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TASTE, PAGE B7



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**Supporters press on with Frontier Park plan**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A citizens group pushing for a 60-acre recreation complex near Central City Park has struck out in its attempt to get a November tax proposal passed to support the plan.

But the group, Citizens for Frontier Park, still believes it can hit a crowd-rousing grand slam for a project that would include eight baseball fields, three soccer fields, a two-sheet ice arena, two basketball courts, walking trails and a special-needs playing field, among other amenities.

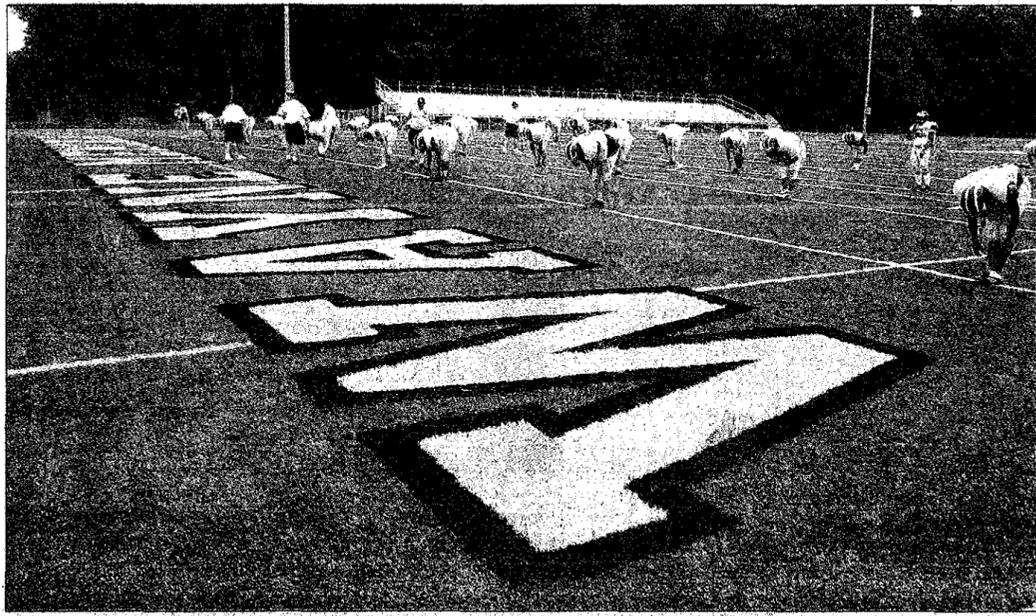
"The plan is alive and well," CFP chairman Mark Rodriguez said. A massive, \$40 million proposal, Frontier Park would be built west of Central City Park, sprawling southwest to Newburgh and Marquette and north to near Ford Road, he said. CFP leaders had hoped to convince

city officials to place a 1-mill tax proposal on the Nov. 1 ballot, but they'll have to wait. "The city has not yet committed to putting a millage on the ballot to support funding for the project," Westland City Council President Charles Pickering said.

Even so, CFP leaders and a committee appointed by Mayor Sandra Cicirelli met last week for talks that left both sides willing to continue exploring the issue.

"When we've got a group that's as

PLEASE SEE FRONTIER, A5



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Tale of the turf**

The Wayne Memorial High School football team is getting ready for the first game of the fall season by practicing on the newly installed artificial turf. The Zebras take to the field in their home opener at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, against University of Detroit-Jesuit. However, the marching band will be the first to perform on the turf, presenting its half time show at 5 p.m. Saturday. The performance comes just after the band returns from band camp.

**Companies plan to make pitch for city trash contract**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

With complaints about Westland's trash hauler still trickling in, city leaders will hear proposals Monday from companies hoping to snag a long-term contract.

As of Monday night, three trash-hauling companies - Onyx, Republic and Waste Management - had indicated to local officials that they will make a pitch for the city's business.

Their representatives plan to unveil their proposals during public talks scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Westland City Hall.

In a move that surprised local officials, longtime Westland trash hauler Painter & Ruthenberg Inc. hadn't signed on as of Monday night to make a proposal.

P&R President Paul Ruthenberg told the *Observer* on Tuesday morning that he had been on vacation, but that his company will be represented at the meeting.

"We'll be there," he said. P&R - a family-owned, Inkster-based company - has come under heavy fire this year amid complaints of late trash pickup and allegations that workers have spilled garbage in some neighborhoods without cleaning it up.

"I really think we need to get rid of them," Frumin Court resident Tom Mitch, 41, said Monday as he left a Westland City Council meeting, where he

spoke against P&R. Mitch reminded city leaders that P&R already has lost its contract with neighboring communities, such as Wayne and Dearborn Heights. "All of these cities around us are getting rid of them," he said. "Maybe we might want to think about this."

P&R has a contract with Garden City through September. The company's pact with Westland expired in June, but P&R continues to haul garbage until city officials decide whether to keep the company or replace it.

Twice now, the council has delayed a vote on extending P&R's contract only through December. On Monday, city leaders said P&R officials and City Attorney Angelo Plakas' office hadn't yet finalized an agreement for the extension.

When asked about the situation, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said no interruption is expected in trash-hauling services.

Some residents have defied P&R, saying that the company is trying to rebound from financial difficulties and that city officials should be patient. Others, however, have said that problems with P&R have occurred far too long and that the city should move swiftly to hire a new company.

City officials won't decide during Monday's session whether to stay with P&R or hire a new company. Early this week, it wasn't clear when a decision would be made.

**Blue or red?**

**Cops vs. firefighters in a Battle of the Badge blood drive**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland police officers and firefighters are out for blood. Yours.

Don't fight the men and women in blue. Don't inflame a firefighter. Give blood.

With the American Red Cross facing a critical shortage, city police officers and firefighters are competing to recruit the

most donors to a blood drive scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, at the Bailey Recreation Center.

It's called the Battle of the Badges. And, with a trophy at stake, both sides have an unquenchable thirst for - well, blood.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli decided to sponsor the friendly competition after the Red Cross contacted her office to help ease a severe blood shortage.

To sign up for a one-pint donation, call

Cicirelli's office at (734) 467-3200 or see any police officer or firefighter.

Police officers are handing out blue, plastic, poker-like chips and asking blood donors to turn them in when they donate blood.

Firefighters are giving out red chips. They even one-upped the police by distributing their chips to residents arriving Monday evening at City Hall for a

PLEASE SEE BLOOD, A5

**Browe fosters volunteerism among seniors**

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

It's safe to say that Mary Browe has a voice for radio. She has the credentials to prove it.

She's a former member of WJR's house vocal group, the Don Larch Singers, performing when J.P. McCarthy and Jimmy Launce were just getting started and in USO tours

with comedian Bob Hope. She even went on the road with a small group until she retired in 2001 ... from singing. But if she has her way she'll keep her day job "40 years, if they let me."

