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WESTLAND Observer

THURSDAY
April 13, 2006

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Mayor delivers 'conservative' budget to council

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland residents would see their water-sewer bills increase slightly under a new budget proposed by Mayor Sandra Cicirelli. A typical customer using 22,000 gallons of water every two-month billing cycle would pay an additional \$15.84 a year for the budget year that starts July 1, according to an analysis by Finance Director Steven Smith. That would amount to a 2.3-percent increase, with water-sewer rates climbing from \$5.29 to \$5.41 per 1,000 gallons, Smith confirmed.

That's in keeping with Cicirelli's pledge to pass on to local consumers only those rate hikes imposed on Westland by the city of Detroit and Wayne County. On occasion, local officials have padded the Detroit-Wayne County increases to bolster Westland's water-sewer fund. But Cicirelli, saying local residents already are reeling from soaring home-heating and gas-pump prices, had promised she would be sensitive amid tough economic times. "The economy just doesn't show any signs of improving in southeast Michigan, and that makes it difficult for all communities — Westland

included," she said Tuesday during a telephone interview. On a brighter note, the city's general fund surplus is projected at \$2.3 million for the one-year spending cycle that ends June 30 — substantially higher than earlier estimates of \$1.4 million. "Our continued fiscal restraint has helped us build the unallocated fund balance to over \$2 million," Cicirelli wrote in a letter to Westland City Council President William Wild. The full seven-member council is expected to approve a new \$59.6 million spending plan in early June, after a series of budget sessions that will

begin with an overview at 6 p.m. Monday at Westland City Hall, on Ford Road east of Newburgh. "It's a very conservative budget, as we've presented in the past," Cicirelli said Tuesday. "Our costs are rising dramatically, but our revenues are not keeping pace." She cited rising fuel and health-care costs as particular areas of concern. Still, Cicirelli said city officials will try to keep the budget surplus over \$2 million, despite cuts in state-shared revenue. In other budget highlights: Cicirelli has proposed buying 10 new police cars, in-car digital video

cameras for police cars, a new fire rescue vehicle and four new pickup trucks for the building department. The new police vehicles would complete the transition to the retro-looking, black-and-white patrol cars. The Bailey Recreation Center swimming pool would receive \$100,000 in much-needed repairs. The budget would be balanced with no tax increases, no cuts in service and no layoffs, although Cicirelli has warned that budgetary issues will only become more challenging in coming years.

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Community volunteer Marlene Doran helps Special Olympics adults at the Dyer Center pool.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland's First Citizen

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

From homeless to handicapped, Doran gives them her all

She feeds the homeless and plays cards with them. She coaches an adult Special Olympics swim team. She helps high school students prepare for a pro-democracy speech contest.

She's a Salvation Army bell-ringer, a Toys for Tots volunteer and a Bible school coordinator. She visits the sick in hospitals and helps raise money for the American Cancer Society. And she's a clown — costume and all. Just where is Marlene Dean Doran's

PLEASE SEE FIRST CITIZEN, A6

Board, resource center collaborate on Project 180 Too

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board is going on the road again with its highly successful Project 180, but instead of focusing on two school communities, the new program is expanding to include all families in the community. Planned for 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at Franklin Middle School on Annapolis east of Howe, Project 180 Too will offer sessions covering a variety of topics of interest to parents with children in elementary through high school, as well as a "fun" keynote address by Linda Lee of "Young Country" radio station WYCD, a parent in the Wayne-Westland district. "The whole idea is to encourage learning over the summer and get ready for the new school year," said Maria Mitter, director of the district's Family Resource Center which is collaborating with the school board in staging

Project 180 Too. The second installment is geared for parents with breakout sessions covering such topics as keeping kids safe on the Internet, "a big hot topic right now," according to Mitter, grandparents raising children, working with children with ADD or ADHD, funding a child's college education now and fun and educational Internet sites. There also will be "Help, My Child Is Entering Middle School" and "Help, My Child Is Entering High School" as well as preparing for college entrance exams for parents of teenagers. Each half-hour session will be offered twice, so parents can take in two during the course of the event. Mitter is hoping to attract at least 250 people and as an incentive to attend, there will be prizes given out at the end of each session as well as several grand prizes. The gifts include one night

PLEASE SEE PROJECT 180, A7

School board gives superintendent perfect score for work

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

On a scale of one to three, Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy rates a three, three as in a perfect score for meeting the goals set for him by the school board and in leadership. "Everything said about Greg by the board was positive, he always seems to exceed the board's expectations," said school board President Frederick Weaver. "We're very pleased to have him as superintendent." Weaver presented the results of the review, conducted by the board last month, at this week's meeting. The



Baracy

board evaluates the superintendent once a year to see how he is leading the district. It also provides him with a list of priorities trustees want him to address. The high priority goals included improving student achievement, keeping the district on firm financial ground, improving the level of technology in the district and developing an award for the district's high achieving schools. Baracy received a perfect score for meeting those goals, including "finding a way to navigate the district to stay

financially sound, which is no less than a miracle," said Weaver. He also created the Lighthouse School Award, presented for the first time in December to Madison Elementary School for its high academic achievement. Recently released results of state standardized tests taken by the district third- through eighth-graders shows continuing improvement, with students meeting or exceeding state scores in almost all subject areas. He also received perfect scores in how he deals with people and the board and how he leads other people. Baracy has been the Wayne-Westland superintendent for nine years

and is "well-respected in the area and around the state and among other superintendents and is a voice for education in Lansing," Weaver said. "Since the beginning of his superintendency, there has been a great leap in the quality of leadership," he said. "He brings people around him who are able to perform and bring this district to the next level. According to Weaver, Baracy's greatest strengths are his ability to assess situations and his performance for the district. He is able to "put an excellent face on this district." He also spoke highly of his "passion for the job." "He's a good man and we're pleased

to have him as superintendent," he said. "After nine years as superintendent, he continues to exhibit a high energy level in dealing with all aspects of school district operations. He continues to motivate the staff and address goals set by board." Baracy thanked the board for the positive review and for the opportunity "to serve the Wayne-Westland School District and the children." He also thanked his administrative team for their efforts. "These kind of accomplishments and the momentum don't come about without a strong team effort," he said.

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INDEX

APARTMENTS	B8
BELIEFS & VALUES	A18
AUTOMOTIVE	C6
CLASSIFIED	B6-C8
CROSSWORD	B7
JOBS	B11
MOVIES	E14
OBITUARIES	A18
OPINION	A10-11
REAL ESTATE	B6
SERVICE GUIDE	C5
SPORTS	B1

Coming Sunday in Health
Cancer news
Conference hears about new studies, treatments for ovarian cancer. In Sunday's Health section

Oakwood Annapolis updates radiology unit

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is nearing the end of a \$2.5 million renovation and equipment upgrade in radiology, giving the department the capacity to handle more technologically advanced equipment and software.

Since 2005, Oakwood Annapolis has seen the installation of state-of-the-art equipment, including two dual-headed nuclear cameras and a digital radiology room.

This fall, a 64-slice CT scanner also will be added.

Oakwood Annapolis radiology is currently operating the Picture Archiving and Communication System, a filmless and paperless technology being implemented throughout Oakwood Healthcare System.

It allows radiologists to view an image up to four seconds after the X-ray has been taken and for the instant transmission of such things as CT scans, MRIs, nuclear medicine studies, ultrasounds and general X-rays. Physicians also have the ability

to view exams either on a CD or directly from their offices.

The department also has gotten a fresh coat of paint, new ceiling tile, hardwood flooring and a new wall base. The changes are welcome, according to Robin Ross, director of cardiology and imaging explains.

"Our staff is proud to come to work each day," he said. "We now have an area that really shows we're proud of what we do and who we are."

Patient comfort also is being addressed with wider beds, allowing for easier mobility while maintaining excellent quality.

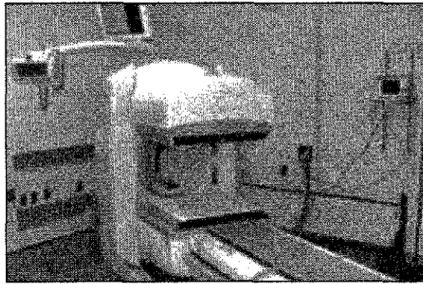
According to Ross, both patient and physician satisfaction scores have dramatically increased since the changes have taken place.

In January 2004, a new state-of-the-art surgery center with the most advanced technology and services was built.

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is a 259-bed, full service community hospital that has been serving western Wayne County since 1957.



Radiology technician Jamie Stichler accesses information on the new computer system.



Oakwood Annapolis Hospital upgrades include the new imaging table with a nuclear camera and facility renovation.

2 suspects sought in holdup at Pit Stop

Store robbery

An employee of Pit Stop party store in the 1400 block of South Merriman told police that two suspects came into the business about 11:15 p.m. Thursday, April 6, and robbed it.

She said one suspect was carrying a metal crowbar at the time and warned her to be quiet and get out of the way. She said the suspects broke into a safe and a cash register.

She fled during the incident and called police for help.

A police report gave limited descriptions of the suspects. One was said to be about 5-foot-8 and heavy set, wearing a gray sweatshirt and blue jeans. The other was described as 6-foot to 6-foot-2 with a medium build.

Home break-in

A 45-year-old Westland woman told police that someone broke into her home on Hershey while she and a relative went for a walk 6:30-7:45 p.m. Saturday. The street is located in Westland Meadows mobile home park.

Reported missing from the break-in were several prescription drug bottles, a 14-karat gold bracelet, a gold angel pin with a small diamond, and a death certificate of the victim's mother.

The woman told police that her home was locked when she left but unlocked when she returned.

Arson case

A 50-year-old woman reported that someone started a fire in a first-floor hallway of

CRIME WATCH

a building at Western Hills Apartments, off of Cherry Hill between Wayne and Newburgh roads.

The incident happened about 1:55 a.m. Monday. The fire damaged the hallway carpet and an apartment door.

A resident reported the incident after smelling smoke. The fire was small enough that she was able to put it out.

A man who lives in the apartment with the damaged door told authorities he didn't know anyone who might have started the fire.

Domestic fight

A 39-year-old woman told police that an ex-boyfriend came to her home on Peppermint, refused to leave and ultimately kicked her in the right thigh as she was holding their 16-month-old daughter.

The kicking incident happened about 10:30 a.m. Sunday in the Westland Meadows mobile home park, according to police reports.

The victim told police that she came home on Saturday night and found her ex-boyfriend there. She said he refused to leave, so she went to her sister's house.

She returned home Sunday morning and found the ex-boyfriend sleeping on her couch. She told police that when she told him to leave, he kicked her and threatened to kill her unless she left him alone.

The woman called police, who arrested the suspect.

DEATHS

B
Ernest F. Blair
Blair, 89, of Clawson, died April 6.

C
Howard Clayton Cole
Cole, 83, of Oxford, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died April 6.

E
Max Erdmann
Erdmann, 84, died April 10.

M
Patricia Jean (McDonald) McNeil
McNeil, 82, of Westland, died April 7.

P
Erlene L. Pummill
Pummill, 77, died April 7.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A18.

CORRECTIONS

An article on April 6 in the At Home section on Passover indicated that Shirlee Bloom, catering specialist at Bloom's Jewish Cuisine in Farmington Hills, receives orders for pork during Passover.

Actually Bloom does not receive orders for pork — and nor does she serve it — as Jews do not eat pork.

During Passover, Bloom receives orders for roast chicken, stuffed chicken, beef brisket and gefilte fish. Bloom serves kosher foods.

Anyone who wishes to order Passover or kosher foods from Bloom can contact her at (248) 855-9463.

The information under the illustration accompanying the April 6 in the At Home section article, "Students make creative space for carpets," should have read, "Carrie McCallum, a student at Baker College, was awarded first place in The Ghiordes Knot-American Society of Interior Designers Creative Space Competition for this design."

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Kindergartner Madison Morell looks inside the flap of her box to see if she had the special sticker for a grand prize at the St. Damian's Easter Hunt Monday afternoon.



Second-grader Jimmy Ryan of Livonia reaches up for his Easter prize.



Second- and third-graders take off running during the first ever Easter hunt held at St. Damian School on Monday.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Egg-stra nice

St. Damian students search out treasures at Easter Hunt

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Superman would have had a hard time keeping up with youngsters like Donovan Krueger who had his game face on and was ready to run in an Easter Hunt at St. Damian School Monday.

"I already see three of them, but I think I'll go for the closest one," said the eight-year-old Redford resident.

With a countdown from three to one, he took off along with his fellow second and third graders, looking for small boxes and eggs filled with candy hidden under bushes, in flower beds and in trees. There were even a few sitting on a patio table, passed up by students headed for the less obvious prizes.

Organized by Patti Knapp of Livonia, Dawn Tavian of Canton and Kelly Burchart of Dearborn Heights, the first ever Easter Egg Hunt, gave kinder-

garten through third graders a chance to get outside and enjoy the spring weather.

Knapp came up with the idea a few weeks ago, using candy gift boxes that she had gotten marked down after Easter last year. She threw away the year-old sweets and replaced them with suckers, stickers and candy.

Youngsters in kindergarten through second grade searched for the boxes that contained suckers and a "God rocks" stickers, while the third graders searched for plastic eggs filled with Smarties, stickers and Easter pencil sharpener.

Third grader Laura Duzskiewicz of Livonia guessed her egg contained a ring, sticker and pencil sharpener. The sight of a roll of Smarties brought a smile to her face.

"Anything with candy is good," she said.

There was one container for each of the 100 students who had to wait until

the hunt was done to open them up ... carefully. At each grade level there was a box or egg that contained a special sticker, making the bearer eligible for a grand prize.

Kindergartner Julia Chapman of Garden City, first grader Jeremy Tracy, also of Garden City, second grader Ryan Dorney of Westland and third grader Dante Ufferman of Livonia were the lucky ones, each receiving a tub of sidewalk chalk.

The three women, who have worked together on other projects, including the school's Mom to Mom sale, were please with result although Knapp's "biggest fear was that the special boxes would be left out in the courtyard."

"We'll definitely do this again next year," she said.

"It's a nice perk," added Tavian. "The kids enjoy it and it gets them in the Easter spirit."

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New honor

Westland Civitans honor Bowman as Citizen of Year

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

For a woman who has helped hundreds of troubled Westland youngsters improve their lives, Ronaele Bowman seems remarkably humble.

Bowman molded Westland Youth Assistance into one of Wayne County's leading programs to help youngsters overcome such problems as failing grades, shoplifting, substance abuse and parental disrespect.

Bowman, who left her 13-year job as Youth Assistance director in December, has been named Citizen of the Year by the Westland Civitan Club - a group dedicated to helping the physically and mentally impaired.

She received her latest award last Thursday, mere weeks after the Wayne-Westland school board honored her with an award for her service to the educational community.

"I just don't feel like I deserve all this recognition," Bowman said Tuesday. "It's embarrassing."

