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Wayne County to test park lake for lead

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Reacting to demands from Westland residents, Wayne County officials this week were planning to test a small lake in Central City Park for possible contaminants.

Parents whose children fished in Friendship Lake or played near it had implored officials to test the water after learning last month that the park's ball diamonds have elevated levels of lead.

"We'll be testing for lead in the water," Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp confirmed early this week.

Results likely won't be available for two weeks, he said.

Developments continued to unfold rapidly after it was learned in early November that city and county officials and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality knew for years of park contamination.

Officials have called it unlikely that anyone using the park would face a serious health threat from the lead. Nonetheless, the county was offering free blood tests Wednesday afternoon at the city's Bailey Recreation Center.

County health workers will conduct a second round of free blood tests 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Bailey Center, Helmkamp said.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli ordered the park closed in early November except for a paved walking path around the perimeter.

On Monday, Cicirelli confirmed that the city last week had an environmental firm conduct soil tests in two additional park areas - the children's Tot Town, which has miniature city buildings, and a site on the park's south end where lawn bowling is played.

"The tests came back just fine," Cicirelli said. "Those areas have not been affected at all."

Moreover, city workers who performed routine maintenance on the park's contaminated ball diamonds have been tested for lead, Cicirelli said, "and those results are fine as well."

Meanwhile, city, county and DEQ officials were expected soon to discuss the results of soil samples taken in the park in November. Officials hope the results could help them begin to plan cleanup

efforts.

In yet another development, Westland City Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt said Monday that she has reviewed DEQ documents to gain a better understanding of the park contamination issue.

Much of the communication for years has been between DEQ and county officials without city leaders receiving copies of documents, she said.

"That was really kind of surprising to me," Graunstadt said.

Even so, a letter from the county to the city in 2002 shows that some local officials knew of the problem for years before making it public.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trees around Westland City Hall sparkled as the switch was thrown to turn on the lights at the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony.

Westland turns on lights for the holidays

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Katelynn Hagemann and Cassidy Kovacs, both 8, were girls of few words Monday evening as they handed out programs for the city of Westland's annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony.

Who could blame them? It was simply t-t-t-too cold to ta-ta-ta-talk.

As is often true, temperatures plunged just in time for the tree-lighting ceremony in front of City Hall. Santa Claus, who arrived in a horse and sleigh, seemed to bring the North Pole chill with him. Even so, Katelynn muttered a few words, saying she liked handing out programs to diehard tree-lighting fans who braved the weather.

Cassidy had her mind on what would happen after the ceremony, when she could go inside the fire station next door, meet with Santa and eat cookies.

The girls, members of a



St. Damian Elementary students lead participants in singing Christmas carols at the ceremony.

Brownie troop from St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School, stood with Cassidy's mother, Connie Kovacs, who shivered as she maintained a tradition of attending the event.

"It's freezing. It's crazy," she said.

Her 9-year-old daughter Chelsea had gone to the car to warm up. And, Kovacs left her 2-year-old daughter

Courtney at home with her sons Chris, 14, and Carter, 6.

"It was just too cold to bring the baby," Kovacs said, whose husband, Christopher, had an easy out - he had to work.

Despite the bitter cold, a loyal crowd joined city leaders to hear a Christmas story by author Nancy Spinelle, sing Christmas carols with the St. Damian Elementary

School Choir, watch Mayor Sandra Cicirelli give Santa the key to the city, and see thousands of lights illuminate City Hall's front lawn.

On hand to help celebrate the holiday were four children who won a city essay contest about what Christmas means to them. First-place winner Kaitlyn Balko, a 7-year-old second-grader at Madison Elementary School, wrote what was perhaps one of the evening's most poignant messages:

Terry Carroll, the mayor's executive assistant, read the essay: "What Christmas means to me is being with my family and getting Christmas presents. It also means being thankful to the soldiers who help to protect our country and freedom. They miss Christmas with their family to protect us. I wish all American soldiers a Merry Christmas."

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Wilson's leaving is city's loss, Romulus' gain

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Tom Wilson, an hourly city mechanic who rose through the ranks to become director of the 84-employee Westland Public Service Department, is leaving his job.

Wilson, 50, plans to leave his \$89,816-a-year job to start a similar position Dec. 18 in Romulus. He has been a Westland employee more than 23 years - nearly half his life.

"It's been a great run," Wilson said Monday, after his departure was announced during a Westland City Council meeting.

Wilson has steered a department that affects the lives of Westland's 86,000 residents - whether it's plowing snow from city streets, repairing water lines or maintaining fire hydrants to

protect homes and businesses.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli commended the job Wilson has done since she hand-picked him as her public service director five years ago.

"It's a loss to this community - truly a deep, deep loss," she said Monday.

Wilson's departure comes just weeks after James Gilbert, former Westland housing and community development director, left his job for a position in Farmington Hills.

It wasn't clear early this week when either of the positions will be filled.

Wilson oversees a department with a nearly \$30 million budget. His workers maintain 207 miles of roads, 333 miles of water mains, 254 miles of storm

PLEASE SEE WILSON, A5

City warns trash hauler about service complaints

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Rebuked yet again, Westland's trash-hauling company has been warned it could lose its city contract for long delays in picking up garbage.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli confirmed that her office has received numerous complaints about Painter & Ruthenberg, also known as Midwest Sanitation.

Cicirelli and Westland City Council President William Wild have warned P&R President Paul Ruthenberg that he could face losing the contract, just one year into a five-year agreement.

Cicirelli also confirmed that

P&R already has been slapped with fines for failing to keep promises to improve garbage-hauling services.

Her comments came Monday during a Westland City Council meeting, after Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt said she has received new complaints about late trash pick-up and workers spilling garbage onto streets.

In warning Ruthenberg, Cicirelli said city officials "made it very clear to him" that he should improve services or expect to have his contract canceled.

Ruthenberg has indicated

PLEASE SEE HAULER, A5

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Coming Sunday
in Health

Eating healthy during the holidays can be a challenge, but with a little planning it can be done.

Toys for Tots donations remain strong in area

BY WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

Silly String flew at Northland Center in celebration of some happy holiday news.

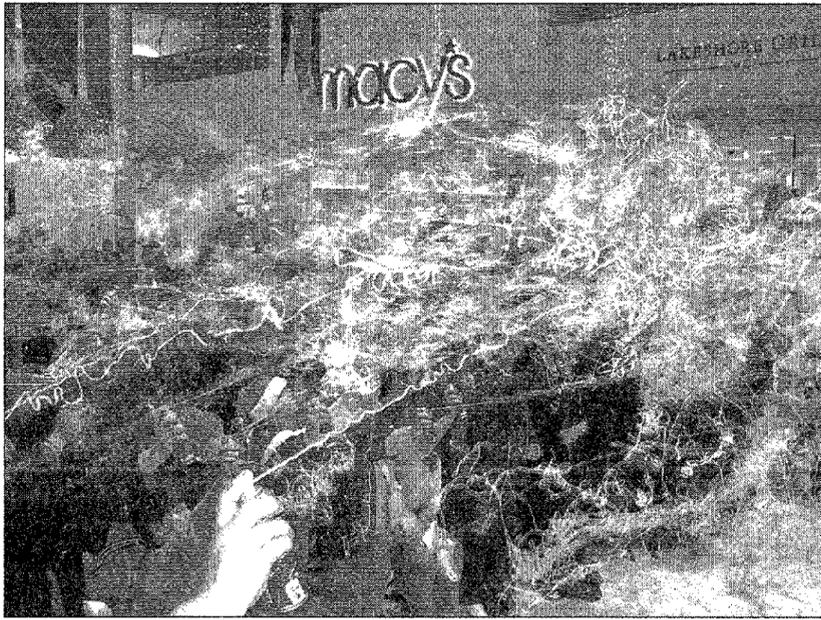
The news: Despite the state's economy, metro Detroiters are still making sure youngsters have a happy holiday season.

