:** 12 noon Thursdays  
**Location:** Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City

**Details:** Community service planning, lunch and socializing are enjoyed.

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

**Annapolis Retirees**  
**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month  
**Location:** Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venoy at Howe in Wayne  
**Details:** All Oakwood Retirees are welcome to attend.

Garden City Amateur Radio Club  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City  
**Details:** The club is open to people who are interested in ham-radio.  
**Contact:** Ben (W8AAA) at (734) 425-2629

**Garden City Lions**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month  
**Location:** Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City  
**Contact:** Dave Fetter at (734) 425-4382

**GC Garden Club**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City  
**Details:** Everyone may attend to hear guest speakers on a variety of gardening topics and plan events around the city.  
**Contact:** Della Haydon at (734) 427-9410

**Genealogical Society**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. third Monday of every month  
**Location:** Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile  
**Details:** Beginning genealogy and computer classes start at 6:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.

**Purple Heart**  
**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month  
**Location:** VFW Post 7575 Hall, 3301i Ford west of Venoy, Garden City  
**Details:** Meetings are open to combat-wounded veterans.

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

Sue Mason,  
Community Editor  
Susan Rosiek,  
Executive Editor  
Grace Perry,  
Director of Advertising

## OUR VIEWS

# 18th House District LeBlanc is best choice to represent Westland

On Nov. 2, residents will go to the polls to vote for whom they want to represent them in state government. From governor on down to state representative, the makeup of state government will change dramatically, especially in the legislature where a large number of members of both houses are term limited.

Some candidates are campaigning about being on the winning team, already predicting who will win the governor's race in November. But it is more about who can put Michigan on the right track than who the engineer will be. Turning the state around will take all elected officials in Lansing working together.

In the state's 18th House District, which takes in all of the City of Westland, Democratic incumbent State Rep. Richard LeBlanc is seeking his final two-year term in the legislature. He is being challenged by Republican Floyd Collins. The difference between the two men is stark.

Collins readily admits that a lot of the established politicians don't like his ideas. He describes himself as a conservative who wants to "fix Michigan." His "core beliefs" are a reduction in the size of government, including creating a part-time legislature, lower taxes on business to create more jobs and lower taxes on individuals to stimulate the economy.

Taxes is the one thing the two men agree on. LeBlanc favors new opportunities for investment in the state and while he wants to see a revision in the tax code, he's not prepared to give away the store to new business while ignoring the state's heritage businesses. Viewed as a moderate, he says as a lawmaker he represents the state first and the city second and believes he does things the way the people of Westland want it done.

Looking at both men, talking to them and hearing their answers to our many questions, we believe that **Richard LeBlanc** is the best choice to represent the 18th District.

He has the demeanor and the ability to work with his colleagues in the House on both sides of the political aisle to bring about the change needed, if Michigan is to successfully reinvent itself. He is not a party yes man, but rather votes for what he believes is right.

A case in point: Last year Speaker of the House Any Dillon stripped him of his chairmanships of the Military and Veterans Affairs and the Michigan State Police committees as punishment for refusing to vote in favor of the ill-fated proposal to additionally tax Michigan physicians. A month later, Dillon re-instated LeBlanc to the posts.

He also worked side-by-side with State Sen. Glenn Anderson and the Wayne-Westland Community Schools in getting lawmakers to keep the \$6.5 million the district receives in lieu of a millage not allowed for in calculating school funding under Proposal A in the School Aid Act last year and has worked to keep it there.

We believe he is the man for the job and urge voters to re-elect **Richard LeBlanc** to represent the House's 18th District. Our regret is that this is the last time we can do this because of term limits.

## ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues, In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

### The issue: Demolition of the Quo Vadis

I urge the citizens of Westland to take a look at these photos of the inside before blindly believing that the inside is destroyed and not reusable.

Taken on April 8, 2008 when the then developer allowed for one last photo shoot. Pictures taken by SNWEB.ORG Photography, LLC.