Bowman, a Livonia resident, not only spearheaded Westland Youth Assistance; she has taken her caring spirit as far away as Haiti, where she and husband Hugh have made trips to help that nation's poor children with basic necessities.

"She has done so much with Youth Assistance, but it wasn't just a job to her," said Civitan board member Barb Polich. "She was very involved, and she went above and beyond her regular duties. She's very involved in her church, and she's just a good citizen. She puts a lot of things in front of herself. She's community oriented."

Bowman received her latest award during Civitan Awareness Month. She was caught off guard when given her award during a ceremony last Thursday. She accompanied Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard,



Ronaele Bowman

thinking that Beard was being honored.

"I'm happy that the efforts that I put into my involvement in Westland are appreciated and recognized," Bowman said Tuesday. "But it means more to me that people understand that I really do care about the city of Westland and the people of Westland."

Bowman now works as a legislative aide to Beard, who is the longest-serving Wayne County Commission member.

Bowman is proud that Youth Assistance - now in the hands of former Deputy Director Paul Motz - has a 90 percent success rate. That's the percentage of youngsters who stay out of trouble after completing the program.

Youth Assistance provides classes to help troubled youths and their families, and it pairs youngsters with adult mentors who try to become a positive influence.

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, a longtime Youth Assistance supporter, has said there couldn't have been a better choice than Bowman to build up the program.

Bowman became the program's first full-time director in 1992. When she left, more than 2,700 youths ages 7 to 16 already had been referred to the program by police, courts, schools and parents.

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'What will you do ...'

Merriman Road Church offers 3 dramas in 1 Easter pageant

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

There will be drama and comedy, modern dress and historical costumes – a little something for everyone – in this year's Easter play at Merriman Road Baptist Church.

"What Will You Do With Jesus?" – a production put together by congregation member John Rowe – will be presented 7 p.m. Friday. This year, the church has scaled

What Will You Do With Jesus?" will be presented 7 p.m. Friday.

back its annual Easter production which in past years would have two or three performances.

"It's three separate dramas with music tying it together," said Bill Riddle, a congregation member and church facilities manager. "I think it will be

really good. We didn't have time this year for our usual big production, but we wanted to do something."

One of the acts is about two brothers whose mother has asked a religious man to visit them in prison.

"One of the brothers realizes he's done wrong but the other makes fun of him," said Riddle, who portrays the visitor. "It parallels the two thieves on the cross with Jesus."

Not to get away from the traditional costumed Easter play,

one act features historical figures from Christ's life, such as Peter and Paul, culminating with testimony from a congregation member.

The third act focuses on two modern couples – one homeless and living in a park. The plays lasts just under an hour and everyone is invited. Admission is free.

With many churches no longer putting on Easter plays, Merriman Road Baptist Church traditionally gets a good response to the holiday production. The church auditorium will hold 500-600 people.

Merriman Road Baptist Church is located on Merriman just south of Ford in Garden City.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Russ Weathers, who plays a homeless person in the Easter pageant, drops rose petals onto Jerry Murray, who does not believe. Watching is Elaine Weathers (left), a homeless wife, and Jackie Murray, playing a wife who does believe.

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Coffee Hour

State Rep. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, April 17, at the Westland Big Boy Restaurant, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter.

Citizens are welcome to attend and discuss their issues and/or concerns. Anderson's local coffee hour take place on the third Monday of each month.

Gardening seminar

The Village of Westland, a senior citizen residential community, will host a free gardening seminar open house at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19.

The featured speaker will be Janet Macunovich, master gardener and co-founder of the Michigan School of Gardening. She will give a lecture on "More Than a Garden: Balm for 'the Soul, Glue for the Family."

Refreshments will be served. For reservations, call (734) 762-8926.

The Village of Westland is at 32001 Cherry Hill Road, between Merriman and Venoy.

Texas Hold 'em

St. Theodore Men's Club is sponsoring a Texas Hold 'em Tournament 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, April 21, in the Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

The cost is \$40 to buy in and only 110 advance tickets will be sold. No tickets will be sold at the door which opens at 6 p.m. Top prize will be \$500. Players must be at least age 18 and age 21 to drink.

For tickets, contact Mary at the parish office at (734) 425-4421. For more information, call Ken at (734) 564-4475.

■ The Westland Jaycees will hold a Texas Hold 'em Tournament and Vegas Night Saturday, April 22, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36551 Ford Road.

The poker tournament will run 6 p.m. to midnight, and here will be no rebuy into the tournament. Pre-registration is \$40 before April 8 and \$50 at the door. Registration begins at 5 p.m. that evening.

The Vegas Night will be 7 p.m. to midnight. It will offer games of black jack, Hold 'Em, Let It Ride and seven-card poker. Food, pop and beer also will be available for purchase.

For more information, call (734) 226-6400 and leave a message.

Quilt Show

The Plymouth/Westland Grange 389 is holding its fourth annual spring quilt show, workshop and classes 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

There will be classes in hand appliqué (cost is \$25) and techniques for a peony and vine wall hanging (cost is \$55), as well as a special quilt project for children (cost is \$6). Pre-register by April 19.

There will be a demonstration of yarns and new products by Hancock Fabrics and a display of quilts. Velda Kirby of Make It Sew will speak at a quilt luncheon that costs \$10.

For \$1, people can enter quilts to be judged in such categories as antique, mixed technique, mixed medium, single technique, group quilting, quilted clothing, wall hanging and unfinished top.

Admission is \$1 in advance and \$2 at the door.

For more information, call Sharon Strebbling at (734) 722-4857 after 6 p.m.

Senior Dinner Dances

The Wayne Ford Civic League is hosting a Senior Dinner and Dance Sunday, April 23, at the hall, 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland. The dinners and dances start at noon and feature a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee and pop with dancing to the live entertainers. Tickets are \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members of the league. Memberships are on sale year round and are only \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. Call (734) 728-5010 for more information. Participants must be 60 years of age and older to attend.

Open House

St. Damian Catholic School will be having a preschool and kindergarten open house 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 25. The school has preschool programs for three-four-year-olds and full-day kindergarten, both with three- and five-day options. Registration will be accepted at the open house. St. Damian is at

29891 Joy, Westland. Call (734) 427-1680 for information.

Mother's Day benefit

April showers bring May flowers and Mother's Day! And while Mom will appreciate any gift you buy her, why not give her a gift that will help make a difference in the lives of so many others?

The YWCA Western Wayne County has Mother's Day Cards available for a minimum donation of \$25. Donations can be made in your mother's honor, or in honor of any women who have impacted your life!

"As an organization committed to helping women and their families, it is so important for us to honor those women who have been essential to our lives," said Karen Murphy, YWCA chief executive officer. "Mother's Day is a great time of year to do this. This card is not just for Moms, but for our friends and other significant women in our lives."

Donations from the Mother's Day cards will help the YWCA to create more programs to help women and their families. Approximately 1,000 families benefit from the programs and services offered by the YWCA,

and there are more who need help everyday.

For more information, about the Mother's Day Cards, or to purchase a card for one of the wonderful women in your life, call the YWCA Western Wayne Co. at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 20.

Recycling benefit

Madison Elementary School is collecting empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, April 28, at the school, at 1075 S. Carlson, south of Avondale, Westland.

The school participates in the

Funding Factory Recycling Program throughout the school year and is expanding its collection to include the community in observance of Earth Day 2006.

Companies interested in demonstrating a commitment to education and the environment also can participate free of charge in the Funding Factory Business Support Program.

Funding Factory will send each supporting business free, postage-paid shipping boxes for the return of collected cartridges and cell phones.

By donating to Madison

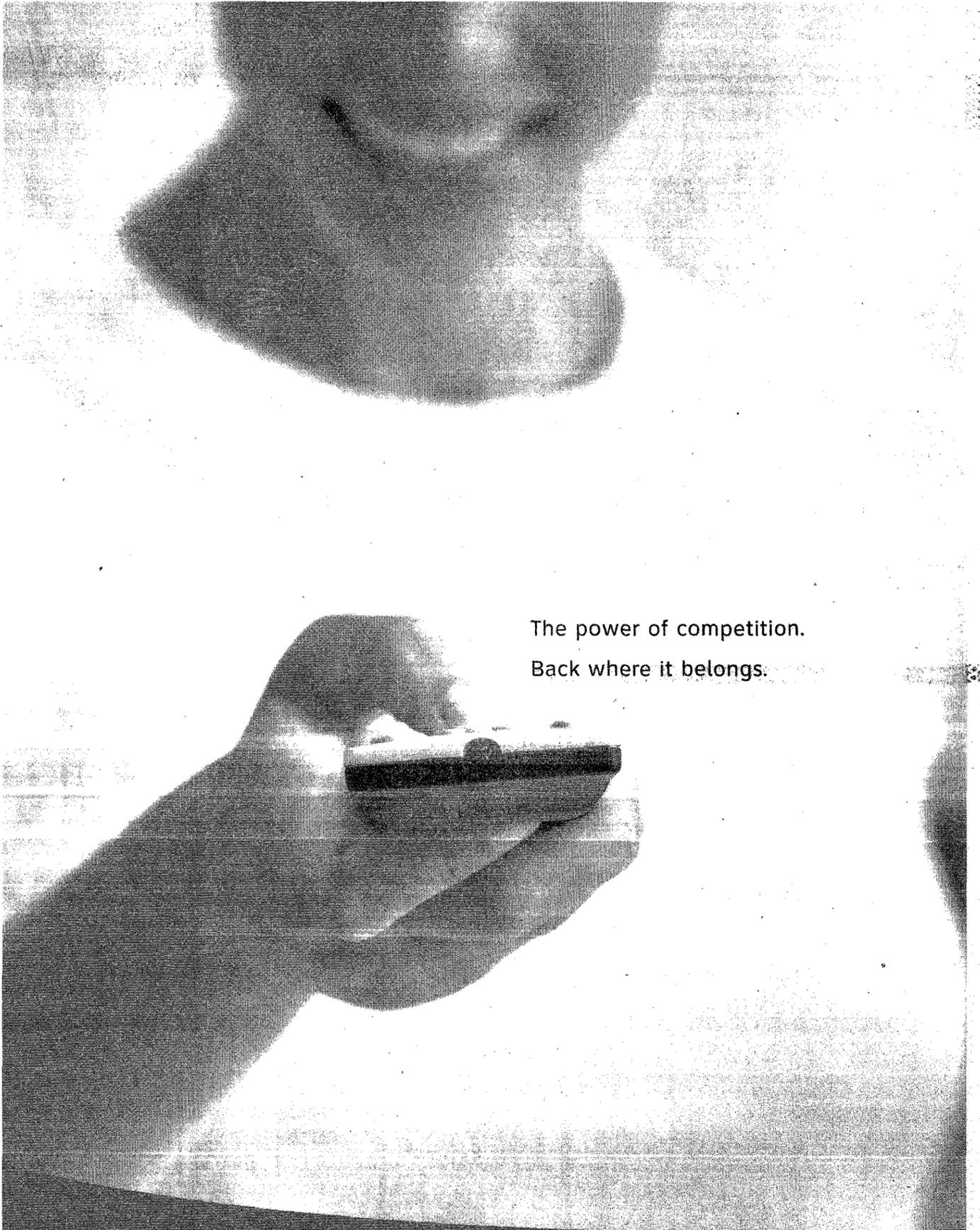
Elementary, businesses help them earn the technology and recreational equipment.

To learn more about supporting the school, call Funding Factory toll-free at (888) 883-8237 and mention Madison Elementary in Westland.

Senior volleyball

The Westland senior citizen Friendship Center hopes to start a co-ed volleyball team to compete in Wayne County's 2006 Senior Olympics.

If interested, call Mel Tockstein at (734) 722-0159.



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PROJECT 180

FROM PAGE A1

at the Bavarian Lodge in Frankenmuth, T-shirts from local colleges and universities, a Westland Bowl package, one free week at the Livonia Family YMCA summer camp and various games and books.

"We think the break-out sessions are a great incentive to attend, not to mention the free stuff we're giving away," Mitter said.

While the program is geared for parents, it doesn't mean the kids need to stay home. Child care will be provided for youngsters ages 5-10 with employees of Wayne Parks and Recreation coming to the school to provide activities in the school gymnasium.

There also will be facepainting and plenty of food. Chef Tony Paquette of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center will be doing the cooking, providing hot dogs, cookies and/or brownies, A&W Root Beer and bottled Water.

Lou Toarmina of Toarmina's Pizza is again providing pizza. He partnered with the district for the first Project 180 You Can! in October 2004, baking and serving 50 pizzas to participants.

Mitter is asking that parents call the center at (734) 419-2709 to preregister for Project 180 Too. The sessions will be held in classrooms with seating for about 30 people. Parents, however, can show up the day of the event and still participate.

Board President Frederick Weaver was looking for an opportunity for the board to impact on the district when he came up with the idea of going into schools and areas where students are underachieving on the state's Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests.

The first installment attracted 800 adults and children and offered words of wisdom, job opportunities, food and entertainment for the students and families of Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns Elementary schools.

"This Project 180 Too has as its agenda to reach out in positive way to community," said Weaver in announcing the new initiative. "As a board, we stand by this community, especially the children. We'll do whatever we can so everyone has an opportunity to excel in life."

"We hope a spark will be ignited in families' hearts and children's eyes to turn around their thinking from it's always going to be like this to I can do great things in my life if I'm willing to work hard enough and never give up."

Trustee Martha Pitsenbarger, who helped inflate 1,000 helium balloons at the October 2004 event, is glad the board is doing another one.

"I thought it was a highlight of board last year and I hope we have as good of crowd as last year," she said.

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

Raffle raises money for camp

The Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream, Michigan Chapter are selling tickets for their annual raffle to benefit Camp Mak-A-Dream, a cost free camp in Montana for children and young adults with cancer.

Last summer, 67 campers from Michigan attended the camp in Montana cost free.

The raffle has a grand prize of two tickets to the Emmy Awards on Aug. 27, including two round-trip tickets to Los Angeles, two nights at the Park Hyatt Hotel and a three-day car rental. Second prize is a \$500 Best Buy gift card, and third prize is a \$100 Blockbuster gift card. Tickets are now available at \$25 each with a limit of 2,000 tickets to be sold. Call Lauren Altman at (248)-539-9970 or by e-mail at friends-of-camp@msn.com.

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Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ladies Literary Club

The Ladies Literary Club will hold its annual scholarship fund-raiser 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the First Congregational Church, 2 Towne Square in downtown Wayne (Wayne Road between eastbound and westbound Michigan Avenue). The club will have a "second time around sale" and bake sale, featuring lots of good and "gently" used household items for sale. Baked goods will also be for sale. All proceeds from this sale go to the Frances Blain Hilts Scholarship Fund. The club awards two scholarships each year for higher education. Typically, one student from John Glenn and one student from Wayne Memorial receive scholarships. For more information about donating contact Sue at (734) 641-9188, or Carol at (734) 728-7343.