"I've never had a bad boss ... I'm so lucky," said Browe, a 31-year employee of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

In her 15 years as director of

the Dyer Senior Adult Center, Browe has succeeded in creating a popular program for seniors that, by and large, is planned by them and run by them.

**TEAMWORK**

Seniors work the front desk, they answer telephones, they do fund raising, and register members for different trips. They turn out in large num-

bers for the monthly meeting where they decide the menu for the monthly dinner - a good show of hands put city chicken over the top for next Tuesday's dinner - and pick movies for the twice-a-month Movie Day.

Browe started with the district, teaching parent education with the SPARKEY pre-

PLEASE SEE BROWE, A4



Dyer Senior Center member Robert Seaward teases with director Mary Browe (right) during the monthly senior club meeting. Looking on is Dorothy Krzystan.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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**INDEX**

APARTMENTS	F7
AT HOME	B1
BELIEFS & VALUES	B5
AUTOMOTIVE	G6
CROSSWORD	F6
JOBS	F10
MOVIES	D14
OBITUARIES	B5
REAL ESTATE	F1
SERVICE GUIDE	F10
SPORTS	C1
TASTE	B7

**Coming Sunday in PINK**

Fash Bash makes a splash!

# Bowling benefit provides 'Hope for Diana'

It wasn't quite the Publishers Clearinghouse Prize Patrol presentation they had hoped for, just Michelle Glover "practicing" a PowerPoint presentation for work.

But as she started reading it, her sister Diana Fox, realized she was hearing a speech Michelle had given at a July 29 "Hope for Diana Fox" fund-raiser.

And the Westland resident did an oversized check for \$3,250, the proceeds from the bowling benefit staged at Woodland Lanes in Livonia.

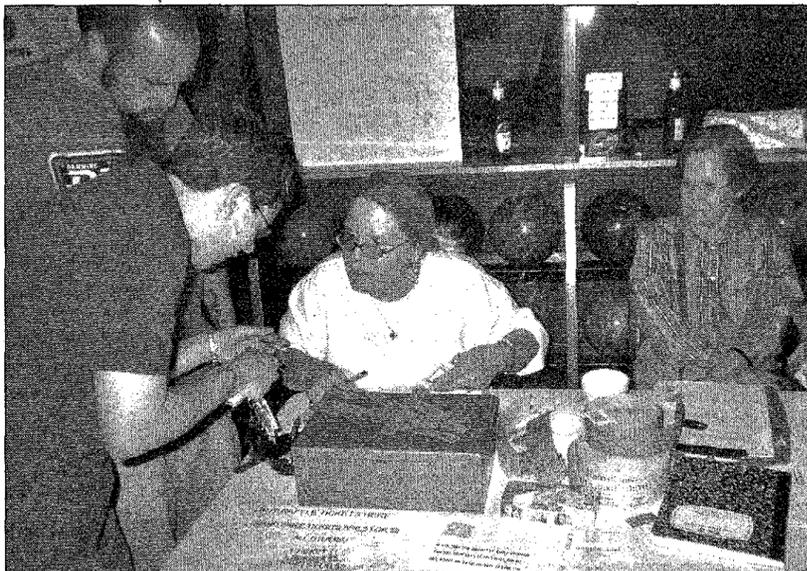
"Her reaction to the check was very heart felt, she was at a loss for words," said her sister Joanna Gootee of Dearborn Heights. "We just thought since my sister is still in recovery, and has passed the over 100 plus days, we wouldn't jeopardize her progress by making her stand in the doorway of her home. We are still protective of her health, and we are very selfish when it comes to her."

Fox is recovering from an April 20 bone marrow transplant at the University of Michigan Hospital where she is being treated for Acute Myelogenous Leukemia. One of the more common type of acute leukemia in adults, AML develops when there is a defect in the immature cells in the bone marrow.

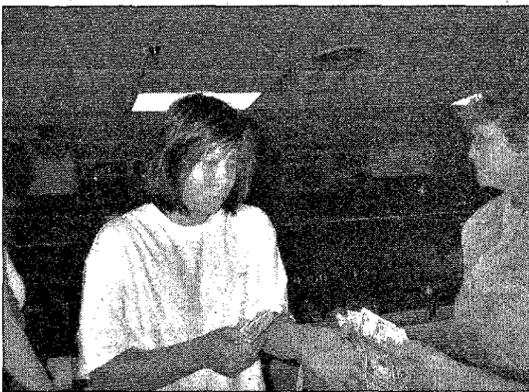
Fox was age 53 when she was diagnosed with AML in October 2004 and was in and out of UM hospital several times until she went on April 9 for the transplant. She was discharged on June 16. The date of the bowling benefit marked "Day 99 since her BMT," said Gootee.

The benefit was organized by Michelle Glover, Gootee and Fox's co-worker Laura Brandt. There were more than 70 bowlers who bowled two games with the third, sixth and ninth frames automatic strikes. And close to 40 others were there to show their support, Gootee said.

The benefit attracted Fox's siblings - Gootee, Michelle Glover of Allen Park, brothers Michael Glover of



Joanna Gootee checks raffle tickets with her son Nicholas and friend Melissa under the watchful eye of her mother, Marian Porter.



Organizer Laura Brandt gets change for the 50/50 ticket sales.

Holland and Jeffrey Glover of Belleville - mom Marion Potter and stepfather Morton Potter, also of Belleville, niece Rachael Glover and nephews Nicholas Gootee, Charles Stumpf, Aaron Glover and Steven Glover, as well as friends and co-workers.

They came together the bowling benefit "not because everyone loves her so dearly, but because we want her to

feel hopeful in her recovery," Gootee said. "We love her too much, and can't live without her."

Woodland Lanes served pizza and pop and donated a bar mirror as a prize for the raffle. Among the prizes were a 20-inch color TV, four Detroit Tigers tickets (infield box) with parking pass, restaurant gift certificates and the "works" from Bill

Brown Ford to name a few.

Some participants also donated hand-made items like afghans and jewelry, while others created great gift baskets of household items, beauty and hair care items, even had a Wendy's gift basket.

And her brother Jeff Glover video taped the event and took pictures that were given to Fox as a keepsake.

According to Gootee, her sister is slowly gaining her strength back. She is eating better and even has baked a little. However, her husband Michael, who took a leave from his job as an engineer to be with during her recovery, is the chef of the house.

"She always goes out of her way to help and do for others, asking or taking very little for herself," said Gootee. "She asked, 'Can I get all the names of everyone who was there, so I can send thank you cards?'"

"Diana is like that. No matter what you do, have her over for dinner, clean her house, buy her a gift you'll always get a thank you note."