<http://www.flickr.com/search/q=Quo+Vadis&w=51586455%40NOO>

ziggytoast

"... the government can't force the owner of the old theater to fix it and keep it, nor should they be able to force them to do that. It is Nationals property, and who are you or I to tell them what to do with their property. If you don't like it - buy it.

National already moved out of town because of citizens complaining and we could have had an entertainment complex with movies, live theater, comedy shows, ect... But no, some others thought they knew how to tell a company how to run their business, so they pulled up stakes and left.

50yrsinWestland

### The issue: Damage in Holliday Preserve

Ticketing mountain bikers, what nonsense ... of all the problems there are in the city. The police have better things to do. Get a life Craig.

WLCitizen

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### How have you gone "green"?

We asked this question at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.



"I really focus on my family. We use the recycling center in the city and the recycling bin at school. It's a whole family effort. I also dumped my old pots and pans and went with chemical free ones, and I did the light bulbs, too."

Julie Burton  
Garden City



"We're recycling grocery bags. We take grocery bags, cut them into strips and crochet them into totes to sell for the Relay for Life."

Barbara Bridges  
Garden City



"I recycle everything. Yard waste, glass, metal and paper, I don't use the clothes dryer. Those kinds of things. I also reuse plastic and paper bags."

Mary Beth Theisen  
Clawson



"One way I go green is I'm a vegetarian I don't eat meat. There's a lot more resources needed to produce meat that aren't needed for vegetables."

Audrey Pleasant  
Dearborn Heights

## LETTERS

### Retain Barns' Legacy

I was saddened to read that the Wayne-Westland Board of Education is considering the sale of five closed elementary schools. One is the Jefferson-Barns School in the Norwayne neighborhood. The school, originally named Jefferson Elementary, had Justine Barns' name added years later to honor the woman for her many political and community service accomplishments.

She was on the first Westland City Council and later served as a county commissioner and state representative. Before being elected to public office, Ms. Barns was a leader in her Norwayne neighborhood. If the school which is partly named for her is either sold or demolished, I hope that the city administration and city council will consider naming a neighborhood part in her honor so that Ms. Barns, usually referred to as Justine or just plain Jay, will have her legacy continued for generations to come.

On a related question, I also hope that the school board can find a developer or convince the city's own housing commission to convert the former school into a senior citizens apartments complex, which has been done in several Detroit-area suburbs as well as across the country. If that happens, there would have a double benefit: It would continue Justine's legacy and provide much needed housing for retirees.

Leonard Poger  
Westland

### Wrong place to campaign

I am completely disgusted by the obvious ethical disregard by Natalie Mosher. I attended the Noodles and Neighbors event at the Westland Friendship Center Oct. 1 and was shocked to see a marked campaign vehicle with signs in the parking lot of a city-run building. The driver was definitely campaigning to people who were entering the parking lot. If this woman is already willing to break public trust, what will be next?

I am appalled that the city of Westland allowed this to go on. Did Mr. LeBlanc, who sponsored the event, know about it? Did none of those there call Mosher out on this?

Very sad and dishonest.

Paul Harris  
Livonia

### Remember the farmers

More than ever before, the vast majority of Americans are increasingly disconnected from the individuals who provide us with food, fiber and fuel.

Farms in Michigan range from small beginning farmers to large operations. It's important to realize that almost all of Michigan farms are owned and operated by families. Whether they grow potatoes for Frito Lay or for a farmers market, they work long hours to plant and harvest the crop. They are businessmen and women who know that if they do not make a profit, they will not be able to afford to keep farming and feed the world.

There are 54,800 farms in Michigan. We have more different kinds of crops than any state except California. And the Michigan State University Product Center reported that agri-food

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com).

Read or comment online:  
[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

and agri-energy are a \$71.3 billion industry in Michigan.