Lobster dinner

The Rotary Club of Dearborn Heights will present its annual Gala Lobster Dinner Saturday April 22, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, Westland. The doors will open at 6 p.m., dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$65 each or \$475 for tables of eight and include a full open bar, two lobsters, roast beef au jus, eggplant parmesan, vegetable, salad and dessert buffet and beverages. After dinner, there will be a silent auction, door prizes, and dancing. For ticket information or reservations, call (313) 565-0061 or visit the Web site at dearbornheightsrotary.org.

BINGO

Maltese American

Maltese American Benevolent Society, a non-profit organization, is holding a bingo at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Wayne Ford Civic League 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The hall opens at 4:30 p.m.

VFW Bingo

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

St. Mel Church

Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

Shamrock Bingo

Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in

Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 3117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

Senior dinners

The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is \$8 donation for members of the league and \$10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010

Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

Choir

The Senior Choir, under the leadership of Robert Cassidy, is open to those who like to sing. It meets 9:30 a.m. Thursday. For information, call the Friendship Center, (734) 722-7632.

Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

Travel Group

The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even if not "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at

www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

Friends of library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartet can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

Civil Air Patrol

Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capliberators/.

Habitat help

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

Veteran's Haven

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

Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

Pet-A-Pet

The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Marie Johnson, (734) 326-1200), and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

Zonta Club

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month on the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920

Franklin PTSA

The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

Tutoring program

A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

M.O.M.S.

M.O.M.S. Club of Canton/ Westland is a nonprofit support group for stay-at-home mothers. There are weekly events, Mom's Night Out, age-oriented play groups and more. For information, call Wendy, (734) 398-6957.

Back Pain?

Southfield, MI - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free, 1-888-744-2225. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)

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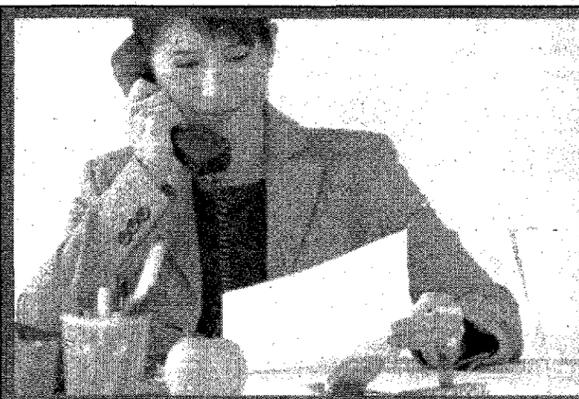
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Congressional candidates stake out positions on war in Iraq

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

With poll numbers showing eroding support for the war in Iraq and for President George W. Bush, despite a healthy national economy, the war is looming as a major issue in this year's congressional election.

Democrats are hoping that concern about the war and anxiety about the local economy may help them regain control of one or both houses of Congress.

In the 11th Congressional District, incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter and Democratic challenger Tony Trupiano are both critical of Bush's handling of the war, but offer different perspectives on what needs to be done.

In separate interviews, McCotter and Trupiano shared their views on Iraq and other international issues.

In November, McCotter joined five other Republican congressmen in calling on the president to appoint an inde-



Trupiano



McCotter

pendent panel to review U.S. efforts in Iraq. In March, an Iraq Study Group was formed, co-chaired by former Secretary of State James Baker, a Republican, and former Democratic Congressman Lee Hamilton, now director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The bipartisan group includes Robert M. Gates, Rudolph W. Giuliani, Vernon Jordan, Leon Panetta, William Perry, Charles Robb and Alan Simpson.

"It can't hurt, whatever it does," McCotter said. "It's a panel of people who have been distinguished throughout their careers, Republicans and Democrats, who are not invested in some of the mistakes that have been made."

McCotter has been a supporter of the war in Iraq and argues that despite the deprivations of the war, life is better in Iraq than it was under Saddam Hussein. But he has been critical of the Bush administration for its prosecution of the war and for not building solid grass-roots support from the various factions within the country.

Trupiano said he opposed the war from the beginning. "We haven't been smart, we haven't been tough," he said. "There is no level where we can see measurable results."

Recently, prominent Shiite leaders have requested that Prime Minister Ibrahim Jafaari, also a Shiite, withdraw from seeking a second term because of an inability to form a government with support from the Sunni and Kurdish minorities.

The split between different Shiite factions comes at a time of escalating violence between the dominant Shiite Muslims and the minority Sunni, who once controlled the country's government under Hussein.

Some have called the violence between the two groups the beginnings of a civil war.

"If this were a full-fledged civil war, this debate wouldn't be happening," McCotter said.

He said the government, police and army would be collapsing if this were a civil war. He said insurgents are taking advantage of the long-held animosity between the two Muslim sects and the instability of the Iraq government.

"What you have is a struggle among the Shiites, especially those concerned about the Iranian influence," he said.

McCotter said the violence between Sunni and Shiite is being exacerbated by the insurgents.

Trupiano sees other motives in the conflicts between the various factions in the country.

"I still think the factions are trying to decide, at the end of the day, how they're going to split up the oil money in some kind of fashion, and I didn't say equitable because there is no equitable way," Trupiano said. "Where does that leave the infrastructure of Iraq? What

about commerce? Insurgency thrives because there is no way to make a living, there is no way to take care of families."

McCotter and Trupiano agree that this is not the time to talk about pulling out of the country.

"It makes no sense to just pull out and I would never advocate at Monday morning, we're out of here folks," Trupiano said. "I do think the Democrats have a tougher and smarter agenda to do that. At some point you have to tell the government of Iraq that this is not going to work. ... You have to put together a definitive calendar and have a leader of your government that you can agree on."

McCotter has been to Iraq on several congressional visits and said progress has been made despite Bush administration mistakes. However, he said he disagrees with those who are calling for the resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"I think the time for that has passed," he said. "I have a different view from others because, as someone from a manufacturing state, I disagree with his idea about a lighter military."

He said Rumsfeld has made mistakes, but that a change wouldn't improve things.

On the situation between Israel and Palestine, McCotter and Trupiano differed on how to deal with Hamas, which recently won the majority in the Palestinian parliament. McCotter said that Israel couldn't deal with an organization dedicated to its own destruction. He said he favors some kind of sanctions against the Hamas government.

Trupiano said Israel should negotiate with Hamas because "they have to. We can't ignore what happened in the election." But he added that he didn't have any answers for the continuing problems between Israel and Palestine.

Both men agreed that Bush did the right thing in acting quickly to denounce the threatened execution of an Afghanistman who converted to Christianity from Islam. The man was later freed and given asylum in Italy.

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(734) 953-2149

Raczkowski withdraws from 11th District race

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Small business consultant Ray Raczkowski of Novi has withdrawn from the race for the Democratic nomination in the 11th Congressional District.

Tony Trupiano, a media consultant and former radio talk show host, is the only remaining declared candidate for the Democratic nomination. Nominating petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. May 16.

The Democratic nominee is expected to face incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter.

While Trupiano has been waging a daily e-mail campaign, knocking on doors and speaking throughout the district, Raczkowski's campaign has been low-key and hasn't attracted the support of labor and other groups that have committed to Trupiano's campaign.



Raczkowski

On Tuesday, Raczkowski said it was a number of factors that prevented him from having the time to campaign.

"I didn't have the time to devote to the volunteers and people who wanted me to run and I apologize to them for that," he said. "Maybe in two years I will have the time to try again."

Raczkowski, 51, has been a consultant on improving small businesses. Raczkowski said he will continue "to push the Democratic Party" on energy issues. He said the problems of global warming and energy shortages were important to him.

Raczkowski said he hasn't decided to throw his support to anyone in the congressional election.

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OUR VIEWS

'Pro-business' should not mean 'anti-environment'

During tough economic times, the temptation to "jump-start business" at the expense of the environment becomes even more attractive.

Calls for relaxing pollution controls, opening up environmentally sensitive areas to oil and gas exploration and the like gain momentum among politicians and some residents alike. Such positions are shortsighted at best, and hold dire consequences well beyond our state borders at worst.

As residents of the "Great Lakes State," we are stewards to roughly one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water. We have the right to enjoy — and profit from, in the form of tourism — our proximity to these bodies of water, but we also have the obligation to protect them from pollution and misuse.

Evidence of past sins are easy to spot in the form of mercury-contaminated fish and "no swimming" signs on public beaches, a host of invasive species playing havoc with the fragile Great Lakes ecosystem and repeated efforts to siphon off millions of gallons of lake water to slake the collective thirst of other parts of the country.

But there is hope in the form of a law recently signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm that bans dumping of contaminated dredge materials in open waters, and two bills making their way through Congress to fund a host of Great Lakes improvement initiatives.

While the state law helps stop the formerly shameful practice of using the Great Lakes as a giant sewer system, it is the federal initiative that could have a real impact for future generations. The spending plan would earmark more than \$20 billion to fix outdated and groundwater contaminating water and sewer systems nationwide, but with an emphasis on the Great Lakes basin, and would earmark an additional \$3 billion plus to fund an assortment of existing and new Great Lakes initiatives.

With the war raging on in Iraq and federal dollars at a premium, it will not be easy to get these bills signed into law, particularly by a president who is widely perceived as "pro-business" even at the expense of the environment. But we should all do our part to drive home the point that while the Great Lakes may be ours to enjoy and protect, we cannot do it alone.

Rich traditions mark Easter and Passover

Family dinners, special rituals, special symbols and remembering and retelling the stories of the past. This week marks a special time for Christians and Jews with the celebrations of Easter and Passover.

For Jews, Passover is the commemoration of the Jewish exodus from slavery. For Christians, this week marks Holy Week leading up to the celebration of Easter, the holiest of Christian holidays and not just another reason for jelly beans and chocolate bunnies.

In the gospels, Christ's last days take place during Passover and the early Christians linked Easter to the Passover celebration.

The eight days of Passover, which began at sundown Wednesday, are celebrated the first two nights with a feast called a seder, a ceremonial dinner marked by the retelling of the story of the exodus from Egypt through the use of prayers, songs and foods.

Passover includes many symbolic foods and rituals. Matzoh, an unleavened bread, is eaten to remember the Israelites had no time to prepare bread with yeast when they fled the Pharaoh. Horses radish is eaten to reflect the bitter affliction of slavery. Four cups of wine in the course of the dinner commemorates the four phases of Exodus — freedom, deliverance, redemption and release.

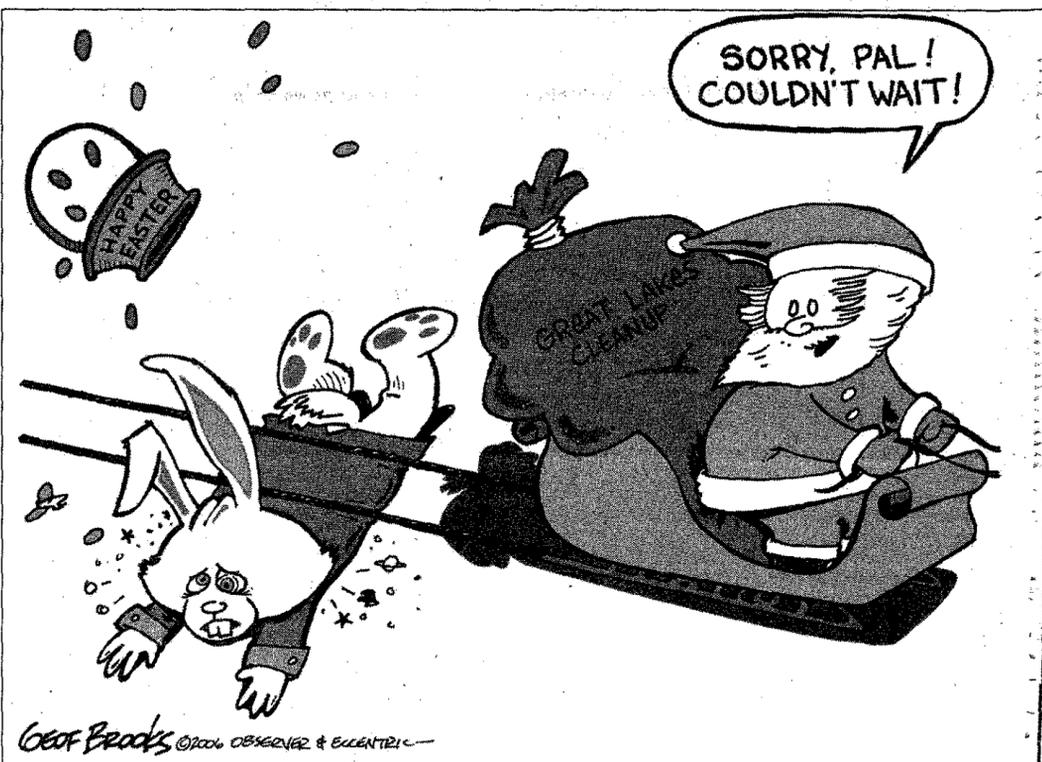
In addition to home-based rituals, there are also prayer services at synagogues with special prayers of thanksgiving.

For Christians, Holy Week retells and commemorates Christ's last days on Earth and his resurrection from the dead more than 2,000 years ago.

The Christian Bible says Jesus was God's son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin and who took on everyone else's sins by dying on the cross. Easter is at the end of the 46-day long Lenten season, which began Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter. Today is Maundy or Holy Thursday, which is a commemoration of the Last Supper, where the disciples gathered with Jesus to mark the Passover meal the evening before his crucifixion.

Orthodox Christians, who use the revised Julian Calendar to calculate the religious holiday, will celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 23.

Freedom, renewal, redemption, resurrection. The rich traditions of faith and family come together this week with special significance.



LETTERS

Energy is misdirected

Volunteer energy is hard to come by in our high-pressure society, and the Livonia Schools are no exception. Parent and community volunteers in the schools provide a vital service to kids and families. Many of those community volunteers worked on the study that resulted in the school board adoption of the Legacy plan for maximizing investing in school programs and minimizing the cost of maintaining buildings and grounds.

Now, a great deal of that vitally needed volunteer energy is being misdirected into a school board recall campaign that cannot make any positive contribution to the betterment of the schools. At worst, it is a destructive force without any clear vision of what the school board should do differently. Should the board keep open buildings whose fixed costs cut deeply into dollars for academic programs? Don't we want our elected representatives to be constantly exploring and implementing ways to reduce brick and mortar expenses so the kids can have more program options?

Don't support the recall effort, and don't sign a petition to recall a board member. Instead, learn the positions of the candidates in the upcoming school board election and then vote for the candidate who most closely represents your views. That would be far more constructive than any recall.

Richard C. McKnight
Westland

Not the right decision

I write in response to your April 6 editorial titled 'Governor's vetoes are risky, but right.' The only politics being played here are between our governor and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

The governor's veto of my legislation to bring regional oversight to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is unpopular with voters for a reason. People's water bills keep rising and questions about how contracts are awarded at the department are more abundant than answers.