At the Nov. 29 celebration at Northland, it was noted that shoppers at several area malls — and listeners of WMJC-FM — raised a record number of dollars and contributions to Toys for Tots.

"I'd have to say this was the best total ever," said WMJC spokeswoman Lindsay Warren, of the 25,591 toys and \$13,954 raised at a recent drive held at Northland, Twelve Oaks, Laurel Park Place and the Macomb and Oakland malls.

That drive was held in conjunction with the WMJC morning show, starring Jim Harper. Harper, a 25-year Toys for Tots supporter, told listeners that he was overwhelmed by their generosity.

"Only in metro Detroit, during a period when we're one of the few states still in economic trouble, will you find people willing to sacrifice their own needs and even give less to their own kids, to make sure needy children have a decent holiday," he said.



Northland Center shoppers offered a Silly String salute in honor of this year's Toys for Tots drive.

Toys for Tots, a charity of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, is far from finished.

Toy donations are being accepted at area Art Van, Chicken Shack and Farmer Jack locations until Dec. 14. Toys drives will be held at other sites throughout Oakland and Wayne counties. As for the Silly String, it not

only celebrated the WMJC drive's success, but also will go to help military personnel stationed in Iraq.

WMJC Marketing Director Mary Helen Ciaravino learned the string could be used to help soldiers uncover improvised explosive devices in Iraq and the station followed through by sending 200 cans

to Iraq this holiday season.

Toys for Tots began in the Los Angeles area in 1947 and has spread to more than 200 metropolitan areas in the United States.

Through various regional centers, the metro Detroit region covers youngsters throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

CRIME WATCH

Scent of a thief

A 21-year-old Dearborn Heights man was arrested by Westland police after security officers caught him stealing scented oil air fresheners from a Westland grocery store, police said.

The incident happened about 10:30 p.m. last Thursday at the Kroger store on the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Merriman Road.

Store security employees followed the suspect out after believing he had stolen items. He tried to flee but was tackled and handcuffed until police arrived.

The suspect was found with three Glade scented oil air fresheners, and he also was carrying what police described as a crack cocaine pipe.

Police believe he may have tried to steal the air fresheners to mask the smell of crack cocaine.

Door kicked in

A 28-year-old woman told police that someone kicked in the door of her Woodcrest Villa apartment on Wayne Road south of Joy. The incident happened between 9:30 a.m. and 5:40 p.m. Friday.

Nothing was taken, leading the resident to believe the intruder was scared off.

Wallet, phone stolen

A 23-year-old woman told

police an intruder somehow got inside her residence in the 34500 block of Elmwood on Sunday and took her wallet and her phone while she was sleeping.

She told police she believes someone could have had a key to her rental unit, where she has lived since last month. Police advised her to talk to her landlord about changing the locks.

Money taken

A 66-year-old resident of Westgate Tower, on Elmwood near Wildwood and Ford, told police that an intruder entered his apartment while he was sleeping and took \$690.

The incident happened between 9 p.m. Friday and 7:10 a.m. Saturday. The man told police that his door was left propped open with one of his shoes.

Break-in

A store employee reported that an intruder broke out a front window of Wayne Med Mart, on Wayne Road near Cherry Hill, and stole a couple hundred dollars worth of cigarettes.

The incident happened sometime Monday.

Officers found a cash register on the floor, but a store employee told police that he doesn't leave any cash in the drawer.

By Darrell Clem

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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

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'Friends' hold vigil to support parents who've lost kids

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Compassionate Friends know the holidays are tough times for people who've lost loved ones, especially children.

In an effort to help with the grief, The Compassionate Friends, Western Wayne County (Livonia) Chapter, sponsor a candle-lighting ceremony in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth Dec. 10 in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day.

"The holidays are especially difficult for parents who have lost children," said committee member Gail Lafferty. "This candle-lighting ceremony honoring them helps their memory live on."

The ceremony will include the dedication of a tree decorated with ornaments with the children's names, a candle-light vigil, a reading of the children's names, poetry and songs.

The local ceremony includes the candle-lighting at 7 p.m. in conjunction with the worldwide



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Compassionate Friends hold their annual candlelight vigil in Plymouth's Kellogg Park at 7 p.m. Sunday.

candle-lighting. The idea is that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

Recognized in communities around the world, International Children's Memorial Day is already officially sanctioned by the U.S. Congress.

"Hundreds of families will gather near a tree specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon," Lafferty said.

For more information or to register a child, call or e-mail

candle-lighting committee members Gail Lafferty, tcf candlelite06@tds.net or (734) 981-4528 or Virginia Herrick, herick@millercanfield.com or (248) 449-7598.

The Compassionate Friends is an international, non-profit, non-denominational, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved families with the loss of their children.

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December 12, 2006 - BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to correct mutual mistakes of fact or clerical errors. PA74 of 1996 authorizes the December Board of Review to hear appeals for poverty exemptions, but not for poverty exemptions denied by the March Board of Review. This applies to current year only.

ALLYSON BETTIS
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Owner waits to get injured feline back

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Tracey Beverly of Westland can't wait to get her arms around her cat, Snickers. When that will happen will depend on if the Michigan Humane Society places the feline in a foster home to recover from surgery to fix a leg fracture.

The cat, named Faith by workers at the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care, was found last week at Phillips Landscaping in Westland with its leg caught in an animal trap.

"I'm very grateful," Beverly said. "I'm glad she was found, I'm glad she's alive."

Beverly found out about Snickers from her mother who saw a story about the feline in Sunday's issue of the *Observer*. She immediately contacted MHS and found out that the agency had sent her to its Rochester facility to have surgery to stabilize her right front leg.

"They said she almost lost it," Beverly said.

Chester Klein and another employee at Phillips Landscaping found Snickers last Wednesday morning in the rear area of the Warren Road business. He saw it come running by with something on its

leg. Another employee identified it as a raccoon trap.

"When I picked it up, it started purring like crazy," Klein said. "I held it until help got there."

Klein, who has two cats and a dog at home, is a "real big-time animal lover" and found the incident upsetting and "very disturbing." Even more disturbing was hearing that this wasn't the first time it happened in the area.

"I was told that there's been lots of instances where a cat has gotten caught in these traps," he said.

The landscaping business is about three blocks from Beverly's Harrison Street home.

"I don't know why she went there, unless she came here and I didn't see her," Beverly said.

Beverly, a heart patient who was forced to retire at age 38, admits she was at fault in letting the cat out. She had thought Snickers' howling was to get out and look for another cat, Molly, which had been euthanized after it came home severely injured. An apparent victim of animal cruelty, Molly had been shot in the head and a portion of its rear end was missing.

But MHS said that Snickers was on a mission to replace the



Snickers the cat is recovering from surgery to stabilize her right front leg that was injured when she stepped on an animal trap.

kittens she lost due to premature birth.

"I thought Snickers had gone nuts, I've learned a lot about female cats," she said.

On Monday, Beverly was called to the Berman Center where she met with MHS officials and Westland Animal Control Officer Frank Raymore. She found she could have faced a \$500 fine for allowing Snickers to be at large.

"I apologized because she got lost, but he scares me," Beverly said. "When I had to talk to him, he had me shaking in my boots."

Beverly, however, has been spared paying the fine and the fee for repairing the leg. She will have to pay \$75 for the follow-up visits to check on the leg and to have Snickers spayed

about a month from now.

It's good news for the single mother, who supports herself and her daughter Caitlyn, a student at Douglas Elementary School in Garden City, on a limited income.

She is turning over the money she has collected toward paying the surgery bill and plans to find other ways to pay back the MHS for all it has done.

"I'll volunteer, I'll do donation drives, I'll do anything I can to pay them back for what they did for," she said. "I can't wait to get Snickers home."

As for Snickers, "she's never going outside again." And the same is true for Beverly's two other cats, Bubbles and Libby.