## AROUND WESTLAND

### Health extravaganza

Join Spectrum Community Services Child Care Center for its Fun Fair and Health Extravaganza 1-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, at the child care center at 28303, Joy Road, Westland.

The event offers fun for the whole family and ensure that children receive timely health screenings. There will be free kindergarten physicals, entertainment, games, prizes, face painting and more.

Spectrum Community Child Care Center provides a safe environment for children while meeting their social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs. For more information, call (734) 367-6755.

### Women of Achievement

Recognize an outstanding woman you know for the YWCA of Western Wayne County's 2005 Women of Achievement Awards.

The awards recognize outstanding women throughout western Wayne County in the categories of arts/communications, business/industry, government/law, professions, senior woman, volunteer service and young woman.

To nominate an outstanding woman you know, call the YWCA Women of Achievement Department at (313) 561-4110. Deadline for nominations is Sept. 30.

Nominees will be honored at the 14th Annual Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon Oct. 27 at the Dearborn Inn. The program begins at 11 a.m. with a silent auction, a new portion of the luncheon. The awards presentation begins at noon.

Keynote speaker is 2005 Woman of the Year Kathleen Ligocki, president and chief executive officer of Tower Automotive. Ligocki is a strong advocate of women's leadership development, and a founding member of the Women's Leadership Forum.

Mistress of Ceremonies is 2004 Woman of the Year Eleanor M. Josaitis, CEO and co-founder of Focus: HOPE.

### Youth group

Youth Matters, an after-school recreation and skill building program for parents and children 7-12 years old is being offered by the Garden City Family Resource Center. It is aimed at children who are having problems with acting out, anger management and other issues.

The program, open to western Wayne County residents, runs for seven weeks beginning Sept. 20. Children attend twice weekly, parents once a week.

Space is limited. Call (734) 793-1860 to register.

### Gardening program

The William P. Faust Public Library will host a program on earth friendly gardening 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway north of Ford.

The speakers will be garden consultants Nancy Szerlag and Jeff Ball who will cover such topics as perennial flowers for falls, mulches and compost, managing weeds without chemicals and landscape design ideas.

The program is free and sponsored by the City of Westland. To register, call (734) 467-3198 weekdays or register by e-mail at LFDean@aol.com.

### For the health of it

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will have its annual Health & Business Expo 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at Westland Shopping Center. As the major sponsor, the mall will offer health and business participants an opportunity to display their goods and services in a high-traffic environment.

Others involved include Nancy Barrons, business sponsor from Standard Federal Bank, and St. Mary Hospital, health sponsor.

Organizers are looking for business and health-care providers to participate in this year's event. Tables are \$125 for chamber members, \$175 for non-members and \$75 for non-profit groups. For more information or to reserve a spot, call (734) 326-7222.

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# Starfish services looks for families for programs

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

It's crunch time at Starfish Family Services where eligible families are being encouraged to register now for Head Start, federally funded preschool program for kids ages 3-4.

The goal, according to Ouida Cash, Starfish CEO, is have its programs fully enrolled by the start of school.

"Like the school systems, we need a count day so it's important to have to see little bottoms in seats," she said. "That way they know we're fully enrolled and the county knows we don't have to do anymore recruiting." Starfish has six Head Start sites.

Head Start, which turned 40 this year, is for children who have a disability, are in foster care or whose family is low income or receives Aid to Dependent Children, general assistance or food stamps.

Starfish is one of several agencies and school districts in Wayne County that provide the Head Start program to eligible families in the Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, Crestwood and Inkster school districts.

Head Start was launched as an eight-week summer program by the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965 and was designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs.

Forty years later, the program runs September through June and embraces the entire family by offering prekindergarten programming along with nutritional, health, dental, mental health and social services.

Starfish also has two other programs that assist families



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ouida Cash, CEO of Starfish Family Services, wants to fill the seats available in its Head Start programs in the Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, Crestwood and Inkster school districts.

who don't meet the Head Start criteria - the Michigan School Readiness Program and Great Parents, Great Start.

MSRP also is a free preschool program for 4-year-olds who have two or more factors that place them at risk of future school difficulties and whose family's income is typically over the Head Start income eligibility guidelines.

It prepares youngsters for school readiness through part-day classes four days a week. Parents with children in the MSRP program also can participate in the same activities and services offered to Head Start families, and in addition to classroom-based services, receive at least one home visit and participate in one parent-teacher conference per year.

Classes last 3 1/2 hours and are available morning or afternoons Monday-Thursday at two

Starfish Head Start sites - the Full Gospel Temple in Westland and Roosevelt School in Redford. Great Parents, Great Start is a home-based literacy program for children age 2 1/2 and older and their families. It lasts eight-12 weeks.

"It's a great program for parents and for children," said Melinda Clynes, Starfish marketing and public relations administrator. "They come into your home and bring in a mini preschool. They determine where the child is at and then work with both the parents and child."

Families qualify for the program, funded by the state, if they have a minimum of four risk factors out of 30 identified by the state.

Among those factors are parental unemployment, low family income, lack of a stable residence or a family history of

low educational achievement.

Some families participate in the program while on a waiting list for Head Start.

"We look at each family's strength and areas of need and then scaffold them to the next level, focusing on school readiness," said Angie Valchine, who does the home visits. "The child has an opportunity to experience different learning materials, expand his skill set, and work on fine motor skills, speech and cognition."

And according to Cash, Great Parents, Great Start may be the best kept secret in western Wayne County.

"We don't want it that way," said Cash. "We need clients."

Residents interested in the program can call Starfish at (734) 728-3400 or visit its Web site at [www.starfishonline.org](http://www.starfishonline.org).

smason@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2112

## WHERE TO FIND A STARFISH

### HEAD START, MSRP PROGRAM

Starfish Family Services has six sites providing the Head Start and MSRP programs: They are:

■ Livonia Baptist Church, 32940 Schoolcraft, Livonia, serving youngsters in the Livonia Public Schools and Clarenceville school district. Call (734) 762-9734 for information.

■ The Full Gospel Temple, 34033 Palmer, Westland, Sheldon School, 44649 Michigan Ave., Canton, and Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth, serving the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Call (734) 326-6271 for more information or to register.

■ Roosevelt School, 15100 Aubrey Road, Redford, serving offering Head Start and MSRP in the Crestwood district. Call (313) 541-4340 for information or to register.

■ The Starfish offices at 30000 Hively, Inkster, and Baylor Woodson School, serving the Inkster district. Call Starfish at (734) 727-3131 for more information or to register.

Interested families also can call toll free at (888) 887-9980.

The agency offers part-day classes - 3 1/2-hour morning or afternoon sessions Monday-Thursday or full day classes - eight hours per day Monday-Friday. Parents must work or attend school to enroll children in the full day program.