My legislation was not conceived as some election year stunt. I have been working on this issue since the day I entered office back in 2003.

The bill just vetoed by the governor corrected the concerns she raised in vetoing similar legislation three years ago. Her veto now is not an attempt to help foster regional cooperation, but one to protect a political ally with questionable business practices from any type of accountability whatsoever.

The governor didn't make a risky decision, she took the easy way out. And if you asked the constituents I serve who have called and written my office and that I have spoken to at events and town hall meetings, I do not believe they would tell you that she made the right decision either.

Laura M. Toy
State Senator, 6th District

Demand more of students

Phil Power's column on new graduation standards raises my spirits.

As a former teacher (middle and high school) I often lamented the number of graduates each year whose collective

grade-point average was below 2.0 (out of 4.0). To augment the strengthened curriculum, the Michigan legislature might consider the following: eliminate the grade of "D" and require all students to maintain an average of 70 percent in every class to pass. Then stick to it!

Mr. Power talks about parents who complain about the difficulty of classes, and he's right. Teachers complain, too, often when principals allow students who should not receive credit in a class to earn a passing grade of 'D' with far less than 60 percent overall in classwork, homework and tests.

If we want to remain competitive in the world, we must make greater demands of students and their parents. One year of massive failures would surely get everyone's attention.

Carol Popp

Cut political ties

Being a foreign born and a U.S. citizen by choice, I was not exposed to much history of the United States — but a recent trip to Washington, D.C. and Virginia, however, kindled my interest in George Washington and the other founding fathers. In my reading, I came across Washington's Farewell Address of 1796 and was surprised at how much his comments resonate today.

Washington was greatly concerned with preserving the union because of the divide created by Hamilton's Federalist Party and Jefferson's Republican Party. This is reflected in his words in the Farewell Address. Let us look at one of his statements about political parties.

The alternate domination of one faction (political) over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism.

The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruin of public liberty.

What is surprising, and a sign of his greatness, is that Washington not only railed against political parties, but warned about the absolute power of its leader.

Looking at the political situation today, we see wholesale corruption and incompetence and a threat to individual liberty. I can imagine, a radical solution which would be to generate a constitutional amendment called the, George Washington Amendment's outlawing political parties and lobbyists. It would require that all representatives be independents with no political ties.

I would further add the requirement that all prospective representatives be required to pass a professional exam to ensure that have a knowledge of our Constitution and history, and the needs of their constituents. This would replace the requirements of the present system of just being alive and a member of a political party.

James McMenamin
West Bloomfield

A matter of time

President Bush in a recent speech said he has the utmost compassion for the families whose jobs have been outsourced. My question is, what form will this compassion take?

Has he any practical plan for saving American jobs?

Compassion is one thing, but being unable to make your mortgage payment, your car payment or send your children to college has become the results of outsourcing. You can promise to retrain workers but the reality is that this takes time and in fact, may only be an empty promise.

The ultimate agenda by the Bush administration is to make the rich richer and the poor destitute. Ross Perot called it when he said, "If we lose our manufacturing base, America will never be the same."

The fact is NAFTA will bring the American standard of living down for the average citizen.

America cannot compete with cheap labor, but corporations will thrive on it. We have to start making products in America again.

Robert Leal
Farmington Hills

No favors here

People who defend the presence of illegal immigrants in the United States always put forth the same weak justification for illegal aliens who take American jobs: "They do work Americans refuse to do."

Americans refuse to do the jobs because the pay is kept artificially low by the illegal workers.

Employers would still need those jobs to be done whether the illegal aliens were here or not.

If the illegal aliens were not here, the employers would have no choice but to turn to their only resource, American workers, and pay whatever it took to keep those American workers coming into work every day.

The upshot of all this is that the illegal aliens are undercutting our pay structure, not doing us a favor.

Long prison sentences for the employers who give work to illegal aliens is the only way to end this problem.

Thomas McFarland
Madison Heights

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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QUOTABLE

"She's the unsung hero in the group. She works behind the scenes and doesn't want the attention. It's amazing the amount of time she puts in."

- Robin Cooke about Mary Denning, who was one of six finalists in Country Living magazine's Comfort Contest

We raised education standards - now raise the dropout age

Congratulations to the state Board of Education, the governor and Legislature for coming together and passing tough, rigorous high school curriculum standards. This bodes well for Michigan's future.

This is one of many continuous improvements required to prepare Michigan to lead in the ultra-competitive, 21st century knowledge economy.

Now we must change an archaic law that makes it legal for kids to quit school at age 16. Why does Michigan have a law on the books dating back to the "good ol' days," making it "legal" for children to drop out of school at the tender age of 16?



Tom Watkins

Times have clearly changed. There was a time in Michigan and America where one could drop out of school and get a good-paying, middle-class factory job, join the military or work on the family farm.

Those days are long gone and are not coming back.

Most factories today are laying off workers and those that are hiring require more than a high school diploma.

The armed services do not accept dropouts and I doubt that teens from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties are leaving school to go work on the family farm.

We have moved from a society where you could "lift for a living" to a society where everyone needs to be able to "think for a living."

Given today's fast-paced global economy, to allow children to leave school without the education they need and deserve is state-sponsored stupidity at best and institutionalized racism at its very worst.

If we had the horrific dropout statistics in our white, middle-class suburbs as we do in Native American, African-American or Hispanic American communities, Michigan citizens would be marching on Lansing demanding that our elected officials do something. If the dropout rates in some school districts were classified as a public health issue, it would be considered an epidemic.

We need to raise the drop out age and do it now! However, it is more than just simply changing the legal age one can drop out. As responsible adults and educators, there is a moral, societal and economic imperative to develop appropriate alternative programs to educate children so they may, one day, support themselves and their families and fully participate in our democratic society.

We need to move beyond the old Henry Ford slogan, "You can have any color car you like — as long as it's black" and develop a wide array of

If we had the horrific dropout statistics in our white, middle-class suburbs as we do in Native American, African-American or Hispanic American communities, Michigan citizens would be marching on Lansing demanding that our elected officials do something. If the dropout rates in some school districts were classified as a public health issue, it would be considered an epidemic.

educational opportunities for our kids. A one-size-fits-all educational system will quickly find itself on the scrap heap of history.

I propose that in the 2008-09 school year, the dropout age to be raised permanently from 16 to 18. This would give our schools, parents and students the time to modify their attitudes, beliefs and programs and time to develop alternative school models that comply with the high standards set by the state Board of Education. There are countless examples where creative educators have developed innovative programs to meet the needs of kids at risk of dropping out.

Our students in our schools and on our streets today will confront a rapidly changing, disruptive, information- and technologically-driven world that will defy predictability. It is our collective responsibility to make sure they are ready.

I ask, is it OK for your son or daughter to leave school without, at a minimum, a high school diploma? If it is not good enough for our children, it should not be good enough for anyone's child!

Also, let's not forget that this is one social problem with a built-in funding solution. Under Proposal A, the state funds schools by the number of students attending, so for every child who drops out, the local school loses several thousands of dollars. In most urban school districts with federal and state funds, the schools stand to lose in excess of \$10,000 for each child who drops out.

We will never have strong or cool cities, a vibrant region and a productive state unless we do more to educate all of our children to world-class standards.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as the state superintendent of schools from 2001-05. Read his report, *The New Education (Re)volution*, at www.naco.org. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

An evening of concert music was trip down memory lane

A recent Friday night was a bit of a trip down memory lane for me, sitting in O'Leary Auditorium and listening as conductor Scott Cramer explained the musical selections the Novi Concert Band was about to perform.

In my mind's eye, I could see Leonard Bernstein looking out at a concert hall filled with smiling young faces and explaining the music the New York Philharmonic was about to play. It was back when the choices on TV were even more limited than they are today and programs like the *Hallmark Hall of Fame* and Bernstein's *Young People's Concerts* were a must-see.



Sue Mason

It was my introduction to the classics. I'd sit with my family and watch, secretly wishing I was the cherubic face flashing across the television screen. Suburban Detroit was nowhere near New York

City, but Bernstein had a way of drawing all who watched into the performance.

In 14 years, Bernstein did 53 *Young People's Concerts*, filling them with the music of such greats as Dmitri Shostakovich, Paul Hindemith, Gustav Holst, Aaron Copland and Charles Ives. I didn't see all 53, but vividly remember watching them on Sunday afternoons. It was through him I would first hear music like the *1812 Overture* and jump at the sound of the cannon being fired, even though he had warned us about it.

His concerts were considered so important that for three years, CBS played them during prime time Saturdays before parking them in that Sunday afternoon time slot. Luckily, they played during the winter months or we may have missed them, especially the one summer my father cut the plug off the TV. He wanted us outside playing, not sitting in front what he fondly called the boob tube.

With two kids who gravitate to Channel 299 on Direct TV to watch such shows as *Drake & Josh* and consider the Kids Choice Awards culture, I had a plan to con them into attending the concert with me. Much to my surprise, I didn't need to con, they willingly agreed to go.

It was our first venture into a music venue, and I wasn't sure how well it would go over, especially with music that in no way, shape or form resembled Will Smith or Black-Eyed Peas. My son did complain after the *Overture in Bb* that he didn't know the next five songs, but hung in there, listening to Cramer, and waving the stick from his chocolate rose like a conductor's baton.

Cramer doesn't quite have the stage pres-

ence of a Leonard Bernstein, but the concert was kid-friendly in every way. He drew chuckles for his swashbuckling "argh" in talking about the music from *Pirates of the Caribbean* and the sax quartet performance of Duke Ellington's *Satin Doll* was greatly appreciated by the older members of the audience.

And when the band started playing the music of *The Incredibles*, my son started explaining what scenes each snippet was from. Hearing the theme for *Aladdin* reminded him, and me, that that was one of his favorite cartoon shows back in his preschool days before he discovered *Batman Beyond* and *Pokémon*.

My daughter made it most of the way through before going into I'm tired mode, but, like her brother, hung in there until the end. I was glad. Growing up, the fine arts came to us on the TV or the monoral record player. My oldest brother was a card-carrying member of the Columbia Record Club and had a stockpile of LPs. We could go from *Peter and the Wolf* to *There Ain't Nothing Like a Dame* with the change of a record.

It wasn't until high school and college that I saw my first live theater performances. I learned to love student tickets and mezzanine seats at the Fisher and the Music Hall, where I saw Rudolf Nureyev dance in *Swan Lake*. I coned my brother out of his Detroit Symphony tickets so I could see a high school friend perform with the Mount Holyoke College Choir.

I've tried to expose my kids to the fine arts through children's plays at O'Leary and at the State Wayne Theater in Wayne. I want them to know there's more to music than bad rhyming, that theater doesn't always fit on the seven-inch screen of a portable DVD player.

I want them to see the vast expanse of the musical landscape, and they do seem to be willing to explore. But will they be willing to do a second concert? I would say yes, but only if I promise to tape *WWE Smackdown* for my son. That way he won't put a bum's rush on me to leave as soon as the concert is over. The applause was hardly fading and he was urging me to hurry up.

The concert was sponsored by the Garden City Schools' Foundation for Educational Excellence and, while the crowd wasn't large, it was a good start at bringing more cultural activities to the community. Hopefully, there will be more concerts and interest will build in them.

Hey, Smackdown vs. the Novi Concert Band? I'm voting for the band.

Sue Mason is editor of the Westland and Garden City Observer newspapers. If you have a comment, e-mail her at smason@hometownlife.com.

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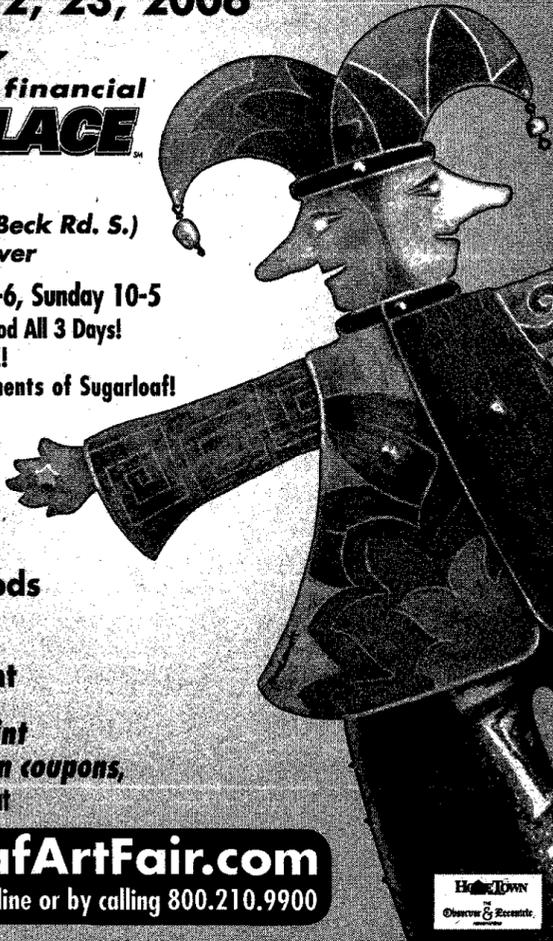
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Try This with a Creamy Cheese Like St. Andre!	Hogue Gewurztraminer '05 \$11.99 750 ml <i>This wine is fruit forward with a moderate crowd pleasing sweetness</i>	St Andre Soft Ripened Cheese \$10.59 lb. <i>Eat with Strawberries & Crusty Bread</i>	Alver Pedro Ximenez '03 \$17.99 375 ml <i>This is one intense dessert wine. Massively full bodied and sweet. Awesome</i>	Try this with Toasted Almonds
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Try This with Beef or Lamb!	Montecillo Grand Reserva Rioja '06 \$24.99 750 ml <i>This is an elegant yet rich & full flavored wine.</i>	Emmentaler Swiss Cheese \$6.29 lb. <i>Smooth fruity flavor</i>	Michael David 7 Heavenly Chardonnay '04 \$16.99 750 ml <i>Well balanced and delicious. Oaky notes give way to beautiful cleansing citric acidity</i>	Try this with Pork or Appetizers!
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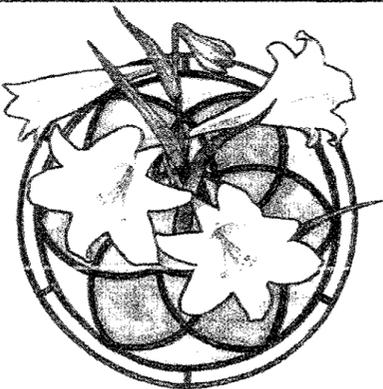
In a Variety of Delicious Flavors!	Edys All Natural Flavors Ice Cream 2/\$6.00 56 oz.	Kellers Lamb Shaped Butter \$4.49 each <i>Great with your Easter Dinner!</i>	Baremans 1/2% & Skim Gallon Milk 2/\$4.00	1/2% & Skim Only!
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Byrd's Choice Meats!