Agriculture is responsible for one out of every 12 jobs in America. And while many sectors of our economy are running trade deficits, American agriculture has had a trade surplus for nearly 50 years. This year the surplus is expected to exceed \$30 billion. Agriculture exports help create important income opportunities for producers as well as off-farm jobs that are so critical for strengthening economies across America. In fact, every billion dollars in agricultural exports supports more than 8,000 jobs and generates an additional \$1.4 billion in economic activity.

As Americans, we are fortunate to live in a country where the strength of our agriculture economy provides us with an income advantage over the rest of the world. On average, Americans spend less than 10 percent of family income on food - much less than other western nations - freeing up income to save for retirement, pay the mortgage and purchase goods that would otherwise be unaffordable.

If there is a group of Americans that fully embody our nation's values, it is the farmers of the United States. As we continue through harvest season, these hardworking men and women work long hours to bring in the crops they spent time, energy and money to produce. Meanwhile, they face the threat of natural disasters, rapidly fluctuating commodity prices and increasing input costs.

America's farmers have helped our country become strong and stay strong. They've provided consumers with the highest quality food and fiber and today they are helping to lay the foundation for a new energy economy.

This week as you visit the grocery store, a restaurant or farmers market, I am asking that you join my colleagues and me at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in thanking America's farmers. I'm certain they will be grateful to know that their fellow citizens appreciate their role in making America a truly great nation.

Christine White  
state executive director  
USDA-Farm Service Agency, Michigan State office

### End squabbling

The squabble over political parties is getting out of control. People are worrying more about what party they believe in than who the representative is or what he/she plans to do about the issues of our nation. People get so wrapped up in their need to generalize that they don't try to see both sides of the argument. This causes the lack of nationalism that is critical for a recovering nation.

I was reading the Opinion page in last week's edition of the *Novi News*, and I noticed that the Letters portion of the page was almost completely filled with people complaining about other parties doing the wrong thing for the country. The first letter had the right idea in saying "... voters are acting as if though they have amnesia ..." but then it went downhill when it started to blame the Republican Party for the economic failure. The next letter did the exact same thing, but against the Democratic Party. The proving words were, "Come November, vote Republican." Each of these letters has its focus set on the economy, but blames an entire party for what both sides have done and not done.

Now I'm not trying to say that anyone with a complaint is evil or misguided. That would rule out the entire human race. I'm saying that people should focus their criticism on the actual people and leave the rest of the party up for judgment. Maybe we as a nation should just rid ourselves of political parties entirely. President George Washington, in his farewell speech, specifically stated that the two things the United States should not do were form political parties and form alliances. He believed that political parties would divide the nation, which it has. Also, President Abraham Lincoln said, "A house divided cannot stand." I believe that these two great historical minds have wisdom that is still applicable today.

Eric Holst  
Novi

### McCotter doing his job

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter was unable to attend a candidate forum in Livonia Sept. 9 because he was attending a meeting in Washington, D.C., with a senior vice president at the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association. His opponent, Democrat Natalie Mosher, was quick to make a statement saying McCotter wasn't at the forum because he was "spending time with crooked lobbyists" at a conference in Washington, D.C.

I thought that a politician was elected to help create and save jobs for Michigan workers. I think that Democrat Mosher should look no further than Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi and Charles Rangel when it comes to associating with crooked lobbyists. Sen. Reid has five sons and four of them are lobbyists.

As a veteran of World War II, I have attended many sessions that Rep. McCotter gave to veterans and he is always polite and answers all the questions that we asked. His opponent Natalie Mosher has nothing to do but bad-mouth her rival. I wouldn't vote for her if she ran for dog catcher, a job she is probably better suited to hold.