The MSRP is available 3 1/2 hours per day morning or afternoon Monday-Thursday to eligible residents living in the Livonia, Wayne-Westland, Plymouth-Canton, Redford, Clarenceville, Inkster and Crestwood districts. Call (313) 541-4340 or (734) 326-6271 for more information..

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Richard Cox (from left), Francis Lange and Myrtle Meixner are among seniors who helped put address labels on the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Fall 2005 Connections newsletter.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dyer Senior Center Director Mary Browe (center) talks with new member Ann Wood (left) and Pat Erzal (right) during a break from the monthly meeting.

**BROWE**

FROM PAGE A1

**With more than 25,000 seniors living in Westland which has its own senior Friendship Center, Mary Browe has created a program that offers activities and volunteerism.**

school program and was the parent coordinator for the Head Start program when she was approached by then-Superintendent Dennis O'Neill about taking on the senior program.

She didn't want to, she loved her work with Head Start, but did and has never looked back.

"I've always been able to make the best of things," said Browe. "And I'm good at putting together a volunteer system. Basically, except for myself, it's all done by volunteers."

But she's also good at something else, according to club member Stella Hagen.

"We laugh all the time because she tells us jokes," she said.

"I do crazy things so people laugh," Browe said. "I know that when people laugh, they stay happy."

With more than 25,000 seniors living in Westland which has its own senior Friendship Center, Browe has created a program that offers activities and volunteerism.

Club membership now totals 470 seniors. Eighty percent are from within the Wayne-Westland school district.

Not only do seniors help out at the center, located on the east end of the district's administrative office building on Marquette, they also help the district.

Three times a year, volunteers gather to address the district's Connections newsletter for mailing. They also form an assembly line to fill backpacks given to incoming youngsters during the Kindergarten Roundup.

Monthly spaghetti dinner fund-raisers provide an oppor-

tunity for high school seniors to meet their community service requirements. Members of the JROTC and drama programs helped out at the dinners last year.

"Spaghetti dinner night, they're in the kitchen yelling at me to get out, but I'm part of the team," said Browe with a laugh.

**'DONE SO MUCH'**

What she doesn't point out is that most dinners end with her singing "Blue Bayou," according to Ed Turner, club member and a school board trustee.

"She's done so much for us here," Turner added. "Look at what we have and the dues are only \$12 a year."

"We go on a lot of nice trips, we have a ball with her," added Genevieve Sorrell.

There are two-three trips a month like August's Detroit Princess Riverboat trip and a visit to Greektown.

And they're now a little safer, thanks to the purchase of a portable defibrillator and first aid kit. The money was "a very large donation" from club member Richard Cox.

"Betty and I have been members for a long time and wanted to donate," he said. "The money was birthday gift from my brother."

Browe said her program is what it is because of the members. She is fortunate to have members who "enjoy being busy, enjoy doing things. It gives them a purpose."

"I think I am blessed," she said. "Without all of you, I couldn't do what I do."

For more information about the Wayne-Westland senior adult program, call the Dyer Senior Center at (734) 419-2020. The center also will have its first spaghetti dinner of the fall season Friday, Sept. 23.

smason@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112



Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy helps out with marking bundles of Connections newsletter with Dyer Senior Center Director Mary Browe.

**INFORMATION CENTRAL**

The stores are running their back-to-school sales and soon the busses will be taking the kids back to school. In these last few weeks before the first bell rings, parents and teachers are making their final preparations for the coming school year.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland has materials to help teachers, whether they are home-schooling parents or work in a public or private school.

The children's department has started a new parent/teacher collection that has materials that emphasize the educational process, including literature units which offer suggestions on teaching various children's books. Also in the children's department are *JumpStart*, *Leap Pad*

and *Hooked on Phonics* programs. All of these items can be checked out. You can also register for NetLibrary at the library to use the various resources that are available electronically.

Teachers may be interested in perusing the 370s section of the library where there is a wealth of educational material. The very popular *What Your Grader Should Know Series* has recently been updated and covers the elementary school grades. There are many books to help teachers plan various activities, ranging from art to science to math to reading. The library also subscribes to *The Mailbox*, which highlights activities for younger students.

For inspiration, teachers may want

to check out *The Excellent 11 and The Essential 55* by Ron Clark and *Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Soul*. New educators may want to look at *Practical Tips for New Teachers*, *Portrait of a Profession* and Robert Ramsey's *501 Tips for Teachers*.

For those students who are considering a career as a teacher, the Public Library of Westland carries many occupational titles to help with your decision as well as the *PRAXIS* testing books for teacher certification.

The library welcomes all teachers and students to check out the services that it has to offer. Call or stop by the Reference Desk or the Children's Desk. The library is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. The Library will once again be open noon-5 p.m. Sundays after Labor Day.

The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

**Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, the undersigned will sell at public auction by competitive bidding. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units, which rent and fees are past due.

On the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Public Storage, 2650 Enterprise Drive, Allen Park, Michigan 48101 (313) 441-3117, on August 25, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. Personal property described below in the matter of:

- B025 - Kalphia Carson - Mattress, boxes, love seat, table
- B174 - Neda Abulhassan - Boxes, lamp, TV, microwave
- B186 - Tommeia Baldwin - Headboard, mattress, cabinet, dresser
- B223 - Pamela Horton - Bags, boxes, microwave, refrigerator, stove, TV, washer
- B230 - Felando Merriweather - Bike, boxes, exercise equipment, fishing equipment
- B256 - Lisa Marchena - Bags, mattress, boxes, dresser, stereo
- B289 - Carol Boissonault - Household items
- B362 - Brandi Borders - Bags, boxes, suitcase, TV
- D014 - Karen Barker Hunt - Boxes, love seat, refrigerator, sofa
- D027 - Herman Abila - Chest of drawers, lamps, night stand
- D044 - Carol Rowe - Mattress, boxes, stove, washer
- E028 - Michelle Black - TV, love seat, sofa, mattress
- F018 - Bradley Moscarello, household items

Publish: August 18 and 21, 2005

**Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, the undersigned will sell at public auction by competitive bidding. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units, which rent and fees are past due.

