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USA WEEKEND**



**Shuh  
advances**

Allen "Buddy" Shuh, the connections pastor at Westland's Journey Community Church, made it past week 12 of NBC's The Biggest Loser, posting as 6-pound weight loss.

Shuh joined seven other contestants in the popular weight loss reality show in Hawaii for week 12 of the show. Still not medically cleared to compete in the challenge because of a stress fracture, Shuh again sat out the challenge, but still managed to get down to 275 pounds or 2.24 percent of his body weight, helping him avoid elimination.

The Wayne resident had started the show in January weighing 403 pounds.

**Share  
memory of  
grandma**

On May 3, *Hometown Life Woman*, a special section delivered monthly to Observer subscribers, will publish "A Salute To Women." As part of this edition, we invite readers to add your words and photos to this special edition.

Tell us about a special memory you have of your grandmother (in 50 words or less, if possible). Whether you call her bubbe, nana, nona, babcia, or just plain grandma, share your favorite memory and photograph (jpeg format attached to the e-mail). E-mail your photo and special memory to Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

Be sure to include your first and last name and identify your grandmother with a first and last name, too. Be sure to tell us where you live. Don't forget to provide a day-time phone number where you can be reached. Then look for your photo and/or memory in the May edition of *Hometown Life Woman*. Deadline to submit memories and photos is Friday, April 13.

**WESTLAND  
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Customer Trudy Engel (left), a Westland resident, makes a purchase from Joanne Garland, also of Westland, during the Friendship Center indoor garage sale.

**Knick knacks to homemade goods:  
Variety galore at indoor garage sale**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

There were knick-knacks, books, records, antiques and kitchen items — all the types of things you'd expect at a garage sale — as the Friendship Center hosted a two-day sale Thursday and Friday.

"We've got odds and ends from around the house that you think other people might want," said Westland resident Trudy Engel, who was sharing a table with her friend, Shirley Montville. "People were waiting outside to get in."

The \$10 fee for an eight-foot table was very reasonable, said Engel, manning a table with puzzles, purses, books, some linens and Montville's costume jewelry — Engel had sold most of her jewelry. And Engel, at least, planned to take nothing back home.



Records, books, clothing, furniture and all sorts of household items were offered at the Friendship Center indoor garage sale.

"Whatever I don't sell I will take to the Salvation Army or the Disabled Veterans. My husband was a veteran, so I take things there," said Engel. "I'm not taking anything home."

Instead of taking unsold items home, Montville said she would

take her items to a friend who will be holding a garage sale.

At her table, Dorothy Disbrow was offering a large stained glass piece of a cat keeping an eye on mouse hole, a table she had decorated and a

Please see SALE, A2

**New W-W policies address  
bullying, election changes**

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

How Wayne-Westland deals with bullying issues and informing parents about ineffective teachers are among the policies that have been changed to accommodate new state laws. The board approved the changes last week, following a public hearing, which drew just one comment on the new anti-bullying policy.

Katelyn Jacobi, a junior at John Glenn High School and pres-

ident of the True Colors student organization, thanked the board for the new bullying policy mandated by the passage of Matt's Safe School Act.

"This has been an issue near and dear to our hearts," she said. "Many think bullying is a right of passage, but I have witnessed it and have been of victim of bullying. I know what can be said and done can be hurtful. We have been fighting for a change so school can be safe for all students."

Under the new policy, prohibits "bullying of any district students at school, regardless of the motive of the perpetrator," as well as "retaliation or false accusation against a target of bullying, a witness or another person with reliable information about an act of bullying at school."

"The district has always had a policy in place," said Deputy Superintendent Paul Salah. "The district has been extremely proactive. Any issue of

Please see POLICIES, A2

**Westland  
library to  
cut staff  
and hours**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

There will be a significant cut in hours and staffing at Westland's William P. Faust Public Library due to continuing drops in property tax revenues.

That means plans under discussion about an addition to the building are on hold as the Library Board looks ahead to a possible request for millage on the Aug. 7 primary ballot.

The budget adopted by the Library Board, which still needs to be approved by the council, would reduce the number of hours the library is open from the current 69 hours per week to 40 hours. The \$1.6 million budget calls for layoff

of nine of the current 36 employees.

"This is mostly due to the fact that we have had a significant drop in property values," said Library Board President Mark Neal. "We looked at what we had actually spent (to date) and cut \$125,000 from the budget, but there is still a shortfall. We left no stone unturned. We talked about voluntary layoffs, more part-time people and benefit reductions. Layoffs were unavoidable."

The current fiscal year spending was increased when three staff members returned to work as part of efforts to settle an unfair labor practice complaint before the Michigan Employment

Please see LIBRARY, A2

**Library board settles  
dispute with 3 employees**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Back wages of \$110,000 will be paid to three employees of the William P. Faust Library to settle an unfair labor practice charge stemming from efforts to unionize library staff.

Part of the settlement, which the Library Board was scheduled to approve at a special meeting Saturday, is that employees would have an election within 45 days to decide whether to form an American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees bargaining unit. The settlement was reached Monday during a mediation session at the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

"We're very, very pleased and absolutely glad it's over with. We're relieved that we don't have to wonder what the settlement will be — it could have been disastrous," said Library Board President Mark Neal. "Now we are just looking forward for the

library. It was surprising that we were able to settle Monday. Everyone worked together. We're really happy about this."

For a comparison, during the 2010-11 fiscal year the Library Board received council approval to use \$100,000 from their fund balance to help cover legal fees related to the ongoing MERC case. Those reserve funds weren't actually spent, however, but other budget cuts were enacted to make money available for the legal fees.

The dispute stems from 2009 when librarians Deborah Cooper and Lisa Hausman, along with maintenance worker Edward Rybski, charged that they were discharged because of protected union activity. All three returned to work for the library within recent months following Collins' hiring as director and a nearly complete turnover in Library Board members.

"The three employees will be paid differing

Please see SETTLE, A2

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## LIBRARY

Continued from page A1

Relations Commission. With the expenses related to the addition of the three employees, Neal said the library had an approximately \$300,000 shortfall. The library is projected to have a \$1.1 million fund balance to start the fiscal year July 1.

As with most organizations, Neal said the bulk of the library operating budget - \$983,000 for 2012-13 - will be spent on personnel costs. The result is staffing cuts required to pare down library spending which also meant reduced hours the library could be open, he said.

"We couldn't lay off

people at 60-plus hours (open), 55 hours or whatever. This is the only way to get here," said Neal.

The plans call for the library to be open five days a week with the closed days expected to be Sunday and Monday. The hours of operation and days would be set up to allow everyone an opportunity to use the facilities, said Library Director Sheila Collins.

"We would stagger the hours so that two days were would be open 8 or 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and noon to 9 p.m. others," said Collins. "That way there are some evening and morning hours along with one weekend day."

That means some programs, such as the Summer Concert Series, aren't funded past the July 1 start of the fiscal

year. Collins said many programs, such as the Job Seeker workshops, will be maintained.

City auditors Plan-te Moran are looking at the library's revenues and projected revenues to prepare a recommendations for the Library Board on the amount of millage that would be needed to fund library operations going forward. A 5 percent revenue drop is projected for 2013-14 with flat revenues the following two years.

"As of July 1 when the budget kicks in, the budget is balanced, we hope people will support the library," said Neal. "The library is very fiscally responsible."

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## SALE

Continued from page A1

wooden gossip bench. "I started doing stained glass as a hobby when at the ripe old age of 40 I went back to high school," said Disbrow, who was getting help from her sister, Kathy Knecht, who came from Keego Harbor for the sale.

Disbrow was taking photos at the sale and hawking some of her more unusual items. She had to explain the gossip bench — it's kind of like a small end table with a seat. Back in the day before cordless phones, the hard-wired telephone sat on the table and the caller sat on the seat while talking. Most even had a little shelf to hold a telephone directory and address book.

And Disbrow also had a telephone for sale. It was an upright piano with the receiver sitting on the top. The keys served as the dial and made musical notes when dialed.

"I never saw another one like it," she said. Wayne resident Lillian Halaberda had made all of the items she was selling — jellies, jams, pickles, pickled beets, relishes and homemade breads.

"We have a grapevine in the backyard. I started out making grape jelly and graduated to oth-



Tessie Parsons of Westland looks over her wares at the Friendship Center indoor garage sale.

er things," said Halaberda, who also sells her homemade goods at local church sales, including St. Damian in Westland. "My biggest seller is orange cranberry bread."

Kathy Mahoney was minding a sale table for her friend, Marlene Manke, who works at the Friendship Center. "She's cleaning out her closet, she inherited a house," said Mahoney, who was mostly passing out hard candies to attract customers. Her table had a small pet carrier, a Foot Fixer foot bath and a couple of

lamps. Westland resident Larry Clark was carrying some banana bread he bought from Halaberda as he walked around the garage sale.

"I ride my bicycle around the neighborhood all summer, I check out the garage sales. It's a fun thing to do when you retire. You meet new people," said Clark. "And I like coming to the Friendship Center. It's a fun place."

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## POLICIES

Continued from page A1

bullying is taken seriously and investigated completely."

According to Salah, the new policy includes all those elements to bring the district into compliance with the new law.

"We made sure we covered the bases," he told the board.

While the new policy "is fine," board Vice-President John Goci said he believes "it needs more enforcement."

"The enforcement is from administrative intervention to expulsion, we have to make sure the district has the latitude to make a decision," Salah said.

The district was required to hold a public hearing on the new anti-bullying policy and send it to the Michigan Department of Education by June.

### Election changes

Also changed to reflect a new state law is when the school board meets for its organizational meeting.

**"The enforcement is from administrative intervention to expulsion, we have to make sure the district has the latitude to make a decision."**

PAUL SALAH,  
deputy superintendent

Wayne-Westland has held school elections every year in the spring - first June and then May, and the board at its first meeting in July would elect officers. However, with a new state law requiring school elections to be held in the November general election in even numbered years, the board is shifting its organization meeting to January.

Also added to the policy was the use of the district e-mail as another way of notifying board members of special meetings.

"We post the meetings and times on our website and special meetings as well, we live in technological society, it only makes sense to include e-mail," said Salah.

"And each board member has a district e-mail, added board President

Carol Middel.

The policy changes also include the evaluation of the superintendent and staff and the notification of parents that their students have a teacher rated as ineffective.

According to Salah, the district has been preparing for the changes for two years and a new teacher evaluation is being rolled out this year. The new staff evaluations reflect changes in the state tenure act. In the case of notifying parents, Salah said that if a teacher has been rated as ineffective on their two most recent annual year-end evaluations, parents will be notified.

Parents will be notified in writing by no later than July 15 prior to the start of the school year that their student would be assigned to the teacher as well as the identity of the teacher.

While the new policy was approved this month, enforcement of that policy won't take effect until July 1, 2015, Salah added.

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## SETTLE

Continued from page A1

amounts based on unemployment they received and the amount of work they did," said Neal.

The unfair labor practice also included allegations that then-Library Director Cheryl Napsa engaged in anti-union activities, including sending letters to employees' homes attempting to coerce them into voting against union representation. The letters told employees they would lose income, benefits and have negative changes in working conditions, if they unionized.

A representative for AFSCME Council 25, which mounted the orga-

nizing effort and filed the unfair labor practice charge on behalf of the employees, couldn't be reached for comment.

At a time when the library, like other entities funded largely through property taxes, has been faced with declining revenues the potential expenses of the MERC litigation was an additional burden.

As part of the 2012-13 fiscal year budget adopted by the Library Board, nine library employees will be laid off and library hours will be reduced. Although employees haven't yet voted on unionization and there is no contract in place, Neal said the layoffs would be handled following the AFSCME procedures.

"The layoffs will be strictly by seniority within job classifications - the employees have been at-will employees," said Neal. "AFSCME has bumping language, so if someone met the criteria, the educational requirements and can do the job, they could bump (into a lower classification job)."

The Library Board is looking at placing a millage request before voters on the Aug. 7 primary ballot in hopes of fully funding the library going forward.

"I do believe that the public will support us. I hope that means those laid off will be out of work for a short time," said Neal.

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### CITY OF WESTLAND

#### Request for Proposals

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185, on or before April 3, 2012 @ 11:00 AM local time at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

#### Golf Course Maintenance

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204 or online @ www.cityofwestland.com. Questions may be directed to Bob Kosowski, Parks and Recreation Director at (734) 467-3255. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

William Gabriel  
City Controller

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## W-W seniors pack 'em for roundup

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Kindergarten Roundup in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools may be Tuesday, April 3, but for Jackie Wrybowski, preparation began months ago.

A secretary in the curriculum department, planning out the parent folders and ordering the T-shirts, backpacks and supplies for the annual roundup is "her baby."

"I've done it so long, I know when to start working on it. I start right after Christmas," Wrybowski said. "I do all the ordering."

With a budget of \$15,000, Wrybowski orders the backpacks and the crayons, glue sticks, books and activities to help get them ready for their first day of school and T-shirts for youngsters who participate in the roundup. Wrybowski made sure there were enough copies of the paperwork for folders that will be given to parents.

"My biggest fear is I'll get the year wrong on the T-shirts," she said, while pitching in to help seniors at the Dyer Center assemble the backpacks that will be delivered to the district's elementary schools. "This is the class of 2024."

Members of the seniors club at the Dyer Center volunteer to help with the backpack stuffing. A crowd of more than 20 seniors formed an assembly line at the center Thursday morning, putting eight items in the backpack before

### WHAT'S NEEDED

Parents who attend the Wayne-Westland's Kindergarten Roundup 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, April 3, will need to bring a few things with them to register their child.

In addition to bringing their child, who'll get to tour the school, meet the teachers and visit the classrooms, parents will need to have:

- Their child's original birth certificate.
- An up-to-date record of the child's immunizations.
- Proof of residency, including a driver's license, a signed lease or mortgage document and two pieces of business mail that are not more than 30 days old. Parents can find out the school their child will attend by logging on to the district's website at [www.wwcsd.net](http://www.wwcsd.net) and clicking on the Locate Your School icon or by calling (734) 419-2083. For parents who can't make it to the roundup, the school offices will be open 6-7 p.m. that evening. They can also contact the school to make an appointment to register at their convenience.

"quality control" did a last check and zipped them closed.

"I like volunteering, I like helping," backpacker newbie Pat Gregaine of Westland said. "I've been volunteering for a long time. The school



Phil Lewis of Wayne, Nick Barduk of Westland and Richard Schuck of Westland unzip backpacks that will be with supplies and given to youngsters at the Kindergarten Roundup.



Ileen Maas of Westland reads over one of the forms that were put in folders to give to parents at the roundup.

system sponsors us and this is one way we can give back."

Close to 1,200 backpacks were filled and placed in bags to be delivered to the district's 11 elementary schools for the roundup that will be held 9-10 a.m.

Preparations began Wednesday with seniors folding folders to hold registration forms,



Jenny Johnson was among school district employees who helped check the backpacks before they were put in bags to delivered to Wayne-Westland's 11 elementary schools.

emergency cards and information about the Champions before and after school program. The seniors also placed address labels on the district's Connections newsletter that contained information about the roundup.

"I think this makes the seniors feel worthwhile, that they have something to offer," center director Mary Browe said. "There's camaraderie and socialization for them. Some people never volunteer, but those who do volunteer feel better about themselves and the return is wonderful."

"I've never had a hard time getting volunteers, they're all wonderful," she added.

A majority of the backpacks will be given out at the roundup, but some will be available for children who are registered for school during the summer, according to Aaron Baughman.

"We run out every year," he said. "It's fantastic that the seniors have been so supportive of what we ask them to do. You don't see a lot of districts with seniors who are so supportive and they love it."

With a smaller than

usual crowd and more than half of the volunteers new, the "quality control" table found themselves falling behind checking the backpacks and zipping them closed, a problem Browe addressed by starting another table.

"Quality control is going to lose their job. They're getting backed up and you know what happens when you're working on an assembly line," Browe said.

The additional help got the backpacks done in just under two hours, although the assembly line for the folders had longer to go.

"I've been doing this for at least eight years, and this is the first time we've had a wall of bags in front of us," Ed Turner said. "I've been doing this every since they started."

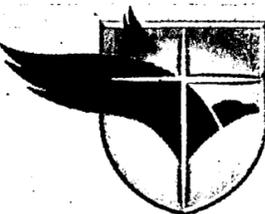
According to Wrybowski, the instruction department handled the backpacking the first few years.

"We divvied it up among instruction, but after a few years, we decided we needed help," she said.

Phil Lewis of Wayne is glad they decided to ask the seniors to help. This is his second year helping. Feeling under the weather with a hip and joint disease, he sat down to set out the bags for seniors to fill.

"I was a walker last year," he said. "I like doing this to help the club, but I like the camaraderie, too."

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# State House gets behind I-275 plan

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

In yet another boost to Canton's efforts to fix the I-275/Ford Road interchange, the state House voted Tuesday to support a resolution calling on the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve funding for the project.

The vote came mere days after Canton Township and the Michigan Department of Transportation submitted to federal officials an \$18 million request for grant dollars to reshape the interchange — a project officials say would create nearly 300 jobs, ease traffic congestion, reduce accidents and improve a key economic corridor of western Wayne County.

"We now have support of the full Michigan Legislature," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. The House vote came

after state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, introduced a resolution already approved by the state Senate to support efforts to secure federal dollars through a program called TIGER, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery. The measure has received bipartisan support.

## Local support

Meanwhile, LaJoy and other officials continue to push for a grassroots lobbying effort for the funding. They have asked local motorists fed with up Ford Road traffic congestion to go to [www.tiger4canton.com](http://www.tiger4canton.com) to find ways they can lobby federal officials to approve the grant.

Already, the project has received support from Westland, Livonia, Wayne and the townships of Van Buren, Plymouth and Northville. Other enti-

ties favoring the effort include MDOT, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and retail giant IKEA, among others.

"I don't know of anything else we could possibly do to make this happen," LaJoy said Friday.

Canton has been rejected three times for a TIGER grant, but officials are hoping the fourth time will be the charm. Municipal Services Director Tim Faas has said Canton expects to receive word of the fourth-round TIGER grant by June.

## Lots of reasons

One interchange fix suggests installing two new ramps, or slips, from the southbound I-275 exit ramp at Ford to allow motorists to access Hagerly in either direction without traveling on Ford. It also calls for a

northbound service drive along the east side of the interstate, from Cherry Hill to north of Ford Road.

The TIGER application cites numerous reasons for the project, aside from traffic safety. Officials say the project would:

- Improve the flow of goods in an area strategically located between Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports, a "major distribution hub for a variety of national and international trucking and logistics companies" such as Canton-based W.F. Whelan.
- Boost industrial and commercial property values.

- Allow a quicker response by first responders to get to accident scenes along I-275 and Ford Road.

[dcclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dcclem@hometownlife.com)  
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Jim Gendrun (left) had the winning ticket in the Westland Rotary raffle. Club president Mary Vellardita presents him with suite tickets for ten people at attend the March 30 Detroit Red Wings hockey game.

## Westland Rotary raises \$14,000 with its Red Wings suite raffle

Talk about a win-win. The Westland Rotary Club now has more than \$14,000 for their charitable projects and a local business gets to take nine friends to a suite at Joe Louis Arena to watch the Detroit Red Wings.

Jim Gendrun and Marty Eisenstein, co-owners of National Block in Westland, purchased two of the Red Wings raffle tickets. As it turns out, Gendrun had the winning ticket which was drawn Thursday at the weekly Rotary luncheon held at Joy Manor.

"This fund-raiser was way more successful than

we ever imagined. It was the combined effort from our club members, supporting businesses, government officials, citizens, other Rotary clubs, and the publicity we received from the *Westland Observer* that enabled us to far surpass our \$10,000 goal," said Rotary President Mary Vellardita.

Club members alone had raised \$10,000 through selling the \$10 raffle tickets. The suite, which also includes food and beverages, was donated by Lou Tavormina, owner of Tavormina's Pizza, who drew the winning ticket.

## Planet Fitness to donate sign-up fees to breast cancer research

For the third straight year, Planet Fitness, with locations in Canton, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Southfield, Troy and Westland, will hold a special springtime promotion to raise money for The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

For every new member who signs up at a Planet Fitness gym from March 26 through April 4th, a \$10 donation will be made to the foundation. More than 320 Plan-

et Fitness gyms across the country will participate in the nine-day sale. Memberships will cost just \$10 down, and then \$10 a month.

In the past two years, Planet Fitness gyms

nationwide have donated \$583,200 to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation through the springtime promotion.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation is an independent not-for-

profit organization committed to funding scientific research to achieve prevention and a cure for breast cancer.

For more information, visit [www.planetfitness.com](http://www.planetfitness.com).

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- "I never knew eating healthy tasted this good or I would have done it years ago"
- "I have more energy and feel great"
- Husband and wife team together lost 200 pounds.



If you are dealing with a weight problem I sincerely want to help you get your life back. Are you frustrated with trying so many gimmicks and still dealing with weight issues? Are you sick of the hype and false hope? Have you given up on losing weight? If you are serious about losing your weight once and for all, then call to reserve your seat right now. This one hour seminar could be the beginning of a new life for you. Don't miss it!