Robert Siedlik  
Livonia

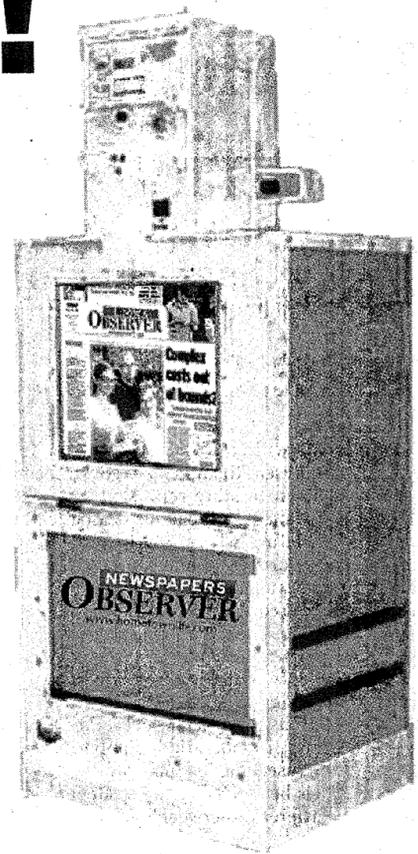
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- CVS Pharmacy 27435 Ford Rd.
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- Family Fresh Market 31210 Warren Rd.
- Firebird Gas Station 29435 Ford Rd.
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- Garden City Cafe 5662 Middlebelt Rd.
- Garden City Hospital 6245 Inkster Rd.
- Garden City Mobil 7010 Middlebelt Rd.
- Greek Flame Coney Island 32788 Cherry Hill Rd.
- Handy Mart 7121 Merriman Rd.
- Jerry's Party Store 28974 Warren Rd., Westland
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- Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Rd.
- Liquor Garden Party 31226 Ford Rd.
- Max Liquor 28856 Ford Rd.
- McK's Party Store 927 Inkster Rd.
- Merri-Men Drive In Coney 7021 Merriman Rd.
- Mid-Warren Liquor 6883 Middlebelt Rd.
- Rite Aid Pharmacy 29447 Ford Rd.
- Shell Gas 120 Middlebelt Rd.
- Skyline Fuel - Sunoco 31215 Warren Rd., Westland
- Speedway 28451 Ford Rd.
- Sunoco Gas 32843 Ford Rd.
- Sunoco Gas 27410 Ford Rd.
- Toast Restaurant 28340 Ford Rd.
- Villa Bakery 6551 Middlebelt Rd.

- Amoco Gas Station 38350 Ford Rd.
- Big Boy Restaurant 6360 N Wayne Rd.
- Big Ben's Party 38401 Joy Rd.
- Biggby Coffee 37644 Ford Rd.
- BP Gas 1831 S Wayne Rd.
- BP Amoco 35520 Van Born Rd, Wayne
- BP Gas 38800 Michigan Ave, Wayne
- BP Gas 35600 E Michigan Ave, Wayne
- BP Gas 30435 Cherry Hill Rd.
- BP Gas 31341 Van Born Rd, Romulus
- BP Gas 1220 N Wayne Rd.
- BP Gas 2910 Venoy Rd.
- BP Gas 31350 Michigan Ave.
- BP Gas Station 32889 Warren Rd, Garden City
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- Kroger 36111 E Michigan Ave, Wayne
- Kroger 200 S Merriman Rd.
- Kroger 31300 Michigan Ave.
- Kroger 36430 Ford Rd.
- L George's Coney 7335 N Middlebelt Rd.
- L. Georges Restaurant 34438 Michigan Ave, Wayne
- Laundry Mat 6612 N Wayne Rd.
- Leon's Family Restaurant 303 S Wayne Rd.
- Leo's Coney Island 36595 Warren Rd.
- Marathon Gas 6690 N Newburgh Rd.
- Marathon Gas 31425 Ann Arbor Trl
- Marathon Gas 2646 S Wayne Rd.
- Marathon Gas 35512 Michigan Ave, Wayne
- Marathon Gas 37401 Joy Rd.
- Marathon Gas 4530 S Wayne Rd.
- Marathon Gas 2910 Venoy Rd.
- Marathon Gas 32919 Cherry Hill Rd.
- Marathon Gas Station 29424 Ann Arbor Trl
- Marathon Gas Station 37368 Ford Rd.
- Marco's Party 7977 N Wayne Rd.
- Meijer Gas Station 37201 Warren Rd.
- Michigan Market 39375 Michigan Ave.
- Mobil Gas 38353 Ford Rd.
- Mobil Gas 35336 Ford Rd.
- Mobil Gas 1810 S Wayne Rd.