On the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Public Storage, 20080 Allen Road, Trenton, Michigan 48183 (734) 479-5790, on August 25, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 1104 - Ed Cosby - Mattress set, soft, weight bench, recliner
- 148 - Milton Engle - Bed frame, clothing, refrigerator, camping gear, guitar
- 206 - Kellie Williamson - Mattress, books, computer, microwave, stereo
- 532 - Jeffrey Stafford Jr. - Mattress, sofa, dresser, love seat
- 707 - Julian Brisbois - Sofa, household items
- 710 - Raymond Nutter - Bed frame, mattress set, books, computer tool box, totes
- 902 - Melonie Blackburn - Mattress set, boxes, dresser, microwave, vacuum
- 942 - Jennifer Stoneberg - Bags, totes, luggage
- 951 - Stacey Younce - Bags, boxes

Publish: August 18 and 21, 2005

**For the Record** appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page B5.

**DEATHS**

- A**
- Josephine M. Algero - Algero, 79, died July 13.
- H**
- Jami A. Holbrook - Holbrook, 33, of Redford, died Aug. 13.
- M**
- Frederick L. Mirbach - Mirbach, 85, of Delmar and Orleans, MA, died Aug. 14.
- Betty M. Morrison, Morrison, 82, of Plymouth, died Aug. 14.
- T**
- Neil Charles Thomas - Thomas, 58, formerly of Farmington, died on Aug. 13.

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# School gets extra cleaning after fire

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

It's a given. During the summer, the custodial staffs of Wayne-Westland schools spend the summer scrubbing and polishing, getting the buildings ready for the new school year.

But Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary in Wayne has gotten some extra attention as the result of last week's explosions and fire at EQ Resource Recovery Inc. in Romulus.

An emergency response company, hired by the district, has "thoroughly cleaned" those areas of the school and property where soot and debris fell following the explosions.

"We wanted to provide a sense of relief and a sense of safety and a comfort level for the parents of the students," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. "We want them to know we took every extra step possible to put parents at ease."

According to Baracy, fallout from the fire was limited to the northeast corner of the building and property because of the narrowness of the cloud of smoke that rose from the EQ site. The school is on Currier north of Van Born.

In a statement during Monday evening's board meeting President Frederick Weaver reported that the school's roof was cleaned and powerwashed as were the building walls, sidewalks, parking lot and playground equipment.

"One of the reasons we did this, even though we know it was not toxic, was because we wanted to make sure any dust or soot was removed in case there are children with asthma and similar conditions at the school," Baracy said.

The speed at which the work was done was reflective of the

initial response to the fire.

"What was most helpful ironically was that many school people lived in the area and saw the explosion," said Baracy. "Immediately after that, they went to the site and determined what needed to be done."

All unit ventilators and air handlers (in the school) were shut off Tuesday night and not turned back on until Monday afternoon, after all the filters had been replaced.

The district also brought in its own environmental consultants, Health Air Inc., to analyze air quality in the building and the debris that fell on and around the building.

"It's been confirmed by Health Air and the EPA that there are no toxic or hazardous materials in the ash samples," Weaver said.

The response at Roosevelt-McGrath was only part of what the district did during the crisis. Notified around 10:30 p.m. the night of the fire, officials opened up the alumni arena to receive evacuees after Wayne decided to expand the evacuation area.

But hot conditions at the arena led them to relocate to the nearby Stockmeyer Auditorium where there was air conditioning and comfortable seats, Baracy said.

In all 200 people came to the auditorium the first night, with 70-80 staying over for a second night.

"Our staff reacted quickly and competently," Baracy said. "I'm very proud of what they did. I also feel confident with our parents at Roosevelt-McGrath. Many have expressed how they appreciate what we've done."

smason@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2112

# Man threatens family while walking through yard

## Confrontation

A resident of Erwin, near Palmer and Wildwood, told police that someone brandished a handgun and threatened a family while going through their yard.

A woman told police that people often pass through her yard to get to Palmer Road and that one man became confrontational in the front yard.

A man who lives in the same house told police that the armed man "threatened to kill the family" but didn't actually aim the gun at anyone during the incident, which occurred about 9:30 a.m. last Friday.

The residents told authorities that the armed man con-

## CRIME WATCH

tinued through the yard with a small bicycle, without further incident.

## Possible break-in

A woman told police that she saw two white males in their early 20s apparently breaking into an apartment in the 6430 area of Yale.

She told police that the men entered the location through a broken front window about 1:30 p.m. last Friday.

Police didn't find anyone in the apartment, but they advised the management com-

pany to secure the residence.

## Break-in attempt

A resident in the 4900 block of Julius told police that someone tried to get into her residence by cutting a window screen in her kitchen.

The intruder apparently didn't get inside the house, but she alerted police in case there may have been similar incidents in the neighborhood.

She said the incident happened between 7:30-9 p.m. Saturday.

## Odd visit

A woman who lives on Apple, in a mobile home park on the city's southeast side,

told police that someone went into her house while she was gone, moved a fan and a 12-pack of pop from a counter top to the kitchen table - but took nothing.

The incident happened between 3-9:30 p.m. Saturday. The woman told police she believes the intruder may possibly have been a man she had earlier hired to do some work for her.

She became fearful of him after he made advances toward her, and she told him to stay away.

Police visited the man and gave him similar advice.

- Darrell Clem

## FRONTIER

FROM PAGE A1

enthusiastic as they are and that has the energy and desire to make something work, I want to make sure we tap into that," Pickering said. "You don't get that kind of enthusiasm very often."

So, what happens now? First, local leaders soon will approach Wayne County officials for talks about acquiring the county-owned property. Ideally, CFP officials hope to get the land donated or sold for nearly nothing.

"That might be the only feasible way to do it," Rodriguez said.

If a land deal appears workable, local officials will likely have an architect review the Frontier Park proposal to determine whether the proper-

ty will accommodate such a grand plan.

Finally, the entire proposal would likely hinge on whether Westland voters will approve a tax increase of, as Rodriguez put it, "no more than 1 mill."

Rodriguez also indicated that CFP might seek corporate donations. Still, officials conceded that other issues, such as user fees for Frontier Park, would need resolving.

"We need to make sure first that we can get the land - then we can look at various ways to get it built," Rodriguez said.

As of late, little had been said publicly about Frontier Park. But, Rodriguez pledged that CFP leaders still believe that their plan can succeed.

"We've been encouraged from the beginning," he said, "and all of us still are."

dclcm@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110

# Health, business expo attracts 40 businesses

More than 40 businesses and health-care providers will be featured during the Westland Chamber of Commerce's annual Health & Business Expo, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at Westland Shopping Center.

The event is free to attend and open to the public.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will provide bone density testing at no charge. Canton Foot Specialists will offer a free gait analysis, and Garden City Hospital will provide free chair massages, \$1 glucose testing and \$3 cholesterol testing.

Businesses handing out information will include banks, chiropractors,

beauty/skin care experts, college financial planning experts, computer specialists, custom printers, dance/cheerleading schools, home health care providers, hospitals, insurance companies, luxury retirement living experts, nutritional experts, travel agents, a veterinarian and Web site developers.