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## AROUND WESTLAND

## Doo Wop Dinner

Angelo Brothers Banquet Hall is hosting a Doo Wop Dinner, featuring The WhatAbouts, Friday, April 27.

Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by the show 7:30-9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and include pizza, salad, rolls and soft drink or coffee. A cash bar will be available.

For reservations, call (734) 216-9451 or Kelly at (734) 377-1745. Angelo Brothers is at 33550 Ford Road, Westland.

## Class reunion

Wayne Memorial High School class of 1957 is looking for classmates for its 55th class reunion which will be held May 19.

For more information, contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com or Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

## Free Zumba

Put on your comfortable clothes, grab a water bottle and head over to the Bailey Recreation Center where Westland Youth Assistance is offering free Zumba fitness classes 6-7 p.m. April 13 and April 20.

Space is limited. To reserve a spot call (734) 467-7904.

The Bailey Center is at 36651 Ford, behind Westland City Hall.

## Dems meeting

The Westland Democratic Club will explore re-districting and how it affects Westland residents at a special meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 27.

While the most-discussed change is with respect to U.S. Congressional districts, many other districts (State Senate, State House, County Commission) are also

changing. The meeting will feature a speaker from the Michigan Democratic Party who will explain the changes.

In addition, Democratic primary candidates in these new districts have been invited to attend.

Westland Democratic Club meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, south of Palmer and east of Venoy Road, in Westland.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call club president Nan Melke at (734) 674-7327.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church will hold an Easter egg hunt 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 31, at the church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road.

The hunt will be held rain or shine and include the egg hunt, creative activities, a healthy snack and service project.

All are welcome to attend. Free will donation will be appreciated.

## Healing Hearts

Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Individuals share ideas, resources and experiences that are helpful to one another.

Meetings are 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Donations only.

For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237, by e-mail at bonnie@hope4healinghearts.com or visit www.hope4healinghearts.com.

## Wayne High alum recognized as a Champion of Children

A Wayne Memorial High School alumnus and benefactor of the school's Champions program has been awarded the Regional Champion for Children Award by Region 9 of the Michigan Association of School Administrators.

Richard D. Helppie received the award Tuesday at the Spring Conference of the Tri-County Alliance.

The Regional Champion for Children Award is presented by each of the 10 regions in the MASA organization to individuals who have shown tremendous effort and dedication to enriching the lives of children and the community as a whole.

Helppie is being recognized for his vision, passion and generosity in facilitating the development of the Wayne Memorial's Champions Program. According to Greg Baracy, Wayne-Westland school superintendent who nominated Helppie for the award, the program has changed the building culture, inspired students and has provided hope, confidence and success for hundreds of students.

"Mr. Helppie is an alumnus of Wayne Memorial High School, a strong supporter of his community and a true philanthropist," Baracy wrote in his nomination. "He has never forgotten from whence he came and is a believer of 'paying it forward' and helping all students reach their potential and goals through an appropriate support system."

Helppie is a very successful venture capitalist. He has founded several successful compa-



PHOTO BY ANDREW POTTER

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy (right) joins Richard Helppie in showing off the Regional Champion for Children Award he received from Region 9 of the Michigan Association of School Administrators.

nies, including Superior Consultant Company, in which he grew the company from one person to more 1,400 employees.

"Mr. Helppie is a humble man and doesn't like a lot of fanfare," Baracy said. "However, he has a fundamental belief that there are many students in school today that were like him. He did not graduate at the top of his class, but instead took an unorthodox approach to his success because of his interest in computers and some extra encouragement from an educator in his high school days. Further, he believes that a 'one size' doesn't fit all students. Every student has an unleashed, creative and brilliant intrinsic ability to become successful."

Under Helppie's guidance, the Champions Program is enhancing the

education experiences of students. In many cases the program is changing the lives of students on a daily basis. Helppie challenged the staff members at Wayne Memorial to develop a meaningful mentoring program that has centered on student success.

The Champion Program bring together students and staff members who "champion" students to success. Champions are not only teachers, but secretaries, custodians, paraprofessional staff, other support staff, central office staff and the superintendent.

In order to participate in the program, students must set a goal of at least 15 percent increase in their cumulative semester grade point average or a significant increase in attendance and positive behavior. The stu-

dent's mentor or "champion" encourages them and provides support over the course of the entire semester.

When students meet their goals, they receive a \$200 award stipend and their name is engraved on a huge trophy. In addition, they and their families are invited to join their mentors at the champion banquet held at the end of the semester. The entire program is funded through the support of Helppie and the Helppie Family Foundation.

Helppie attends every champion banquet where students share stories about their relationships with their champions and their journeys to success. It is not uncommon to hear students tell Mr. Helppie, "without this program and my champion, I may not have graduated high school ... I may not be alive today."

Success stories include a student who raised his grade point average from a 1.0 to 3.5 over the course of one semester, a student with high absenteeism who now attends regularly and is improving his GPA, and a student who had been removed from his home because of neglect and violence but found new hope through the Champions program.

MASA is a statewide association that represents the superintendents and first-line administrators of Michigan's local and intermediate school districts. The mission of MASA is to develop leadership and unity within its membership to achieve the continuous improvement of public education in Michigan.

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Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

www.ssdfighter.com

# Covered in 'KISS': Fan retools bathroom in band's honor

By Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

There are legions of followers of the 1970s-era glam rock-and-roll band KISS.

And then there is Rick Hoffman.

You can call Hoffman, a longtime Canton resident, a fan, but that would be an understatement at best. He is, in his very own words, "the number one KISS fan in the world."

In fact, Hoffman is such a KISS enthusiast that he has devoted a room in his house to the band. He decorated and customized the room: a half-bath on the first floor of his home that has become a shrine to KISS lead singer Gene Simmons and his band mates. It is a sight to behold, complete with a special-order black sink, black toilet and, of course, black light.

However, the black light is not the only light in the room. The bathroom features multiple lighting options including a red light and a regular overhead light as well as customized murals and specially designed hand-made plaques featuring busts of KISS band members.

And that is only the beginning.

### KISS logo

There is also the etched mirror with the distinctive KISS band logo, the "KISS Army" logo above the light switch and the clock resembling the cover from KISS' *Destroyer* album, not to mention Simmons's face in his classic pose — tongue out — on the back of the sliding door.

Hoffman is smitten with his creation. "The best thing about it is that it's been three



Rick Hoffman just might be the world's most ardent fan of KISS. The KISS-themed bathroom of his Canton home is pretty strong proof.

years and every time I walk in there it's still just so cool," Hoffman said. "It's the best room in the house."

As the owner and operator of Artworks by Red, a custom graphic arts and signage business that provides banners and signs for many area businesses, local schools and sports teams, Hoffman is accustomed to working in creative design.

He said he was moved to refurbish his bathroom a few years ago after visiting a KISS-themed coffee shop in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Hoffman and his wife, Gail, were visiting their son, Donnie, on leave from the military, when they hap-

pened upon the KISS Coffeehouse in a popular shopping area in Myrtle Beach. Of course, he said, they were compelled to go inside and look around.

### Buying power

"We left a few hours later, \$200 lighter with no coffee," Hoffman said. "But we sure had a lot of KISS memorabilia."

However, it was the memory of the coffee shop's bathroom, outfitted in KISS collectibles and souvenirs, that stayed with him after his return to Michigan. It was not long before he knew he wanted to replicate it in his own home.

"It was just so cool," he said.



The KISS-themed bathroom invites you to sit down and rock out.

Gail Hoffman gave the final okay for the project.

"I knew he loved it when we were in Myrtle Beach," she said. "Once we got home, I said, 'You want to do that to our bathroom, don't you?' I told him to go ahead, you only live once."

Educated at Ypsilanti's Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College in graphic arts and design, Hoffman grew up in Livonia and graduated from Bentley High School. He has lived in the Canton area for the past 18 years.

Armed with a lifelong interest in drawing, Hoffman said it took him a few weeks to re-design the bathroom and just another two weeks to finish it.

It was his artistic background coupled with his devotion to rock and roll that led him to undertake the one-of-a-kind KISS bathroom project, he said.

"I've always had an interest in graphic arts, always been good at it,"

he said. "And I've always loved KISS."

### Comfort level

Although it took a little while to get used to it, Gail said she is now completely comfortable with their redecorated bathroom, even if Gene Simmons's face is on the back of the door.

"Sometimes I walk in and shut the door and say, 'Whoa, Good Lord, Gene Simmons is right there,'" she said.

Even though she admits her musical tastes run more to a mellower, softer side, "I'm okay with it now. Some people are shocked that I let him do it, but once they go in and see it, they love it. It's very well done."

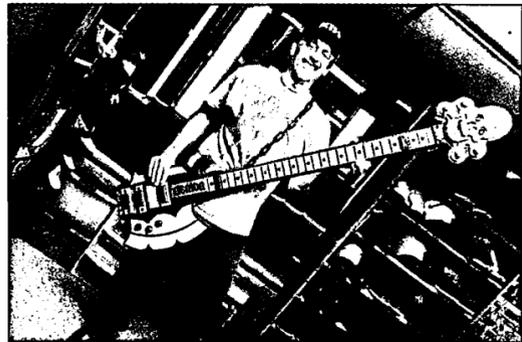
"It wouldn't have been my first choice, but if it makes him happy, I'm alright with it," she said. "If it were in our upstairs bathroom it might be another story."

Hoffman is proud his bathroom has become somewhat of a showplace.

"Everybody that has ever seen it loves it," he said.

However, there is one person to whom he would love to show the room: KISS front man Gene Simmons himself.

"Wouldn't it just be great if Gene could see it himself?" he asked.



Rick Hoffman built a large KISS bass guitar for his son.



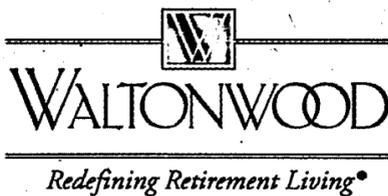
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# Daughter continues dad's legacy as volunteer for cancer patients

By Karen Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Nearly two years ago, Livonia resident Jack Walsh decided it was time to act. He had been diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer nine years prior, and he was so thankful he was still alive that he wanted to do something to give hope to others fighting cancer.

That's when he heard about Road to Recovery, a volunteer-based American Cancer Society program that transports cancer patients to and from treatment. Since Walsh, 67, couldn't always drive due to the medications he was on, he recruited his daughter Shelley Megge to drive and he became the copilot and a friend to those they took to treatment.

Walsh lost his battle to cancer on Feb. 3, but Megge, also of Livonia, plans to continue his legacy as soon as she finishes recovering from knee surgery.

"It's so worth it," she said. "It's awesome; you feel amazing. People are going through so much, and everybody's so grateful."

Megge, 43, plans to take along a letter written by her father to share with each passenger.

### 'Basically a miracle'

Megge said her father had a rare cancer. "He should have only lived six months to a year." But it wound up being 11 years. "It was basically a miracle."

A stem cell transplant



Shelley Megge said her father, Jack Walsh, was an inspiration to other cancer patients, having lived 11 years longer than doctors expected. The two drove cancer patients to their treatments as volunteers for Road to Recovery. Now Megge will pick up where her father left off.

put him in remission for five years, and then medications were able to control the cancer after it came back.

Megge said her father was so positive, many people didn't know he had cancer. "You never would have known when he was in pain; he just kept going."

In November, less than two months before he died, he went to Hawaii. "He was never bed-ridden; my dad just went and went."

His doctor at Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital had asked Walsh to write a letter to encourage other cancer patients undergoing stem cell transplants. It was that same letter that he would give to cancer patients to read as he and his daughter transported them to and from cancer treatments through Road to Recovery.

ery.

### 'Do the things you enjoy'

The letter reads, in part, "If you have cancer, I wish you the best. Don't worry too much and take one day at a time. Do the things you enjoy; it will make you feel better and take your mind off the cancer. And remember, don't sweat the small stuff." Now Megge will share

that letter with patients she transports with help from her children, Amanda, 23, a student at Eastern Michigan University; Aaron, 20, who's studying to be a paramedic; and Julia, 8, a student at Hoover Elementary. Megge said she enjoys volunteering for Road to Recovery because it is so flexible. The owner and manager of a Southfield office building, Megge can go onto their web

site and choose when she wants to drive patients so it fits within her schedule. She said some trips are just 15 minutes, some are longer. Some are only one way. Volunteers can drive as much or little as they want — even just once every six months.

"You don't have to make a big commitment; it's a little commitment, and they never pressure you," she said. She said many cancer patients have their own vehicles, but they don't feel up to driving after treatment or they aren't allowed to drive because of the pain medication they're on. They also don't want to — or can't — depend on friends and family members to take them to each treatment. "If you have to go every week for six weeks, and you miss one appointment, it messes up your treatment plan," Megge said.

Megge said it will be different driving without her dad, who did most of the talking. "Because he could relate, I leaned on him quite a bit," she said.

But she's happy to continue driving, and involve her children the way her dad involved her, in order to continue his legacy. "He wanted so much to give people hope," she said.

For more information or to volunteer for Road to Recovery, call Andrea Jones at (248) 663-3485 or visit [www.cancer.org/roadtorecoverygl](http://www.cancer.org/roadtorecoverygl)

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Happy  
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# Prez post 'dream come true' for chamber chief

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Calling it "an absolute dream come true for me," former Canton Chamber of Commerce employee Thomas Paden has been chosen as the business organization's new president.



Paden

"I can barely find the words to adequately express my enthusiasm," he said.

Even before he starts his new job April 9, Paden already has confirmed his first priority is working with organizers to ensure "a great success" for the chamber's premier fundraiser, a dinner and auction set

for Saturday, April 28, at Livonia's Burton Manor. Paden's determination and longtime dedication to the Canton chamber catapulted him to the top slot as the organization sought a successor to Tracey Rettig, a former president who resigned last November after less than a year on the job.

### Well connected

"We're really excited," chamber board Chair Kim Scartelli said Thursday, confirming Paden's selection. "He comes to us with a lot of experience with the chamber. He's familiar with our operations, and he has a ton of connections in the community."

Scartelli said Paden has the skills and ability to help the chamber, which hopes to boost its mem-

bership and find new ways to serve Canton's business community. "He's got so much experience, he can hit the ground working," she said. "The board felt strongly he was the right candidate to get us back on track in terms of where we need to be. He's seen as a very professional person, and he's well-liked."

"He's a person who can really continue to pull the chamber together and help us grow in the future," Scartelli said. "He's going to be a tremendous asset."

Paden had worked as the chamber's member relations staffer from 2009 to 2011 but, amid what some viewed as a tumultuous year for the organization, he left late last year to become busi-

ness development coordinator for the Michigan Recreation and Park Association in Lansing.

### 'Wonderful' choice

Paden's return was hailed by interim President Dianne Cojei, who held the job for a decade before she retired and was replaced during Rettig's 10-month stint. Cojei said Paden has had ties beyond the chamber including Canton Township's economic development team and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

"I think he's a wonderful choice," she said. "He's so established here. I think he comes here with a love of this community. We definitely want to move forward, and I think he's the person who can do that for

us." Paden, 27, first became involved in the chamber a decade ago when Cojei brought him in for a co-op student internship from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in the Wayne-Westland school district.

"As a high school student," Paden said, "the chamber provided me with a priceless jumpstart on my professional development, laid the foundation for me to grow into a business professional — and for that I'm forever indebted to the Canton Chamber of Commerce."

He said his position as president "is a way for me to give back to an organization that has done so much for me and the community."

Before Paden was hired

as the chamber's member relations staffer, he was employed five years with Chrysler Corp. as a quality automotive supervisor. Cojei said she will remain as an interim chamber employee to help during Paden's transition.

Paden said he is eager to work alongside chamber members and engage them to move the organization forward.

"These are exciting times for the Canton Chamber of Commerce, with an insightful board of directors and a membership that year in and year out shows their dedication to this organization and community," he said. "The future is very bright."

dclcm@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2238

## Services Monday for Norwayne resident Margaret Clos

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

A month after celebrating her 100th birthday, longtime Norwayne resident Margaret Clos has died.

Recently profiled in the *Westland Observer*, Mrs. Clos suffered a severe stroke March 17 at her Norwayne home and died on March 22. She had lived in Norwayne for 68 years, having moved into wartime housing with her husband, George.



Margaret Clos

Mrs. Clos and her family were founding members of Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Church where she coordinated catechism classes for many years. A series of gatherings in honor of her 100th birthday, the actual date of which was Feb. 24, culminated in a reception at the church last month.

"There must have been 200 people at the service. She remembered people she hadn't seen in years

and asked about their kids. She hadn't been in charge of catechism in probably 20 years. It was a nice time," said son Larry Clos, who found his mother had suffered a stroke when he arrived to take her to Mass.

During the reception at the church, Mrs. Clos had received tributes from local, county and state officials along with a letter from President Barack Obama.

"The letter from the Pope hasn't come yet," said Larry Clos.

After suffering a stroke nearly a year ago, Larry Clos said his mother had recuperated but physically had become less active — she had always been a great walker.

In her younger days, Mrs. Clos said she had been active playing golf, tennis, swimming and taking camping trips. Until her death, she still lived in her home and enjoyed visiting the Friendship Center.

"She had a long, full life — definitely," said Larry Clos.

Along with her son Larry, Mrs. Clos is survived by daughters Georgeanne Lochinski and Carol Clos-Wojey; sons Richard (Patricia), Lawrence (MaryAnn) and Stephen (Cindy); 42 grandchildren, 100 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, George, and son George, called Tom.

Visitation for Mrs. Clos will be 1-9 p.m. Monday at Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood, Westland. A rosary service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday.

Mrs. Clos will be in state 9 a.m. Tuesday at Ss. Simon & Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer, until a Mass of the Resurrection at 10 a.m. Tributes may be made at [www.uhtfh.com](http://www.uhtfh.com).

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### AROUND WESTLAND

#### Flea Market

Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church is holding a flea market 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at the church on Cherry Hill between Wayne Road and Newburgh, Westland.

Do you have things you're looking to clear out of your house? Do you have craft items you would like to sell? Do you have antiques you don't want anymore? Do you have a business such as Tupperware, Party Lite or Creative Memories that you would like to promote? This is a great opportunity to cleanup, clear out, and promote your small business. It's an outdoor event, rain or shine. Cost is \$20, non-refundable, to secure you a parking space. Food concessions will be avail-

able.

Call Sharon Garcia to sign up at [cackles55@gmail.com](mailto:cackles55@gmail.com) or (734) 637-2662.

#### American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251, meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at [www.post251.org](http://www.post251.org) or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

#### Free workshop

Westland residents at risk of losing their homes can attend a free Loan Modification and Short Sale Workshop held 6-

7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey east of Venoy.

Annette Compo of WJR Real Estate 411 and Linda Miller, an MSHDA-certified foreclosure counselor with National Faith Homebuyers, will be on hand to meet with residents one-on-one to do an overview of the foreclosure process and present them with various options for their situation.

The city of Westland is working with developers to assist residents that lose their home to foreclosure to try to remain in the same neighborhood.

To register for the workshop, call (313) 378-5418 or send an e-mail to [lindamiller@nationalfaith.org](mailto:lindamiller@nationalfaith.org).

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# Canton incidents could be linked to serial indecent exposure acts

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

A man who exposed himself by wearing sheer panty hose to a Canton hair salon and a girls clothing store may be the same man sought for at least 14 incidents of indecent exposure as far away as Chesterfield Township, authorities say.

"This guy is a traveler," Oakland County Sheriff's Office Lt. Ray White said.

His remarks came after a man wearing panty hose exposed himself three times Monday evening — twice in Utica and once in Clinton Township, White said.

A similar incident happened Feb. 15 inside the Red Head Salon in Canton's Cherry Hill Village — five months after a man exposing himself through sheer panty hose

stood outside a window of the same shop.

Red Head Salon stylist Kaithlin Fettes said she believes the suspect pictured in a photo released by Oakland County authorities is the same man who entered the Canton salon in February.

"From the physical look of the guy, I definitely think it's the same guy," she said. "To be quite honest, I was with a co-worker when he came into the salon, and I thought he was joking."

The man asked for a Brazilian wax — similar to a Rochester Hills salon incident — and stood around before leaving. Fettes then called police.

During an incident last September, a man stood outside the Red Head Salon wearing panty hose, a winter skull cap, a



jogging jacket and sneakers, witnesses told police.

One of the latest incidents occurred Monday evening at a Justice girls clothing store in Utica — just nine days after the company's Canton location reported a panty hose-wearing man

walked inside that shop. All the incidents are similar.

"We believe it could be the same guy, but we're not discounting that it could be a different guy," Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

The suspect, described

as 50-60 years old, entered the Canton-based Justice store on Ford west of Sheldon around 7:45 p.m. March 10 wearing panty hose, a cream-colored golf hat, black glasses and a blue button-down shirt, with a fleece jacket hanging off his

Oakland County authorities have released this picture of a man suspected in a series of indecent exposure incidents, including several in Canton.

shoulder.