Easter Favorites

- Domestic Legs of Lamb
- Dearborn Spiral Glazed Hams
- Racks of Lamb
- Our Own Fresh or Smoked Keilbasa
- Loin Lamb Chops
- Andouille Sausage

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Made in America

New cable TV station caters to Muslim audience

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Mo Hassan thought he was being optimistic.

But just two weeks after he launched Bridges TV, it turns out he had been underestimating the demand for the new television network.

Hassan is the CEO of Bridges TV, the only all-American Muslim television station in the world.

Programming is in English, and is entertainment-heavy, rather than news-centered (even though the station airs news during prime time daily).

Bridges TV made its debut just two weeks ago in the Detroit area on WOW! Cable, Comcast, Globestar Satellite and Dish Network, and it's pending on Direct TV.

"We had planned to have one million viewers by the end of this year, but at the end of this week, we have that many," Hassan said last week. "I need to write a new business plan."

The plan was originally hatched at the end of 2001. He and his wife, Aasiya Zubair, spent November and December of that year in Southfield because she was attending training to open a franchise in their hometown of

Buffalo, N.Y.

"It was after Sept. 11, and we were listening to the radio, and there was a lot of talk — talk that was very disparaging toward Muslims," he said. "My wife was pregnant at the time, and she said that this is not a good environment for raising children, and wouldn't it be nice if there was a media outlet that could reach people and show them what Muslims are really like."

Zubair turned to her husband and said, "You should do it. You should start a television station."

Hassan said he couldn't. He was a banker and knew nothing about the television industry. But he put together a business plan and by the time he left his job, he left with his employer's blessing and a \$1 million line of credit.

Not that he's needed to tap into the credit.

Right away, he reached out to the Muslim community, and his initial seed money was sent to him by 10,000 families from around the United States. Each sent \$100.

"That was our first \$1 million," he said. "It truly is a grass-roots thing. It was very grass-roots, very door to door, very mosque to mosque."

There is some corporate sponsorship — from Ford Motor Co., for example — and the station collects licensing fees from cable and satellite companies who buy it. And, of course, there are the memberships bought by the people who send money to support the station, Hassan said.

There has been absolutely no foreign financing of the station, and no "giant media conglomerate," Hassan said. "It's 100 percent made in America. It's homemade apple pie."

Bridges TV has rolled out in the Detroit market, Chicago, Toledo, Columbus, Boston and Dallas. And Hassan has found that meeting with cable companies in new markets doesn't require weeks or months of waiting, contrary to what he'd heard about the industry.

"They call me," he said.

The station's programming lineup includes game shows, children's programming, music videos, history programs, biographies, news, current affairs and religious programming. About half is produced at the company's headquarters in Buffalo, where some 30 people work for Hassan. He employs 20 news correspondents in the field around the country.

"I think what appeals to peo-



Aasiya Zubair (left), wife of Bridges TV CEO Muzzammil Hassan (right), played an instrumental role in the creation of Bridges TV since she came up with the idea of an American Muslim lifestyle network and encouraged her husband to write a business plan.

ple is that when there's something going on like the struggle in Iraq, the Danish cartoon issue, or the Dubai ports, people can turn on Bridges TV and get another perspective," Hassan said. "We are definitely building bridges, just like the name says."

On May 15 at 8 p.m., Bridges TV will air a town hall meeting with Paul Moskal, the chief legal counsel for the FBI in New York. Moskal will take

direct questions from Muslim and Arab Americans on national television. On May 14, the station will air the cable television premier of PBS' *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet*.

"It really fills a void," said Adnan Mirza, a director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). "There's a clear disconnect between popular American media and Muslim audience. The nice

thing is, this is not just for the Muslim audience. Bridges TV gives a clear understanding of the issues to viewers and an opportunity for us to speak for ourselves. Americans are increasingly interested in better understanding Middle Eastern cultures, and Muslim Americans want to be better understood. Bridges TV creates a public platform for this dialogue."

cmarshall@hometownlife.com

REI gives \$10,000 to Rouge, Maybury Land says license ATMs a success

Two area parks will receive \$10,000 donations from Recreational Equipment Inc.

Las week REI announced plans to dedicate \$1 million to community parks across the country. These parks grants are in addition to the more than \$3 million in grants REI previously earmarked this year for outdoor recreation and conservation causes.

A total of 100 parks grants, each in the amount of \$10,000, will be given to non-profit organizations dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of community parks throughout the U.S. Seven community organizations in Colorado will receive a grant that will benefit a specific park. The benefiting parks and partner organizations include:

■ Rouge River Park, Partner Organization - Friends of the

Rouge River, grant presentation 9 a.m. Earth Day Saturday, April 22, at Rouge River Park.

■ Maybury State Park, Partner Organization - Friends of the Maybury State park, grant presentation was set for 10 a.m. Wednesday at Maybury State Park.

Grant recipients were selected after REI employees identified community parks that were of particular interest to their customers, offered outdoor recreation opportunities, and were in close proximity to an REI store.

Once specific parks were selected, REI worked with park officials to identify a non-profit group that provides volunteer care for each park. In collaboration with the local parks, these non-profit groups will dedicate funds to projects

that maintain and preserve each community park.

"REI had an amazing 2005," said REI President and CEO Sally Jewell. "As a co-op we share our success with our members, employees and the communities in which we do business. I can't think of a better way to celebrate our success than by dedicating an additional \$1 million to support our community parks. The importance of these parks is immeasurable in getting people outdoors — as recreation areas, as community gathering spaces and often, as our children's first introduction to the natural world."

Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land reports that in the 12 months since introducing Self-Service Stations for renewing licenses, the state has recorded 30,000 transactions and \$3 million in revenue.

"Self-Service Stations are a key part of our efforts to make a trip to the Secretary of State's office a quick and helpful experience," Land said. "It is encouraging to see so many customers using them. This is another effective way technology can be used to enhance customer service for the people of Michigan. I recommend that anyone who has not used these machines yet give them a try. It's as easy as 'Scan, Pay, Go.'"

There are 28 self-service machines statewide, 17 of which may be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by customers. They are located at 23 PLUS Offices and five Super Centers throughout 17 counties. From April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2006, there were 29,619 tab renewal transactions, gener-

ating \$2,958,688 in revenue.

The stand-alone ATM-style stations feature simple touch-screen instructions and can dispense new license tabs within seconds. Customers simply scan the bar code on a renewal notice with their correct name, address, vehicle information and personal identification number (PIN), then swipe a debit card or Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card.

Tabs may still be purchased online, by phone or mail, but customers who have run out of time to use those methods of who would otherwise have to wait for service at the counter can obtain renewals quickly and easily at the Self-Service Station.

Livonia Area SUPER Center is at 17176 Farmington Road in the Burton Hollow Plaza. PLUS offices are located at 25700 Joy Road, Redford and 44948 Ford Road, Canton.

The department Web site is www.Michigan.gov/sos for more information

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MARSHALL HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll at the end of the first semester honor roll at Marshall Middle School were:

Kristen Acosta, Keith Agee, Bisi Ajemobi, Ryan Albright, Rachael Alonzo, Derrick Ammons, Shayna Anderson, Amber Anthony, Heather Anthony, Shyenne Anthony, Alexis Armstrong, Ryan Arnold, Julianne Ayers, Ashley Bailey, Sean Bailey, Lauren Baker, Samantha Baker, Katelyn Barker, Taylor Barnes, Sarah Barnett, Tevin Barnett, Amanda Bauer, Joshua Beguhn, Kyle Beguhn, Nkeandiem Bernard, Chelsea Bess, Rebecca Bizek, Gianna Blannon, Lydian Blassingame, Angela Blay, Ryan Boes, Bonjiovanna Bonner, Patrick Borda, Shanell Bradford, Alyssa Bradke, Kyle Bray, Halie Brennan, William Brokenshire, Ashley Brown, Ciarra Brown, Andrew Brozek, Jonathan Burtlett, Derrica Bush, Kayla Butler, Christopher Button, Michael Cach, Ashley Cadaret, Jessica Campbell, Alyssa Canzoneri, Ernestine Carlos, Amanda Caudill, Levi Cavender, Bradley Celmer, Andre Chambers, Aaron Chave, Amber Chave, Angela Chiado, Jessica Churchill, Desiree Clenney, Aida Coka, Taylor Collins, Michael Copeland, Matilda Corbaxhi, Brittany Covault, Melissa Cover, Sarah Cox, Cody Crane, BréYon Crawford, Daniel Croft, John Cunningham, Sarah Cunningham, Courtney Curlee, Brittney Dandridge, James Daniel, Genevieve Dapremont, Zachary Darling, Beth Darnell, Megan Daugherty, Robert Davis, Andree Dawkins, Marlen Dede, Warren Defilis, Brianna Delaforce, Amanda Derosia, Melissa Deyo, Natalie Deyo, Gary Dickhart, Nathaniel Dickson, Asha Dixon, Chelsea Dixon, Briana Domen, Spencer Dowd, Kathryn Down, Jennifer Drum, Vanessa Dubeau, Alexandra Dudley, Kody Duhl, Joshua Duprie, Mikayla Edwards, Eric Eldridge, Daishanae Elliott-Hughes, Ariel Ellis, Halee Endicott, Scholastica Enechukwu, Kayla Facto, Sarah Fanny, Joshua Ferguson, Meagan Ferguson, Raeven Finch, Eileena Flannery, Stoney Flowers, Dane-Michae Foster, Cassie Fournier, Travis Gabany, Austin Gager, Antoinette Galindo, Genevieve Galindo, Lauren Gallant, Sean Gerth, LaShelle Gibson, Taylor Gibson, Kayla Gillies, Brandon Girard, Lidridon Gjocaj, Shaun Gornall, Tyler Gower, Paige Grant, Marquise Graves, Lauren Gray, Tina Groves, Jenna Guarascio, Jonathan Guertin, Paul Gutu, Chelsea Guy, Jeffery Guziak, Stephanie Gysel, Kyndra Hackett, Candace Haggerty, Steven Hall, Ariel Hamby, Kyle Hamlin, Jon Handziak, Brittany Harden, Brittney Harding, Tamika Harris, Sarah Headrick, Amy Hein, Trevor Hemeren, Leigh-Ann Hensley, Jacquelyn Hewitt, Adam Hicks, Thomas Hildebrandt, Brianna Hill, Ronald Hill II, Arielle Hines, James Hollenbeck, Melissa Hoppe, Alaysha Horne, Bradley Houghton, Kellee Hubbard, Nicole Hubble, Marketa Hudson, Chelsea Hunt, Ajee Hurst, Shabnum Hussain, Syed Hyder, Nicole Ives, Natasha Jackson, Sabrina Jackson, Rebecca Jarvis, Joshua Jenderat, Samon Jenkins, Amanda Johnson, Jaylynn Johnson, JéNa Johnson, Mariah Johnson, Christopher Jones, Kaytlyn Jones, Steven Jones, Kaivon Jordan, Alexis Judd, Erin Kardel, Coty Kazmierczuk, Rachel Kazmierczuk, Trisha Kelly, Brett Kennedy, Bria Kimbrough, Gabrielle Kirchner, Parker Kirchner, Drake Kitchen, Rachel Klein, Kellie Klepsch, Arnold Kocibelli, Robert Koehler, Nicole Konwinski, Kristo Korcari, Kelly Kranning, Kelsey Kregger, Kaltra Kruja, Adam Kuk, Sharon Kumari, Christine Lamerson, Rachel Landry, Kiara Lane, Ashley Larimore, Leah Laub, Sabrina Lawrence, Rebecca Lawrukovich, Shelby Lawson, Ashley Leschinski, Ryan Lesinski, Sean Lewis, Melanie Libres, Tariq Lockhart, Devin Lombard, Maverick Longuski, Karen Lopez, Robert Lopez, Marybeth Majewski, Ramil Manibog, Ray Manibog, Bronte Manier, Alyssa Manley, Jalen Manning, Matthew Markey, John Marnon, Anthony Mastropietro, Leila May, Alexis McCarver, Lavarro McClendon, Khadijah McCloud, Kody McColllum, Angelic McCullers, Erin McCurtis, Megan McDougall, Jacob McFalls, Molly McFalls, Andrew McGrath, Troy McGuigan, Paige McKellar, Devon McMillian, Katelyn McNally, Alex McNellis, Steven McNulty, Kiera Means, Marcus Mecks, Jeffrey Medel, Katie Miller, Kevin Miller, Tony Mills, Jacqueline Mitchell, Kelly Money, Alyssa Moore, Heidi Moore, Caitlin Moreno, Michael Morgan, Jajuan Morton, Jeffrey Morton, Marizza Muhammad, Robin Mulka, Christopher Murdoch Jr, Jeremy Myers, Christian Newsome, Ryan Nikula, Ashley Nowicki, Christopher O'Donnell, Stephanie Obeirne, Sarah Oboza, Eberechi Ogbuaku, Matthew Okunawo, Ainsworth Orr, Caitlin Osullivan, Fatimo Oyedele, Justin Parker, Robert Parker, Joanna Parmenter, Jessica Pesenecker, Ravyn Pete, Janae Pierce, Christopher Pola, Timothy Powers, Robert Prough, Natalie Qassis, Anna Quillen, William Rafferty, Hailey Randall, Alec Raymond, Ann Reaume, Brooke Reckling, Zachary Redden, Darrion Richardson, Latasha Richardson, Joseph Riggio, Devonta Riley, Andrew Roberts, Shelby Roberts, Stephanie Roberts, Brittani Robinson, Mercedes Robinson, Alexander Rochette, Taylor Rock, Rogelio Rodriguez, Shawn Roegner, Paul Rollinson, Antonio Rucker, Anthony Rushlow, Molly Ryder, Shannon

Salisbury, Thomas Sample, Amber Santo-Gawrecki, Austin Schacht, Kaileigh Schippa, Gerhardt Schuette, Curtis Schwartz, Daniel Selewski, Austin Sharp, Melissa Sheahan, Amber Shellenbarger, Megan Singh, Kaitlyn Skowronski, Aaron Smith, Christian Smith, Hailey Smith, Raven Smith, Ashley Solberg, Kara Spisz, Joseph Stanley, Shaina Starks, Marissa Stevens, Karina Stephens, Nicholas Stoddard, Anastasia Strickland, Anthony Sumpter, Holly Sutherland, David Swazye, Domanique Sweeting, Thea Swider-Sisk, Harinder Syan, Bryan Sylvester, Nikunj Talati, Verica Temelkova, Kiara Thomas, Megan Trantham, Christina Trinh, Tyler Trombley, Marinela Tupa, Shaquille Turner, Steven Udell, Andruv Vader, David Vader, Austin Valentine, Keven Wacker, Kelli Wakeford, Steven Wakeford, Alec Raymond, Ann Reaume, Brooke Reckling, Zachary Redden, Darrion Richardson, Latasha Richardson, Joseph Riggio, Devonta Riley, Andrew Roberts, Shelby Roberts, Stephanie Roberts, Brittani Robinson, Mercedes Robinson, Alexander Rochette, Taylor Rock, Rogelio Rodriguez, Shawn Roegner, Paul Rollinson, Antonio Rucker, Anthony Rushlow, Molly Ryder, Shannon

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ORDINANCE NO. 248-A-49

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND RESTRICT THE USE OF LAND AND STRUCTURES BY DIVIDING THE CITY OF WESTLAND INTO DISTRICTS AND ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES THEREOF BY ADOPTION OF AN OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP; TO SPECIFY THE DISTRICTS WITHIN WHICH LANDS MAY BE USED FOR BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENCE AND OTHER SPECIFIED PURPOSES; TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS GOVERNING THE LOCATION, ERECTION, CONSTRUCTIONS, RECONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION AND USE OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND LAND WITHIN SUCH DISTRICTS; TO LIMIT THE HEIGHT AND BREADTH OF BUILDINGS, SIGNS AND OTHER STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE THE INTENSITY OF USE OF LOT AREAS AND TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF YARDS AND OTHER OPEN SPACES; TO ESTABLISH SITE DESIGN REGULATIONS AND TO PROVIDE SITE DESIGN REVIEW PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS; TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL LAND USE AND SPECIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT; TO LIMIT CONGESTION IN THE PUBLIC STREETS BY PROVIDING OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE RESTRICTION AND GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF NON-CONFORMING USES OF LAND, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE SIGNS BY ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS UPON THE SIZE, HEIGHT, LOCATION AND NUMBER OF PERMISSIBLE SIGNS AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN SIGNS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND AMENDMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; AND TO REPEAL THE PRIOR ZONING ORDINANCE.

THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the zoning map of Ordinance No. 248 of the City of Westland be and the same is hereby amended to show PUD district classification where OB district classification is now shown in the area situated in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, described as:

PARCEL 1

PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 26 T.2S., R.9E., CITY OF WESTLAND, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 26, T.2S., R.9E., THENCE S. 89° 29' 43" E. 60.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MERRIMAN ROAD (120 FEET WIDE); THENCE DUE NORTH 454.22 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING THENCE DUE NORTH 1283.38 FEET; THENCE S. 89° 24' 27" E. 564.65 FEET; THENCE S. 00° 01' 18" E., 260.18 FEET; THENCE N. 89° 59' 30" E. 467.14 FEET; THENCE S. 00° 03' 00" E. 71.28 FEET; THENCE N. 89° 59' 30" E. 44.79 FEET; THENCE S. 00° 01' 18" E. 316.83 FEET; THENCE S. 89° 58' 52" W. 682.37 FEET; THENCE S. 00° 00' 38" W. 310.28 FEET; THENCE S. 70° 02' 10" W. 107.64 FEET; THENCE S. 43° 01' 14" W. 385.81 FEET; THENCE DUE WEST 30.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID MERRIMAN ROAD AND POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 17.08 ACRES AND BEING SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD AND RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC OVER MERRIMAN ROAD.

PARCEL 2

PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 26 T.2S., R.9E., CITY OF WESTLAND, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 26, T.2S., R.9E., THENCE S. 89° 29' 43" E. 60.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MERRIMAN ROAD (120 FEET WIDE); THENCE DUE NORTH 1737.60 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE DUE NORTH 292.70 FEET; THENCE S. 89° 59' 53" E. 564.51 FEET; THENCE S. 00° 01' 18" E. 298.52 FEET; THENCE N. 89° 24' 27" W. 564.65 FEET TO SAID EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MERRIMAN ROAD AND POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 3.83 ACRES AND BEING SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD AND RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC OVER MERRIMAN ROAD.

PARCEL 3

PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 26 T.2S., R.9E., CITY OF WESTLAND, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 26, T.2S., R.9E., THENCE S. 89° 29' 43" E. 60.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF MERRIMAN ROAD (120 FEET WIDE); THENCE DUE NORTH 454.22 FEET ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE DUE EAST 30.00 FEET; THENCE N. 43° 01' 14" E. 385.81 FEET; THENCE N. 70° 02' 10" E. 107.64 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE N. 00° 00' 38" E. 310.28 FEET; THENCE N. 89° 58' 52" E. 682.37 FEET; THENCE N. 00° 01' 18" W. 316.83 FEET; THENCE S. 89° 59' 30" W. 44.79 FEET; THENCE N. 00° 03' 00" W. 71.28 FEET; THENCE N. 89° 59' 30" E. 102.80 FEET; S. 00° 01' 18" E., 45.09 FEET; THENCE N. 89° 58' 42" E. 35.00 FEET; THENCE S. 00° 01' 18" E. 653.34 FEET; THENCE N. 89° 59' 48" W. 774.80 FEET; THENCE S. 70° 02' 10" W. 0.77 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 6.39 ACRES AND BEING SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.

Section 2. The other classifications in effect in all other areas of the zoning map shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Repeal. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 5. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication thereof.

EILEEN DEHART WESTLAND CITY CLERK

Adopted: April 3, 2006 Publish: April 13, 2006 Effective: April 13, 2006

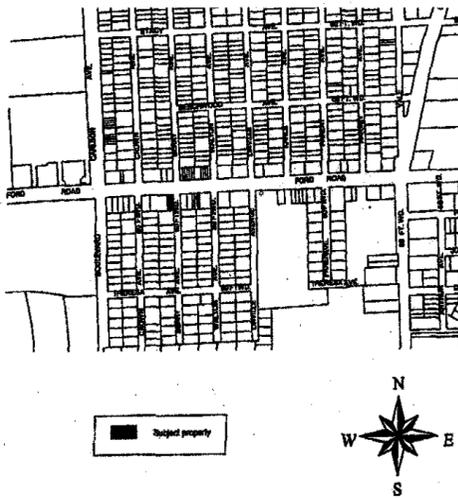
CITY OF WESTLAND ORDINANCE NO. 248-A-50

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND RESTRICT THE USE OF LAND AND STRUCTURES BY DIVIDING THE CITY OF WESTLAND INTO DISTRICTS AND ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES THEREOF BY ADOPTION OF AN OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP; TO SPECIFY THE DISTRICTS WITHIN WHICH LANDS MAY BE USED FOR BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENCE AND OTHER SPECIFIED PURPOSES; TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS GOVERNING THE LOCATION, ERECTION, CONSTRUCTIONS, RECONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION AND USE OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND LAND WITHIN SUCH DISTRICTS; TO LIMIT THE HEIGHT AND BREADTH OF BUILDINGS, SIGNS AND OTHER STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE THE INTENSITY OF USE OF LOT AREAS AND TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF YARDS AND OTHER OPEN SPACES; TO ESTABLISH SITE DESIGN REGULATIONS AND TO PROVIDE SITE DESIGN REVIEW PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS; TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL LAND USE AND SPECIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT; TO LIMIT CONGESTION IN THE PUBLIC STREETS BY PROVIDING OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE RESTRICTION AND GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF NON-CONFORMING USES OF LAND, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE SIGNS BY ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS UPON THE SIZE, HEIGHT, LOCATION AND NUMBER OF PERMISSIBLE SIGNS AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN SIGNS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND AMENDMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; AND TO REPEAL THE PRIOR ZONING ORDINANCE.

THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the zoning map of Ordinance No. 248 of the City of Westland be and the same is hereby amended to show CB-1 district classification where CB-4 district classification is now shown in the area situated in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, described as:

Lot 308; WAYNE HIGHLANDS SUB NO. 4, of part of the N.E. 1/4 of Sec. 17, T.2S., R.9E., Nankin Twp., 1 (now city of Westland), Wayne County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 52 of Plats, Page 33 of Wayne County Records.



Section 2. The other classifications in effect in all other areas of the zoning map shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Repeal. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 5. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication thereof.

EILEEN DEHART, Westland City Clerk

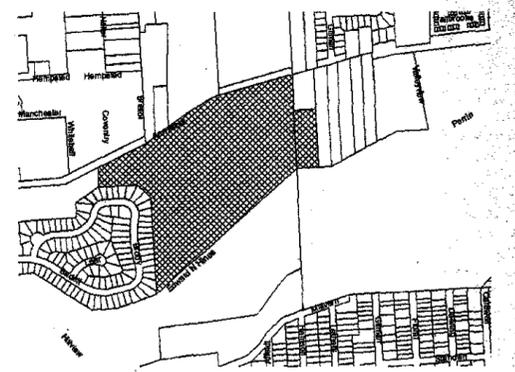
Adopted: April 3, 2006 Effective: April 13, 2006 Publish: April 13, 2006



CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2152 - Public Hearing for Proposed Rezoning from TH, Townhouse Residence and R-5, Single Family Residential to PUD, Planning Unit Development, Parcels #001-99-0008-000 and 002-99-0080-001, South Side of Ann Arbor Trail, West of Inkster Road, Frank Jonna (Randy Liepa)



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2006.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: April 13, 2006

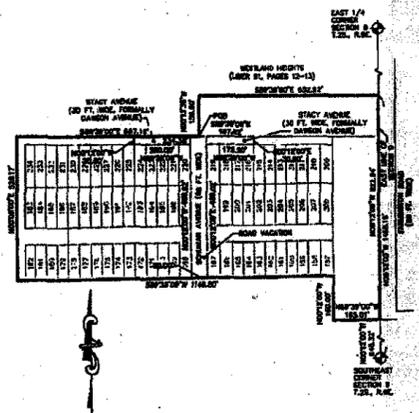
CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 16.2, Chapter XVI of the Charter of the City of Westland, this Body by Resolution dated, Monday, March 20, 2006, set a Public Hearing on said petition, and

WHEREAS, said hearing was held at the time and place appointed, Monday, May 1, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, and this Body having considered the recommendations of the Planning Commission and the advisability of abandoning, vacating and terminating the following:

DESCRIPTION OF ROAD VACATION

Proposed vacation and abandonment of Stacy and Schuman Rights-of-Way, west side of Farmington Road, north of Ford Road.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is in the best interest of the public that the above-mentioned rights-of-way be absolutely abandoned, discontinued and vacated.

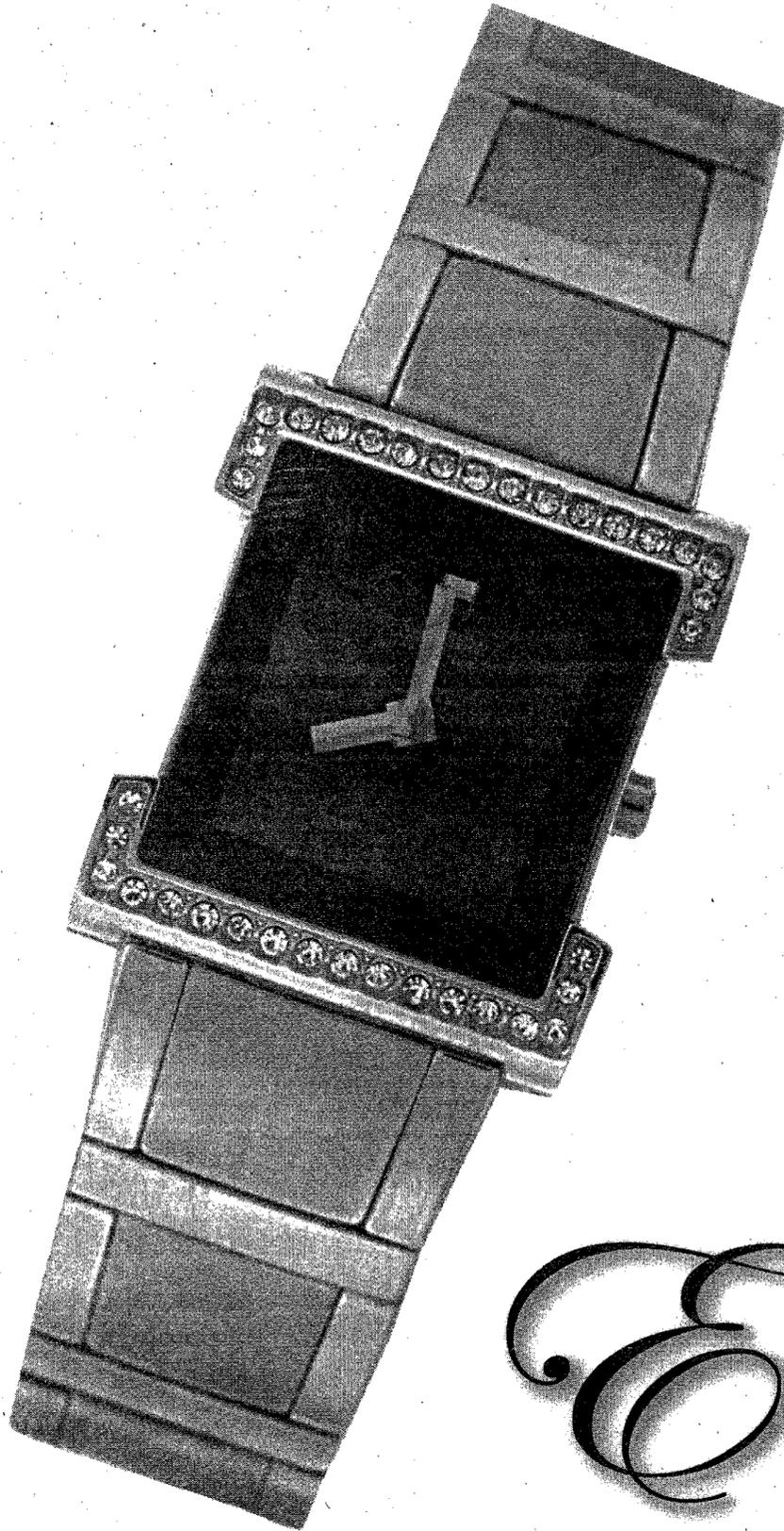
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that true copies of this notice be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter.

Eileen DeHart City Clerk

Publish: April 13 & 20, 2006



Timing is Everything

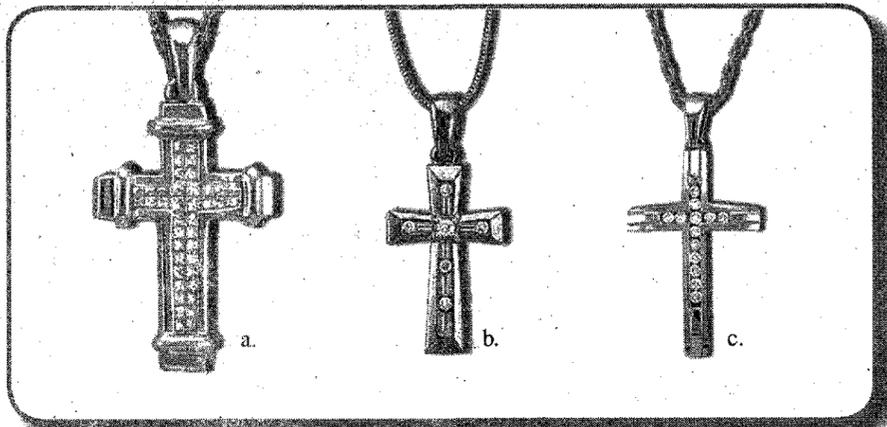


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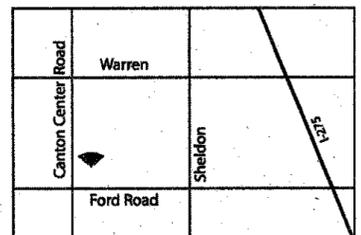


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- c. 14kt two tone diamond cross set with 1/2 ct tw in round cut stones \$280
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Sea Cadets introduce youth to military life

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Cousins Zachary Polak of Wyandotte and Erick Jackson of Romulus dreamed of joining the elite ranks of the Navy SEALs.