Westland Shopping Center is the expo's major sponsor. St. Mary Mercy Hospital is the health sponsor; Standard Federal Bank loan specialist Nancy Barrons is the business sponsor.

For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

## BLOOD

FROM PAGE A1

Westland City Council meeting.

Whichever side gets the most chips turned in during the blood drive will win a trophy - a bronzed blood bag - given by the mayor.

There may be dissension in the ranks - at least one man in blue may have sided with the reds.

Councilman Richard LeBlanc said he happened to see the firefighters' donor list.

"I saw a police officer on their list," he said. "I almost fell over."

Police Chief Daniel Pfannes, sitting next to Fire Chief

Michael Reddy at Monday's meeting, quickly defended his officer for signing the firefighter list.

"I can only assume it's to throw them off their game," Pfannes said.

It would appear that it's time for this city of 86,000 people to stand up and be counted.

Police officer or firefighter. Blue or red.

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## OUR VIEWS

# Response to fire was job well done

When explosions and a massive fire at EQ Resource Recovery Inc. rocked portions of Wayne and Romulus last Tuesday night, law enforcement officers and fire fighters from Detroit Metro Airport, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Westland, Garden City, Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Farmington Hills, to name a few responded.

When safe shelter was needed, the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and Romulus school district opened the doors to nearby facilities.

The response was well-choreographed, the results of careful planning, some of which came about because of 9/11 but most was because of a longstanding Mutual Aid Agreement.

Within an hour of the initial blasts, residents were being evacuated to safe areas. Many went to hotels or the homes of friends and family. Those who went to a shelter found volunteers ready to do anything and everything to make their stay as comfortable as possible.

The Red Cross provided beds, while food and beverages was supplied by the Salvation Army, McDonald's and other businesses in the area. The idea of church and state disappeared as volunteers from St. Mary's Parish ferried bottled water to Wayne Memorial High School and worked with city and school employees to get the Alumni Arena ready to receive evacuees.

The focus has now shifted to the investigation into what caused the explosion and what contaminants were released. There can be no rush to answer the questions and concerns of the people who live in the shadow of that facility.

But while we wait, we will use our time to praise the emergency personnel for their quick response to the disaster and to school officials, volunteers and relief agencies who stepped in to take care of the evacuees. Cooperation was the key from start to finish for this job that was very well done.

To all who were there to help, we say, thank you very much.

# Let districts decide when to start school

Michigan school boards have little local control left. With federal mandates like No Child Left Behind and statewide student achievement testing like the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, they're left with little discretion about what to teach youngsters and when.

Yet, some Michigan legislators want to take away one of the few things they can control: when school starts.

Once again, a bill has been introduced in the state House requiring all public school districts to start classes after Labor Day, traditionally considered the official end of summer. Some districts, like Rochester, begin almost a full two weeks before Labor Day.

Proponents say starting school after Labor Day would be good for the state's tourism industry since it would extend the summer traveling season by a week or more, bringing in more revenue to resorts, restaurants and other tourist-dependent businesses. It would also allow those businesses to employ high school-age students longer so they're not short on help the last two weeks of August.

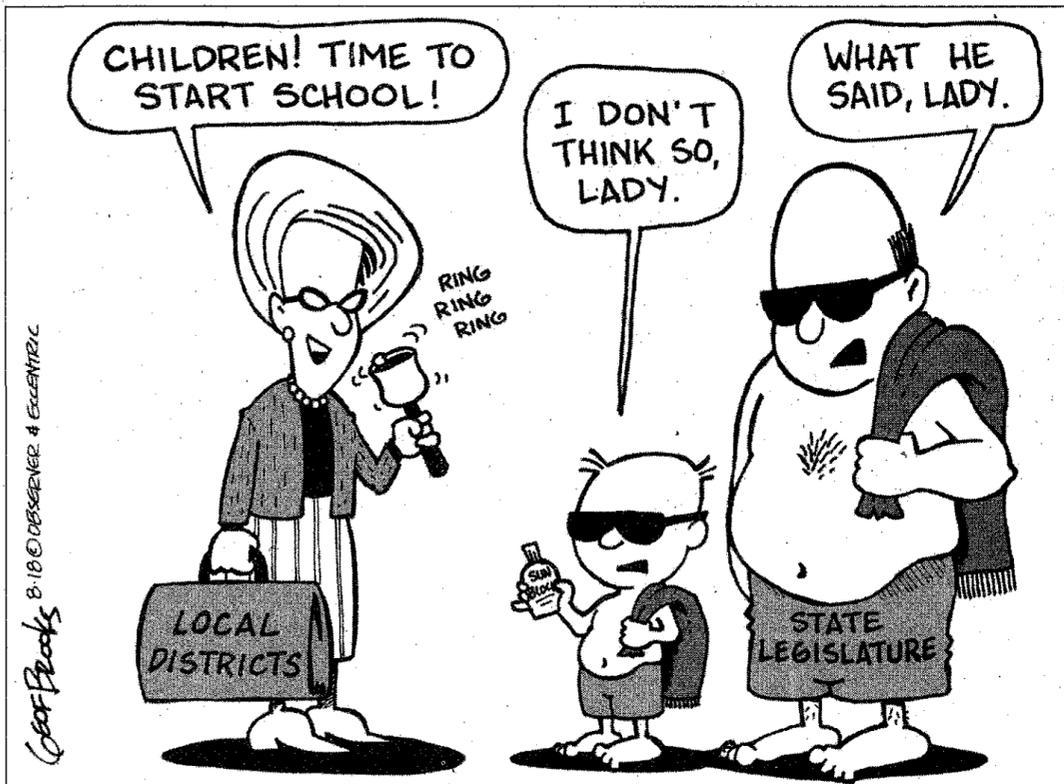
However, if a school district prefers to start school before Labor Day, it should be allowed to do so. Many districts operate year-round schools, and educators find that students retain more of what they've learned when they don't have a long break over summer.

In addition, late-summer practices for sports, marching band, cheerleading and other extracurricular activities often mean families are already committed to staying home in late August.

Past efforts to legislate when school begins included Public Act 167 of 2001, which prohibits public schools from holding classes on the Friday before Labor Day. We think that law is a good compromise.

As for the latest proposal to force all districts to start after Labor Day, we say leave it up to individual districts. Local school boards, teachers and parents are the ones who know what works best for them.

**Yet, some Michigan legislators want to take away one of the few things they can control: when school starts.**



## LETTERS

### Another toxic problem

The explosion and fire at EQ Resource Recovery in Romulus was a definite disruption in the lives of the people of Romulus and the local area around it, including Taylor.