"I don't want her running away again," she said.

3 men to stand trial for home invasion, torture

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Three of four defendants charged in a home invasion in Westland have been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

James Michael Hobson, 18, Harry James Taylor, 23, and DeCory Lamar Sharpe, 19, face trial on multiple felony charges following a preliminary hearing last Thursday in Westland District Court.

Hobson and Taylor are Canton residents; Sharpe is from Westland.

A hearing for a fourth defendant, 19-year-old Laquinta Terry of Southfield, has been delayed until Dec. 21 at his attorney's request.

Family members and supporters of the defendants packed the courtroom of Judge C. Charles Bokos on Thursday afternoon for a hearing that ended with Hobson, Taylor and Sharpe being ordered to stand trial.

They are charged in a 2 a.m. Sept. 20 home invasion at Westwood Village Apartments, on the southeast corner of Joy and Hix roads on Westland's northwest side.

A 47-year-old man told police that intruders barged through the doorwall of his apartment, robbed him at gunpoint, tied him up and put packing tape around his mouth and head. He said they ran-

A 47-year-old man told police that intruders barged through the doorwall of his apartment, robbed him at gunpoint, tied him up and put packing tape around his mouth and head. He said they ransacked his place for a half-hour and stole a gun, liquor, credit cards, a cell phone and his 2005 Monte Carlo.

sacked his place for a half-hour and stole a gun, liquor, credit cards, a cell phone and his 2005 Monte Carlo.

On Thursday, Bokos ordered Hobson, Taylor and Sharpe to stand trial on charges of torture, armed robbery, first-degree home invasion, using a firearm during a felony, stealing a car and stealing a gun.

The three defendants remain jailed in lieu of \$1 million cash bonds.

As he awaits his hearing, Terry is jailed on a \$500,000 cash bond. He is charged with first-degree home invasion, armed robbery and using a firearm during a felony.

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AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 42, ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 42-101, 42-102, 42-103, 42-106, 42-107, 42-110, 42-111, 42-112, 42-113, 42-115, 42-116, 42-118, AND 42-119 AND ADD SECTION 42-120 OF THE WESTLAND CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS PERTAINING TO SOIL EROSION, SEDIMENTATION AND LAND GRADING CONTROL

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-101, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Findings.

The city council hereby finds that excessive quantities of soil are eroding from certain areas that are undergoing development, such as housing developments industrial areas, massive shopping centers, recreational facilities, institutional uses, and public work construction. This erosion makes necessary costly repairs to gullies, washed out fills, roads, and embankments. The resulting sediment clogs storm sewers and road ditches, muddies streams, and leaves deposits of silt in lakes, streams and wetlands and is considered a major water pollutant.

Section 2. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-102, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation from occurring from each change activities within the city by requiring proper provision for water disposal and the protection of soil surfaces during and after construction, in order to promote the safety, public health, convenience, and general welfare of the community.

This article also incorporates by reference the rules promulgated under Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act 451, as amended.

Section 3. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-103, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Accelerated soil erosion means the increased erosion of the land surface that occurs as a result of human activities.

Acceptable erosion and sediment control program means the activities of a county or local enforcing agency or authorized public agency that are conducted in accordance with these rules and part 91 regarding staff training, developing and reviewing plans, issuing permits conducting inspections, and initiating compliance and enforcement actions to effectively minimize erosion and off-site sedimentation.

Agricultural practices means all land farming operations except the plowing or tilling of land for the purposes of crop production or the harvesting of crops.

Authorized public agency means a state agency or an agency of a local unit of government authorized under section 9110 of 1994 PA 451 to implement soil erosion and sedimentation control procedures with regard to earth changes undertaken by it.

Building official means the building director of the city or his duly authorized representative.

Certification means a signed certificate issued by the building official, assuring that specific constructions, inspections or tests where required have been performed and that they comply with the applicable requirements of this Article or regulations adopted pursuant to this Article or appropriate existing ordinances.

City Engineer means the city engineer of the city or his duly authorized and designated representative in the engineering division of the department of public service.

Earth change means a manmade change in the natural cover or topography of land, including cut and fill activities, which may result in or contribute to soil erosion or sedimentation of the waters of the state.

Erosion means the process by which the ground surface is worn away by action of wind, water, gravity or a combination thereof.

Excavation or cut means any act by which soil or rock is cut into, dug, quarried, uncovered, removed, displayed or relocated and shall include the conditions resulting therefrom.

Floodplain means that area which would be inundated by storm runoff or floodwater equivalent to that which would occur with a runoff or flood within 100 years' recurrence frequency after total development of the watershed.

Grading means any stripping, excavation, filling, stockpiling or any combination thereof and shall include the land in its excavated or filled condition.

Lake means the Great Lakes and all natural and artificial inland lakes or impoundments that have definite banks, a bed, visible evidence of a continued occurrence of water, and a surface area of water that is equal to, or greater than, 1 acre. "Lake" does not include sediment basins and basins constructed for the sole purpose of storm water retention, cooling water, or treating polluted water.

Municipal enforcing agency means the city engineer or engineering division of the city department of public service.

Nonerosive velocity means the surface water velocity which is not conducive to the development of accelerated soil erosion.

Permanent soil erosion and sedimentation control measure means those control measures which are installed or constructed to control soil erosion and sedimentation, and which are maintained after project completion.

Sediment means any solid particulate matter, mineral or organic that has been deposited in water, is in suspension in water, is being transported or has been removed from its site of origin by the process of soil erosion.

Soil erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) permit means a permit issued to authorize work to be performed under this Article.

Stabilization means the proper placing, grading and/or covering of soil or rock to ensure their resistance to erosion, sliding or other movement.

Stripping means any activity which removes or significantly disturbs the vegetative surface cover, including clearing and grubbing operations.

Stream means a river, creek, or other surface watercourse which may or may not be serving as a drain as defined in Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended, being section 280.1 et seq. of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and which has definite banks, a bed, and visible evidence the continued flow or continued occurrence of water, including the connecting waters of the Great Lakes.

Temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures means interim control measures which are installed or constructed for the control of soil erosion until permanent soil erosion and sedimentation control is effected.

Section 4. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-106, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to provide as follows:

- (a) **Permit requirement.** Unless exempted by Part 91 of 1994 Public Act 451, as amended, and the rules promulgated thereunder, it shall be unlawful prior to the commencement of an earth

change without first having secured a permit from the municipal enforcing agency prior to the issuance of a building permit and commencement of an earth change which disturbs one or more acres of land, or if the earth change is within 500 feet of the water's edge of a lake or a stream.

- (b) **Application for permit.** A separate application and SESC plan shall be required from the person proposing to undertake an earth change. The application can be obtained by the designated municipal enforcing agency. Plans, specifications, required standard details and timing schedules shall be submitted with each application for a SESC permit. The plans shall be prepared or approved and bear the signature and embossed seal of an engineer or architect licensed by the state who is trained and experiences in soil erosion and sedimentation control methods and techniques. The municipal enforcing agency may waive the preparation or approval and signature with the seal by a licenses engineer or architect when the work entails little hazard to the adjacent property and does not include the construction of a fill upon which a structure may be erected. Any earth changes on a site less than an acre and which involve the movement of more than 150 cubic yards of soil must comply with chapter 26, article V of the City Code unless a building permit has been obtained for such work.

- (c) **SESC plan information required.** The plans and specifications accompanying the SESC permit application shall contain the following data:

- (1) A vicinity sketch at the maximum scale of one inch to 200 feet indicating the site location as well as the adjacent properties within 500 feet of the site boundaries.

- (2) A soil survey map or a written description showing a soil series or texture, depth, natural soil drainage and full extent of the exposed area contemplated for the earth change.

- (3) A certified boundary line survey by a land surveyor licensed by the state and a topographic survey of the site on which the work is to be performed. The surveys must have been performed within two years of the date of application.