Witnesses inside the Justice store said he hummed as he walked around exposing himself through the panty hose.

Authorities have said anyone witnessing a similar incident should immediately call their local law-enforcement agency. Moreover, anyone who has information about a suspect may provide an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers of Michigan by calling (800) SPEAK-UP (773-2587).

White said the suspect often appears to enter stores and salons near closing time. Last week, he walked into a Rochester Hills salon and asked for a Brazilian wax before as the shop was preparing to close.

dclcm@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2238

## 2010 stats show vehicle thefts continue to decline

The director of H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts) is happy to see the 2010 auto theft statistics released by the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) in its annual report.

The statistics showed a decrease in the number of vehicle thefts in Michigan.

"H.E.A.T. is delighted to see a statewide decline in the number of overall vehicle thefts for the fourth consecutive year," said Terri Miller, director of H.E.A.T. "We do, however, want to make Michigan residents aware that while traditional auto theft rates are declining, auto theft-related crime is still on the rise in our communities. Thieves have simply branched out into other areas such as component theft and insurance fraud."

According to the report covering 2010:

- Auto thefts in Michigan in 2010 declined by 9.4 percent from 2009. In 2010, 26,875 vehicles were reported stolen in Michigan, compared to 29,647 in 2009.

- From 1986 (the year of ATPA's inception) to 2010, Michigan auto thefts dropped by 62.7 percent, compared to a decrease in auto thefts nationally of only 39.8 percent. In 2010, Michigan was ranked as the state with the sixth highest total motor vehicle thefts in the nation.

- In 2010, Wayne County topped the list of Michigan counties with the highest reported motor vehicle thefts at 16,444 (61.2 percent of total state thefts). Oakland and Macomb Counties accounted for 1,959 thefts (7.3 percent) and 1,956 thefts (7.3 percent), respectively.

- The 2000 Dodge Ram pickup truck topped Michigan's list of most stolen vehicles in 2010. Thieves' top color preferences for vehicles to steal were once again

black, followed by white and red.

- The months with the highest auto theft figures, which remained the same in 2010, were November, December and October.

- Although the city of Detroit once again saw an overall decrease in vehicle thefts, from 13,252 in 2009 to 12,563 in 2010 (-5.2 percent), it is still the highest ranking city in Michigan for auto thefts.

- Among some of Michigan's other large cities, the highest decreases in auto theft were seen in:

- 1) Harper Woods — From 348 in 2009 to 174 in 2010, a decrease of 50 percent.

- 2) Sterling Heights — From 190 in 2009 to 120 in 2010, a decrease of 36.8 percent.

- 3) Kalamazoo — From 277 in 2009 to 188 in 2010, a decrease of 32.1 percent.

- 4) Warren — From 1,056 in 2009 to 730 in 2010, a decrease of 30.9 percent.

- 5) Pontiac — From 312 in 2009 to 216 in 2010, a decrease of 30.8 percent.

- Some Michigan areas that saw increases in auto theft in 2010 included Lansing, from 209 in 2009 to 252 in 2010, an increase of 20.6 percent; Kent County, from 126 in 2009 to 146 in 2010, an increase of 15.9 percent, and Battle Creek, from 139 in 2009 to 157 in 2010, an increase of 12.9 percent.

"With the continued partnership between citizens, law enforcement, the insurance industry and agencies such as H.E.A.T. and the ATPA, we expect to see rates of auto theft continue to decline," said Miller. "Through our 24/7 toll-free tip line (1-800-242-H.E.A.T.) and website (www.1800242HEAT.com), tipsters can do their part to help protect their neighborhoods by anonymously reporting auto theft-related crimes, and may be eligible for rewards up to \$10,000 for their information."



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# Bosch lab puts auto parts through paces

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

If you buy a car today from one of the Detroit Three automakers, chances are high that a facility in Plymouth Township helped put it together.

Robert Bosch LLC, part of a worldwide company doing business in auto parts, home appliances, health-care equipment, computer software and more, has a laboratory on Haggerty Road where its car and truck components are tested: shaken and bumped, frozen and overheated, studied under a microscope and in corrosive conditions, and measured for sound waves and electromagnetic emissions.

Part of Bosch's automotive technology group, which is based in Farmington Hills, the Bosch lab tests a range of parts, including engine cooling fans, motors for window lifts and windshield wipers, backup sensors and battery sensors and circuit boards for electronic key fobs.

About 700 people work in the lab, many of them electrical, mechanical or computer engineers, and the company is moving ahead with plans for expansion.

### 'Extreme testing'

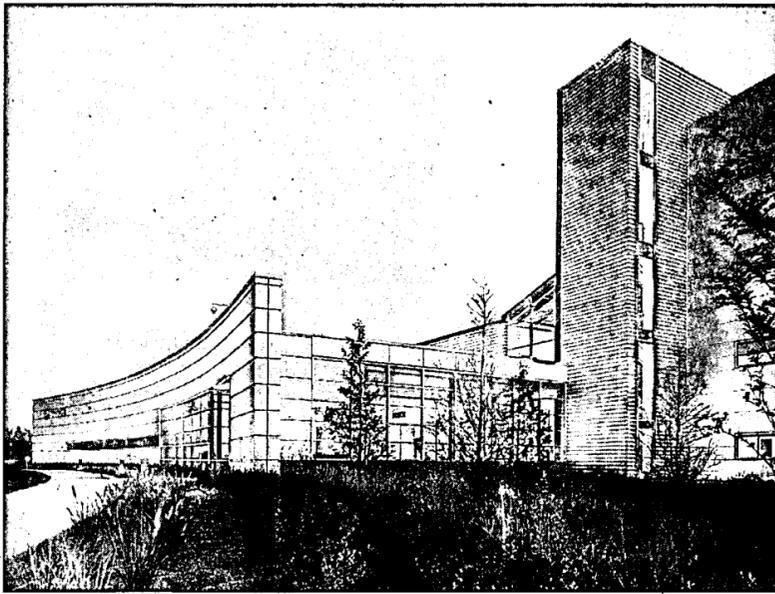
"I think most people, when they buy a car, don't realize that every component in that car has gone through extreme testing," said Simon Price, Bosch's Plymouth Township engineering manager. The testing of samples of parts, to standards set by Bosch's customers — the manufacturers that would later be using the parts in their cars and trucks — are to ensure quality, safety and durability, Price said.

The lab includes an anechoic chamber — one designed to not reflect electromagnetic emissions — for measuring the electromagnetic waves produced by various electronic components. The components must comply with federal guidelines on electromagnetism, and also must not emit waves that interfere with the operation of other electric parts in the vehicle, said Andrew Wolf, the facilities manager.

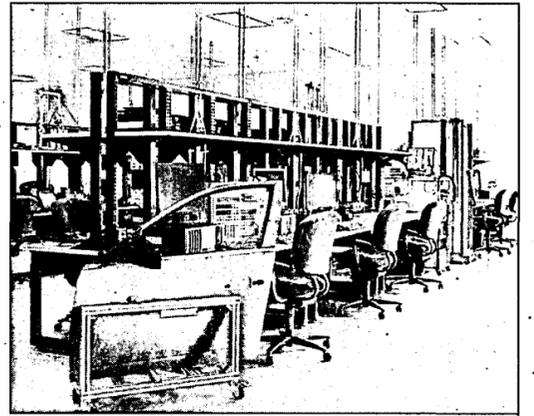
Another anechoic chamber, nonreflective of sound, is used to measure the sound produced by different moving parts. "We want only the noise coming from the component to be recorded," Price said.

### Simulating road conditions

There are also chambers to give parts a "thermal shock," to take them from the temper-



The Bosch laboratory in Plymouth Township opened in 2007 and now employs about 700 people; the company is putting up a temporary office building on the campus and considering a permanent expansion.



Bosch's lab in Plymouth Township, part of its Farmington Hills-based automotive technology group, puts a variety of the company's car and truck components, such as a window lift that might go into this car door, through extreme conditions. The lab includes a machine shop for internal use, but no auto parts are manufactured on the site.

atures in say, northern Minnesota, and then suddenly to Death Valley in the California desert, Price said. Vibration machines, one powered by electromagnetic forces and another by a more traditional hydraulic system, put parts through years of potholes and road wear to see how they hold up.

"We accelerate the testing here," Price said. "Obviously, we can't test for years."

Small parts, such as the individual components on a circuit board, are looked at with a scanning electron microscope, which can magnify many hundreds of times.

"This is how we can see what's going on in the component under extreme conditions," Price said.

Bosch opened its lab in the township in 2007 and, with the rebound of the automobile industry in the past two years, has been adding personnel there after some job cuts during the recession. Last December, the company won approval for a temporary modular building, mostly for office space, designed to accommodate about 130 employees, mostly engineers.

### Temporary quarters

The modular building, at \$3.5 million, a price that includes its removal, is under construction, and Bosch officials hope to move in this May. Much of it will be built off site, trucked in and put together. Bosch has pledged to township officials that the modular building will be taken down and removed by mid-2015.

Still in the works are plans for a permanent expansion, a \$15 million to \$20 million addition to the campus. Bosch officials

are gauging market conditions and the strength of the automotive market rebound before committing to that project; if built, it would provide space for between 300 and 400 employees and be completed by late 2014, officials say.

With its growth in the township, Bosch is also planning further involvement outside the lab to put "new and deeper roots" in the community, said Kimberly Lindsey-Feagin, manager of government

and community affairs.

### Local involvement

Employees contribute to local clothing drives and volunteer in elementary and middle school classrooms to show students some real-world applications of science, she said.

Last November, Bosch awarded \$25,000 to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for a variety of science-related projects. Fifteen grants of \$1,000 each went to individual teachers for their specific classroom projects, and \$10,000 went to the high schools at Plymouth-Canton Edu-

cational Park for the development of a freshman-level energy curriculum.

"We're looking forward to following up and seeing a lot of exciting activities the teachers have done," Lindsey-Feagin said.

The parent company, Robert Bosch GmbH, is based in Germany and has about 285,000 employees worldwide. It's North American brands include Gilmour lawn-care equipment, Skil and Dremel power tools and Purolator auto components.

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# With warm weather, it's time to ride

*"Nothing compares with the simple pleasure of a bike ride."*

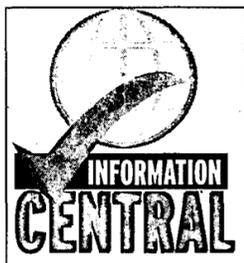
— President John F. Kennedy

As the weather is getting warmer more and more people are hopping on their bikes for rides around the neighborhood. Learning to ride a bike is one of the rites of passage for a child. As an adult, the reasons for riding a bike become more complex.

The five reasons why people ride bikes: economics — it's much cheaper than driving a car, environment, there's no gas emissions, it's fun to do, you can burn calories while you're riding around and for some people who can't afford a car, a bike is the way to go.

No matter what your reasons for cycling, there are still some safety rules to follow. The first thing to do is to make sure that you are visible to other people. Wear bright or reflective clothing (especially at night) and have reflectors on your bike. Also, remember that if you're riding on the streets you need to follow the same rules as motorists. You should always be traveling in the same direction. Don't ride against traffic. Most importantly, have fun!

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland can also help you in your bike riding pursuits. Some titles you might want to check out include Chris Carmichael's *Ultimate Ride*,



Dave Glowacz's *Urban Bikers' Tricks & Tips*, David Fiedler's *Ride Fit*, David Byrne's *Bicycle Diaries*, Chris Sidwells' *Bicycle Repair Manual*, Bob Mionski's *Bicycling & the Law* and Melanie Allwood's *Complete Do-It-Yourself Bike Book*. The library also subscribes to *Bicycling Magazine*.

You might also want to visit the following websites for more information: [www.bicyclinginfo.org](http://www.bicyclinginfo.org) and [www.m-bike.org](http://www.m-bike.org). The League of Michigan Bicyclists has copies of the very informative booklet, *What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know*, available to download. There is also one geared for children's bike safety. If you don't have a computer at home, the library has computers for the public to use.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and noon-5 p.m. You can check out the library's website anytime at [www.westlandlibrary.org](http://www.westlandlibrary.org).

#### HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

Last week! Food for Fines Continues through March. The Westland Public

Library is teaming up with Gleaners Community Food Bank during Women's History Month to save you some money on your fines and help feed a whole lot of families and people in need. Just bring any non-perishable, unexpired (June 2012 sell by date) food item to the library during the month of March and receive \$2 off existing fines (up to \$20 total per account). In 2010, we held this event and received almost 2,000 food items and forgave almost \$3,000 in fines. Let's see if we can top that this year. For a list of high-need items, please call the library (734-326-6123) or stop by any one of our service desks.

**Writers Club:** 7 p.m. March 26, age 16 and up

Have you written stories or poems that you would like others to hear, but not critique, in a casual atmosphere? Join us as Cheryl Vatcher-Martin leads the Westland Library Writer's Club. Refreshments provided.

**Zumba Dance Party:** 7:30 p.m. March 27

Join Lisa English for a Zumba® Dance Party! The Zumba® program fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing and low tread shoes. All fitness levels welcome. No dance experience necessary. Teens and adults welcome. Space is limited. Sign up for no more than two sessions at a time. Call the library or check our website at [westlandlibrary.org/events](http://westlandlibrary.org/events) for

more dates.

**Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club:** 7 p.m. March 28

Join us for a discussion of Tanith Lee's *Red as Blood*, or *Tales of the Sisters Grimm*. How would it be if Snow White were the real villain and the "wicked queen" just a sadly maligned innocent? What if awakening the Sleeping Beauty should be the mistake of a lifetime - of several lifetimes? What if the famous folk tales were retold with an eye to more horrific possibilities? Here are the world-famous tales of such as the Brothers Grimm as they might have been retold by the Sisters Grimm! Copies will be available at the Reference desk a month before the meeting.

**Yoga for Beginners:** 5:45 p.m. March 2 and 10 a.m. March 30, Adults and Teens

Join Lois Gannon of evolve studio (Ypsilanti) for beginning yoga class. Lois will bring mats for all participants unless you have one like to use. Class size is limited. Sign-up at the Reference Desk.

**Plan for the Future: How an Estate Plan Puts You in Control:** 7 p.m. March 29

Andrew Gagne, financial advisor, Ameriprise Financial Services Inc. will share with you how to care for the people you love, even after you're gone and how you can leave behind a lasting, meaningful legacy. Ronald Thompson, attorney from the Morello Law Group will be available for questions. Everyone is welcome.

Sign up online or call (734) 326-6123.

**Screenwriting:** 7 p.m. March 29 (new March date), Adults and Teens

Screenwriter and novelist Drew Tierney leads a monthly library workshop in writing scripts for the big and small screens. Sign up here or e-mail [andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org](mailto:andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org), if you're interested.

**English as a Second Language (ESL) Class:** 9:30 a.m. March 30

Get help practicing your English skills in a class room setting with a conversation emphasis taught by Diane and Richard Goers. Classes run through May 18th (no class on April 20 and 27). Students with children are welcome.

**Friday Night Movie:** 7 p.m. March 30

Join us as we continue to celebrate Academy Award Nominees and Winners through May. Tonight's movie, *My Week with Marilyn*, is about "Colin Clark, an employee of Sir Laurence Olivier's, (who) documents the tense interaction between Olivier and Marilyn Monroe during production of *The Prince and the Showgirl*." ([imdb.com](http://imdb.com)) Snacks and refreshments served. Trivia and prizes. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7 p.m. Rated R.

**Palladium Role-Playing Games Event:** March 31, Ages 12-25.

Game masters from Palladium Books of Westland will be here leading games of the fantasy/horror/sci-fi role-playing game *Rifts* and the Palladium Fantasy RPG. They'll have character sheets ready.

Bring your own dice, if possible (4-sided, 6-sided, and 20-sided). Even if you've never played before, that's OK. Sign up if you'd like to attend or just stop in and see what's going on. What is role-playing? Check out the Palladium Books website: <http://www.palladiumbooks.com>.

**Job Seekers Lab:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

**Chess Group:** 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign up required.

Computer classes are offered all year long. Contact the library to find out more. The library offers One-on-one computer classes. Call (734) 326-6123.

Information Central was compiled by Susan Hanson, technical services librarian. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org).

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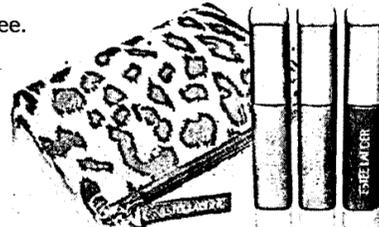
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# Commissioned advisers are beholden to someone else

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** Dear Rick: My daughter lives out of town and has decided she needs the services of a financial adviser. I've sent her some of your columns so she would have an understanding of who to hire. I understand the difference between a fee adviser and one who works on commissions. I've told her to avoid commission-based financial advisers because of the conflict of interest. What confuses me is the difference between fee-only and fee-based. I'm not sure if it's just a difference in terminology or if there really is a difference. Please explain the difference.



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

**A:** First, I do agree with you that commissioned financial advisers do have a conflict of interest. After all, their compensation comes from the products they sell. I believe that when you hire a professional, their loyalty should be to you — and only you.

The reality of the world is that whoever pays you is where your loyalty lies. With a commissioned financial adviser, his/her compensation comes directly from the products that they sell and that is where their loyalty is.

Fee-based advisers will charge you a fee and at the same time also accept commissions. Sometimes this means that they are double-dipping. They are getting paid from both the client and the product.

What some fee-based advisers do is offset the fees they charge you with any commission they receive. Their view is that handling it that way reduces any conflict of interest. I don't agree. I

believe there can, potentially, still be a conflict of interest. After all, what if the commissions are substantially more than the fee that they would charge you? In that situation you may not be paying any fee; you're just paying commissions.

A fee-only adviser receives 100 percent of his/her compensation directly from the client (I should note that my firm, Bloom Asset Management, has always been a fee-only adviser firm). Fee-only advisers do not receive any compensation from any product they may recommend to a client. In that way, there is no conflict of interest.

I believe that when you hire a professional, whether it is a doctor, lawyer or a financial adviser, you want them to be loyal to you, and only to you. That is why for the great majority of people, I recommend a fee-only adviser.

Although the industry is changing and more advisers are becoming fee-only advisers, there are still a majority of financial advisers that work on commission. I believe that so many of those advisers are really not advisers but rather, financial salespeople.

There is nothing wrong with salespeople, however, I do believe they create a problem in the financial world. My other problem with commission salespeople is that not only does their compensation come from buying and selling products, but also many times they are compensated for doing nothing.

Many different types of investment products have what are known as trailers. Trailers pay a financial salesperson an ongoing fee for as long as the investor retains the product. In theory, the reason why they are compensated that way is so they can service the client for as long

as they hold that product.

However, reality is somewhat different. In many situations, the salesperson does nothing. You are paying them high fees and getting nothing in return. What also bugs me about commissions is that in many situations clients do not know what fees they are paying. When fees are undisclosed, they are generally higher than someone should be paying.

In addition, why should someone pay fees when they're not getting anything in return? Always remember, high fees equal low returns. That is why I'm always suspicious when fees are not readily disclosed.

Sometimes it is not as easy to hire a fee-only adviser because there are not as many. As an alternative, if your daughter cannot find a fee-only adviser for her investment needs, she can consider going to a branch of Fidelity, TD Ameritrade or Schwab. They offer a variety of fee-only services. All three companies will recommend a variety of no-load (commission-free) investments.

The bottom line when it comes to hiring a financial adviser is you have to feel comfortable enough to ask questions. If a financial adviser intimidates you or does not want to answer your questions, you know you're dealing with the wrong person. The most important thing is that you have trust and confidence in your financial adviser and you know that they're working for your best interest.

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 his web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

## GARDEN CLIPPINGS

### Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Livonia and Garden City Monday, March 26.

He will be at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington, Livonia 9-10 a.m., then move to Garden City for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (866) 262-7306, or by e-mail at [ofcganderson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:ofcganderson@senate.michigan.gov).

### Glass Slipper

Operation Glass Slipper is looking for donations to help girls in need attend the prom.

The group is currently accepting dresses, accessories (shoes, purses, jewelry, etc.) and any monetary donations. Donations can be dropped off 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday at Henry Ruff School, 30300 Maplewood at Henry Ruff.

For more information, contact Dee Lilla at [deelilla@yahoo.com](mailto:deelilla@yahoo.com) or at (313) 999-7769 or Michele Bosen at [kmmmbosen@aol.com](mailto:kmmmbosen@aol.com) or at (734) 578-7563.

### Pet-a-Pet

Pet-A-Pet, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic, friendly pets and their owners to visit facilities one hour a month at the Garden City Hospital Rehab. Pets must be up to date with vaccinations, proof required. Visits are at 3:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Call Mickie Hickey at (734) 522-0036 for more information or to sign up.

### Open House

Garden City Co-op Preschool is holding an open house 6-7 p.m. Monday, April 16.