I awoke to a sour and acrid smell and found out later that thousands of gallons of hazardous chemicals were allowed to burn out by the Romulus Fire Department. Now the stink I encountered may have come from the hundreds of thousands of tons of garbage dumped in the Canton landfills but this didn't smell like that regular, heavy odor; this was different.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) showed up and someone was flying a helicopter around the site taking samples and checking for contaminants. Reportedly none were found even though thousands of gallons of hazardous chemicals spewed smoke and fibers into the air throughout the night.

Hopefully, this accident will point out to Romulus, Taylor, Canton and southeastern Michigan residents (including Detroit) the danger of allowing Environmental Disposal Systems of Birmingham (EDS) to open and operate a high pressure injection toxic waste well.

The well is being approved for operation by the Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) and the EPA to store and inject into the earth chemicals that are far more lethal and potent than those that burned wildly at the EQ facility.

The disaster that could ensue at the EDS site would be fueled by liquids under tens of thousands of pounds of pressure ejecting from the earth or leaking from super-trucks and fully loaded rail cars.

Alfred Brock  
Canton

### Where is the justice?

As a Muslim American, I share with Terry Ahwal her thoughts and concerns in "Muslims shouldn't be targeted for acts of fanatical terrorists." And I very much appreciate that you published this opinion piece following the massacre in London.

While innocent Muslims and Arabs have also been victims of the perpetrators, at the same time, we are also being victimized by those who either hate Islam or misunderstand it because according to them we are indirectly guilty for the actions of these perpetrators based on our Islamic or Middle Eastern backgrounds.

Holding all Muslims responsible for the actions of a minority of deranged perpetrators who falsely claim that Islam sanctions these killings is guilt by affiliation to Islam, which is unacceptable and illogical. These violent acts have nothing to do with the true practice of Islam or the majority of Muslims.

As Ms. Ahwal stated, the actions of these perpetrators have actually hurt the Middle Easterners and the Muslims the most. And the acts of these perpetrators have alienated their cause from the

Muslim majority.

Innocent Muslims died in the London attacks, they died on Sept. 11, and many of them are continuing to die in Iraq on a daily basis; and their killers: allegedly Muslims. Yet they are also purportedly responsible. Where is the justice?

Marion Mourtada  
Dearborn Heights

### We need rational writing

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your publication of Terry Ahwal's commentary "Muslims shouldn't be targeted for fanatical acts of terrorists."

We need more of these rational, intelligent writings to counteract the wave of vile public media hysteria against an entire religion, practiced by persons of many different nationalities and races, a religion that is nuanced in its various branches, Sunni, Shia, Wahabi and others.

There is no one huge, evil, homogeneous monster irrationally determined to destroy the Western culture because of hatred and envy. As the wackos cry out: "They hate our freedom and our way of life, they want to destroy us, let's get them before they fight us in our backyards." So thousands of innocent-Iraqi civilians are slaughtered by both the coalition forces and the insurgents that are a direct product of the invasion of Iraq. But, say the warmongers, they are evil Muslims, and they killed thousands of Americans on Sept. 11, so this is retribution.

And do not even try to argue with the misguided majority, you will be labeled a member of the "loony left." The ignorant demagogues have no real knowledge of Islam, of the countries where it is practiced, of its different aspects. They continue to stoke the flames of hatred.

Halina Minadeo  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
Grosse Pointe Park

### Bravo for column

Bravo for publishing Terry Ahwal's commentary. It seems to be the norm that after every uncertain act of "terror" the general public is so quick to jump to the conclusion of the cultural make-up of the perpetrator and that target population, in this case the Arab and Muslim groups must always be prepared to defend themselves. My question is why?

America, as I know it is comprised of an array of ethnicities, different colors and creeds of individuals that are responsible for this great mix of society we live in, we are blessed to be able to have the right to practice our faiths and cultures freely without scrutiny or prejudice.

We are here for a better life, but how better is that life if we still must consistently have to defend our individuality. As Americans we should understand that the act of a few does not represent the whole.

In grade school we are taught just that - one bad apple does not spoil the bunch. Have we, as Americans forgotten the

teachings we once held proud, or did I grow up in another America?

Mariam Arraf  
Roseville

### Fear for our nation

Kudos to Terry Ahwal for her insightful commentary. Even prior to 9/11, one could hear derogatory comments against Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans.

Now, it's socially acceptable to unleash it amidst a chorus of commentators who wrap themselves in the American flag and brush off every thoughtful criticism of the "war on terror" or war in Iraq as "Anti-American." Setting aside that there are anti-war conservatives, I fear for our nation. It's been said that "the greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, but the illusion of knowledge."

And we sure do have an abundance of "experts" on the Middle East these days. Mind you, they couldn't identify the region's leaders nor how the different regimes came into power. And they usually don't know the different religions or basic facts about the diverse peoples. But lo and behold, they're "experts."

Sherri Muzher  
Mason

### NCLB for recruiters

A little known component of the No Child Left Behind Act is a requirement for high schools to provide their student directory to military recruiters. Even less known is the opt out provision.

All parents and students have to do is put in writing the school may not release student contact information - name, address, and phone number - to the military.

Personally, I resent the federal government barging into our local schools. It is particularly galling as politicians who campaign on states rights and no unfunded mandates forced this law upon us.

In Washington, it seems the ends justify the means even if it means lies, half truths, hypocrisy and secrecy.

Scott Heinzman  
Livonia

## SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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

## QUOTABLE

**"We still can't tell you what it is, but we can tell you it's not toxic. We sampled and tested for the most toxic chemicals and it came back not detected."**

- Steve Tackitt, Wayne County's director of Environmental Health, about initial tests conducted on debris from the fire at EQ Resource Recovery Inc.

## Direct shipment of wine benefits consumers, state

If New York can do it, why can't Michigan?

If 28 other states can do it, why can't Michigan enact a reasonable Direct Shipping of Wine law? Talk to the beer and wine wholesale industry.

Approximately two months ago, the U.S. Supreme Court required states to treat in-state and out-state wineries the same.

If in-state wineries could ship their wine to Michigan residents, then out-of-state wineries, California, New York, Oregon, etc., must also be allowed to ship their wine to Michigan residents. The case, *Granholm (State of Michigan) vs. (Ray and Eleanor) Heald*, featured the noted columnists of this newspaper. As of today, the state has yet to pass the bill allowing the direct shipment of wine.

Michigan, if you recall, has a three-tier distribution system that dates back to the repeal of

Prohibition. The producer sells to a distributor who sells to a retailer who sells to the consumer, you and me. If the producer is small, and many are, there is no economic incentive for a beer or wine wholesaler to do business with the small boutique winery. They just don't sell enough cases of wine. The economics don't work. If direct shipping is allowed, the producer sells directly to the consumer, bypassing the wholesaler. Direct shipping allows a small boutique winery to widen its customer base and grow its business.