- (4) A detailed plan of the site at a maximum scale of one inch to 100 feet showing:

- a. A complete legal description of the property and the location of the limits of all proposed earth changes.

- b. The name, address and telephone number of the landowner, developer and petitioner. Proof of authorized agent must be submitted with application.

- c. A timing schedule indicating the anticipated starting and completion dates of the development's construction sequence and the time of exposure of each area prior to the completion of effective erosion and sediment control measures.

- i. The estimated detail cost of all construction as set forth in the plan including the estimated cost of the required temporary and permanent soil erosion control measures.

1. The description and the location of all existing and proposed onsite drainage and dewatering facilities.

- m. The location and description for installing and removing all proposed temporary soil erosion and sediment control measures,

- n. The description and the location of all proposed permanent soil erosion and sediment control measures.

- (d) **Fees.** At the time of filing an application for a permit under this section, a nonrefundable filing fee shall be paid by the applicant to the municipal enforcing agency in accordance with a fee schedule to be determined by the city council, and amended from time to time by simple resolution. The nonrefundable fee shall be for one acre and additional charge for each additional acre will be determined to review and inspect the site for approval of a permit, provided the plans meet the requirements of this Article, Part 91, and the rules promulgated under Part 91, which have been adopted by reference in this Article, to prevent soil erosion, and off-site sedimentation from earth change activities.

Section 5 That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-107 of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to provide as follows:

- (a) A SESC permit shall not be issued for grading involving the movement of more than 1,000 cubic yards of soil unless the permittee shall first post with the city engineer a bond executed by the owner and a corporate surety with authority to do business in this state as a surety.

Section 6 That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-110, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Denial of permit.

- (a) A SESC permit shall not be issued where:

- (1) The proposed work would cause hazards to the public safety and welfare;

- (2) The work as proposed by the applicant will damage any public or private property or interfere with any existing drainage course in such a manner as to cause damage to any adjacent property or result in the deposition of debris or sediment on any public way or into any waterway or create an unreasonable hazard to persons or property;

- (3) The land area for which grading is proposed is subject to geological hazard to the extent that no reasonable amount of corrective work can eliminate or sufficiently reduce settlement slope instability or any other such hazard to persons or property;

- (4) The land area for which the grading is proposed may lie within the 100-year floodplain of any stream or watercourse not specifically designated and delineated by the city as an area subject to flood hazard, unless the permittee is acting pursuant to a permit issued by the State of Michigan.

- (b) The municipal enforcing agency shall approve or disapprove an application for an earth change permit within 30 days following receipt of the application. If disapproved, the municipal enforcing agency shall advise the applicant, by certified mail, the conditions required for approval.

Section 7 That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-111, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

All modifications of the approved SESC plans must be submitted and approved by the city engineer. All necessary sustaining reports shall be submitted with any proposal to modify the approved grading plan. No grading work in connection with any proposed modification shall be permitted without the approval of the city engineer.

Section 8. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-113, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

General requirements.

- (a) All earth change activities in the city shall be conducted in such a manner as to effectively reduce accelerated soil erosion and resulting sedimentation.

- (b) All persons engaged in earth change activities in the city shall design, implement and maintain acceptable soil erosion and sedimentation control measures in conformance with Part 91, and any rules and regulations which may have been duly adopted for the purpose of reducing accelerated soil erosion.

- (c) All earth change activities in the city shall be designed,

constructed and completed in such a manner that the exposed area of any disturbed land shall be limited to the shortest possible period of time.

- (d) Sediment caused by accelerated soil erosion shall be removed from runoff water before it leaves the site of the earth change activity.

- (e) Any temporary or permanent facility designed and constructed for the conveyance of water around, through or from the earth change area shall be designed to limit the water flow to a nonerosive velocity.

- (f) A person shall install temporary soil erosion and sedimentation control measures before, or upon commencement of the earth change activity and shall maintain the measures on a daily basis. A person shall remove temporary soil erosion and sedimentation control measures after permanent soil erosion measures are in place and the area is stabilized. A person shall stabilize the area with permanent soil erosion control measures under approved standards and specifications as prescribed by R 323.1710.

- (g) A person shall complete permanent soil erosion control measures for all slopes, channels, ditches or any disturbed land area within 5 calendar days after final grading or the final earth change has been completed. If it is not possible to permanently stabilize a disturb area after an earth change has been completed or if significant earth change activity ceases, then a person shall maintain temporary soil erosion and sedimentation control measures until permanent soil erosion control measures are in place and the area is stabilized.

Section 9. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-115, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Minimum design standards.

All SESC plans and specifications, including extensions of previously approved plans, shall include provisions for erosion and sediment control in accordance with, but not limited to, the standards contained in the State of Michigan Department of Management and Budget Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Guidebook, Dated February 2003, or subsequent versions of such standards, shall be available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk and city engineer or the engineering division of the department of public service, and comply with Part 91.

Section 10 That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-116, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

- (a) No permits shall be required under this Article for the following:

1. Agricultural use of land zoned agricultural, where earth change activities involve plowing or tilling only.

2. Although no permits are required under this subsection, the operations and constructions exempted from obtaining permits must comply with the rules and regulations concerning grading and erosion specified in this Article

Section 11. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-118, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Injunction; right of entry.

- (a) Notwithstanding the existence or pursuit of any other remedy, the city may maintain an action in its own name in any court of competent jurisdiction for an injunction or other process against any person to restrain or prevent violations of this Article.

- (b) The city engineer or his duly authorized agent may enter at all reasonable times in or upon any private or public property for the purpose of inspecting and investigating conditions and practices which may be a violation of this Article, or Part 91.

Section 12. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-119, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Violations and penalties.

- (a) Whenever, by the provisions of this article, the performance of any act is required, or the performance of any act is prohibited, a failure to comply with such provisions shall constitute a violation of this article. The failure, neglect or refusal to comply with a cease and desist order of the city engineer shall constitute a violation of this article.

- (b) (1) A person who violates this Article is responsible for a municipal civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$2,500.

- (2) An employee of the municipal enforcing agency may issue a municipal civil infraction violation.

- (3) A person who knowingly violates this Article or knowingly makes a false statement in an application for a permit or in a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan is responsible for the payment of a civil fine of not more than \$10,000 for each day of violation.

- (4) A person who knowingly violates this Article after receiving a notice of determination under Section 42-109 or Section 42-110 is responsible for the payment of a civil fine of not less than \$2,500 or more than \$25,000 for each day of violation.

- (5) A default in the payment of a civil fine or costs ordered under this section or an installment of the fine or costs may be remedied by any means authorized under the revised judicature ad of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.101 to 600.9948.

- (6) In addition to a fine assessed under this section, a person who violates this Article is liable to the State for damages for injury to, destruction of or loss of natural resources resulting from the violation. The court may order a person who violates this Article to restore the area or areas affected by the violation to their condition as existing immediately prior to the violation.

Section 13. That Chapter 42, Article IV, Section 42-120, of the Westland City Code, shall be amended to read as follows:

Authority.

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the City of Westland by Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451.

Section 14. That all other provisions of Chapter 42 of the Westland City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 15. 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 16. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such inconsistencies hereby repealed.

Section 17. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 18. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication as required by law.

Adopted: November 20, 2006

Effective: November 30, 2006

Published: December 7, 2006

WILSON

FROM PAGE A1

sewers, 2,800 fire hydrants and 5,900 water valves, according to the city's Web site.

Wilson has gained a wealth of knowledge of Westland during the last 23 years. A former union member with the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 1602, he worked as a mechanic, a water department laborer, a crew leader and a supervisor before he became a city director in 2002.

"What he has gained (in knowledge), we are going to lose," long-time Councilman Charles Pickering said.

Wilson led the charge to rid Westland of thousands of diseased trees killed by an aggressive insect, the emerald ash borer. His expertise has prompted government officials from Chicago to Washington, D.C., to seek out his expertise.