Garden City Co-Op Preschool is one of the oldest cooperative preschools in Michigan. It was established in 1955 under the guidelines of the Greater Detroit Cooperative Nursery Council and the Michigan Council of Cooperative Nurseries. Their goal was to create a quality preschool envi-

ronment for their children, with direct parental involvement. The preschool offers classes for children 18 months to four years of age.

Parents can visit the school and see what it has to offer.

Garden City Co-op Preschool is at 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford, Garden City. For more information, call (734) 261-2838 or go online to [www.gardencitycoop-preschool.org](http://www.gardencitycoop-preschool.org).

### Mom2Mom Sale

Spring cleaning is here. Time to clean out your kids' closets and drawers. Don't know what to do with the things they've outgrown or never even got a chance to wear?

Sell them at the Garden City High School's Spring Mom-2Mom Sale or, come shopping at more than 75 tables to find great deals on new and gently used baby and kids clothes as well as maternity clothes, toys, shoes, games, videos/DVDs, books, bikes, strollers, cribs, swings, bouncers, etc.

The sale is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday April 21. A concession stand will be open throughout the day as well as a bake sale. Admission is only \$1; strollers welcome. All proceeds go to the GCMS PTSA. Garden City High School is located at 6500 Middlebelt Road (between Ford Road and Warren) in Garden City.

Tables are \$25 for an 8-foot table, including space for a standard size clothes rack or small shelf that you provide. For a table agreement or more information, e-mail Sheryll at [gcmom2mom-sale@hotmail.com](mailto:gcmom2mom-sale@hotmail.com) or call (734) 367-0898 and leave a message.

### Charity bowl

The Garden City Lions Club is holding a bowling benefit 6-11 p.m. Saturday May 19, at Town & Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland. The cost is \$15 per person and includes three games of 9 pin no tap, pizza, pop, raffles and shoe rental.

For more information please contact Cindy at (313) 407-0239, Larry at (734) 660-0920, Terry at (734) 686-8786 or Vicky at (734) 502-7951. Call now to reserve your team of four or come by yourself and they will team you up.

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Easter is just around the corner and a variety of egg-stras special events are being offered for children and their families. Among the events are:

**Bunny Brunch**

The Westland Civitan Club and Westland Parks and Recreation are holding their annual Bunny Brunch 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 31, at the Harris Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale, Westland.

The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children for all-you-can-eat, homemade, hot off the griddle pancakes with butter and syrup, breakfast sausage, juice, coffee, tea and milk will be served.

Besides the brunch, there will be a special visit by the Easter Bunny. Children are encouraged to make and wear an Easter Bonnet or hat and have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Parents, need to bring their own cam-

eras.

Bunny Brunch tickets are available at the Bailey Recreation Center.

**Easter Egg Scramble**

The Westland Jaycees will sponsor the 15th annual Easter Egg Scramble 1-4 p.m. March 31, at Jaycee Park, at the corner of Hunter and Wildwood in Westland.

The scramble will be broken up into age groups. It's a free event is for children age 14 and under in the Westland community.

In addition to the scramble, there will be pictures with the Easter Bunny and other activities for kids to choose from while they are waiting for their turn on the field.

"In the past we've had activities like fingerprinting, a bouncer and fire trucks for the kids to check out," said Jennifer Sroczyński, Westland Jaycees president. "I'm really excited to see what this year's commit-



FILE PHOTO

Kids from across Wayne County and southeast Michigan take part in the annual Wayne County Parks Marshmallow drop in Westland's Nankin Mills. More than 20,000 marshmallows are dropped from a helicopter to the delight of hundreds of eager children, who scrambled to collect the goodies and exchange them for a prize.

tee does to step things up."

For more information, call (734) 626-0067 or visit [www.westlandjaycees.org](http://www.westlandjaycees.org).

**Easter Delight Night**

Kids can visit the Bailey Recreation Center to make ceramic Easter ornaments and their

very own Easter Basket at an Easter Delight Night 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3.

Sponsored by D & M Art Studios and the Westland Civitan Club, the activity is for children age 3-12. The cost is \$15 per child and includes the supplies.

The Westland Civitan Club has arranged for the Easter Bunny to vis-

it briefly on his way to decorate his own eggs. Parents should bring a camera, if they would like a picture of their child with the Easter Bunny.

Pre-registration required by March 29 and can be completed at the Bailey Recreation Center. No registrations will be accepted without payment. Supplies for the projects will not be available, if a child isn't pre-register.

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

**Easter Festival**

Kirk of Our Savior will hold an Easter Festival Egg Hunt 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 31, at the church at 36660 Cherry Hill, south of Wayne Road, Westland.

There will be an Easter egg hunt, creative activities, health snack and service project. The event is open to the public and a free will donation will be accepted.

For more information, call (734) 728-1088.

**Marshmallow Drops**

Wayne County Parks and the Westland Civitan Club are sponsoring the annual Marshmal-

low Drop at 11 a.m. Friday, April 6, at the Nankin Mills area on Hines Drive, just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

Thousands of marshmallows will be dropped from a helicopter for youngsters to pick up and turn in for a prize. Regardless of how many marshmallows are collected, each child will receive one treat. There will be three separate age groups - 4 years and younger, 5-7 years and 8 years and older.

For more info, call (734) 261-1990 or visit [www.waynecountyparks.org](http://www.waynecountyparks.org)

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department will hold its 33rd annual Marshmallow Drop 10 a.m. to noon Friday, April 6, at the Anderson ballfield in Goudy Park on Howe south of Annapolis.

The first drop will be at 10 a.m. for walking toddlers to age 4 and children with a disability. The second drop will be for children age 5-7 and the third drop for child ages 8-10.

The Marshmallow Drop is being sponsored by Cross Pointe Community Church

**Bunny Breakfast**

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department will hold its Bunny Breakfast, starting at 10:45 a.m. Friday, April 6, at the Wayne Community Center, located at the corner of Howe and Annapolis.

The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice, arts and crafts and balloons. Pictures with the Easter Bunny are available for \$3 each.

The cost is \$4 for residents and \$5 for non-residents. Children age 2 and under are free. Tickets are on sale now and only 200 tickets sold for the breakfast. For more information, call the Wayne Community Center at (734) 721-7400.

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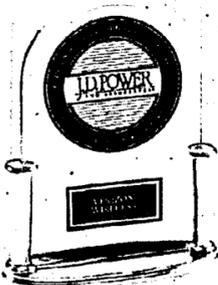
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Questions? Contact [Clare@lifechurchcanton.org](mailto:Clare@lifechurchcanton.org)

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# SPORTS

## Blazers eye title shot again

### Brennan, Capoccia add 1-2 punch

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

The time is now for the Livonia Ladywood soccer team — not yesterday, but today.

The Blazers are coming off their best season in school history after reaching the MHSAA Division 2 state championship final before losing to Plainwell, 2-1.

And with only three starters graduating and all of its the offensive firepower returning, the Blazers appear poised to make another title run.

Seniors Kelly Capoccia and Paige Brennan will lead the way for fifth-year coach Ken Shingledecker.

Capoccia, headed to Grand Valley State, finished with 15 goals and 10 assists, while Brennan added nine goals and 15 assists.

"It's hard to believe Paige and Kelly are

seniors already," Shingledecker said. "They have both worked extremely hard in the off season to make sure they accomplish their goal of winning the state championship. We will rely on those two to do a lot of our heavy lifting, but they are surrounded by a group of very talented players that will try and help them get it done."

The team's leading returning scorer is junior Dominique Sarnecky, who had 16 goals, 10 assists, while fellow junior DeYana Walker added six goals.

Shingledecker's biggest challenge will be replacing first-team All-Observer goalkeeper Madeline Reed, who posted 14 shut-outs last season before moving on to Western Michigan University.

Sophomore Whitney Bauriedl was penciled in as the starter, but was injured in a pre-season scrimmage. She is expected back, but junior Sara Even will hold the fort.

"Sara (Even) is a good

Please see **SOCCER, B3**



Senior Kelly Capoccia (18) returns as Livonia Ladywood finished runner-up in last year's MHSAA Division 2 state championship final.

LIFETOUCH SPORTS

### Atwood opts for UD-Mercy

First-team All-Observer boys soccer selection Zack Atwood of Livonia Stevenson has verbally committed to play in 2013 for the University of Detroit Mercy.

The junior has two goals in seven appearances as the Crew Soccer Academy Wolves under-15/16 Development Academy team is off to a 6-0-1 start this season.

He previously was a member of the Michigan Olympic Development Program state team and was invited to the ODP Region II camp last year.

Atwood tallied a team-high 17 goals and added 10 assists last fall at Stevenson will earn All-KLAA, All-District, All-Region and honorable mention All-State honors.

He is the first confirmed commitment to the Titans under coach Nick Deren, who is also a former player and Stevenson grad.

### Post 32 free throw contest

The second annual Sons of American Legion Post 32-Livonia Youth Free Throw Championship will be from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, April 7 at the Memorial Church of Christ gymnasium, located at 35475 Five Mile Road (between Levan and Farmington roads).

First-place and runner-up trophies will be awarded, along with door prizes, for the following age groups: 6-and-under, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12.

The cost is \$5 per participant (payable at registration) with all proceeds going to Blum's Landing, a Michigan bed and breakfast for returning wounded veterans.

Former Grand Valley State and University of Michigan player Jerret Smith will make a special appearance.

Last year's winners included Gabe Nazelli, Noah Fuller, Webster Barnes and Robert Jiga. For more information, call Charles Wagner at (248) 420-8472.

### GIRLS SOCCER

## Kick-started

### Ladywood, Pats take season openers

Emily Huddleston and Kelly Capoccia each scored twice Thursday as last year's Division 2 state runner-up Livonia Ladywood got its 2012 girls soccer season off on the right foot with a 5-1 win at Grosse Pointe North.

Huddleston scored at the five- and 20-minute marks off assists from Mary-Kate Szuma and Dominique Sarnecky to stake the Blazers to a 2-0 lead.

Capoccia then scored the first of her two at the 43-minute mark from Huddleston, followed by Erin Cronyn's goal from Capoccia in the 74th minute.

North's Emily Armbruster then scored in the 77th minute and just 25 seconds later Capoccia found the net, again from Paige Brennan.

"We struggled to find a rhythm in the first half," said Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker, whose team outshot the Norsewomen 23-6. "But we were extremely pleased with our attack in the second half. Our forwards did a nice job applying pressure to their back line and creating turnovers."

"I thought the play of our two outside backs, Liz Danger and Marissa Ozog,

was a big key to our success tonight."

Ladywood goalkeeper Sara Even made five saves, while Alysa Lombardi had six stops for North.

**FRANKLIN 2, THURSTON 0:** Despite a 90-minute weather delay because of lightning Thursday, host Livonia Franklin (1-0) launched its season with a victory over Redford Thurston (0-1).

The Patriots took a 1-0 halftime lead on junior Raven Travis' free kick with an assist going to Natalie Desautel.

Kara Dodaine's second-half header off a corner kick from Desautel gave the Patriots an insurance goal.

Goalkeeper Alexis Smith made three saves to post the shutout.

**JOHN GLENN 1, N.B. HURON 1:** On Friday, freshman Sydney Climie's unassisted goal with only 10:50 left enabled host Westland John Glenn (0-0-1) to deadlock New Boston Huron (0-0-1) in the season opener for both teams.

Kelsey Wolcott scored from Shayla Green with 6:59 left in the first half to give the visiting Chiefs a 1-0 lead.

Please see **SOCCER, B2**

### BOYS HOCKEY

## Pats' Wirgau steps down after 5 years

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

The search is on for a new varsity boys hockey coach at Livonia Franklin following the resignation Thursday of Scott Wirgau, who stepped down from his alma mater following a 7-17-1 season.

"The decision was thought over during a long period of time," Wirgau said. "I've been thinking about this the past four months. When I took the job five years ago I really went in with a five-year business plan. For the job to be done with a certain familiarity, I think you need three years to get comfortable. And then, you do need an injection of enthusiasm."

"I think after five years the enthusiasm is gone and there needs to be a new face in there, bright

and shiny, ready to do the job in a new perspective way."

Wins were hard to come by during Wirgau's five-year stretch as he posted an overall record of 26-82-8.

His two toughest seasons came in 2008-9 (0-25) and 2009-10 (2-22-1) as the Patriots struggled in the formidable Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Kensington Conference and South Division.

"I wish we as a team could have won more games," Wirgau said. "I wish that I would have been able to play. The wins and losses came with me on the bench, not on the ice. And I wish for the sake of the program, and more importantly the kids, we could have won more."

Please see **WIRGAU, B2**

## Sparks plays up a Storm, stops Whalers

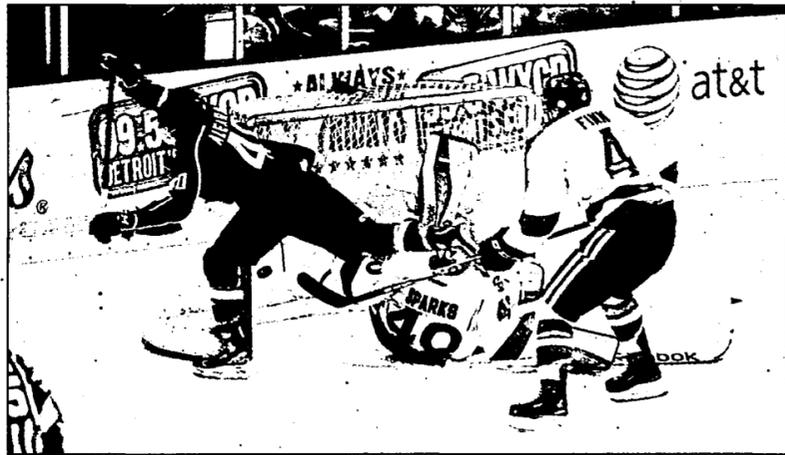
By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

With one lightning-fast burst down the middle of the ice late in the second goal, Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleardi netted a shorthanded goal to cut Guelph's lead to 3-1 Friday in Game 1 of their OHL first round series.

That play, with 3:38 to go in the second, brought new life inside Compuware Arena, both in the stands and on the Plymouth bench.

But even though the Whalers ramped up the pressure with 21 shots in the third — and with forward J.T. Miller scoring a power-play goal — the early three-goal deficit proved too much as the Storm came away with a 4-2 victory.

"We had 47 shots, their



Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleardi (left) of Farmington Hills is flying high after scoring a spectacular shorthanded goal Friday night against Guelph netminder Garret Sparks in the teams' playoff opener at Compuware Arena. At right for Guelph is defenseman Matthew Finn (4).

goalie (Toronto prospect Garret Sparks) played really well and they got

a couple bounces," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vel-

lucci said. "But I just told the guys, you got to win four games to win

a series. It's not college hockey where it's one-game elimination."

The Whalers will look to even the series with a game at Guelph set for 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

Aleardi, who tallied 36 goals during the season, said his team now knows what it has to do to take over the best-of-seven Western Conference quarterfinal.

"He's a big goalie, he takes up a lot of space," Aleardi said about Sparks. "But we made him look good tonight. We just got to keep getting to the net. We're going to put pressure on him, he's going to weaken down and we're going to score a lot of goals."

### Goal in mind

Aleardi's goal did what he intended it to do, light

Please see **WHALERS, B2**

### Steelheaders meet April 3

Fly fishing guide specialist Mike Schultz will be the featured speaker at the Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a fishing gear swap meet.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

Also appearing are Marty Drum of Trilene-Big Game Line; custom rod tip replacement builders Matt Lubaway and Mike Barkley; Jeff Zyc of Cutco Products; Mark Tansky of Quick Fillet Products; and Chris Poso of Down Rigger Balls.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790 or visit [www.metrowest-steelheaders.org](http://www.metrowest-steelheaders.org).

### SOCCER

Continued from page B1

Glenn used Jenna Redden in goal the entire game, while Lisa Kowalewski and Gabby Whited each played a half for New Boston Huron.

"There were some first-game jitters and it showed because we didn't have any scrimmages," Glenn coach Ralph Cabildo said. "But we feel we're a better team than

last year."

**LAKELAND 7, WAYNE 0:** Senior Ashley Conley made 14 saves, but it wasn't enough as host Wayne Memorial (0-1) fell to White Lake Lakeland (0-1) in the season opener for both teams.

Wayne trailed 5-0 at halftime and played one player short during the final 35 minutes of the second half after receiving a red card.

Sophomore forward Crystal Fletcher took four shots in the setback.

### WIRGAU

Continued from page B1

"But I don't think that the kids could have worked any harder than they did to make that happen."

Wirgau said his assistant coach Ryan Tracy, a Franklin teacher and Patriot coach, also resigned recently. "His decision was an

independent decision away from me, and in no way did his decision impact my decision to leave," Wirgau said.

Wirgau, a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Canton, replaced longtime Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt prior to the 2007-08 season. Jobbitt had been the Patriots' head coach for 25 years.

Wirgau moved to Franklin after a stint in travel

ranks where he simultaneously coached a Midget AA team in Garden City along with a Bantam AA squad in Dearborn.

Wirgau's son Jacob was also a member of the Patriots' team during his first three seasons as coach.

Meanwhile, the vacant position is expected to be posted within a week by the Livonia Public Schools.

"We want somebody who enjoys working with student-athletes at the high school level," Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye said. "Winning is important, but it has to be somebody who understands that it has to be done within the framework and concept of educational high school athletics."

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### THE WEEK AHEAD

**PREP BASEBALL**  
**Monday, March 26**  
Belleville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
Skyline at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 27**  
Dearborn at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
Washtenaw at HVL, 4:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
Garden City at Glenn, 4 p.m.  
Belleville at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
Renaissance at C'ville, 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 29**  
Garden City at Franklin, 4 p.m.

**Friday, March 30**  
Wayne at Dearborn, 4 p.m.  
C'ville at John Glenn, 4:30 p.m.  
HVL at Franklin Road, 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 31 (all double-headers)**  
Franklin at Thurston, 11 a.m.  
W'haven at Stevenson, 11 a.m.

**GIRLS SOFTBALL**  
**Monday, March 26**  
Skyline at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
Renaissance at C'ville, 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 29**  
W.L. Central at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
A.A. Huron at HVL (2), 4 p.m.

**Friday, March 30**  
Wayne at Dearborn, 4 p.m.  
C'ville at John Glenn, 4:30 p.m.

**GIRLS SOCCER**  
**Monday, March 26**  
W.L. Cent. at Franklin, 5:30 p.m.  
Harper Woods at C'ville, 6 p.m.  
Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
Wayne at Belleville, 4 p.m.  
Greenhills at C'ville, 6 p.m.  
Churchill at Salem, 7 p.m.  
Glenn at Wat. Mott, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, March 29**  
N'west at Luth. W'sld, 4:30 p.m.  
Regina at Ladywood, 6 p.m.  
RU at Clarenceville, 6 p.m.

**Friday, March 30**  
Glenn at Garden City, 5:30 p.m.  
Franklin at Dearborn Hts. Crestwood, 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 31 (Ladywood Tourney at MU)**  
Trenton vs. Ladywood, 9 a.m.  
Lamphere vs. Riverview, 10:15.  
Lamphere vs. Trenton, 11:30.  
Lady. vs. Riverview, 12:45 p.m.  
Riverview vs. Trenton, 2 p.m.  
Ladywood vs. Lamphere, 3:15

**BOYS & GIRLS TRACK**  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
RU at Franklin, 3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
C'ville at Garden City, 3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 31**  
Franklin Patriot Relays, 9 a.m.

**GIRLS LACROSSE**  
**Monday, March 26**  
Ladywood at Skyline, 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
Ladywood at S. Lyon, 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 30**  
L'wood at G.P. North, 6:30 p.m.

**GIRLS TENNIS**  
**Monday, March 26**  
Glenn at Belleville, 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
Wayne at Belleville, 4 p.m.

**Thursday, March 29**  
Glenn at S.L. East, 4 p.m.

**Saturday, March 31**  
G.P. South Invitational, TBA.

**COLLEGE BASEBALL**  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
Rochester at Madonna, 3 p.m.

**Saturday, March 31**  
Lourdes at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.

**Sunday, March 31**  
Lourdes at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
**Wednesday, March 28**  
Madonna at Albion (2), 4 p.m.  
TBA - time to be announced.

### WHALERS

Continued from page B1

a fire under his team to climb back from a 3-0 hole. Head down, he steamed full speed down the ice with one thing in mind.

"He (the Guelph defenseman) was skating slow and I just saw the puck kind of sitting there," Aleardi said. "I got a pretty quick pace out there and I thought why not pressure him and make him lose the puck."

"I ended up beating him to the puck and get-

ting the boys going on my goal, shorthanded."

Miller made it 3-2 with 16:42 to play in the third. Forward Mitchell Heard battled along the right-wing boards and passed the puck to center Andy Bathgate behind the net.

Bathgate then threaded a perfect pass to Miller near the left post for a tap-in marker.

Numerous times after that, Plymouth came close to at least sending the game into overtime.

But Sparks held his ground and Guelph's Francis Menard netted an

empty netter with 21 seconds left to wrap up the win.