"I started researching stuff and I found a military Web site with a link to the Sea Cadets and they had SEAL training," said Polak, a senior at Wyandotte High School and petty officer second class in the Sea Cadets.

According to Ensign Edward C. Brennan of Milford, that hands-on military experience is what makes the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps a great opportunity for young men and women ages 11-17.

"The beauty of the Sea Cadets is that they get initiated into military opportunities to see if this is what he or she wants to do," Brennan said. "It's a great way to find out what it's like to be in the military."

INTERVIEWS

The James M. Hannan Division of the Sea Cadets has openings for a limited number of new recruits. Interviews will be held 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, at Redford Presbyterian Church, 22122 W. McNichols, Detroit. Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling (248) 685-9568.

On April 15, the Sea Cadets will have a display at the Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middlebelt. Applications and



Rifle training is part of the Sea Cadets SEAL training.

interviews will take place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Hannan Division meets 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. the first and third Saturday each month at Redford Presbyterian. The 35 Cadets come from throughout the metro Detroit area.

Brennan dates the beginning of the Sea Cadets to Teddy Roosevelt who urged the Navy to develop an organization for civilian support. That led to the founding of the Navy League. About 45 years ago, the Navy asked the Navy League to form a youth group. The Hannan Division has been in operation for 42 years.

From April through November, the Sea Cadets operate a ship, the SCS Gray Fox out of Port Huron. Three two-week cruises and several one-week and weekend cruises are available. About 900 cadets from the Midwest will

sail this coming season.

COAST GUARD TIES

"We have a close relationship with the Coast Guard. Kids are on ship steer, plot courses, do everything," Brennan said. "We have a dummy, Oscar, that they throw over the side to practice rescues."

The 120-foot Gray Fox is a decommissioned Navy torpedo recovery ship. Hannan Division cadets will bring the ship down to Hart Plaza in Detroit April 28 and 29 where it will be open for public tours.

In addition, Sea Cadets introduces young cadets to a variety of military options. "We have 65 different activities including Navy band, JAG school, medical training," Brennan said.

Activities also include submarine school, seamanship, sailing, photojournalism and



Lifting a heavy rubber boat teaches teamwork but Sea Cadet Zachary Polak said the bottom of the boat feels like sandpaper.

Several former Cadets are serving in the military in Iraq.

SEAL training. The Sea Cadets also have an exchange program with other countries which allow some cadets to work on British, Russian, Canadian and other foreign vessels.

All that comes after basic training. "It was a lot of yelling," Polak said of basic training. "It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. At first I thought it was bad and then I did SEAL training. I complained about boot camp and now I don't know why."

Polak described SEAL training as "hell for three weeks." Trainees learn to dive, but they

also learn to carry heavy logs and water heavy rubber boats as a team.

"You cannot get through SEAL training as an individual. If you do it alone, you won't make it," Polak said.

Brennan, a Navy veteran of the Korean War who became involved as a Sea Cadets volunteer officer five years ago, said about 15 to 20 percent of the cadets get into the military.

"Ten percent of the cadets at Annapolis are former Sea Cadets," Brennan said.

Several former Cadets are serving in the military in Iraq, Brennan said.

Polak and Jackson say they've gotten a lot out of their Sea Cadet experience, though they aren't sure that the Navy is for them.

"We got a lot of military knowledge, that's for sure," said Jackson, a junior at Romulus High School with a seaman rank. "I got a look at what branch of military I wanted to go into."

Polak said his experience led to a full-ride ROTC scholarship at Central Michigan University. But the ROTC will lead to the Army not the Navy.

"The only reason to go into the Navy was SEAL training and if I didn't make it, there isn't anything else I would want to do in the Navy," he said. "But if I went into the Army and didn't make Special Forces I could still be a Ranger or Airborne. I'm the kind of person who wants to be in the field and hands-on."

Jackson is also considering the Army or the Marines.

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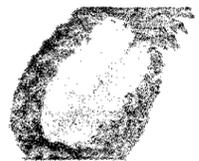
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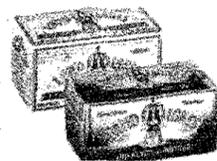
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BRIARWOOD
7070 Michigan Ave. 734-429-5478
SALINE

HINES PARK
I-96 at Milford Rd. 248-437-6700
LYON TWP.

FRIENDLY
2800 N. Telegraph, 734-243-6000
MONROE

OPEN SATURDAYS

Ford Foundation awards \$1 million to Focus:HOPE

The Ford Foundation has granted \$1 million to Focus:HOPE as part of a major initiative to expand its education and training opportunities, increase enrollment, and graduate more underrepresented minorities into sustainable careers.

Designated for scholarships and core operating support, the award will offer more options and a better future to hundreds of young men and women in the city of Detroit.

Announcement of the award was made during a recent visit to Focus:HOPE's campus in Detroit by Ford Foundation executives Susan V. Berresford, president; Pablo Farias, vice president, Asset Building and Community Development Program; and John Colborn, deputy director, Economic Development, Asset Building and Community Development Program.

"This grant will advance our efforts to ensure our training programs are providing the outcomes expected by our partners," said Keith W. Cooley, who recently was appointed CEO of the 38-year-old civil rights organization. "It will enable us to meet the rapidly changing demands of the marketplace, build our scholarship fund, provide experiential learning opportunities for our manufacturing engineering students and adjust curriculum to address current skills shortages."

The Ford Foundation and other national foundations provide support for Focus:HOPE's education and training programs. Existing programs open career opportunities in the manufacturing, engineering and information technology industries.

"Our first grant to Focus:HOPE was in 1977. Since then, we have provided grants and loans totaling over \$5.5 million and watched as thousands of Detroit residents have benefited from its educational programs and community outreach," said Berresford. "We are pleased to help this talented and dedicated group of people as they work to address the economic challenges facing Detroit and its residents."

Ford Foundation funding will also support a new scholarship initiative which gives talented students the financial

Designated for scholarships and core operating support, the award will offer more options and a better future to hundreds of young men and women in the city of Detroit.

resources they need to complete their studies. Beginning in 2006, enrolled students who demonstrate financial need can compete for scholarships to complete their programs. Three students enrolled in the information technology program, which trains students for the computer industry certifications, recently were awarded the first scholarships.

"We are grateful for the trust in us shown by the Ford Foundation," said Eleanor M. Josaitis, co-founder of Focus:HOPE. "Their partnership with us means that more men and women will be able to develop the skills they need to make a success of their lives."

Since its founding in 1968, Focus:HOPE has been committed to using "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice." In addition to its education and training programs, Focus:HOPE has a food program that provides commodity foods to 43,000 women, children and senior citizens each month; a child care center; business conference facilities; community arts programs and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Through Focus:HOPE, thousands of individuals - especially women and minorities - have become financially independent. www.focushope.edu.

The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization. For more than half a century it has been a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide, guided by its goals of strengthening democratic values, reducing poverty and injustice, promoting international cooperation and advancing human achievement. With headquarters in New York, the foundation has offices in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Russia.

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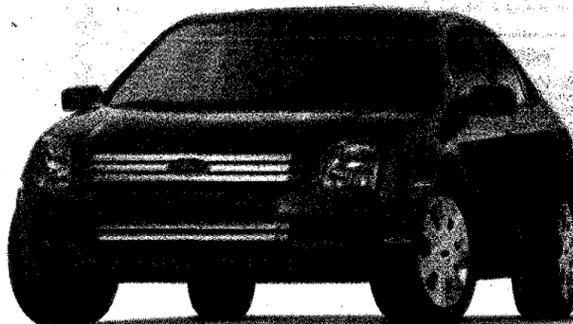
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If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

APRIL

Holy Week worship

7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7 p.m. April 13, 7 p.m. Good Friday, April 14, 7 p.m. Holy Saturday Easter Vigil April 15, and 7 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 16, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call 464-0211.

Holy Week services

Maundy Thursday April 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Good Friday April 14 Reflections on the Passion 12:30-2 p.m., and Tenebrae Worship Service at 8 p.m.; Easter Vigil April 15 at 8 p.m., and Easter Sunday April 16 at 7 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit <http://holycrosslivonia.org>.

Seniors luncheon

Noon Thursday, April 13, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. If you can't bring a dish, a donation is just right. Jan Rapoport, R.N., will speak on healing touch and laughter as the basis for health and healing. Call (734) 421-1760.

Holy week worship

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 13, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia; Ecumenical worship service noon April 14, Good Friday, at Church of the Savior Reformed Church, 38100 Five Mile, (734) 464-1062, and sunrise service 7 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 16, at Greenmead Chapel, and 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Newburg Church. Call (734) 422-0149.

Holy Week services

Maundy Thursday, April 13 joint worship with Good Shepherd Lutheran noon and 7 p.m. Holy Communion,

foot-washing and stripping the altar in preparation for Good Friday; joint services at noon and 7 p.m. April 14, and Easter Sunday breakfast served in the fellowship hall 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. worship with special music at 10:30 a.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, 13542 Mercedes, one block east of Inkster road, south of Schoolcraft, Redford. Call (313) 538-2660.

Maundy Thursday service

7 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. This is a time for the entire family. We will have a worship service, communion, and foot washing.

Holy week

Services 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 13, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038; Ecumenical worship service noon April 14, Good Friday, at Church of the Savior Reformed Church, 38100 Five Mile, (734) 464-1062, and sunrise service 7 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 16, at Greenmead Chapel, and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038.

Holy week services

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 13; 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service of Shadows April 14; and 8:30 a.m., 9:50 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 16, at St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA, 23225 Gill Road Farmington Hills. Call (248) 474-0584.

Last Supper re-enactment

7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13, presented by Wayne Westland First United Methodist Church and First Congregational Church of Wayne, at Three Town Square, Wayne. Open to public. No charge, but a love offering will be taken. Call (734) 721-9300 or (734) 721-4801.

Maundy Thursday service

7:30 p.m. April 13, in the sanctuary at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Fish fry dinners

3:30 p.m. Friday, April 14, in addition to dinners of hand-battered fried and

baked fish choices include salmon patty and pierogi, and \$5 macaroni and cheese, and pizza dinners, at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Cost is \$8, \$6 children. Carry out dinners available at same prices. For questions, call (734) 462-1222.

Services

7 p.m. Good Friday, April 14, and 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Resurrection Sunday, April 16 (remember to bring 30 pieces of silver to be presented to Michigan Christian Campus Ministries), at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-7156

Crosstalk

With Paul Clough discussing current events and what the Bible has to say about how God wishes us to respond to them 7 p.m. Friday, April 14, at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. No charge. Free child care provided. Call (248) 374-5920.

Easter egg hunt

Noon Saturday, April 15, at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Call (734) 421-6406.

Easter cantata

Amazing Grace 11 a.m. Sunday, April 16, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. Everyone is invited. Call (313) 537-7480.

Easter worship

9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, April 16, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Westland will hold the service at Inkster High School, 3250 Middlebelt. All services are signed for the deaf community. Call (734) 721-2557. All are welcome.

Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. April 16, at Riverside Park Church of God, on northwest corner of Plymouth and Newburgh, Livonia. Immediately following this service a free hot breakfast will be served to those in attendance. At 9:30 a.m. regular Sunday school classes will be available for all ages. Our Family Worship service begins at 10:45 a.m. All children and youth in attendance will receive a special filled basket as a free gift from the church at the conclusion. To plan effectively we would like to know how many will attend

breakfast. Please call to reserve your spot (734) 464-0990.

Mission accomplished

A Passion musical 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 16, at 28440 Lyndon, north of I-96, east of Middlebelt, Livonia. Child care provided. Call (734) 425-6215.

Easter services

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 16, at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, between Joy and Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 591-0211.

Lenten Bible study

Pastor Herschel Ele leads a Lenten Bible Study 6:20-7:10 p.m. Wednesdays, at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, one block south of Ford. The church continues **Sunday services with an adult Bible study** at 8:30 a.m., traditional worship and children's Sunday School at 10 a.m., contemporary Mustard Seed service at 6 p.m. Tuesday adult Bible Study at 11 a.m. Call (734) 421-7620.

Lenten services

10 a.m. Sundays through Lent and Easter Sunday, and 7:30 p.m. Holy Thursday, April 13 at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 476-8860.

Garage sale

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, April 19-20, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 21, at St. Alexander's Church, 27835 Shilawasee, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 474-5748.

Just for kids

Looking for something for your kids to do during Spring Break? Kids from 5 to 18 years old are invited to make Candy Animal Crafts 1-3 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Please let us know if your child will attend by calling (734) 464-0990. You are welcome to drop off your child and return back at the end of the session because there will be adult supervision during the time.

Garage sale

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 21, \$2 bag sale at 4 p.m., all large items go for \$2 at the bag sale, at SS Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. Call (734) 722-1343.

Lazer tag

Meet at the Zap Zone, 6:45 p.m. Friday, April 21, at 41953 Ford, Canton. Ticket \$18, includes pizza, pop and lazer tag. For more information, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920.

Divine Mercy weekend

St. Michael Catholic Church of Livonia celebrate its first Divine Mercy Weekend April 22-23, with several special services and devotions to which all area Catholics are cordially invited. A Healing Mass will be offered 1 p.m. Saturday, in the church at the corner of Hubbard and Plymouth in Livonia. This Mass offers special prayers and anointing for Catholics recovering from serious illness, facing surgery, or suffering from a chronic health condition and asks for the relief of suffering and the restoration of health, both physical and spiritual. Those interested in participating should call (734) 261-1455 to register. The church and its facilities are wheelchair accessible.

On Mercy Sunday, April 23, the Parish holds its first formal celebration of the Divine Mercy, as instituted by Pope John Paul II and based on Christ's revelations to St. Faustina Kowalska about humanity's need for His Divine Mercy. The day begins with a noon Mass, followed by a 1 p.m. Polish luncheon featuring stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, sauerkraut, and other traditional Polish fare, by reservation only and priced at \$6 for adults, \$3 children ages 4-12, free for children 3 and under. Reservations must be placed by calling (734) 261-1455 no later than Tuesday, April 18.