- Mobil Gas 2746 S Newburgh Rd.
- Mobil Gas 125 S Merriman Rd.
- Mobil Gas 32719 Michigan Ave.
- Mr Mike's Grill 6047 N Wayne Rd.
- Neil's Party Store 5782 N Newburgh Rd.
- Norman's Market 1546 S Wayne Rd.
- One Stop Party 33329 Ford Rd.
- Palace Market 1942 S Venoy Rd.
- Ram's Horn 7020 N Wayne Rd.
- Red Apple Restaurant 32711 Michigan Ave.
- Regal Liquor 1520 S Merriman Rd.
- Rent A Center 6503 N Wayne Rd.
- Rite Aid Pharmacy 36113 E Michigan Ave.
- Rite Aid Pharmacy 35363 Ford Rd.
- Robertson's Market 2329 S Venoy Rd.
- Rocky's Coney Island 1622 S Wayne Rd.
- S.N.M. Market 34243 Palmer Rd.
- Sam's Quick Store 30903 Ann Arbor Trl
- Sav- A- Lot 8240 N Merriman Rd.
- Sav- A- Lot 34630 E Michigan Ave.
- Sav-On Drugs 190 S Wayne Rd.
- Scobby's Coney Island 5006 S Wayne Rd.
- Scottie's Party Store 35812 Ford Rd.
- Shell 31425 Ann Arbor Trl
- Skyline Fuel - Sunoco 31215 Warren Rd.
- Speedway Gas 37345 Cherry Hill Rd.
- Speedway Gas 110 S Wayne Rd.
- Speedway Gas 5795 S Merriman Rd.
- Sunoco 7730 N Wayne Rd.
- Sunoco 1716 S Merriman Rd.
- Sunoco 32843 Ford Rd.
- Taylor Tower 36500 Marquette St.
- Uncle Joe's Market 5750 S Merriman Rd.
- Van Born Diesel 5820 Middlebelt Rd.
- Village Coney 449 S Wayne Rd.
- Vintage Market 29501 Ann Arbor Trl
- Wayne BP Gas 7139 N Wayne Rd.
- Wayne Med-Mart 417 S Wayne Rd.
- Wayne Restaurant and Coney 3709 Metro Mall St, Wayne
- West Town Market 4095 Howe Rd, Wayne
- Westland Party Store 34745 Warren Rd.
- Westland Family Dining 35560 Ford Rd.
- Westland Maple Rx 34500 Ford Rd.

### WESTLAND OBSERVER

- 7-Eleven 33920 Van Born
- 7-Eleven 8791 N Wayne Rd.
- 7-Eleven 29331 Warren Rd, Garden City
- 7-Eleven 31385 Joy Rd.
- 7-Eleven 9479 Newburgh Rd, Livonia
- 7-Eleven 126 N Hix Rd.
- 7-Eleven 970 S Wayne Rd.
- 7-Eleven 1826 S Merriman Rd.
- 7-Eleven 31403 Michigan Ave, Wayne
- 7-Eleven 32324 Annapolis St.
- 7-Eleven 160 S Venoy Rd.
- A&M Petro 8405 N Inkster Rd.
- Admiral Gas 542 N Wayne Rd.
- Al's Beverage Warehouse 1962 S Venoy Rd.
- Al's Friendly Store 4568 Howe Rd, Wayne
- American Family Restaurant 501 S Wayne Rd.

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