If you bypass the wholesaler you reduce their opportunity to earn a profit. So the powerful and wealthy beer and wine wholesaler lobbyists have been hard at work trying to convince anyone that will listen or take their political contributions, which many politicians have done, that the state should shut down all shipping of wine, Michigan wineries as well as out-of-state wineries. (Six of the nine members of the House Regulatory Reform Committee received contributions from the wholesalers' political action committee. They voted 5-1 for HB 4959 which would ban direct shipping for all.)

Their argument centers on keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors. If direct shipping is allowed, minors will order alcohol, wine or beer, over the telephone or the Internet, where the age of the purchaser can not be easily checked and illegally obtain alcohol. I certainly do not condone the purchase or consumption of alcohol by minors. But let the facts speak and let's be realistic how minors obtain alcohol.

The Federal Trade Commission considered this issue and deemed it a non-starter. In fact, in 35 years no single Michigan winery has been cited for shipping to minors. If minors are seeking to purchase alcohol they usually obtain "fake" identification or stand outside an establishment that sells alcohol and

convince an adult to purchase it for them. It's done all the time and it's quick and easy. Planning to purchase over the telephone or the Internet and waiting for the shipment to arrive isn't the preferred course.

The other argument against direct shipping is the collection of sales taxes. How does the state obtain its sales tax if there is direct shipping? This is a similar argument to Internet sales. The state has solved this problem in one of two ways. First, each of us has to estimate what we purchased via the Internet or use the state estimate of purchases on our income tax forms and pay the sales tax along with our income tax. In addition, the state has joined a consortium of other states to make sure that Internet sales are taxed for sales tax purposes. I'm sure that with 28 other states in the direct shipping mix a simple and easy method has been arrived at for the collection of sales taxes.

Gov. Granholm recently visited Japan seeking jobs for Michigan. She was successful. This was a trip that made some sense. However, there is a saying in business that it is far easier to keep a customer you currently have vs. trying to obtain a new customer. Replace the word customer with jobs. If there is a ban on direct shipping, Michigan's wine industry would lose jobs.

When our state is so desperate for jobs, doesn't it make sense to protect what jobs we currently have? Maybe the governor should revisit the Traverse City area and talk to Michigan's wineries about keeping jobs. Direct shipping would allow these wineries to grow and expose our wonderful award-winning wines to others in the nation. They might even come to visit and increase our tourism business.

California has built a huge tourist business in the Napa and Sonoma regions. They have great restaurants, golf courses and wineries. The Traverse City region may not have the same number of restaurants, golf courses or wineries but we certainly have outstanding ones. We also have the Great Lakes which California does not.

I enjoy a glass of wine with my meal from a boutique winery that I've read about or heard about whether it is from Michigan or elsewhere. I don't have the time or resources to travel to purchase wine from a new winery because my local wine shop doesn't carry it.

If it were not for the beer and wine wholesalers doing out their political contributions trying to stifle commerce and preserve their "turf," I'm sure that we would have had legislation which allows direct shipping for both our in-state wineries and other wineries.

Responsible direct shipping legislation would preserve jobs, create new jobs and increase tourism. Michigan should join with the other 28 states and get with it.

Richard Aginian is president and publisher of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be reached at [raginian@gannett.com](mailto:raginian@gannett.com).

## With game on the line, Gosselin swings, misses

State Rep. Bob Gosselin, R-Troy, took his "at-bats" in the Aug. 4 *Observer & Eccentric* ("Court calls strike three, so DARTA should be OUT!"). It hit a couple of singles, fouled off a few and whiffed with the game on the line.

That Detroit and surrounding core communities are in trouble goes without saying. Lost jobs, a mass exodus of middle-class residents, a school system and city government so deep in quicksand they can't see up, blighted neighborhoods and a declining tax base are all factors in the escalating decline of the once powerful and proud city.

Arguing that we can ignore the nucleus of southeast Michigan makes as much sense as ignoring cancer in one lung because, "hey, we've got two of 'em."

The representative is right on the mark when he describes DARTA as "highly bureaucratized, inefficient, rule-bound, overregulated, over unionized, etc." with its focus on creating jobs vs. effectively moving people.

And, as is often the case, this is a classic example where "regional cooperation" means Oakland County has money, a Detroit "institution" needs it, so, "Let's cooperate."

And like the representative, when I see one of these "freighters on wheels" traveling surface streets with one or two riders, I too want to board it and scream, "Please, can we buy you a new Chevy Malibu?" believing it would be cheaper, not to mention save a few jobs.

But all of this misses the real issue. Rep. Gosselin's argument that we don't need transit because most commute patterns are suburb-to-suburb fails to recognize that it was and is our current transportation policies that created this situation.

And stating that "Our economy has moved far beyond the old industrial model in which public transit system made sense" ignores the reality of \$3 per gallon gas and the vibrancy of New York, Chicago, San Francisco and other model cities because of public transit.

So here's the deal. Our current pattern of expanding suburbs (or exurbs) is shortsighted and costly. The impact is now being seen on education, health care and the environment.

But all of this misses the real issue. Rep. Gosselin's argument that we don't need transit because most commute patterns are suburb-to-suburb fails to recognize that it was and is our current transportation policies that created this situation.

Even though we'll spend \$5.6 billion over the next five years on road expansion and improvement, perpetual gridlock is now a way of life, not just during rush hour, but all day long.

While pages could be written on just these four topics (and has been) the short answer is this — we are bankrupting ourselves.

SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) reports we are \$25 billion short over the next 20 years just maintaining current roads. Add in water and sewer improvements mandated by federal law (with no federal money available) and the numbers get worse.

If we look at DARTA strictly as a new bus system, the representative is correct. But it's much more than that. It's about regional transportation. It's the opportunity to build a dynamic urban area with a central business district, cultural center and place to play and explore.

It's a way to reverse the brain drain of our best and brightest and even attract the minds that will invent the new industries and jobs for our region.

I am currently leading an initiative inviting all stakeholders to sit down, examine the body of work already in place and plan the first steps in reversing a land use policy that has proven to be a monumental failure.

You're welcome to join us. I hope you can drop the well-worn rhetoric and instead help navigate what is certain to be a very bumpy road.

Bill Largent is a Farmington Hills resident and serves on the board of the National Small Business Association; the board of New Detroit; the Greater Detroit Health Council; the Native American Business Alliance and the Small Business Association of Michigan.

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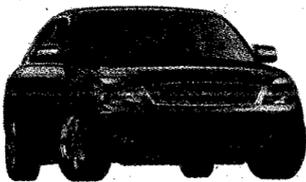
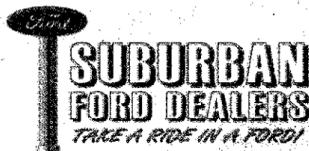
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