The Divine Mercy Devotion begins at 3 p.m., traditionally the hour of "greatest mercy" commemorating the hour of Christ's death, and will include the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and close with Benediction. All area Catholics are welcome to participate in as many of the weekend activities as they choose. The luncheon is reserved only by those planning to participate in the Divine Mercy devotion.

Conference
25th Annual Pax Christi Michigan State Conference - The Road Ahead: Hope & Vision for Future of Peace 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Gesu Church, 17180 Oak Drive in Detroit. Keynote speaker is Rev. John Dear, a 46-year old Jesuit priest, pastor, peacemaker, retreat leader, and author. Fee is \$40 (includes conference, continental breakfast & lunch). For information on registration, workshops, etc., call (517) 482-2558 or send e-mail to TirakPaxMI@aol.com, or visit www.paxchristi.org, or call Carol Jachim, (313) 839-0249.

Concert

Dave and Barb Anderson with Keyboard artist Dale Pust perform a Concert of Praise and Encouragement 6 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at St. Michael Lutheran Church and School, Hannan at Glenwood, Wayne. Call (734) 728-1950.

Youth talent program

Starts 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, for ages 6-14, and continues Tuesdays until the Talent Show 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 1, with Livonia Theater

Arts Teacher Georgie Wilson and Unity youth director Lin Wilson, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. No charge. It is hoped that the program leads to the formation of a community theater group for children. Call (734) 421-1760.

Celebrate spring

Celebrate Life, an event to create awareness about First Step, a representative will talk about the nonprofit organization's services for abused women and children, and sexual assault victims 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. No charge but call (734) 421-7249 to reserve a spot. Event includes music, desserts, and a queen-size handmade quilt raffle to benefit First Step. Tickets \$1 each, \$5 for 6 tickets.

Lecture

Life and Death: Joy and Reality by Sister Ann Stamm, doctorate of ministry, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Sister Stamm is a religion professor at Madonna University. She's served as a police chaplain for more than 25 years. The presentation focus on life and death as gifts to be cherished.

Wine, cheese and theology

Six evenings of conversation asking the question, Is there a place for the church in the 21st century? 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 to May 31, at Church of Our Savior, Presbyterian U.S.A., 6655 Middlebelt, West Bloomfield. Rev. Jim Faile leads the discussions. The public is invited. The church holds worship and Sunday School 10 a.m. Sundays. For more information, call (248) 626-7606.

Concert

BUILDING429 and TAIT perform music while showing segments of the reality TV series Travel the Road about two young missionaries 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at Faith Baptist Church, 3411 Airport Road, Waterford. Tickets \$24 reserved, \$18 general admission. Call (888) 627-5808.

Rummage sale

Toys, clothes, books, small appliances, shoes, boutique (fine clothes) and more 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 28-29, at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly. Proceeds benefit missionary projects. Call (313) 937-3170.

Lighthouse cafe

Cards, board games, ping pong, specialty coffees, snacks, music 7-10 p.m. Friday, April 28, at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. Cost is \$5 payable at door. Free child care provided. Call (248) 374-5920.

Blood drive

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Walk-ins welcome. Call (734) 462-1222, ext. 309.

Lay caregiver series

Adjusting to changes within the family system, a workshop to help families cope with potentially damaging effects of predictable life stressor 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29877 W. Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$10. To register, call (248) 474-4701.

Health fair

Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 30, a Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, 29066 Eton, Westland. No charge. Blood pressure, family practice doctors, optometrist and more. Join us for an afternoon of healing, mind, body and spirit. Call (734) 721-2557.

David Phelps concert

With Anthony Evans and newcomer Ana Laura with comedian Darren Streblow 7 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at Detroit Ist Church of Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Free to public, but pass required. Call (248) 348-7600.

Leadership and self-deception

Lecture series with Rev. Dennis Skiles began 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, and continues to May 31, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Livonia. Call (734) 421-1760.

UPCOMING

Free spaghetti dinner

Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church wishes to invite the community for a free spaghetti dinner 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 10000 Beech Daly, between Plymouth and West Chicago roads. A short drama follows dinner. Call (313) 937-3170.

Prayer breakfast

7:15-9 a.m. Thursday, May 4, with guest speaker Lem Barney, former Detroit Lion, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia. Tickets \$17 before April 17, \$20 beginning April 8, \$10 students, call (248) 476-9427. RSVP by Friday, April 21.

Laugh out loud

Fun with the 321 Improv Comedy team 7 p.m. Friday, May 5, at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. Tickets \$5. Free child care provided. Call (248) 374-5920.

Quilt show

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington, north of I-96, Livonia. Members display everything from very old quilt to quilts in the process of completion. Suggested donation is \$5. All proceeds go to Shoes for Children, an orphanage in Mongolia, and the Early Childhood Program at Christ Our

Savior. For more information, call (734) 522-6830.

Bicycling group

10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, meet at Nankin Mills Administrative offices parking lot on Hines Drive, east of Farmington, Westland. Ride geared toward the tourist level rider but riders of all ability levels are welcome to participate. The group will ride every Saturday morning at various locations until weather turns cold again. All riders must wear a helmet. For schedule or information, call Ward Presbyterian Church at (248) 374-5920.

Family game night

6-8 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman, Garden City. Cost is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Come and join fun and fellowship. Games and cards are provided but you are welcome to bring your own games and teach someone how to play a new game. If you have any questions, call Linda Bodnovits at (734) 425-5653.

Summer fun

Two sessions from 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m. begin June 12 and continue weekly through week of Aug. 21, at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 42690 Cherry Hill, Canton. Each week children will engage in activities including the sciences, math, health, music, arts, and exercise. For ages 4-10 (children who are 3 but have been enrolled in preschool are welcome. Cost is \$60 per week and includes T-shirt, snacks and field trip fees. Call (734) 981-0286.

Crafters wanted

For the St. Thomas a'Becket Church Christmas Craft Show to be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton. The church is now accepting applications for hand-made crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

ONGOING

School registration

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School is accepting applications for grades PK-8 for the 2006-2007 school year, at 9600 Leverage, Redford. After school care 3-6 p.m. Call (734) 937-2233 for information.

Bible study

Classes 9:30 a.m. Sunday, and 7 p.m. Wednesday, at **Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia.** Call (734) 464-0990. On Sunday Family Worship begins at 10:45 a.m.

Purpose Driven Life

Members, friends and neighbors of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Northville will be studying the best selling book *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren during Lent. Small groups will meet at homes in Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi and South Lyon on Wednesday evenings during Lent. All faiths are welcome. Call (248) 349-3140 for more information.

Senior activities

Gathering for seniors 50 years and older 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. Any questions, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and, come out and meet other seniors. First we enjoy a wonderful lunch together then we fellowship with some games and stories.

Bible study groups

The Wednesday group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesday of each month, the Thursday group 7-9 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month in the rectory at St. Michael's the Archangel Catholic Church, Plymouth and Hubbard, Livonia. The Wednesday group is studying *Women of Courage* in the Bible, the Thursday group *The Letters of St. Paul* from Prison. Classes are small and informal and based on the Little Rock Scripture Series. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Church activities

St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Wednesday luncheon every other Wednesday at noon; Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$4 followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m., at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Scripture from scratch

No previous Bible study required, began 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington, Livonia. The units include the New Testament (April 11, 18, 25 and May 2, and Gospels (May 16, 23, 30 and June 6). Each session includes video presentation, small and large group discussions. Be one of the first 10 to receive the participant's manual for \$5. After that, the cost is \$10. To register, call (734) 425-5950.

Kabbalah classes

Presented by the Sara Tugman Bais Chabad Torah Center, the classes began 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 5595 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The classes are open for both beginners and more advanced students. Call (248) 855-6170, ext. 1 or send e-mail to BCTC770@aol.com.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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ANDREW G. TOROK,

Passed away April 9, 2006 in Dallas, TX surrounded by his family. Born on January 14, 1922, he moved to Detroit at an early age. He enjoyed a fifty year career in the automotive industry before retiring to Naples, FL and Dallas, TX. Andrew is survived by his loving wife, Ethel; two sons: David Torok & wife Shirley of Dallas, TX, and Steven Torok & wife Janet of Birmingham, MI; granddaughters: Sara Mullen & husband Bob of Carrollton, TX, Amy Mendel & husband Danny of Birmingham, AL, Mara Torok of Dallas, TX, and Jessica Torok and Claire Torok of Birmingham, MI; great-granddaughters: Brittany, Katie Jane, Julia, and Amelia; sister Barbara Calkins; and brother George Tapocik. The Torok Family will have a Memorial Service in Texas on Saturday, April 15, 2006 to be followed by a Memorial Service in Detroit at a later date.

MAX ERDMANN

Age 84, April 10, 2006. Beloved husband of the late Lydia Erdmann. Loving father of Reinhard, Rudy, and Dennis Erdmann. Also survived by one sister, three brothers, and six grandchildren. Former employee of Paff Electric, and a retiree from Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum. A memorial service will be held at St. John Lutheran Church, 35320 Glenwood, Westland, Friday, at 10:30am. Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.

HOWARD CLAYTON COLE

Age 83 of Oxford, formerly of Bloomfield Hills. April 6, 2006. Loving husband of Alyce for 58 years. Dear father of Dr. Susan Gail Cole, Douglas (Peggy) Cole, and Linda (Jay) Donaldson. Cherished grandfather of Howard, Cynthia, George, Kathryn, and Lauren. Howard was founder and Chairman of the Board of Rayco Manufacturing, and past president of Cole Carbide Industries in Warren. He was a faithful member of the First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, a Knights Templar, a WWII Veteran, and longtime member of the Bay Pointe Country Club. Funeral service was held Monday April 10, 2006 at the First United Methodist Church, Birmingham. Private family interment at White Chapel Cemetery. Suggested memorials to Mental Illness Research Assoc. (MIRA). Arrangements entrusted to Modetz Funeral Home, Orion. Online guestbook: www.modetzfuneralhomes.com

ERLENE L. PUMMILL

Age 77, April 7, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Oria King and Doyle Pummill. Loving mother of Barbara King Stanisz, Debra (Kevin) Connolly, Bill, Ron (Justine), Wes (Sue) Pummill, and the late Mike King. Dear mother-in-law of Dawn King. Grandmother of 13, great-grandmother of 4. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Services were held at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Memorial contributions may be made to the Pummill Cancer Golf Classic benefiting the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Please sign the online guestbook at: www.rggharris.com

PATRICIA JEAN (MCDONALD) MCNEIL

Age 82, of Westland. Formerly Ocala, FL, April 7, 2006. Loving mother to Susan (Clint) Woelke. Beloved grandmother of Kelly, Ken and Kris (Don) Houghtaling. Great grandmother of Kristin and Mitchell Houghtaling. Dear sister of Jacqueline Weinsheimer. Dearest friend of Ana Pierce. Funeral service was held at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road, Westland (btwn Ford and Cherry Hill). Family requests memorial contributions to the Michigan Humane Society. To post online condolences visit www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

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To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2191

Wayne County offers up summer fun in the pool, on television

Jumping right in

John Forrester and his son John Forrester Jr. opened their first Discount Pool & Spas location in Belleville four years ago, but they always hoped to have a store in their hometown - Livonia.

"I have always thought the people were great in this city and I wanted to support my community," said John Forrester, adding that "having a shorter drive to work is pretty nice too."

Together, they opened the second Discount Pool & Spas location on Monday, April 3, at 37613 Five Mile Road in the Village Shopping Center. A grand opening celebration is set for Saturday-Sunday, May 13-14 in Livonia.

John Forrester Jr. worked for a related business, Pooltown, for 10 years before he decided to open his own store. When Pooltown was sold, the Forresters saw an opportunity. Their first family-owned venture began with their retail and service department at 10860 Belleville Road in Belleville.

"I was in the automotive engineering field for 15 years," said Forrester.

He sold his business and joined forces with his son to open their first Discount Pool & Spas.

"Right after we opened the

WHAT'S IN STORE

Belleville store my hope was to someday open a second store in Livonia," he said.

Now a reality, the store sells a complete line of chemicals, above-ground and in-ground swimming pools, spas, toys and more. In addition, they sell game room furniture, darts, and pool table accessories.

For more information, call

Discount Pool & Spas at (734) 464-9100.

More Family Programming

Bright House Networks now offers a new family programming tier in Livonia, Redford, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Customers can now receive more than a dozen family-friendly channels, which consist of primarily G- and PG-

rated programming. Those channels include: C-Span 2, C-Span 3, CNN Headline News, Discovery Kids, Discovery Science, Disney Channel, DIY Network, Fit TV, HGTV, Nick Games & Sports, The Weather Channel, Toon Disney and TV Food Network.

"We have always made available to our customers the tools by which they can actively exclude any channel or program they might find objec-

tionable for their families," said Bob McCann, president of Bright House Networks Detroit Division. "This new family tier offers them yet another way to obtain kid-friendly programs without the need for parents to proactively block programs from their TV sets."

Bright House Networks customers can pay \$32.95 per month to receive the family tier, along with basic cable, and select Interactive TV applications like the Interactive Guide.

"This is another example of Bright House Networks continued commitment to offering customers what they want," McCann said.

Those interested in subscribing should call (866) 898-9101.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@hometownlife.com or call (734) 953-2054.

Dance company performs

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Diane Mancinelli pauses to catch her breath. She's between rehearsals for Full Circle Dance Company performances of *The Wiz* and an annual spring concert at Henry Ford Community College. The college's musical comes to the stage April 21-23, and 28-30. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 for students with ID, \$6 for ages 12 or under. Special rates also available for high school students. For more information, call *Wiz* director Gerry Dzuibinski at (313) 845-9892.

According to Dzuibinski, the production is a collaboration between the music and dance departments and includes a 17-piece live orchestra, under the direction of Kevin Dewey, as well as actors from the theater department and 13 munchkins from the community.

"It's a full production this year in terms of cast and integrates the entire dance company," said Mancinelli. "*The Wiz* is a spectacle. We're taking a different approach to movement and interpretation and have three choreographers with 21 dancers in all."

To close out the year, the company returns to the college's Adray Auditorium for its 18th annual Spring Dance Concert, 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, May 12, and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 13. Reservations are still available for all of the performances including the 10 a.m. to which Mancinelli is inviting high school students.

Tickets are \$10, \$5 students. For more information, contact Mancinelli at (313) 845-6314.

"It's going to feature all the dances from *The Wiz*," said Mancinelli, "and choreography by guest artists and students that include Hawaiian, tap, even liturgical."

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Concert to feature leading musician

Eastern Michigan University is presenting A.R. Rahman in concert to raise money to create opportunities for students to gain greater understanding of Indian culture and the arts. The concert is 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at the Convocation Center. Tickets cost \$50 to \$205 and are available by calling (734) 487-2282 or online at www.emich.edu/convocation or www.tickets.com.

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