Wilson conceded Monday that his departure is bittersweet and that he has worked with "some great people in this city."

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

HAULER

FROM PAGE A1

that he fired some workers and changed foremen in hopes of curtailing problems, Cicirelli said.

P&R has on numerous occasions drawn criticism from residents and city leaders. Last January, the city council split 6-1 in a decision to stay with the company, with Graunstadt casting the lone dissenting vote.

A council majority chose to give P&R another chance and save \$1.2 million by staying with the lowest bidder for garbage services.

Even then, Cicirelli had warned, "We're very adamant that we have to have exceptionally good service."

P&R — already fired by some communities — picks up garbage for 28,000 customers in Westland. This year, alone, Westland is paying \$1.9 million for trash pick-up.

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Dunkin' Donuts warms Red Kettle donors

The people who donate at Salvation Army Red Kettles are getting special recognition this holiday season.

Dunkin' Donuts stores throughout southeastern Michigan are holding Salvation Army Appreciation Days Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8-9.

The donors who give a minimum \$1 donation at participating kettle sites receive the coupons from the Salvation Army bell ringers for a free medium, freshly brewed coffee or small hot

chocolate redeemable at any participating Dunkin' Donuts locations throughout metro Detroit while supplies last.

In conjunction with The Salvation Army Appreciation days, Dunkin' Donuts also will be randomly giving away pounds of Dunkin's fresh ground coffee at bell ringer sites to people who donate a minimum of \$1 into Salvation Army kettles.

Three lucky contributors to this year's kettle campaign will receive certificates from Dunkin' Donuts for one free

medium coffee every week for one year.

"Dunkin's appreciation days are our way to say thank you to those who serve our community," said Nick Spencer, marketing manager of Dunkin' Donuts. "The Salvation Army volunteers are a great group to be giving credit to, as they are extremely focused and committed to meeting the needs of the community in Michigan."

"With the need in Metro Detroit higher than ever, we

appreciate Dunkin' Donuts' effort to make this year's Red Kettle Campaign a great success," said Russ Russell, executive director of development for The Salvation Army. "The Salvation Army serves 7,000 meals daily and provides shelter to 1,700 men, women and children; it takes a lot of volunteers to make that possible and we appreciate that Dunkin' Donuts is honoring that."

The Salvation Army Appreciation Days, the fourth in a series is Dunkin'

Donuts way of saying thanks to the area's hard working, dedicated individuals who keep America running.

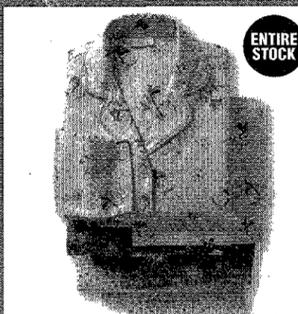
Dunkin' Donuts has brewed high quality, fresh coffee for more than five decades. Today, Dunkin' is America's largest retailer of coffee-by-the-cup, serving nearly one billion cups of brewed coffee each year.

The donors receive the coupons from the Salvation Army bell ringers that can be redeemed at participating Dunkin' Donuts stores.

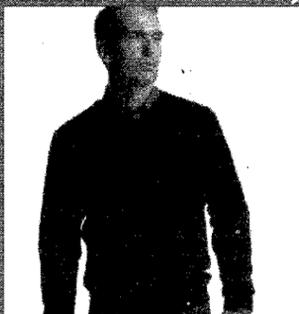
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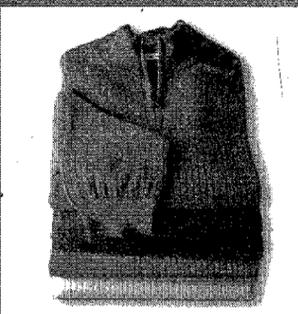
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17.99 ENTIRE STOCK of flannel pajama sets from Parisian Intimates and relativity, including festive holiday prints. Orig. 40.00. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.



79.99 MEN'S CASHMERE SWEATERS from Parisian Signature. V-neck style available in navy (shown), black, gray, burgundy, oatmeal, red and more. Orig. 150.00. IN MEN'S. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.



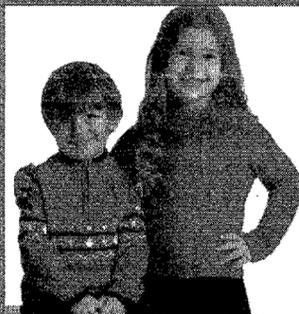
49.99 MILANO SWEATERS from Cutter & Buck Collection in ribbed half-zip in orange, heather, bridgewater blue, black, merlot and almond. Also available in V-neck. Orig. 69.50-75.00. IN MEN'S.



69.99 ENTIRE STOCK of leather handbags from Roll's and Stone Mountain. Orig. 140.00-150.00. IN HANDBAGS.



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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@hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. See what Girl Scouts has to offer. Call (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688.)

New Year's Eve party

Urban Singles presents "Ring in the New Year," with live entertainment from Jimmy Howard and Company Sunday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the party goes until 1 a.m. The party takes place at the Livonia Elks, 3117 Plymouth Road in Livonia (between Merriman and Middlebelt). Tickets are \$50 per person until Dec. 8; \$60 after Dec. 8, and cover dinner and beverage. Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations will be available. Deadline for tickets is Friday, Dec. 22. For more information, call Linda, (734) 507-9173, or Mary Ann, (734) 654-0115.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to

the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

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 3-3:30 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 Friday 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.

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.

Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 50. 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 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 four 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, 725 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 quartetting 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) 459-7444.

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.

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.

Tutorial 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.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Eating Disorders

Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Call Darlene at (734) 324-8089.

Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

TOPS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) No. 28 meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6-6:45 p.m. For more information, call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

Support group

A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

Childbirth classes

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

Childbirth Association

Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

Fibromyalgia

The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. Call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

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Gift wrapping, toy drive by Ladies of Harley benefit Children's Leukemia Foundation

The Ladies of Harley, Motor City Chapter, will collect toys and wrap gifts at Motor City Harley-Davidson in Farmington Hills on weekends throughout December to support Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

Gift wrapping is offered free of charge, however, the group is asking that individuals make a donation to CLF.

The Ladies of Harley will be wrapping gifts on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in December, including Dec. 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, and 24. The holiday and birthday gift wrapping paper for this event was donated by the owners of Motor City Harley-Davidson.

The Ladies of Harley are also collecting new, un-wrapped toys for the Children's Leukemia Foundation's Holiday Toys program, which provides gift packages to child patients and their siblings, and to the children of adult patients that have been affected by leukemia.

During the 2006 holiday season, CLF will provide gift packages to more than 950 children and teens (3,800 gifts) throughout the state. For more information about toys that are needed and the holiday toys program, go to www.leukemi-amichigan.org.

The Ladies of Harley is a group of female Harley-Davidson enthusiasts that promote activities and adventures from within a local Harley



Ladies of Harley, Motor City Chapter, will wrap gifts at Motor City Harley-Davidson to benefit the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. From left: Lesley Merlino of Farmington Hills, Michelle Nedry of Warren, Jennifer Johnson of Redford, Sharyn Hughes of Redford, Kate Pulk of Westland, Carole Pulk of Taylor, Susy Loffman of Livonia, Elisandra Figueroa of Detroit, Jessica Chamberlain of Hartland and Sarah Akroyd of Novi.

Owners Group (HOG) chapter.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to give back at the holidays," said Ladies of Harley officer Sharyn Hughes, of Redford. "We are so happy to have the opportunity to support Michigan families facing cancer especially at this time of year."

Since 2000, Ladies of Harley gift-wrapping efforts have raised more than \$12,500 for the programs and services of Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

Motor City Harley-Davidson is located at 34900 Grand River Ave, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335. For more informa-

tion on the Ladies of Harley toy drive or the gift-wrapping fundraiser, please contact Motor City Harley-Davidson at (248) 473-7433.