Guelph led 1-0 after one period despite being outshot 12-8. A loose puck bounced off a player in front of Plymouth goalie Scott Wedgewood (26 saves) right to Jason Dickinson, who swept it home for the power-play goal.

Just 1:04 into the second, the Storm doubled the lead to 2-0. Brock McGinn banked a shot from behind the net past Wedgewood.

And three minutes later, Guelph tallied another

goal on the power play, this one on a long screen shot by defenseman Andrey Pedan that sailed over Wedgewood's blocker.

The Whaler's finally got it going thanks to the spectacular goal by Aleardi, a play started when forward Mitchell Heard chipped the puck out of the Plymouth zone.

Unfortunately for the home team and its 2,265 fans, it all proved too little too late.

smith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

### PREP TRACK RESULTS

**BOYS TRACK RESULTS**  
**LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 89**  
**REDFORD THURSTON 38**  
**March 21 at Clarenceville**

**Shot put:** 1. Devin Ryles (RT), 46 feet, 10 inches; 2. Corthon Adel (RT), 44-4; 3. Shawn Cummings (C'ville), 42-6.5.

**Discus:** 1. Cummings (C'ville), 127-4; 2. Logrusso (RT), 97-0.5; 3. Deavon Wilson (C'ville), 96-3.

**High jump:** 1. Mike Stevenson (RT), 5-2; 2. James Christe (C'ville), 5-0.

**Long jump:** 1. Eric Wilson (RT), 20-4.5; 2. Mike Demmons (RT), 18-11.25; 3. Cody Cardoza (C'ville), 16-2.

**110-meter hurdles:** 1. Sam Brown (C'ville), 17.37; 2. James Hill (C'ville), 19.03; 3. Jamaire James (RT), 19.09.

**300 hurdles:** 1. Brown (C'ville), 43.4; 2. Hill (C'ville), 45.65; 3. Tomary James (RT), 48.01.

**100 dash:** 1. Kassius Kelly (C'ville), 10.86; 2. Kevin Williams (C'ville), 11.59; 3. Jalen Bryant (C'ville), 11.86.

**200:** 1. Kelly (C'ville), 23.78; 2. Bryant (C'ville), 24.82; 3. Davion Brinkley (RT), 26.12.

**400:** 1. Kareem Stewart (C'ville), 58.42; 2. W. Fry (RT), 59.51; 3. Carlon Davis (C'ville), 1:01.18.

**800:** 1. Alec Jones (C'ville), 2:21.19; 2. Ian Bunker (C'ville), 2:26.91; 3. Stephen Spens

(C'ville), 2:26.84.  
**1,600:** 1. Jones (C'ville), 5:04.3; 2. Jeremy Jackson (RT), 5:26.1; 3. David Gibson (C'ville), 5:26.2.

**3,200:** 1. Joey Walker (C'ville), 11:25.0; 2. Matthias Hoffman (C'ville), 12:36.18; 3. Cameron Fyffe (C'ville), 13:15.98.

**400 relay:** 1. Clarenceville (Bryant, Demmons, Brown, Kelly), 44.97; 2. Thurston, 45.21; **800 relay:** 1. Clarenceville (Bryant, Demmons, Hill, Kelly), 1:35.45;

2. Thurston, 1:44.91; **1,600 relay:** 1. Thurston, 3:45.0; 2. Clarenceville, 3:46.0;

**3,200 relay:** 1. Clarenceville (Walker, Bunker, Gibson, Jones), 9:40.7; 2. Thurston, 10:53.2.

**Dual meet records:** Clarenceville, 1-0 overall; Thurston, 0-1 overall.

**GIRLS TRACK RESULTS**  
**LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 74**  
**REDFORD THURSTON 36**  
**March 21 at Clarenceville**

**Shot put:** 1. Alexis Johnson (C'ville), 29 feet, 11 inches; 2. Emily Jasmer (C'ville), 24-12; 3. Leandre O'Neal (C'ville), 24-4.

**Discus:** 1. Jasmer (C'ville), 80-10; 2. Alexis Johnson (C'ville), 69-2; 3. O'Neal (C'ville), 62-2.

**High jump:** 1. Sarah Curvin (C'ville), 4-0.

**Long jump:** 1. Domonique Smith (RT), 15-

9; 2. Micah Willingham (C'ville), 14-4; 3. Jayla Johnson (RT), 14-4.

**100-meter hurdles:** 1. Madison Trice (RT), 22.37; 2. Naima Becker (RT), 33.43.

**300 hurdles:** 1. Willingham (C'ville), 53.42; 2. Ashley Murphy (C'ville), 55.95; 3. Trice (RT), 1:03.1.

**100 dash:** 1. Smith (RT), 12.75; 2. Kayla Dumas (C'ville), 13.87; 3. Briara Troy (RT), 14.19.

**200:** 1. Smith (RT), 26.74; 2. Ayanna Buckley (C'ville), 28.08; 3. Tangelia Dooley (C'ville), 29.72.

**400:** 1. Buckley (C'ville), 1:05.33; 2. Barkley (RT), 1:08.47; 3. Dasia Green (RT), 1:29.35.

**800:** 1. Tristyn Bean (C'ville), 2:55.41; 2. Sarah Curvin (C'ville), 3:18.31; 3. Barkley (RT), 3:32.21.

**1,600:** 1. Curvin (C'ville), 7:42.0.

**400 relay:** 1. Clarenceville (Dumas, Kamaria Sanders, Dooley, Mya Banks), 55.08; 2. Thurston, 1:00.11; **800 relay:** 1. Clarenceville (Willingham, Sanders, Dumas, Buckley), 1:53.0; 2. Thurston, 2:06.05;

**1,600 relay:** 1. Clarenceville (Willingham, Sanders, Dooley, Buckley), 4:37.15; 2. Thurston, 4:53.05; **3,200 relay:** 1. Clarenceville (Bean, Curvin, Banks, Murphy), 12:25.37.

**Dual meet records:** Clarenceville, 1-0 overall; Thurston, 0-1 overall.

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## GIRLS SOCCER CAPSULE OUTLOOK

### LIVONIA CHURCHILL

**Head coach:** Dave Hebestreit, 11th year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 11-7-2.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Kelsey Rothermel (first-team All-Area); Rachel Zukowski (first-team All-Area); Sarah Bauman (second-team All-Area); Kayla Szado, Megan McDonald, Kaylie Secord.  
**Leading returnees:** Kelsey Parrinello, Soph. MF (All-District; leading scorer); Rachel Blackney, Sr. MF (captain; All-KLAA); Karly Munroe, Jr. Def.; Melissa Bird, Sr. Def.; Abbey Blanchard, Sr. Def.  
**Promising newcomers:** Erin Emmanuel, Fr. MF; Kacie Murray, Soph. MF; Ashley Elliott, Jr. GK; Alexis Tzarfaroglou, Jr. GK.  
**Hebestreit's 2012 outlook:** "This year's team is fairly young, but has a nice blend of personalities that will look to surprise those around the area as they did last season. We have talented players in all areas of the field, but will need to work as a cohesive unit to find our successes. Each year I am excited to get the high school season going because Churchill student-athletes always impress me with their commitment and ability."

### LIVONIA FRANKLIN

**Head coach:** Dean Kowalski, third year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 5-11-2.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Alejandra Mesa.  
**Leading returnees:** Alexis Smith, Sr. GK (second-team All-Area); Emily McCullen, Sr. Def. (captain); Shannon Murphy, Soph. F; Natalie Desautel, Jr. C-MF; Jenna Michniwicz, Jr. C-MF; Jessica Maurer, Jr. F.  
**Promising newcomers:** Raven Travis, Jr. F; Kara Dodaine, Jr. MF; Michelle Tuyo, Soph. MF.  
**Kowalski's 2012 outlook:** "We're looking to make the big jump and finish in the top third of our division after being in the bottom third. We're a young team with a good foundation of veterans who logged a lot of minutes last year against the good teams. We're going to have to play grind'em out type games to win."

### LIVONIA STEVENSON

**Head coach:** Chris Grodzicki, third year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAAs Kensington Conference (Central Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 6-10-2.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Krista Kane, Michelle Krawczyk, Caitie Marchione.  
**Leading returnees:** Dayna Stevens, Sr. F (All-KLAA; second-team All-Area); Alexi Kliza, Jr. MF (second-team All-Area); Olivia Kitz, Soph. Def. (All-KLAA; second-team All-Area); Kim Griffith, Sr. MF; Emily Chrzasz, Sr. F; Katie Reamer, Sr. F; Tori Sears, Sr. Def.; Payton Kleven, Sr. MF; Shannon Black, Sr. MF; Stephanie Culp, Sr. Def.; Samantha Caves, Sr. Def.; Carlin O'Malley, Jr. F; Abby Urso, Jr. Def.; Allison Corp, Jr. MF; Nicole Zuckerman, Soph. MF.  
**Promising newcomers:** Mara Murray, Jr. Def.; Brandi Jed, Jr. Def.; Katelyn Foster, Soph. F; Rylee Jayson, Soph. GK; Alyia El-Sabeh, Fr. Def.; Kristen Trybus, Fr. GK.  
**Grodzicki's 2012 outlook:** "I already love the enthusiasm of this year's team. The returning girls are eager to improve upon last year's record and the newcomers are quickly learning what it takes to compete for minutes at the varsity level. Our overall soccer I.Q. is as high going into a high school season as any team I have coached. Hopefully we can turn that into a double-digit win season with a couple of trophies along the way."

### WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

**Head coach:** Ralph Cabildo, second year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 5-12.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Jenna Williams (second-team All-Area) Jennie Humbach, Erin McCurtis, Jasmine Sanchez-Condash, Ashley Sportsman.  
**Leading returnees:** Alex Gagleard, Sr. C-MF; Cecilia Said, Soph. C-MF; Evelyn Acerrano, Soph. F; Marissa Edwards, Soph. F-Def.; Elise Penhollow, Soph. sweeper; Jesse Sanchez-Condash, Sr. MF; Lindsey Bessinger, Sr. MF; Amanda Urban, Sr. Def.; Mariah Richards, Sr. Def.  
**Promising newcomers:** Raven Buck, Fr. sweeper; Olivia Cabildo, Fr. C-MF; Sydney Climie, Fr. MF-F; Jenna Redden, Jr. GK.  
**Cabildo's 2012 outlook:** "We're a very young team. We want to better our record and take small steps with this team. We're pretty excited because we have a number of freshmen and sophomores who will start. We lost our goalkeeper Emily Hinkle, who moved out of state."

### WAYNE MEMORIAL

**Head coach:** Jeff Parrish, third year.  
**League affiliation:** KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 2-16.

**Notable losses to graduation:** Joanna Witte, Maggie Phipps.  
**Leading returnees:** Amber Parrish, Soph. MF (four goals); Crystal Fletcher, Soph. F (three goals); Emma Karson, Sr. Def. (captain, three-year starter).  
**Promising newcomers:** Katie Kuder, Fr. MF; Stephenie Worthy, Soph. F; Alexis Labine, Sr. Def.-MF (transfer); Ashley Conley, Sr. GK.  
**Parrish's 2012 outlook:** "This year's team is full of seniors who understand our system of play and work well together. The team chemistry and work ethic is excellent. The loss of senior captain Erica Dye to an off-season knee injury will require other players to step and take on leadership roles. I expect this team to be able to compete in every match we play and surprise a few teams. As always, the team focus is about creating memories, team experiences, and continued development throughout the season. Expect big things from a few of the younger players who should be playmakers this year now that they have the experience and confidence. It will be a fun and exciting season."

### LIVONIA LADYWOOD

**Head coach:** Ken Shingledecker, fifth year.  
**League affiliation:** Catholic League (Central Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 17-4-6.  
**Titles won last year:** Division 2 district and regional champions (state runner-up).  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Madeline Reed (first-team All-Area), Becky Babon, Allison Bielski.  
**Leading returnees:** Paige Brennan, Sr. MF (first-team All-Area; first-team All-State); Kelly Capoccia, Sr. F (first-team All-Area; second-team All-State); Dominique Sarnecky, Jr. F (second-team All-Area); Erin Cronyn, Sr. Def.; Catherine Garber, Jr. Def.; Liz Danger, Jr. Def.; DeYana Walker, Jr. F; Shelby Walsh, Jr. MF; Sara Even, Jr. GK-F; Mary-Kate Szuma, Jr. MF; Emily Huddleston; Soph. F; Marissa Ozog, Soph. Def.; Jenna Urso, Soph. MF.  
**Promising newcomers:** Samantha Riga, Fr. F; Carlee Faber, Jr. Def.; Lauren Wandzel, Soph. Def.; Brenna Wright, Jr. MF; Abby Pelon, Soph. F; Whitney Bauriedl, Soph. GK.  
**Shingledecker's 2012 outlook:** "Due to the fact that we only graduated three players from last year's state finalist team we have set our goals pretty high this year. The girls have come in focused and ready. We have put together a tough non-league schedule to help us get ready for the state tournament. The depth of this team will prove to be a major strength. Our roster from top-to-bottom is the strongest I've had in my five years at Ladywood."

### LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND

**Head coach:** Sara Schaffer, fourth year.  
**League affiliation:** Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Blue Division).  
**Last year's overall record:** 9-6-1.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** None.  
**Leading returnees:** Taylor Wiemer, Sr. F (second-team All-Area); Angela Morrison, Jr. GK; Jessica Drife, Jr. Def.; Alana Hill, Soph. Def.; Rachel Rilett, Soph. Def.; Beth Cross, Soph. MF; Megan Heil, Soph. MF; Julia Yancy, Soph. Def.  
**Promising newcomers:** Michelle Greening, Fr. F; Sabrina Morrison, Fr. MF; Allie Lange, Fr. F.  
**Schaffer's 2012 outlook:** "We are excited for our season to start. We have several returning players in key positions starting with our goalkeeper and defense. We speed and depth on the field. Our bench has depth in all positions and speed as well. This group is hard working with a great attitude."

### LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

**Head coach:** Amanda Moody, second year.  
**League affiliation:** Independent.  
**Last year's overall record:** 7-12.  
**Notable losses to graduation:** Kayla Zawol, Jenny Cruz, Mary Zhen.  
**Leading returnees:** Ashley Murphy, Jr. MF (second-team All-Area; 13 goals, two assists); Sadie Zachos, Sr. MF (three goals, six assists); Grace King, Soph. Def.; Megan Strachan, Jr. MF-F; Rachel Kirschweg, Jr. Def.-MF; Summer Reddick, Soph. Def.  
**Promising newcomers:** Jillian Bunker, Fr. GK-F; Sarah Curvin, Fr. F; Jordan See, Fr. MF-F; Lindsey Fosth, Fr. MF; Alessia Giammarco, Fr. Def.; Tayla Heller, Jr. Def.-MF.  
**Moody's 2012 outlook:** "We have a lot of promising newcomers coming in as freshman with a lot of previous experience. Having young blood will benefit our team both offensively and defensively. Our first-string goalie, Brianna Tuuri-Cesar, is out for the season due to surgery and that will be a huge hole to fill for the Trojans. With Ashley Murphy and Sadie Zachos being our center-midfielders, we should have strong, competitive games. We are a young team with a lot of talent and experience. We are going to have challenging games, but with the Trojans' potential, we should have a great season overall."

## SOCCER

Continued from page B1

field player, but she's done a nice job in goal for us so far," Shingledecker said. "Right now Whitney is banged up, but she'll be back."

The Blazers also needed to replace starting defenders Allison Bielski and Becky Babon, both whom graduated. Another key setback occurred when senior midfielder Morgan Chops was lost for the season after suffering a knee injury during basketball season.

"The defense early on looks pretty solid," said Shingledecker, whose team opened its season Thursday with a 5-1 win at Grosse Pointe North. "We moved back (junior) Liz Danger from the middle and we've been able to be more offensive-minded in that area than a year ago."

The Ladywood coach has beefed up his non-conference schedule playing April 21 in an tournament at Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, a state finalist two years ago.

The Blazers also must unseat nemesis and defending Catholic League champion Bloomfield Hills Marian, which won two of three meetings last year between the teams with the other being a 3-3 tie.

Marian captured the Division 2 state titles in 2009 and 2010.

The teams will meet for the first time in 2012 on Saturday, April 28 at Marian.

### KLAA South

Four area teams hope to unseat Canton as the Kensington Lakes Activities Association South Division champion led by Livonia Churchill, which finished 11-7-2 overall and 7-2-1 in the South.

The Chargers were hard hit by graduation losses led by first-team



LIFETOUCH SPORTS

**Ladywood returns junior forward Domenico Sarnecky (14) from last year's MHSAA Division 2 state runner-up squad.**

All-Area selection Kelsey Rothermel (now at Grand Valley State).

The senior defender played 79 matches in four years and now the torch has been passed to seniors Melissa Bird and Abbey Blanchard, along with junior Karly Munroe.

Eleventh-year coach Dave Hebestreit also returns the team's leading scorer, sophomore midfielder Kelsey Parrinello, along with senior midfielder and captain Rachel Blackney.

Also look for freshman Erin Emmanuel to add stability to the midfield.

Livonia Franklin (5-11-2), hopes to move up into the upper echelon in the KLAAs South led by second-team All-Observer goalkeeper Alexis Smith, a senior, along with senior defender and captain Emily McCullen.

Westland John Glenn (5-12) will rely on youth as second-year coach Ralph Cabildo looks to replace forward Jenna Williams, who graduated, and goalkeeper Emily Hinkle, who moved out of state.

Wayne Memorial (2-16) took a hit when senior captain Erica Dye, the

team's top returning player, was lost to a knee injury as third-year coach Jeff Parrish will rely on sophomores Amber Parrish and Crystl Fletcher.

### KLAA Central

Novi is the two-time MHSAA Division 1 state champion and the Wildcats will once again be the favorite to repeat in the Central Division of the KLAAs.

Novi, in fact, has captured five of the last seven Division 1 crowns.

Livonia Stevenson (6-10-2) returns a veteran cast and could surprise in the KLAAs Central led by senior forward Dayna Stevens, who scored seven goals a year ago.

Third-year coach Chris Grodzicki will also rely on fellow second-team All-Observer selections Alexi Kliza and Olivia Kitz, a pair of junior midfielders.

### MIAC/Independent

Lutheran High Westland (9-6-1), under fourth-year coach Sara Schaffer, returns its entire cast led by senior forward Taylor Wiemer, who was the team's top returning goal and assist leader.

Wiemer, an All-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division pick, also earned second-team All-Observer honors.

Meanwhile, Livonia Clarenceville (7-12) will continue to play as an independent as second-year coach Amanda Moody welcomed the return of junior midfielder Ashley Murphy, who scored 13 goals a season ago.

Murphy is doing double duty this spring. She is also member of the Trojans' track and field team.

See capsule outlook of area teams.

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# Churchill leads All-Area parade

## FIRST-TEAM

**Spencer Craig, Sr. G, Canton:** Talk to any hockey coach and he'll list Craig as one of the best netminders in the state.

The third-year starter didn't hurt his lofty reputation in 2011-12, with a 2.33 goals-against average, .899 save percentage and one shutout for the KLAA South Division and Lash Cup champions.

Craig earned all-conference honors for a second consecutive season and was all-state honorable mention.

"Whenever you have Spencer in net you know you have an opportunity to win the game," coach Jeremy Majszak said. "He's just that kind of goalie that can steal games for you and put the team on his back."

Over a two-game stretch against Livonia Churchill and Novi, Craig stopped 74 of 77 shots to lead the Chiefs to a pair of victories.

During Craig's three years with Canton, he put his name in the school record book for most shutouts in a season (five) and career victories by a goal-ie (36).

"Spencer plans to take his game to the next level next season playing junior hockey," Majszak said.

**Jim Lelekatch, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill:** The four-year varsity player and team captain earned both all-KLAA and Division 1 first-team all-state honors for the 21-7 Chargers, who reached the state quarterfinals.

In 28 games, Lelekatch had seven goals and seven assists to go along with a plus-12 rating. He took just four minutes in penalties.

Lelekatch also made Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association academic all-state team and earned the Chargers' Hobey Baker Character award.

"Jim is a classic example of what hard work can do for your development," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "He played in every situation - his offensive really developed this year in large part to the work in put in during the offseason. Just a great captain and the definition of a student-athlete."

**Nick Proben, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill:** The second-team all-stater and three-year varsity player finished the year with five goals and 23 assists for 28 points with a plus-34 rating.

The captain had just eight minutes in penalties.

"Nick is really a forward playing defense," Mazzoni said. "He developed his defensive game and it helped his offense. He was a guy that we wanted to handle the puck for us. He is a good decision maker and makes a great first pass - valuable skills need to play defense."

**Jake Otto, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill:** The four-year player and team captain earned MHSCHA Division 1 first-team all-state along with all-KLAA honors after racking up 48 points on 18 goals and 30 assists.

Otto posted a staggering plus-43 rating with only four minutes in penalties.

"Jake was the heart-and-soul of our team," Mazzoni said. "He played every situation for us for three years."

"Jake was a great leader and role model for us. Played his best in every game. We moved him to wing this year and his offense took off, without sacrificing his defensive responsibilities."



Spencer Craig  
Canton



Jim Lelekatch  
Churchill



Nick Proben  
Churchill



Jake Otto  
Churchill



Mark McGee  
Salem



Zach Gambrell  
Plymouth



Josh Cliff  
Farmington



Chris McDonald  
Stevenson



Eric Stanis  
NF-Harrison



Dominic Lutz  
Stevenson



Mike Gambino  
Churchill



Duggan Tear  
Canton



Jared  
VanValkenburg  
NF-Harrison



Pete Mazzoni  
Coach of Year

**Mark McGee, Sr. F, Salem:** Talented and hard-working, Salem's team captain and MVP left a legacy that will be tough to surpass. He scored 29 goals and 11 assists for 40 points, earning all-conference and Division 1 first-team all-state honors.

McGee is the first PCEP player ever voted all-state in back-to-back seasons, coach Ryan Ossenmacher said.

In his three-year career with the Wildcats, McGee tallied the second-most goals in school history.

"Mark is a model for our future players to follow on how to commit to getting better and doing everything possible to attain that goal," Ossenmacher said.

This spring, McGee is trying out for Team Michigan, and will play in a Midwest tournament of elite high school seniors should he make the squad.

In the fall, he will likely continue playing hockey in the North American Hockey League with the intent of eventually joining a college program.

"I am confident that he will continue to excel because of his abilities and determination," Ossenmacher noted.

Beyond McGee's development as a player the past three years, he has worked to improve his grades, which the coach said he is most proud of.

**Zach Gambrell, Sr. F, Plymouth:** The fourth-year varsity player scored 15 goals and assisted on 13 others to lead the squad in goals and total points.

Those numbers gave him school career records of 48 goals and 98 points, collected in 98 games for a point-a-game average.

He was the unanimous team MVP, made the All-KLAA team and earned all-state honorable mention honors.

Following graduation, Gambrell is hopeful of playing in the NAHL with an eye on college hockey down the road.

This spring, he is trying out for a squad of elite high school seniors that will compete in a tournament in Minnesota.

"Zach's leadership will be a major void for our team to replace next season," said coach Gerry Vento about his captain. "Rarely do you find (such) a player ... who is never satisfied with his effort and always expects more of himself both at practices and games."

"He certainly left a mark not only on this team, but the program as a whole."

## SECOND-TEAM

**Josh Cliff, Sr. G, Farmington:** Cliff (6-9-1) had all but one of

## 2011-12 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS HOCKEY FIRST TEAM

Spencer Craig, Sr. G, Canton  
Jim Lelekatch, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill  
Nick Proben, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill  
Jake Otto, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill  
Mark McGee, Sr. F, Salem  
Zach Gambrell, Sr. F, Plymouth

## SECOND TEAM

Josh Cliff, Sr. G, Farmington  
Chris McDonald, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson  
Eric Stanis, Jr. F, NF-Harrison  
Dominic Lutz, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson  
Mike Gambino, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill  
Duggan Tear, Sr. F, Canton  
Jared VanValkenburg, Sr. F, NF-Harrison

## THIRD TEAM

Alex Estes, Sr. G, Churchill  
Justin Brereton, Sr. Def., NF-Harrison  
Mark Prokes, Sr. Def., Farmington  
Devin Smythe, Sr. F, Churchill  
Nate Sink, Sr. F, Stevenson  
Sean Smitacz, Sr. F, Plymouth  
Austin Sartorius, Sr. F, Salem

## FOURTH TEAM

Richard Guglielmi, Sr. G, Plymouth  
Michael Manzer, Sr. Def., Salem  
Reede Burnett, Jr. Def., NF-Harrison  
Zac Massa, Sr. F, Farmington  
Derek Ried, Sr. F, NF-Harrison  
Thomas Ross, Sr. F, Stevenson  
Brandon Grillo, Sr. F, Canton

## COACH OF YEAR

Pete Mazzoni, Liv. Churchill

## HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Brad Mills, Tommy Carey, Riley Brown, Ben Proben; Franklin: Brian Roulier, Danny Donahue, Tyler Satkowiak; Stevenson: Mario Tomei, Jake Kierdorf, Travis Harvey; Canton: Taylor Baker, Andrew Gorski, Brandon Schlieger, Zach Cox; Plymouth: Dean Gunther, Mitch Claggett, Mike Schultz; Salem: Kyle Eggenberger, Alek Zulkowski, Kyle Downey, Evan Patton, Jake Sealy; NF-Harrison: Keith Ladouceur, Jake Ladouceur, Stephen Coulter, Kyle Wood; Farmington: Mike Manzo, Cooper McLean, Kyle Gandy.

Farmington's seven victories, and his teammates recognized his important role by giving him the team's highest individual honor. Cliff had a 2.32 GAA and .913 save percentage.

"Josh is very deserving of this honor," coach Mark Vellucci said. "He was our team MVP and helped lead the Falcons to a near upset of (top-ranked and eventual Division 2 state champion) Brother Rice in the pre-regional."

"His GAA for a team that had only seven wins was pretty good. His desire to compete day in and day out is something that rubbed off on his teammates."

**Chris McDonald, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson:** The senior stood out on the blue line for the Spartans and finished the year with three goals and 10 assists.

"Chris was one of our team captains and leaders both on-and-off the ice," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "He played in all situations - on defense most often against other team's top lines and players. He also saw action on the power play in front of the other teams' net."

McDonald also earned all-KLAA honors. He carries a 4.17

grade-point average and is a standout pitcher on the Stevenson baseball team.

"He was a beast on the ice for us this year," Mitchell said. "He logged a ton of ice and was the leader amongst our defensive corp. He was moved to defense last year, so this was basically only his second full year on the blue line and for him to do what he did was truly phenomenal."

**Eric Stanis, Jr. F, North-Harrison:** Stanis was the leading scorer for the Flyers, who had a 15-8-2 record while competing in the Oakland Activities Association's top division. The junior forward scored 17 goals and assisted on 19 others.

"He played with a lot of energy, and he was solid in the defensive zone, too," coach Ken Anderson said. "He had a knack for finding the net when he had his chances."

"With 19 assists, he was able to get his linemates some good goals, too. I'm very happy for Eric and Jared (VanValkenburg); they truly deserve this recognition."

**Dominic Lutz, Soph. F, Liv. Stevenson:** The sophomore led Stevenson in points this season (33) 18 goals and 15 assists in 25 games.

Lutz also led the team in plus-minus rating with a plus 16.

"He played and excelled in all situations as a sophomore this past season," Mitchell said. "He worked extremely hard at both ends of the ice not only leading the team in scoring, but most often playing against other teams top lines."

Lutz, an all-KLAA choice, also tallied the game-winning goal in a 6-4 win over Churchill.

"Dominic had a breakout year for us this year," Mitchell said. "He had a year that is pretty special for a sophomore. The future for him is extremely bright. He had an extremely productive year, while many teams keyed on him."

**Mike Gambino, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill:** The second-team all-stater had 36 points in 28 games with 14 goals and 41 assists to go along with an impressive plus-41 rating.

"Mike made the most of his senior year and capitalized on his opportunity," Mazzoni said of his Most Improved Player. "He has a big time shot, skates hard and was a physical presence for us."

"Mike embraced the concept of two-way hockey and presented many matchup difficulties for our opponents."

**Duggan Tear, Sr. F, Canton:** A tireless grinder with a knack around the net, the three-year letter winner was a thorn in the side of KLAA goaltenders all season.

Tear scored a team-high 17 goals, drew 10 assists and was plus-12 (best on the team) as the Chiefs won their division.

For his efforts, Tear earned all-conference honors and was named the team MVP.

"Duggan really elevated his game this year," Majszak said. "After playing on the third line with a total of around seven points last year he stepped up to fill the void on offense left by graduating seniors."

"When the game was tight, with time ticking away, Duggan was your guy on the ice."

Tear, who has aspirations of playing NAHL hockey later this year, could be counted on in every situation that faced the Chiefs, Majszak continued.

The winger came through on numerous occasions, "whether it was to score a goal, kill a penalty or keep the other team off the board."

**Jared VanValkenburg, Sr. F, North-Harrison:** He also made a significant contribution to the North-Harrison offense. VanValkenburg capped his high school career with 13 goals and 17 assists for the Flyers, who earned the No. 3 seed in the OAA Red Division playoffs. He was second on the team in both categories.

"Jared always seemed to step up in the big games for us and scored some big goals when we needed it," coach Anderson said. "He possesses a great shot. He was unselfish with the puck and got his linemates involved, too."

## COACH OF YEAR

**Pete Mazzoni, Liv. Churchill:** The 12th-year coach guided the Chargers to a 21-7 record and a second straight Division 1 regional title before falling to state runner-up Grosse Pointe North in the quarterfinals.

"We had a locker room full of guys who were committed to the team and did not care who got the credit," Mazzoni said. "It was a special season because many of our players have been in the program for such a long time. It was definitely a year to remember."

Mazzoni, who was also named MHSCHA Division 1 Coach of the Year, boasts a career varsity record of 233-97-41 (including two seasons at Redford Union).

"I want to make sure that our assistant coaches - Dave Higham, Jason Meul and Steve Greco - get their just due," Mazzoni said. "They are just as much deserving of this as anyone."

"Our administration is very supportive of interscholastic sports. And our support staff allows us to do the things that we want and need to do."

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### WYAA baseball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the WYAA Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

The WYAA offers leagues for T-Ball (ages 4-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18).

Opening day is Saturday, May 12 with practices starting in early April for all teams except Colt and Palomino, which begins in June.

For Colt-Palomino information, call Keith DeMolay at (734) 722-1251.

For other information, call (734) 421-0640.

### Competitive golf

The City of Livonia Golf Division is launching a club that will bring together resident golfers interested in playing in six-to-eight competitive events this summer.

Membership requires a fee of \$125. An informational meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 7 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia.

For more information, call Tom Welsh at (248) 471-3490, or e-mail tomwelsh99@gmail.com.

### Youth baseball

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage late registration for its 2012 co-ed instructional T-ball (ages 5-6) and coach-pitch (ages 7-8) baseball from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 31 at the LCRC (for Livonia and Clarenceville Public School district residents only).

Non-resident registration will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, April 1 at the LCRC's Parks and Recreation office and will

run through April 30 on a first-come, first-serve basis (or until teams are filled).

Registration is open only to those residing in the Livonia or Clarenceville public school districts. Enrollment is limited to the first 640 participants in each division. Forms are available at area schools or can be picked up at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard.

The season runs from May through July with T-ball scrimmages Monday evenings and coach-pitch on Thursday evenings.

Open registration fees

are \$40 (residents) and \$50 (non-residents). Late registration fees are \$50 (residents) and \$60 (non-residents).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410 (option No. 2).

### Women's golf

The 10-week, 18-hole Livonia Women's Golf League will begin at 8 a.m. Thursdays starting June 21 at Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Non-residents are encouraged to join. For more information, call Beth Nemes at (248) 473-9068; or e-mail tbw4boys@aol.com.

### Stevenson pom

Tryouts for the Livonia Stevenson girls pom squad, open to all grades 8-11, will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, April-May 30 (clinic to learn routines with kickline) and from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, at the high school.

Please wear a plain white T-shirt, black pants and shorts, tennis shoes and bring water. In order to try out, you must have a physical exam dated on or after April 15, 2011.

For more information, e-mail Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at lhyman@livoniapublicschools.org.

## To your health: Ten steps to conquering heart disease

You may already know that heart disease is the No. 1 killer in America, and that factors like obesity increase your risk of developing it. But of all the shocking things you know — or believe you know — about heart disease, here's the statistic that you might find the most eye-opening: 80 percent of all heart disease is preventable.

"It's important that everyone understand as much as possible about heart disease prevention, as 80 percent of heart disease can be avoided," says Dr. Martha Grogan, medical editor-in-chief of the new book *Mayo Clinic Healthy Heart for Life!* Heart disease claims the lives of 600,000 Americans each year, and another 12.7 million suffer from heart attacks. One in three women are diagnosed with heart disease and 50 percent of men are at risk of heart attacks before age 65. Those statistics may make you feel like you, too, are in the cross-hairs for developing heart disease. Some lifestyle changes, however, can help you greatly reduce your risks.

In the new book, available now online and in bookstores nationwide, Mayo Clinic experts discuss risk factors for heart disease, how to recognize the symptoms, and what lifestyle steps you can take to help reduce your risk. The catchphrase "Eat 5, Move 10, Sleep 8" sums up the approach Mayo experts advocate to minimize heart disease risks. The slogan reminds you to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables each day,



Diet and exercise are keys to a healthy heart.

do at least 10 minutes of moderately intense physical exercise daily, and get at least eight hours of sleep per night.

In addition, Mayo experts say, 10 simple steps can help you minimize your risk of heart disease. Here's a sampling of the steps that you'll find in the clinic's new heart healthy book:

- Eat healthy — Adopt simple dietary changes such as eating at least five fruits and vegetables each day, switching to whole grains and lean proteins, and eating a healthy breakfast every day.

- Be active — A sedentary lifestyle is as deadly as smoking, experts say. Exercising just 10 minutes a day can deliver sig-

nificant heart-health benefits. Have trouble sticking with an exercise plan? Finding something you enjoy doing, whether it's playing a sport, running, tai chi, yoga or extreme house cleaning, can help you maintain your commitment to exercising.

- Sleep well — Sleep deprivation has serious health repercussions, including increasing your risk of heart disease. Conversely, getting adequate sleep can actually have a restorative effect on the heart. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says sleep deprivation has become a national public health epidemic. Creating a bedtime routine and a relaxing sleep environment can help you get the

eight hours of sleep per night that your body needs.

- Plan for emergencies — A heart emergency can happen at any time, so it's important to know the warning signs of a problem. Learn to recognize symptoms of a crisis, and act quickly to get medical help.

- Enjoy life — A positive attitude, supportive network of family and friends, and good management of your stress not only improve your heart

health, they can improve your overall enjoyment of life, as well.

In addition to offering solid advice and the 10 steps to heart health, the *Mayo Clinic Healthy Heart for Life!* also discusses how the heart functions, what can go wrong, tools for ongoing heart health, and tips on how to keep your whole family heart healthy.

"Following these steps can help you dramatically reduce your risk of heart disease, even though it can't be completely eliminated," Grogan says. "If you've done everything in your power to prevent heart disease or live with it as effectively as possible, then you have, indeed, conquered it."

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### March

#### GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

- Get Up and Move, an invigorating exercise program, aims to help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or get you started for the first time. It meets at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 27 and Thursday, March 29. Fee is \$30 per month; for more information call (734) 458-3242.

- Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind through yoga, 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 27 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, March 28-29. Wednesday-Thursday classes are held at the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Tuesday classes meet at the hospital in Garden City.

Garden City Hospital is located at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

### April

#### MICHIGAN BARIATRIC INSTITUTE

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers a free educational seminar, from 6-7:30 p.m., April 5 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at 36475 Five Mile in Livonia. For more information call (877) 949-9344.

### Ongoing

#### AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants

do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit [www.ymcadeloit.org](http://www.ymcadeloit.org).

#### ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron-Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

#### BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).

#### BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 or Katrina at (734) 837-7700 with questions.

#### CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUPS

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

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## Whimsical kitten offers a lesson in diversity

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

When Lonna Baum wore eyeglasses for the first time in third grade, she felt like a fish out of water.

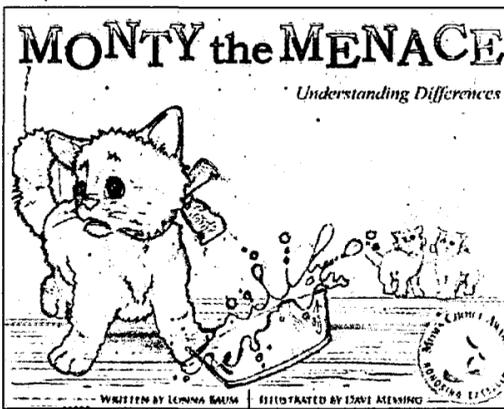
"I knew how odd I felt walking into class when no one else had them," she said. "I remember I didn't want to put them on and walk into class with them on. I didn't want them to see me."

Lonna Baum of Livonia hopes to write a book series about "understanding differences."

about a myopic kitten will help young readers understand how it feels to be "different."

*Monty the Menace* tells the story of Monty Katt, one of three kitten siblings, who can't seem to avoid mishaps at home. He becomes a menace to his sisters as he tumbles down stairs, trips over water bowls and sits on their lunch. Mother Katt suspects vision problems and takes her son to the "catometrist" for an exam. He leaves the office wearing glasses — and looking "different" — but is no longer a menace because of his corrected vision.

"I want to make them understand it really doesn't make you different ... you're the same you," Baum said. She hopes *Monty the Menace*,



The cover of "Monty the Menace" shows why the story's main character needs glasses.

which was illustrated by Livonia artist Dave Messing, will be the first in a series of children's books that increase understanding of differences. She's already planning the next story about the Katt family, which will focus on hearing.

The self-published author started toying with the idea of writing a children's book a few years ago while volunteering in a physical disabilities awareness program through the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

Baum, who is married, has two grown children and two grandchildren, worked as a physical therapist at hospitals in Allen Park and Wayne and ran her own private practice in Livonia before retirement.

As a volunteer she talked about vision, hearing and movement disabilities with first and second graders.

"Because of their questions, it made me think about putting things on paper. I wanted to do something pretty universal and not make it too spe-

cific or it wouldn't appeal to a wide audience," she said, explaining why she focused on vision and eyeglasses.

She used cats instead of humans as the main characters because animals gave the story a "surreal" quality.

"I love animals. I happen to have two cats," she added. "I knew if I did it with cats I could play with the story a little. It was fun."

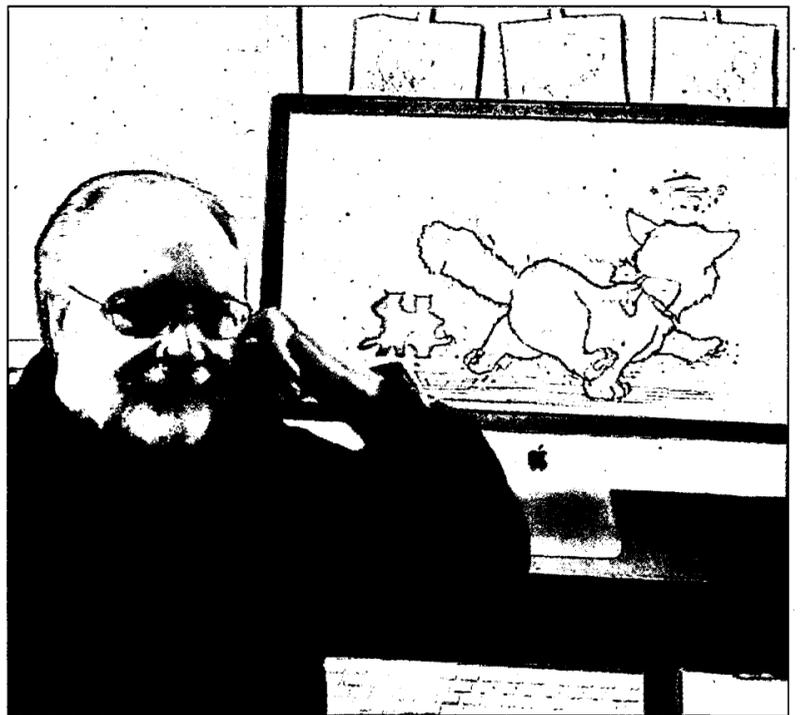
### Finding an artist

Bringing Messing into the project was "funny fate," she said.

While browsing an art fair, Baum saw a children's book he had illustrated. She remembered that her daughter had taken art lessons from him years earlier.

"I didn't know he was illustrating children's books. He used to have an art store in Livonia."

Messing has illustrated several children's books in addition to working as an advertising designer, illustrator, and builder of props and miniatures for film and print. His work has been featured on tele-



Dave Messing of Livonia starts with pencil drawings and then uses a computer to layer colors for each image. That's "Monty", the kitten from "Monty the Menace" on the computer screen behind him.

vision, in print, film and magazines.

Messing said special needs children have always been dear to his heart and that he often receives grateful comments from readers when he draws eyeglasses on a character or places a wheelchair in the scene. "I always thought I'd have to do it (write a book) on my own if I didn't find someone," he said. "Then Lonna comes along with a book about vision."

### Working together

They met at a Panera cafe on a regular basis to mesh words and pictures, finalize details and get the book ready for Book-

Masters, Inc., the printing firm.

"Dave Messing made the words come to life with a great sense of whimsy," Baum said.

Messing said he enjoyed working with Baum, who gave him free rein to create the images. Each began with a pencil sketch that was transferred to a computer for coloring.

"What's neat is when I read the copy for the first time I picture every page in the group right then," Messing said, explaining his illustration process. "I don't like to peruse it in front of the author. I like to take it home, sit in my studio and read it."