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is an independent, statewide organization that provides information, financial assistance, and emotional support to adults and children affected by leukemia, lymphoma, and related blood disorders. Founded in 1952, Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan currently serves more than 3,700 families throughout the state.

Cookie Walk

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne will hold a Cookie Walk 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 9, at the church, 3 Towne Square, across from the Wayne Post Office.

Featured will be specialty cookies, breads, pies and candies, all home made. Specialty orders also will be taken for pumpkin rolls - \$6 for a half roll and \$12 for a whole roll.

Prices are \$4 for a small container of cookies, \$8 for a medium container and \$12 for a large container. Candy will be sold by the pound.

For more information, call the church at (734) 721-4801.

Bowl with Santa

The Plymouth-Westland Grange 389 will host Bowling with Santa 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Town-N-Country Lanes at Wayne Road and Avondale in Westland.

The cost is \$7 per child and includes one game of bowling, shoes, hot dog and pop, present and a visit from Santa Claus. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Wildwood Elementary School and the Westland Goodfellows.

Tickets are available by sending a check, payable to Grange 389, to Bowl with Santa, 38015 Sherwood St., Westland, MI 48185, or by calling Jeffrey Goodfellow at (734) 722-8324.

Christmas play

Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Westland has invited the public to a free Christmas play and dinner at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the church, located at 29066 Eton.

For more information, call (734) 721-2557. Transportation may be provided upon request.

Pancake breakfast

There's a good chance Santa Claus will be on hand for a pancake breakfast, hosted by the Westland Jaycees, 8-10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Applebee's on Warren Road in Westland.

Tickets are \$6 for all-you-can eat pancakes, meat and juice. Proceeds will go to benefit various community projects, such as the Jaycees' annual

AROUND WESTLAND

Easter Egg Scramble and Spring Youth Dance.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call Jenn or Mike at (734) 437-6354.

Dining To Donate

Enjoy a meal that's filling and fulfilling Thursday, Dec. 14, at Applebee's Restaurant, Warren at Central City Parkway, in Westland.

Fliers are available to present that day to get 20 percent of the bill donated to the Westland Rotary. Participants also are asked to bring an unwrapped toy for the Salvation Army.

Christmas party

An unwrapped toy is the price of a ticket to the Westland Community Foundation's annual holiday event Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the media center of John Glenn High School.

The get-together will be 6-8 p.m. and feature classical holiday music performed by the John Glenn Singers and refreshments and hors d'oeuvres prepared by the culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

The toys will be given to the Salvation Army's Westland Corps.

John Glenn High School is on Marquette, west of Wayne Road. For more information, or to reserve a spot, call (734) 595-7727.

Holiday music

The sounds of the season will echo through Westland Shopping Center with musical performances by local groups.

The five-piece Phil Gram All Stars will perform classic holiday music 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12 and 19, in the East Court, while 3 D's & W, a barbershop quartet, will perform throughout the mall 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13 and 20, and Friday, Dec. 15 and 22.

Also performing will be Plymouth Baptist Church Choir 8-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in the JC Penney Court, and Our Lay of Good Counsel Choir Group 11 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 15, also in the JC Penney Court.

Youngsters can stop by and see Santa 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. now

through Saturday, Dec. 9 and Dec. 11-14. Additional hours will be 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 10 and 17, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Dec. 16, 17 and 23 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the mall will be open a variety of hours during the month. It will be open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. now through Thursday, Dec. 7. Other hours include 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 8 and 17, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dec. 11-15, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Dec. 16, 18-23, and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24.

The mall will be closed Christmas Day, but will re-open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 26. It will return to normal hours Dec. 27-30, then open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Book sale

The Friends of the Library will hold a book sale Dec. 8-10, at the William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Euchre games

Friday Night Euchre/Pinochle Card Parties start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernardine Parish in Westland. Doors open at 7 p.m. No partner is needed.

Admission is \$5 admission includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available. The scheduled dates are Dec. 15, Jan. 7, 5 12, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16. For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play Bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Praise and worship

Westwood Community Church holds praise and worship services at 10 a.m. Sundays at 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. The church also offers a children's church and nursery. For more information, call (734) 254-0093.

DEATHS

A
Randolph A. "Scotty" Adam
 Adam, 87, of Warren, died Nov. 29.
Frederick D. "Fred" Atiyeh
 Atiyeh, 84, died Dec. 3.
B
Cheryl A. Baker
 Baker, 61, died Nov. 30.
Tivadar "Tiv" Balogh
 Balogh, 79, died Dec. 1.
C
Virginia Catherine Clohset
 Clohset, of Birmingham, died Dec. 2.
D
Stanley J. Dobis

Dobis, 76, died Dec. 2.

G
Margaret Rockwell Gregory
 Gregory, 96, died Dec. 2.

K
Paul R. Kuebler Sr.
 Kuebler, 89, formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 4.

M
Caroline Ford Mason
 Mason, 91, formerly of Birmingham, died Oct. 27.

S
Mary I. Siddall
 Siddall, 85, of Bloomfield Hills, died

Dec. 2.
Doloris Sinkovich
 Sinkovich, 89, of Westland, died Oct. 2.

T
Nancy Rothfuss Theurer
 Theurer, 79, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 2.

W
Harold R. "Butch" Watton
 Watton, 65, of Canton, died Dec. 1.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A16.

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Illegal immigration called a threat to nation's identity

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

More than jobs, the United States stands to lose its identity as a nation if it does not start cracking down on the tide of illegal immigrants coursing into the country.

That was the message of Colorado U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo when he addressed a crowd of about 75 people at a private residence in West Bloomfield Friday night.

Tancredo said the recent midterm election was not a referendum on illegal immigration. If anything, the returns in the districts that mattered said Americans are concerned about the state of their borders. Democrats who think they can turn against that are flirting with disaster.

"Anywhere people were voting on immigration they voted with us," he said. "If they come out with an amnesty plan they'll see their razor-thin majority disappear."

He also said it's a mistake to think the people who want to strengthen borders are racists. It's not about race, it's not about creed or religion, he said. It's about who the people of the United States are as a group.

"All we are saying is 'become an American,'" Tancredo said. "Diversity is a wonderful thing until it becomes the only thing. We cannot have diversity be the glue that holds us together."

The problem, he said, is that a lot of people come to this country and do not assimilate. The languages of the old country do not disappear in favor of English and, in the particular case of immigrants from south of the border, a mentality of not having moved at all persists.

"They say they've always lived in America, which is true if you're talking about the conti-



U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colorado, tells listeners that immigration reform is not just about jobs, it's about the identity of the nation itself.

ment," Tancredo said. "But what purpose is there in citizenship if America is just a place on the map?"

The congressman's visit went from a plan to a reality just a few months ago and the hosts' West Bloomfield home was packed with guests to hear his comments. The event was not a debate and there was no one there to be converted. The guests were already familiar with the program and murmured their approval whenever familiar catchphrases or terms floated over the conversation.

Linda Roth, the host of the event and incoming president of the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club, said she met the representative in Washington, D.C., and offered the invitation for him to come to Michigan and speak on the topic. She said it's time for the nation to start enforcing its laws and the wall, while not a total solution, could stop millions from entering the country illegally.

Her husband agreed, saying the debate was already causing changes. "Apple growers in Washington

(state) are already seeing a change," said David Roth. "If we have to pay extra for American-picked fruits, we'll pay extra."

Bloomfield Township resident Elaine Bernia said there are definite dangers to letting the borders go soft.

"A country that does not defend its borders is not a country," she said. "We have to secure our borders, we have to know who's coming in. We already know terrorists to get into the country and it's irresponsible not to know who people are and where they live."

While the crowd was appreciative, he acknowledged there are significant hurdles standing between his views and the way the country does business.

Namely: Until there's something done to stop people from hiring illegals there's no way to keep them from coming to America to take those jobs.