He said he envisions the

book illustrations in order, but then "cherry picks" images as he works.

"Monty ticked all the boxes for me," Messing said. "I knew I could make it funny and I knew it was a book that was needed."

Mom's Choice Awards, an organization that evaluates products and media, including children's picture books, recently awarded *Monty the Menace* a "Gold Medal."

The book costs \$16.95 and is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, in addition to Baum's website at montythemenace.com. Visit Messing's website at www.coroflot.com/davemessing.

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# Schoolcraft College honors its Transition Center students

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Yvonne St. Arno, 53, says she is "shocked" by how much her life has changed since enrolling at Schoolcraft College with the help of its Transition Center.

The Westland woman is studying business administration, while working a part time job in the college marketing department where she handles social media.

"I'm in a different place now. I look back and I'm amazed how my life has changed and the direction it has taken. I don't like to brag, but I'm pret-

ty proud of myself." The college is, too.

St. Arno was among the students who were recognized at the Transition Center's annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow on March 20.

The Transition Center spotlights students who use the program's resources to achieve success and improvement in their personal lives.

Other honorees included Leah Esslinger of Plymouth, a liberal arts student; Kendra Sparks of Livonia; and Peter Helms of Livonia, a liberal arts student and military veteran who used the Transition Center's

Veterans Services program.

The Center incorporates the services of: Women's Resource Center, Adult Student Services, Veteran's Services and New Student Orientation. Proceeds from the annual dinner benefit scholarships for students and the Transition Center at Schoolcraft College.

St. Arno credits the Transition Center for her return to school after being away from classes for more than 30 years.

"I was fresh out of a divorce after 28 years of marriage," said St. Arno, a 1977 high school graduate from Lutheran High West.

Her lawyer suggested she contact the Transition Center. She was accepted into the program, and started classes after figuring out her preferences.

"They had me take an interest exam. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do."

During her marriage, St. Arno was a stay-at-home mom with two sons.

She said the Transition Center helped ease her way back into class. During her first year at Schoolcraft, she attended support groups that included students from a range of ages and with a variety of experiences.

"It was nice to meet with others. It's a lot different



Kendra Sparks (left) of Livonia, Peter Helms of Livonia, Leah Esslinger of Plymouth and Yvonne St. Arno of Westland are honored at the Schoolcraft College Transition Center annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow.

being in school when you're in your 50s than it is when you're in high school."

The following year she mentored newcomers at the Transition Center.

"My family has been a support to me. And everyone at Schoolcraft is very

supportive — everyone from the people who pick up the garbage to the president."

For more information about the Transition Center call (734) 462-4443 or visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/transition](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/transition).

# Teens raise funds for hungry children



Joe Beauchamp and Travis Wesenberg collect donations for their team.

Teens from Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia recently joined thousands of other youths nationwide by participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

As part of the Famine, they participated in games and lessons that taught about hunger, poverty, water-borne illnesses and the barriers that keep people from getting enough to eat. The theme for this year's 30 Hour Famine was "Overcome Hunger with Love." By going without food, the 29 Newburg teens got a taste of what the

world's poorest children and families face every day.

According to World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to tackling the causes of poverty and injustice, hunger and preventable diseases claim the lives of 22,000 children every day. More than 1 billion people go hungry every day.

Newburg's participants raised more than \$1,500 in three hours to help end hunger and preventable disease.

Funds raised by the 30 Hour Famine help feed and care for chil-



Megan Robeson, (left) Mitchell Crosby, Cassidy Wesenberg and Monica Weinrauch collect donations at Newburg United Methodist Church for their teams.

dren in need around the globe. A portion of the funds raised assist families in need in the United States. Famine funds contribute to World Vision's response in areas where famine, conflict, and other crises make children vulnerable to hunger and preventable disease.

Since 1992, 30 Hour Famine has raised close

to \$140 million. World Vision works in nearly 100 countries, helping approximately 100 million people every year.

For more information about Newburg United Methodist Church visit [newburgumc.org](http://newburgumc.org); for information about World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, visit [30hourfamine.org](http://30hourfamine.org).

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**AROUND THE KNEE**

To a physician a patient who comes because of knee pain, needs close attention. The "knee pain" requires more delineation beyond being the joint between the hip and the ankle. Around the knee joint are four other structures that are potential sources of pain, and one structure that worries patients but is of little concern medically.

The four sites that because of their proximity to the knee joint cause "knee" pain are: the patellar tendon, the pre-patellar bursa, the anserine bursa and the fibular bursa. When a patient complains of knee pain, and the doctor, on examination, finds the knee normal, the examination will turn to looking at these other four structures.

In the evaluation of knee pain, examination forms the basis of diagnosis, as the patient experiences similar "knee pain" whether the cause of pain is from the knee or sites around it. Thus, if the physician finds the knee is normal, his examination will turn to the patellar tendon. If examination and palpation of the tendon does not elicit pain, he will go forward with the same type of assessment to pre-patellar, anserine and fibular bursas.

Usually, this systematic approach brings out the source of the knee pain. With this knowledge, the physician can undertake appropriate treatment.

The knee area that causes the patient more concern than the doctor is a Baker's Cyst. It is a bulge in the back of the knee, a result of fluid residing in that area of the knee joint. The Cyst is painless, and rarely causes a problem. However, its presence worries the patient giving the doctor the task of explaining the best treatment is to ignore it.

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# Life lessons: This column is tough to write

By Joe Gagnon  
Guest columnist

Some of you know that I came a whisker away from the pearly gates a few years ago while on fishing trip and my days of writing and living can be measured in inches rather than feet. My love of Valorie and family give me strength and the prayers help as well. The book I will publish later this year will tell you the rest of the story. The depression period is over and I concentrate my time on helping others more than ever.



Appliance Doctor  
Joe Gagnon

about mentioning the many big names I've had the privilege of meeting along the way, but this one deserves his name in this column. He's Shawn Burr, a big fan favorite with the Detroit Red Wings from 1984-95. After telling Scotty Bowman he was too old to coach, he suddenly found himself playing in Florida for a couple of years and then he came aboard the Red Wing Alumni Hockey team. After his first practice he sat beside me drinking a pop and started telling me about his problems with his new home in the Port Huron area. It was built on some sort of fault line and coming apart and his new appliances which were top drawer kept breaking down. He used to make fun of me when he would skate by telling me I reminded him of his new refrigerator which wasn't working. Every year Shawn

hosts a huge golf event and has raised tons of dollars for different charities. He is such a giving person and much more gentle than the 200 pounds that used to send opposing players to la la land and there is no one funnier in a dressing room.

### Battling cancer

Mitch Albom recently devoted his column to Shawn's serious challenge with cancer today. It started a year ago when he just about didn't make it. He went through all the treatments and the alumni was updated every week with his uplifting jokes and humorous remarks about his will to live and his love for his wife and kids. This time around he will go through the treatments to try and put the big C into remission and then will need a bone marrow transplant. Imagine, he says, "If my wife is a

match I will spend the rest of my life telling myself what to do." See what I mean about his humor? Last summer at a Red Wing golf outing I had a long conversation with Shawn and he told me how lucky he was to recover but he also told me how tough it would be to survive a second go around. He looked at me and said, "Joe, I know what you've been through but I am only in my 40s. It's OK for an old guy like you to go but not fair for me." He was absolutely right on the button. The last few days have been spent touring retail appliance stores and getting the feel of what is new in the industry. Last year was an up year pointing to one of two things. Either the economy is improving or the appliances are breaking down prematurely or both. Retailers are feeling pangs of guilt in selling products that

won't last as long as they used to. Some stated that if they tell a shopper that quality is not what it used to be, they may lose that customer to their competition. An appliance sales person wants to please you with a product that many times creates a referral or future sales. I don't think Shawn Burr would take a job today in appliance sales. He has always cared too much for his teammates and loved the hockey fans that filled his heart with pride. If he was writing this column he would come up with a question in closing. Do the tears hitting the keyboard hurt it or just discolor it with the salt content? Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmrr.com.

# A shocking - but life-saving - tip for you

By Lon Grossman  
Guest columnist

How many of you have heard of, or know about Ground Fault Interrupters or Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters? (They're also referred to as GFI or GFCI). If your home was built within the last 30 years, you more than likely have at least one in your home.



Lon Grossman

Now, GFIs are similar to a circuit breaker, but more sensitive. They'll sense if someone is getting electrocuted and disconnect the power within 1/40th of a second. There are three types of GFIs:

- **Circuit breaker combination:** Installed in the electrical service box, it protects everything on the circuit.
  - **Receptacle type:** Replaces a regular wall receptacle and when installed, still serves as an outlet but offers the additional protection of the GFI.
  - **Portable:** Generally used by trades people, such as carpenters who use power tools at different job sites.
- Once installed, GFIs require maintenance. On each interrupter there is a test button. Each month, this button should be pushed to trip the safety device and device reset. Tripping the device cleans oxidation and corrosion on the inside, which can affect its sensitivity and ability to protect. Basically, what I'm saying is that if you don't trip

or press and reset the test buttons monthly the GFIs could become useless and not trip when they're supposed to. In new home construction, they are required for kitchens, bathrooms, exterior and even garage receptacles. If your home doesn't have a GFI, install at least one. If you have a swimming pool, all equipment and surrounding plugs should be protected. If you are not handy, I promise you, any licensed electrician can easily install them for you. Q: I have a block basement wall and the paint is crumbling off in areas near the floor leaving a white, powdery residue behind. What causes this and how can it be corrected? A: This is caused by leaking and is called efflorescence. You may not actually see water on the floor because the

seepage may be minor and evaporates. Make sure the terrain is sloped away 4 to 6 feet with at least a 1-inch slope. The patio, driveway or walks should also be slightly pitched to direct rainwater away from the house. If you have a sump pump, make sure ground water is draining into it and it is pumping the water out and away from the house. Q: Our house burned down and was rebuilt on the same lot. Since we moved back we have blue water. We never had this problem before the house burned down, so we feel it is not the water supplied by our water company. When taking a shower or bath the walls of our showers/tubs get a blue/green film on them and although it can be scrubbed off, I find myself scrubbing the showers and tubs a few times a week. We spoke with our builder and plumber since day one and they said this

happens but have never figured out the cause or the cure. Have you ever heard of this? A: I spoke to David from 4-A Plumbing and he said it sounds as if lead-free flux or lead-free solder was used and recommends to get a water test done to see if the test results show a lot of lead. I think it may be something else. Check with an electrician and have him inspect to make sure the electrical system is properly grounded 8-feet into the earth as well as all ground connections are secure and proper. Q: My showerhead used to have good pressure but not anymore. Can it be cleaned? A: Minerals in your water blocked openings in the shower's head. Put a rag around the head so you won't damage the chrome. Remove

the shower head using a wrench. Hold the neckpiece coming out of the wall, with your hand or a channel lock. Once removed place the shower head in a jar filled with vinegar and let it soak for about two hours. Lightly poke out the spray holes with a safety pin and reinstall. Or, pour the vinegar in a small plastic bag and tape it around the shower head without removing it. Let it soak for a couple of hours.

Lon Grossman is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at drdiy@comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website www.technihouse.com. Follow Lon's Blog at http://drdiy.wordpress.com/.

## 2012 Michigan Spring Book, Arts & Crafts Festival

Artists, authors and artisans from Detroit and across the country will talk about and sell their work at our 2nd annual event. This free fun filled weekend offers classes and workshops on writing, painting, journalism, eBook conversion and more. Local celebrities will read books to children and those who are young at heart. Detroit Reads will have tutoring session for adults "learning to read or reading to learn." Our "Gentle to All Ears" poetry and open mic will delight fans of prose and spoken word.

FUN FOR ALL  
April 13-15 at Laurel Park Place  
www.MichiganSpringBookFestival.com  
www.MichiganSpringArtFestival.com  
(313) 446-2262

An Advertorial Special Section Offer

This special edition of Hometown Life Woman will deliver hyper-local content that women love, including health and fitness, recipes, family advice, money matters and more — PLUS special pages devoted to local women. This special advertorial section will celebrate female business owners, community leaders, government officials, longtime residents, nurses and medical professionals, realtors, insurance and mortgage brokers, teachers and more.

# She Means Business

To be published Thursday May 3rd in...  
hometown life  
**woman**  
and May 6th in our Eccentric Products

To have your story published in the "She Means Business" Section you must reserve your space by April 6th, 2012.

To Advertise in:  
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
call 734-582-8363  
For Hometown Weeklies call 248-437-2011

## REUNIONS

### DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS CLASS OF 1982

For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelly Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeshochfield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

### DETROIT CODY CLASS OF 1962

Looking for Classmates from January and June graduations for 50th reunion, 6 p.m. Sept. 29, at the Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. North, Livonia. Call Neal and Barb Gehring at (248) 568-2254; NGBG@comcast.net.

### DETROIT MACKENZIE CLASS OF 1962

50th reunion, Friday, June 1. For more information e-mail mackenzie1962@gmail.com or phone Mavis (Higgins) Farrand at (734) 675-5675 or Sandy (Turnbull) Dillaha at (734) 281-8595.

### FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at S\_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net

to receive a reunion packet.

### GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST CLASSES OF 1968-1973

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check-out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on Facebook.

Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wow-way.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, SuzieWright Rogiero at suzie-rogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalfit at jackieideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffreyfordell@comcast.net.

### LINCOLN PARK HIGH CLASS OF 1962

50-year reunion for January and June graduates is set for 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Hotel, located at Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia. For more information or to RSVP e-mail Jean Badoud-Riddell at fictionweaver@sbcglobal.net; Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@MarilynSnyder.com, or Carol Jehle at jehlecarol@yahoo.com

### NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name,

address, phone and e-mail to nhs40year-reunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

### REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkivestberg@yahoo.com or Sue (Hughes) Morman at (734) 414-9941 for more information.

### WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL ALL CLASSES

Wayne High Schools Alumni Association 28th All Class Reunion Banquet will be held 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 18 at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. Dinner served at 6 p.m. The organization will honor the class of 1962. For more information call Wanda Boice at (734) 326-777 or www.waynehighalumni@aol.com

### CLASS OF 1957

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

### CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

## BOWL-A-THON HELPS SEND YOUTH TO CAMP

Bowl a few games Sunday, April 29, at Westland Bowl and you'll help abused and neglected children at the same time.

Bowl-A-Thon — with check-in at 1:30 p.m. and bowling at 2 p.m. — aims to raise funds for Royal Family Kids Camp, held July 29-Aug. 3 near Fenton. Royal Family Kids, Inc. is a concentrated program of recreation, education and affirmation to aid in the process of healing the emotional scars of childhood abuse experienced by children involved in the foster care system in Wayne County.

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene in Northville and Northville Christian Assembly sponsor the camp.

Bowlers pay \$20 per person for two games, shoe rental, pizza and soda. There also will be a silent auction room and door prizes. Westland Bowl is located at 5940 N. Wayne Road between Ford and Warren Roads.

Royal Family Kids, Inc. has more than 155 camps scheduled for 2012. Volunteer staff members from throughout metropolitan Detroit help provide a positive, life-changing summer camp experience for some 48 children ages 7-11. The Wayne County Department of Human Services selects the youngsters who attend camp. There is no charge for campers.

The camp budget is met through fundraisers such as the Bowl-A-Thon and from contributions made by local businesses, from grants, and from other donors who share a concern for this population of children.

For more information, e-mail co-director Bethann Parker at parkette@sbcglobal.net.

# Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

### Help Wanted-General

**DRIVERS:**  
Cryogenic Transportation  
OTR Tanker Work based out of  
Woodhaven. Awesome Pay &  
Benefits! Growing Co.  
CDL-A W/X End. 2 yrs. exp.  
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\$13.00-\$32.50/hr.  
Federal hire/fill benefits.  
No Experience. Call Today.  
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**MARKETING REP**  
Hourly rate.  
Resume to:  
articedqecanton@gmail.com

**CARPENTERS**  
Pay based on experience.  
Benefits & vehicle allowance.  
(248) 960-0033

**CATTAILS GOLF CLUB**  
Hiring Golf Staff (Golf Shop,  
Starters, Cart Attendant).  
Apply at: 57737 W. 9 Mile  
Rd., South Lyon.

**Lawn & Landscape Maintenance**  
Celtic Lawn & Landscape has openings for Experienced Lawn & Landscape Maintenance crew members. This position requires the ability to use commercial rider/walk-behind mowers, weeding of flower/landscape beds, trimming of bushes & installing mulch. A Valid Chauffeur License & Medical Card to drive. Must have reliable transportation to/from work.  
Fax or email resume to: (734) 838-0205  
or info@celticlawn.com  
No Phone calls.

**TEACHERS & TEACHER'S ASSISTANT**  
Previous exp. in a learning center needed. Some education preferred. (734) 459-9920

**CLEANERS, Full-Time**  
for area homes. \$10/hr. start.  
No nights/wkends. Car req.  
Plymouth. 734-812-5683

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Licensed Life & Health  
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accounts. 248-848-1746  
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**CRITTER CONTROL**  
Wildlife Management Co.  
in Livonia is looking for  
field service technicians.  
Applicant must be highly  
motivated, and reliable. Good  
driving record Mandatory.  
Pass Physical Exam, drug  
screening. Comfortable on  
ladders, high roofs in attics  
and crawl spaces. Repair  
experience preferred, but not  
necessary. Will train. Part or  
Full-Time. Great summer job  
for college students. SALARY  
BASED ON EXP. Email resume:  
employment@crittercontrol.com  
crittercontrolwestland.com

**MASONS**  
Exp'd. only. Must have own  
truck & van and own tools.  
Call: 734-217-4993

**HVAC SERVICE TECHNICIAN**  
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS  
Growing, well established  
mechanical contracting  
company located in Detroit  
metropolitan area seeking  
HVAC technician experi-  
enced in residential and  
light commercial. Must  
be familiar with up to 10-ton  
HVAC systems, electric  
heat, basic controls and  
line voltage. Base salary  
negotiable, fully paid med-  
ical benefits, AFLAC, retire-  
ment plan, paid Holidays  
and vacation. Strong lead-  
ership skills, good cus-  
tomer relations, profes-  
sionalism and dependabil-  
ity a must. Great clientele  
base with guaranteed  
steady year-round work.  
Fax resume to:  
(734) 287-4011  
or Email resume to:  
micheller@ecshvac.com

**DIRECT CARE STAFF**  
FT, benefits, afternoons, mid-  
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Novi area: (248) 636-2461  
Brick Pavers, Retaining  
Walls, Sprinkler Systems,  
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(248) 347-6886

### Help Wanted-General

**MANUFACTURING ENGINEER**  
For growing custom wood  
store fixture manufacturer  
with experience in the  
Woodworking Industry.  
Must be proficient with  
AutoCad, skilled with  
MS Excel and Outlook.  
No phone calls accepted.  
Email resume as a  
PDF attachment to:  
engineerjob@e-l-w.com

**PURCHASING AGENT**  
For growing custom wood  
store fixture manufacturer.  
Responsibilities include  
price shopping materials  
& supplies for highest  
value at lowest cost, placing  
orders for materials & sup-  
plies from received Bill of  
Materials, and order follow-  
up. Must be highly skilled  
with using Microsoft Excel  
and Outlook and knowledge-  
able in woodworking and/or  
cabinetry.  
No phone calls accepted.  
Email resume in PDF format  
to: purchasejob@e-l-w.com

**LAWN MAINTENANCE W/EXP**  
ONLY: Full & Part-Time.  
Competitive pay, Plymouth  
area. 734-416-9718

**DRIVER/PERSONAL ASSISTANT:**  
Primary duty would be  
as a driver for a local  
business executive. Must  
be physically able and  
experienced in assisting  
handicapped individual.  
Pleasant working environ-  
ment with flexible hours.  
Excellent driving record  
a must. Pre-employment  
drug & background check.  
Send resume to: E-mail:  
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or fax: (248) 879-2439

**DELIVERY**  
Valid Driver's License Req.  
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\$500-\$800/Week  
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Summer Part / Full-time.  
Property Maintenance Co.  
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Please Fax or Email resume  
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For growing company with  
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Friendly work environment.  
Exp. not necessary. Full-Time  
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\$12/hr. Benefits available.  
Apply at: Janet Davis Cleaners  
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33117 Hamilton Court,  
Suite 200, Farmington  
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eeded (In Royal Oak, MI).  
Send resume to:  
Ms. Julie May, JDM Syst