"There's one thing we can do and that's to enforce the laws, if we did that we'd go a long way toward solving this problem," Tancredo said. "The national chamber of commerce has lobbied heavily against that."

Radio show exceeds its Toys for Tots goal

Jim Harper & The Magic Morning show have not only met, but exceeded their goal in raising 25,000 toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toys For Tots Campaign!

The annual Toys For Tots Campaign toured Twelve Oaks Mall, Laurel Park Place, Northland Mall, Macomb Mall and Oakland Mall, collecting new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps program.

This year's grand totals were 25,591 toys collected and \$13,954 collected.

On-air sponsors of the 2006 Toys For Tots collection program are Rock Financial and Holiday Automotive. Toys can still be donated at Art Van, Chicken Shack or Farmer Jack until Dec. 14.

Participating toy drop off locations are listed at www.DetroitMagic.com.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gordon Chevrolet's Susan Ianni and WMGC's Jim Harper talk about the Toys program and her involvement with the WMGC cookbook project that benefits the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.



Ron Blauet of the Michigan Humane Society and Jim Harper of WMGC talk about pets and holidays during the Toys for Tots program.

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OUR VIEWS

Seeking opinion is good decision

Change is coming to city government Jan. 1. That's when Mayor Sandra Cicirelli will become a judge in 18th District Court and Councilman Richard LeBlanc will become the community's new state representative.

That leaves two positions to be filled with guidance from the City Charter which indicates that the positions will be filled by a majority vote of council until the next city election.

Part of what will happen in January isn't new. Many times, the council has had to fill vacancies, most recently during the resignations of some and recall of other council members during the dispute over the firing of City Clerk Patricia Gibbons.

Council members will nominate candidates and then determine LeBlanc's replacement by a majority vote. In making the decision, we hope they will strive to ensure all segments of the city are represented.

But filling the mayor's position is uncharted waters for the council. Cicirelli is the first mayor to leave office before the end of her elective term. The charter does address what should be done if there is a vacancy in an elective position, and while it seems quite specific, Council President William Wild is asking the city attorney for an opinion.

We're glad to see Wild make the request. He has long been rumored to be on the track to fill the city's top office with Cicirelli's departure, and an opinion, even if it reiterates charter language, takes armchair quarterbacking out of the appointment mix.

We trust in the council's ability to fill both vacancies with qualified individuals and look forward to a smooth and orderly transition. There are many issues facing the city and the quicker this one is settled, the sooner the others can be addressed.

Governor's tax plan offers a solid start

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has thrown out a challenge to the Republican majority in the Legislature to act now on a bold new business tax plan to replace the Single Business Tax.

It is unlikely that the GOP will take the governor's bait. Instead, it will leave any action on a new tax to the next Legislature, with a Republican-controlled Senate and a Democratic-controlled House.

But after much debate, complaining and posturing, the governor's proposal has a lot of merit and offers an excellent starting point for discussing the state's troubled tax system.

The governor began with some key goals. First, she wants to create a revenue-neutral tax. The SBT accounted for almost \$2 billion, about 22 percent of state revenues. Granholm has been adamant that all or most of that revenue needs to be replaced to pay for government services.

She also wanted a tax with the broadest base and the lowest tax rate possible, a substantial reduction in personal property tax, an elimination of tax on payroll, benefits and health care (a major problem with the SBT) and to preserve economic development.

Granholm's proposal firmly addresses these goals and, according to her office's calculations, 77 percent of businesses will actually see a tax reduction.

She also argues that her proposal will make Michigan highly competitive with other states. In the state's efforts to attract new high-tech businesses, while holding on to our manufacturing base, the proposal includes more than \$125 million in tax credits for high-tech businesses.

Some businesses, insurance and real estate, will see a tax increase. But Granholm argues that Michigan's insurance taxes will go from the third lowest to the sixth lowest in the country.

The base for the Michigan Business Tax includes a tax on assets, in addition to taxes on gross receipts and income. Many argue that this could be a problem.

The state needs to balance establishing a competitive tax environment with providing needed state and local government services. We can not and should not sacrifice one for the other.

Any proposal by a governor must work its way through the legislative process. The governor has done her part by offering a viable alternative to the SBT, which expires in autumn of next year.

It may be too much to expect the lame-duck session to act. But the new Legislature should move quickly to build on the governor's proposal and to pass a tax plan as soon as possible that will retain and attract businesses and jobs to our troubled state.

Then the Legislature should begin the process of changing the rest of the state's structurally unbalanced tax system.



LETTERS

Change way we vote

Every voter in America should want their vote to count and to be recounted, if necessary with a paper ballot. I support any initiative to change the way we vote in order to protect the vote.

What we have witnessed in the past several elections is how electronic voting machines are subject to great error. They are also subject to possible tampering of which we have never known before.

Americans need to believe their efforts to vote results in fair election results.

Patricia Linna
Westland

Republican propaganda

The elections are over and there are opinions from the multitude of pundits for every possible explanation. Democrats won, Republicans didn't lose, Democrats didn't win, Republicans were turned back, ad nauseum.

Right wing pundits try to see one reason for every single event, i.e., election result. They continue to propose the country is more conservative since the Reagan administration. That may be true, but it was brought upon this nation by fascist means and that may be the single contributor for the recent election results.

In the days of Hitler, the communications secretary had written an outline to overthrow a government from within. One of the most influential points was control of the media and the media becoming sympathetic to the fascist government. Control the spin, create hysteria within the people, keep the populace unsettled, and restrict freedom for patriotic reasons.

This nation is more conservative because of the rise in conservative talk radio and the creation of a Republican propaganda network. The first, conservative talk radio, is neither. It has become a mouthpiece for the Republican party, which is not conservative. The administration sends out talking points for conservative talk radio hosts to follow for the week to promote the Republican agenda.

I would suggest the next time you travel that you listen to local talk radio in various parts of the country. The subjects are the same wherever you go. Talk radio is done by an informed centrist host or moderator and enjoys discussions with the people from all perspectives, the only restrictions being that callers be civil. Today's conservative talk radio hosts are propagandists promoting an agenda, berating any caller with opposition or different perspective to their point of view.

The second is the creation of a propaganda network, Fox Broadcasting. This is not a news network or media outlet, it is purely a propaganda network for this administration, and the close relationships show how responsive it is to the administration's needs. Many White House personnel will not speak with any other media. This more than anything demonstrates the collusion of the Republican propaganda network with the administration.

The Republican propaganda network makes false claims continuously. One is that they are fair and balanced. This was ruled as propaganda by a New York court and now the Fox network is not permitted to use the phrase. Another is that the

media is liberally biased. This is true in one sense only. Several studies have shown that the right wing is overly represented in the liberally biased media. The means the right wing has more information representing their point of view than their opposition.

If the media were truly fair and balanced, I think George Bush and his corrupt and immoral administration would be removed from office. And when American citizens are returned to the White House, I think the Republican propaganda network will be closed and shamed for what it truly is, a fascist propaganda network.

Frances Meese
Westland

Where are the contestants?

This is a sad situation. Our Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3323 and its Ladies Auxiliary promote a scholarship program for high school students in grades 9-12. The Voice of Democracy Program is a national program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the ultimate national scholarship is \$25,000.

Our local high schools, John Glenn and Wayne Memorial, do not promote this program to the students, do not make it a classroom project, nor do they encourage their students to enter the contest on their own.

I have even had this published on cable and in the local newspapers. I have placed flyers in and around the local area with telephone numbers for contact information. All my efforts have been to no avail.

It is no wonder that I don't vote in favor of any school taxes for our teachers. I do happen to know that parochial schools are more willing to encourage their students to enter the contest and some parochial schools in the metropolitan area have obtained as many as 90 applications. Thought has been given to sponsoring a school that is more cooperative.