**CERTIFIED BRAKE & FRONT END MECHANIC**  
Welding & muffler exp. Call  
btwn 8am-6pm. 734-722-7900

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### Help Wanted-General

**CORPORATE CONTROLLER**  
Livonia insurance agency  
seeks corporate controller.  
Candidates must have at  
least a Bachelor's in  
Accounting & 3 years pre-  
vious accounting experi-  
ence. CPA preferred.  
Responsibilities include  
month-end closing, gener-  
al ledger account analy-  
sis/reconciliation, bank  
reconciliations, cash mgmt,  
overseeing A/R & A/P,  
prep of monthly/annual  
financial statements, man-  
aging accounting dept.  
and internal controls, prep  
outside auditor schedules,  
& special projects.  
Ideal candidates must be  
extremely organized; have  
excellent oral/written com-  
munication skills; pay  
prompt attn to manage-  
ment requests; be a team  
player & self-starter; able  
to multi-task and pay attn  
to detail; be able to com-  
municate regularly/effectively  
w/management and  
staff. IT and HR experi-  
ence would be a plus.  
Qualified candidates  
please e-mail your  
resume to:  
jobs@cambridge-pc.com

**AUTO PARTS STORE MANAGER**  
Full time. Apply at:  
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Send resume to:  
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MS Office skills required.  
Send resume to:  
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Bloomfield Twp., MI 48301

**SALES DELIVERY ROUTE DRIVER**  
Must have clean driving  
record. Chauffeur's license.  
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**SEAMSTRESS- Minor & major**  
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Kai Cleaners, 7 Mile &  
Telegraph. Ron 313-537-8050

**DRIVERS/ CREW MEMBERS**  
Quality driven Moving  
Company looking for  
self-motivated, teamwork  
oriented individuals with  
moving experience a plus  
(will train). Excellent ben-  
efits, profit sharing, 401K,  
bonus program and  
room for advancement.  
Call Brendan at:  
734-573-2632 or fax  
resume to 734-485-6748

**DRIVER-TRUCK/LABORER**  
Must have slick exp. & good  
driving record. \$9.50/hr.  
to start. Apply at: Nobles  
Landscaping Supply,  
29450 W. 8 Mile, W. of  
Middlebelt. 248-474-4822

**REAL ESTATE OFFER PROCESSOR, Exp'd.**  
Good follow up skills. Must be  
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Deals with banks & title com-  
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**Service Coordinator**  
Energetic, Organized,  
Customer Service  
oriented, multi tasker.  
Ideal candidate will be  
able to deal tactfully with a  
variety of people in diverse  
and sometimes stressful  
situations. Must be able to  
work under pressure and  
exercise good judgment.  
Must have good working  
knowledge of general  
computer skills including:  
Word and Excel.  
Responsibilities include:  
\*answering calls on  
multiple phone lines  
\*scheduling and  
coordinating service  
calls with service techs  
and customers  
\*ability to keep good  
notes and records  
Please forward  
resume to:  
teamwork1962@  
yahoo.com

### Help Wanted-General

**Payroll Coordinator**  
Responsible for payroll  
and benefits processing,  
will also be responsible  
for ensuring the over all  
integrity of payroll while  
maintaining a professional  
relationship with manage-  
ment and other employees  
to ensure proper and  
timely processing of pay-  
roll. Ideal candidate will  
have the minimum of 2  
yrs. exp. in payroll and  
human resources. ADP &  
or Dealertrack (Arkona)  
Management Systems  
exp. preferred. Must have  
excellent interpersonal  
communication and ana-  
lytical skills; strong atten-  
tion to detail; and ability  
to work effectively with  
others required. The ideal  
candidate should have a for-  
e-ful, yet tactful disposi-  
tion, and prior experience  
with lien claims, small  
court and waivers of lien  
and sworn statement  
preparation. Excellent  
computer skills and profi-  
ciency in Microsoft Word  
and Excel required.  
Position requires some  
overtime and dedication to  
customer service. Min-  
imum of 5 years of previ-  
ous collections experi-  
ence required with previ-  
ous experience at an AE  
firm using Ditek Vision  
software preferred.

**WRECKER/ FLAT BED DRIVER**  
Must have auto towing exp.  
Southfield. (248) 356-5399

**SPRINKLER SERVICE TECH**  
Established landscaping co.  
seeking an exp'd sprinkler  
service tech. Min 5 yrs. veri-  
fiable exp. Must be knowl-  
edgeable in all phases of installa-  
tion, troubleshooting, and  
repair. O.T. avail. in the spring  
and fall. Must pass back-  
ground and driving record  
check. Call: (734) 738-9002

**ASSISTANT MANAGER**  
Real Estate Co.  
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assistant manager.  
6+ years' real estate  
experience, motivated,  
energetic & computer  
savvy. Email resume to:  
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**Sales Position: Real Estate Sales**  
Licensing Classes  
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• Your Determination  
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Income  
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• Health/Life/Disability  
Insurance  
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seeking hardworking individ-  
ual. Duties will include heavy  
lifting and office work.  
Fastener experience preferred  
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candidate. Clean driving  
record necessary and must  
pass drug test. Send resume:  
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in Northville looking  
for a FT exp. bookkeeper.  
Knowledge of Quickbooks  
& Microsoft a must.  
Fax Resume:  
248-924-2638

**Healthcare Co.**  
in Northville looking  
for a FT exp. bookkeeper.  
Knowledge of Quickbooks  
& Microsoft a must.  
Fax Resume:  
248-924-2638

**CONCRETE LABORER**  
Min 2 yrs exp w/valid driver's  
license. \$10-\$11/hr; 50-55  
hrs/wk. Call 313-928-1212

**COLLECTIONS SPECIALIST**  
In business for 48+ years,  
Soil and Materials  
Engineers, Inc. (SME)  
seeks a full-time  
Collections Specialist  
to join its Plymouth  
Headquarters office.  
Responsibilities include  
daily collections calls and  
appropriate follow up,  
periodic work with attor-  
ney, and interaction with  
our project managers and  
clients to resolve  
billing/collections issues.  
Excellent organizational,  
communication, and ana-  
lytical skills; strong atten-  
tion to detail; and ability  
to work effectively with  
others required. The ideal  
candidate should have a for-  
e-ful, yet tactful disposi-  
tion, and prior experience  
with lien claims, small  
court and waivers of lien  
and sworn statement  
preparation. Excellent  
computer skills and profi-  
ciency in Microsoft Word  
and Excel required.  
Position requires some  
overtime and dedication to  
customer service. Min-  
imum of 5 years of previ-  
ous collections experi-  
ence required with previ-  
ous experience at an AE  
firm using Ditek Vision  
software preferred.

### Help Wanted-General

**Appointment Desk for Veterinary Practice**  
Seeking full-time (40 hrs),  
experienced appointment  
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# Milestones

## Ring-Aurora

Howard and Jodi Ring of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan, to Peter Aurora. Peter is the son of Martin Aurora Gonzalez and Maria Zavaleta de Aurora of Lima Peru.

The bride-elect is a 2004 graduate of Canton High School. She graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School and is a resident at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Her fiancé received his doctorate in engineering at the University of Michigan. He is employed by



Nissan.

They plan a May wedding at St. John Chapel in Plymouth.

## Kendra Lynn Barich

Kendra Lynn Barich was born Feb. 15, 2012, at Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

Proud parents are Jenna and Bryan Barich of Novi.

Grandparents are Tom and Julie Howe of Livonia and Mark and Vicki Barich of Dearborn. Great-grandmother is



Ruth Whicker-Dunlap of 29 Palms, Calif.

## Audette-Nason

Catherine Audette and Aaron Nason announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Charlie and Ilene Audette of Farmington Hills, attended Michigan State University and is a marketing project manager at One Reverse Mortgage.

Her fiancé, son of George and Deanna Nason of Clawson, also attended Michigan State University and is a mort-



gage banker for Quicken Loans.

A May 2012 wedding is planned at St. Florian Church in Hamtramck.

## Smith-Barnauskas

Alexandra Therese Smith of Northville and William Charles Barnauskas of Livonia announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Tim and Cindy Smith of Novi, earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Madonna University. She is employed as a labor and delivery nurse at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

Her fiancé, son of Bill and Peggy Barnauskas of Clinton, earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering from Michigan State University. He is employed as a pro-



cess engineer at ACH - Automotive Components Holding in Saline.

A June 2012 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Northville.

## Sanchez-Hubbard

Sabrina Sanchez and Scott Patrick Hubbard announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Manuel and Mary-Elizabeth Sanchez of Westland, earned an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College and a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. She is employed at Tom Holzer Ford in Farmington Hills.

Her fiancé, son of Richard and Alice Hubbard of



Westland, is employed at Eradico Pest Services in Novi.

A June 2012 wedding is planned in Westland.

## Cavanaugh-Worthing

Catherine Elizabeth Cavanaugh and Eric Nathan Worthing announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Michael and Theresa Cavanaugh of Dexter, is a 1998 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, a 2003 graduate of Grand Valley State University, and 2008 graduate of Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is currently employed as a physician.

Her fiancé, son of Mark and Rita Worthing of Brunswick, Maine, is a 2001 graduate of Brunswick High School and a



2005 graduate of Bowdoin College. He is a medical student and will graduate this year from the University of Vermont's College of Medicine.

A September 2012 wedding is planned in Portland, Maine.

# GARDEN & NATURE

## Butterflies

"Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The meeting topic is "Butterfly Garden Enhancements." Participants will learn how to create and install accessories and enhancements for their butterfly gardens. Admission for non-members is \$3. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

## English Gardens

Kick off spring with at look at what's new for the garden at the annual Garden Party Weekend, Saturday-Sunday, March 31-April 1. The weekend includes free presentations, refreshments, door prizes and a showcase of new gardening products. Featured presentations are:

- Eight Months of Continuous Color with Janet Macunovich, Advanced Master Gardener, 10 a.m. in Dearborn Heights and 1 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both Saturday, March 31, and noon, April 1 in Royal Oak. Macunovich will talk about extending color in the garden.

- Top 10 tips for A Successful Garden with Detroit News garden columnist Nancy Szerlag, 1 p.m. in Royal Oak and 4 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both March 31 and noon, Sunday, April 1 in Dearborn Heights.

- Top 10 tips for Lawn Care with Ashton Ritchie of Scotts. He'll share his 40 years of experience and answer questions about weeds, bare spots and more, 10 a.m. March 31 in Royal Oak, noon, April 1 in Dearborn Heights.

- All About Hydrangeas, 1 p.m. in Ann Arbor, 2:30 p.m. in Royal Oak and 4 p.m. Dearborn Heights, all on March 31, and 3 p.m., April 1 in West Bloomfield.

- The Thrills & Spills of Container Gardening with Proven Winners representatives, 10 a.m. in Ann Arbor, 11:30 a.m. in West Bloomfield, 2:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights, all on March 31 and 1:30 p.m. April 1 in Royal Oak.

- The Beauty of Summer Flowering Bulbs with Pieter van der Lans of 2Plant International, 10 a.m. in West Bloomfield, 1 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and 4 p.m. in Royal Oak, all on March 31.

- Perennials: Gardening with Color, 2:30 p.m. March 31 in Ann Arbor and noon, April 1 in West Bloomfield.

- The Basics of Organic Gardening with Greg Brackett, 1:30 p.m. April 1 in Ann Arbor.

- Take Back Your Garden: Stop Deer & Rabbits from Devouring Your Garden, 11:30 a.m. March 31 in Royal Oak and 3 p.m. April 1 in Ann Arbor. Julia Hofley will teach the techniques to keep plants from getting eaten from neighborhood rabbits and deer.

- The Grass Can Be Greener will focus on what you need to keep your lawn looking its best, 1:30 p.m. April 1, in West Bloomfield.

- Wedding Floral Trends with Ron Worth, English Gardens floral designer, 11:30 a.m. March 31, in Dearborn Heights.

- How to Arrange Fresh Flowers Like a Pro, 2:30 p.m. March 31 in West Bloomfield and on April 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and 3 p.m. in Royal Oak.

- Planting for Success will teach the secrets to growing a beautiful garden, starting with the planting process, 11:30 a.m. March 31 in Ann Arbor.

- Grow Your Own Vegetables, 4 p.m. March 31 in Ann Arbor.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

# Passages

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## BOUCHER, CECILE

Age 91, March 16, 2012. Loving wife of the late Alfred. Mother of Angela (Jason) Becktold. Grandmother to Geoffrey, Greyson, Greenlea, Gideon and Gaspar. Cecile was an active member of St. Edith Catholic Church. Memorial gathering Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 6-9PM, with a vigil service at 7PM at Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 Five Mile Road (one block East of Levan), Livonia, MI. Mass Saturday, March 24, 2012 10:30AM at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh Road (South of 5 Mile Road), Livonia, MI. Memorials may be made to The Huron Forest Camp Cedar Ridge, 36208 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48335. Please share memories at: Fredwoodfuneralhome.com



## Happy 31st Birthday, Brian

March 16, 1981

We love and miss you very much. Love, Your family



## CAINCROSS, DENIECE LYNN

Age 53, of New Boston, died March 17, 2012. Born in Lapeer on December 17, 1958, daughter of the late Norma Jean Thomason. Deniece was a Reserve Police Officer with Van Buren Township, and dispatched for Belleville. She was a loving wife and mother who took great pleasure in her family and home. She enjoyed gardening and looking for four leaf clovers. She loved her new "Bumblebee" Camaro. Survived by husband, David, three children, Heather (Yacine) Belkadi of Wixom, Cory of Wayne, and Nicole of Canton, five grandchildren R.J. and Molly Belkadi, Zane Richter, Haley and Logan Brandess. Visitation will be 1-7 PM Sat., March 24, 2012 at Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, with a 7 PM Memorial Service. www.davidbrownfh.com

## HYDE, JOHN

Age 87. Husband of the late Ruth. Beloved father of Bonnie (Conrad) Richards & Debbie Hyde. Loving grandfather of Jonathan (Adriana) & Ryan (Charity) & great-grandfather of Adelaide. Dear brother of June Fisher. Services were at Charles Step Funeral Home, Redford. Interment Christian Memorial Cemetery. Condolences to CharlesStepFuneralHome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



## FARKAS, LESTER R.

Age 82, formerly of Northville, passed away peacefully in the presence of family on January 5, 2012 in Barrington, IL. Beloved husband of the late Eleanor (Barkiewicz) and Frederick Boyt in Detroit, MI. She is survived by her daughter, Elisabeth Kroepel of Newburgh Heights, OH; her son Geoffrey; her sister, JoAnne (Boyt) McCallum of Traverse City; her sister-in-law Gloria (Weitzman) Boyt of Grosse Pointe Woods; nieces, nephews and their families; friends and relatives. Shirley graduated from Cass Technical High School, earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from Wayne State University, and a degree from the University of the South at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. She was a lab assistant at Grace Hospital, raised family in Farmington Hills, and after moving to Livonia, where she lived for over 40 years, worked as an educator for Detroit Public Schools until retirement. Shirley was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church, volunteer, union member, and philanthropist. A bon vivant with bright blue eyes and a sparkling smile, she was an avid reader, good cook, and gardener who enjoyed nature, personal fitness, and animals. She was happy to offer encouragement and share a cup of coffee. Shirley was a woman of strong character and abiding faith with a creative flair who treasured visits with family and friends. She will live on through the lives she touched. We miss her. Contact Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home at: 231-947-6347 for information.

## KROEPEL, SHIRLEY JANE (NEE BOYT)

82, died March 8, 2012 in Traverse City, MI. She was born April 11, 1929 to Lillian (Hills) and Frederick Boyt in Detroit, MI. She is survived by her daughter, Elisabeth Kroepel of Newburgh Heights, OH; her son Geoffrey; her sister, JoAnne (Boyt) McCallum of Traverse City; her sister-in-law Gloria (Weitzman) Boyt of Grosse Pointe Woods; nieces, nephews and their families; friends and relatives. Shirley graduated from Cass Technical High School, earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from Wayne State University, and a degree from the University of the South at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. She was a lab assistant at Grace Hospital, raised family in Farmington Hills, and after moving to Livonia, where she lived for over 40 years, worked as an educator for Detroit Public Schools until retirement. Shirley was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church, volunteer, union member, and philanthropist. A bon vivant with bright blue eyes and a sparkling smile, she was an avid reader, good cook, and gardener who enjoyed nature, personal fitness, and animals. She was happy to offer encouragement and share a cup of coffee. Shirley was a woman of strong character and abiding faith with a creative flair who treasured visits with family and friends. She will live on through the lives she touched. We miss her. Contact Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home at: 231-947-6347 for information.



## FISCHER, LESLIE E. (NEE FARKAS)

Age 52, formerly of Northville, passed away peacefully on October 23, 2011 in Waukesha, WI, after a courageous battle with cancer. Beloved wife of Bryan and loving and devoted mother of Alec and Kit. Leslie was the daughter of the late Lester and late Eleanor Farkas, survived by her brother Drew. Leslie was a graduate of Northville High School, attended the Peabody Institute of the John Hopkins University (violin), the University of Michigan (BA History) and Marquette University Law School (JD 1988). She was the champion of the Marquette's 1987 moot court competition and served as an Asst. DA in Rock County, WI. She loved her dogs Fox, Sophie and Teddi and was an active member in the Australian Terrier Club. A Memorial for Leslie for local family and friends will be held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday at 12 p.m. Family will receive visitors from 10:30 a.m. until service. Donations to HAWS shelter at www.haws.org, would be appreciated. Please share a memory of Leslie at: www.rgrharris.com



## RISCH, DORIS M.

Age 88, March 20, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Raymond. Dear mother of Richard (Nanette), Kathleen (Karl) Neumaier, Denise (Ron) Muir, Michael (Donna) and the late Thomas (the late Sharron). Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 20. Great-great-grandmother of two. Sister-in-law of Dorothy LeVasseur, Frances Markgraff and Josephine Risch. Doris was a longtime volunteer at Garden City Hospital. Visitation Thursday 1-9pm, with an evening Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Friday 9am until 10am Mass at St. Dunstan Catholic Church, 1515 Belton (2 blocks west of Inkster, 2 blocks south of Ford Rd.) www.santeiufuneralhome.com

## SEVONTY, ABDON JOSEPH

Passed into God's hands March 11, 2012. He was born July 30, 1910, in Pierz, MN, into a large, hardworking farming family of 13 children. At 16, the entire family moved to Michigan, where he began a long career in the automobile industry, culminating in his retirement at 60 from Chrysler, after 40 yrs. He was a man of great moral character, strong faith in God, and a tremendous father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was my role model, both as a child and as an adult. His legacy to his family is beyond measure. With deepest love, respect, and appreciation, we say "thank you." You are home. Your deeds speak volumes to the kind of man you were. Abdon is survived by his beloved daughter Janet B. Korte; two loving grandsons Jeremy and James Korte; four dear great-grandchildren Jonathon, Jordan, Joshua and Jamie; and two dear sisters Clarice Wamsanz and Margaret Danko. Abdon is predeceased in death by his beloved wife Simone Sevonty and loving son Robert Sevonty. Visitation Friday, March 23, 2012, 2-8 PM, with a Rosary at 7PM at John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (btwn Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Saturday 9am until The Mass of Christian Burial 9:30 AM at St. Mel Catholic Church, 7506 Inkster (just north of Warren), Dearborn Heights, MI. www.santeiufuneralhome.com



## STANTON, HAROLD S.

March 16, 2012 Age 86. Loving husband of Joyce. Dear father of Michael (Susan), Mollie Stanton-Fuja (Steve) and Tim (Sharyn). Also survived by six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Brother of David and Marshall (Janice). Services were held at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Memorial tributes to the hunger project of your choice. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500

View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

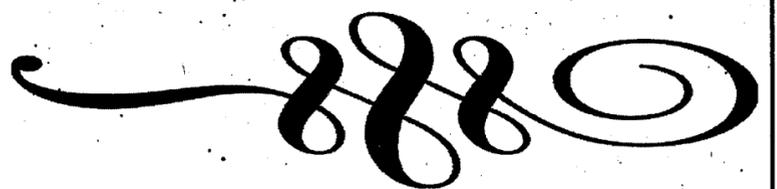


## THURBER, JOHN A.

Age 72, of Birmingham, died peacefully March 19, 2012. Beloved husband of Barbara for 49 years. Loving father of John (Jenny) Thurber and Sarah (Craig) Lindsay. Proud grandfather of Katharine and Andrew Lindsay. Dear brother of Mary Alice Locicero, Frances (Roy) Talmadge, and Jeanne (Robert) Murray. Services have been held. Memorials appreciated to Capuchin Soup Kitchen or Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy. Obituary and condolences at: lynchfuneraldirectors.com

## VINCENT, CAROLINE "KELLEY"

Of Gregory, MI, age 66, died March 19, 2012. Funeral Friday, March 23 at 11:00am at Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea. Visitation Thursday 2-4 & 6-8pm. www.mitchellfuneral.com



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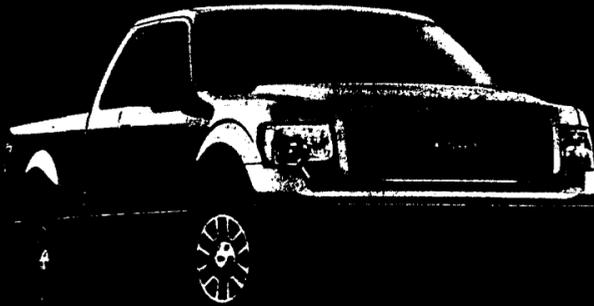
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