The contest is simple for the high school students. The Voice of Democracy topic is selected by our national VFW organization. The student must write an essay on that topic and record it as though they were presenting it to an audience. The speech must be between 3-5 minutes in length. We even offer to transport our first-place student to the University of Detroit where the student has the opportunity to have their speech recorded professionally for further competition. The future leaders of our country do not seem to be interested in an effort that requires a little thought and preparation.

I always wonder why our students are remiss in trying to obtain scholarship money and why the teachers do not "push" their students to strive for excellence. Our post entry level is small, but the ultimate rewards are great. If I had school-aged children, I would definitely send them to a parochial school.

Sandra Borio
Westland

LPS Facing Ford's woes?

In the Nov. 30 edition of the *Observer* I read with interest a letter submitted by Mary Kalif who works for the LPS Transportation Department. Ms. Kalif

shared her comments on the volunteer work that I have been doing at Webster School to document the performance of the LPS Transportation Department which was the subject of an *Observer* article on Nov. 19.

I personally find the efforts of the LPS bus drivers, dispatchers, paraprofessionals and mechanics to be commendable as they are doing the best they can do trying to make an unworkable system function.

The blame for the unacceptable transportation department startup this school year lays at the door of the Board of Education and the "Cabinet" of the LPS administration. In the rush to implement the Legacy Initiative, many details were not investigated nor addressed in a methodical manner, transportation being a graphic example.

Quoting the Webster Principal, "It usually takes two weeks to get the busses straightened out at the start of school every year." This year it took eight weeks to sort out the transportation system for Webster which disrupted the start of classes on more days than not as 60 percent plus of the students were not in the school by the second bell due to bus delays.

Thousands of employees of the Ford Motor Co., who are losing their jobs after years of dedicated service to the company, are not to blame for their pending job loss nor are they to blame for the company's poor financial performance. Ford's top management team is the guilty party who made decisions five or six years ago which were clearly faulty as evidenced by the loss of market share and the \$10 billion plus loss Ford will post this year.

It may behoove the LPS Board of Education to reflect on Ford's predicament of declining market share due to investing billions of dollars in products people don't want to buy. I see LPS sliding head long toward a similar fate.

Ms. Kalif had concerns regarding my tardiness at work daily due to monitoring of the bus arrival times at Webster. She need not worry, I own the company where I am employed, and feel it's my duty as a parent to invest whatever time necessary to make my daughter and her peers at Webster as successful as they can be. Our nation's future depends on this generation's success.

Laurence Bernhardt
Livonia

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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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Observer
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

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Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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

QUOTABLE

"I wanted to give back to the community. I had mentors in my life, and it seemed like the right thing to do."

- Allen Coleman about why he got the bylaws changed for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit to let members of its board by mentors.

Anonymous mailings cowardly way to deal with resentment

After years of poring through police reports as part of the job, I got a chance Monday to do something I'd never done. Make a police report.

I sat with Plymouth Police Officer Christopher Lahtinen for about 30 minutes, describing in as much detail as there was the third dog-feces-filled letter I'd gotten in three months. It came Nov. 28, this time in a cardboard U.S. Post Office envelope, rather than the paper/bubble-wrap envelopes that carried the first two.



Brad Kadrich

They'd been arriving about once a month, childish responses to something either the paper had printed (the first one contained a photocopy of a letter to the editor) or something I'd written (the last two contained photocopies of columns I'd written). All three had handwritten, derogatory statements challenging my integrity.

And all three contained old, stinky dog poop, just sprinkled in the bottom of the envelope.

The first had four stamps on it, but it hadn't been mailed, simply dropped in our mailbox. The second and third were postmarked from Detroit, apparently to disguise the mailer's true origin. Of course, had the sender been a bit smarter, he'd have realized that was more trouble than it was worth, since there's very little chance anyone is ever going to catch him.

Officer Lahtinen, a very professional young man, dutifully took all the pertinent information, let me know they'd be sending the envelope to the Michigan State Police crime lab. I'd already talked to postmaster Dennis Wieczorek and Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll, both of whom expressed a willingness to do what is necessary and a belief it won't really do much good.

Wieczorek pointed out it isn't actually against the law to send dog poop through the mail, although the sender is probably violating some health code. Carroll suggested I file a harassment complaint, although he noted the sender was probably smart enough to wear gloves, thus eliminating the chance for finding fingerprints.

I'm not so sure. If you're stupid enough to send dog poop through the mail over something a columnist wrote, I'm not sure you're smart enough, or careful enough, to worry about fingerprints. But I digress.

The last thing Lahtinen said to me was, "If you get any other letters let us know and we'll add it to the file. From the looks of things, you're due for one in a couple of weeks."

It came early. When I got back to the office Monday, the letter sat in our pile of mail. Postmarked again from Detroit, this one was a "thank you" card, ostensibly signed by state Rep. John Stewart. The first poop letter was also "signed" by Stewart. In fact, the third note also invoked Stewart's name, calling me a "Stewart lover jerk."

Stewart vehemently denied sending the first note; I didn't bother asking him about the subsequent notes because I don't believe he had anything to do with it.

Since all of the notes included photocopies of things we'd either printed or written about the race to replace Stewart in the House, it's not hard to draw the conclusion the sender hasn't appreciated our coverage. Our editorial voice — including columns I've written and local editorial comments — has been hard on those who waged war in the Republican primary in that race. It got plenty ugly, and we didn't hesitate pointing it out.

Clearly, though, whoever is being this churlish doesn't care much for Stewart; he also doesn't know me very well. Stewart and I have had our moments, and he's not a big fan of this newspaper lately.

I suggested to the police they start looking at folks who bear animus toward Stewart. Of course, that could be just about anyone these days, particularly in the leadership of the Republican party.

I have an idea who is sending these notes, though I expect we'll never know for sure. One possibility: The screwball used an ordinary, lick-to-seal envelope this time, so it's possible DNA could be extracted.

People have a First Amendment right to freedom of speech. They have a right to their opinion. They have a right to disagree with me; heck, sometimes it seems like the national pastime. But surely there's a better way to do it than sending dog feces through the mail. That's something anyone older than 3 would know better than to do.

People have used words like "crazy," "nuts," "disturbed" and "disgusting" to describe the situation and the sender. I'd like to add another.

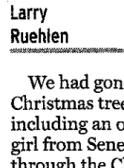
Coward.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer. He would prefer you contact him by e-mail, since dog poop can't be sent that way. E-mail him at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or call at (734) 459-2700.

Trip to Bronner's offers hope in bridging the racial divide

A ballerina ornament at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth did much to restore my faith that some people are trying to overcome the great racial divide.

The ornament in question stood side-by-side with many other ballerinas. She wore the same outfit, the same smile and the same toe shoes as the ballerinas to her right, but her skin was dark. It wasn't just dark in a way that could represent people from many minorities, it was black. She wasn't the only one, either; there were several more ballerinas and plenty of other ornaments depicting people of color. There was a Hispanic nativity scene, a black Santa and tree topping angels with dark faces, too. Also available was an ornament that included a black family sitting around a Christmas tree.



Larry Ruehlen

That wasn't the case last year, when I went to Bronner's with my then-fiancée Robin.

We had gone to buy decorations for our first Christmas tree and needed just about everything, including an ornament to honor Ndeye, 6, a little girl from Senegal, Africa. Robin and I sponsor her through the Christian Children's Fund.

We eventually found such an ornament in a section of the store dedicated to different cultures. The ornament we purchased was in the section labeled Africa.

At the time, I was stunned Bronner's didn't have more ornaments depicting people of color. After all, according to the U.S. Census, people of color represent 32 percent of our population. While most of the retail/marketing world is seemingly obsessed with cashing in by catering to minority consumers, mainstream ornament makers all but ignored them last year, if the shelves at Bronner's were any indication.

I contacted Bronner's for an explanation and was told the store tried to stock items to represent all ethnic backgrounds, but that enough products weren't readily available. The store carried some items earlier in the year, but supply was short and they were likely sold out by December, the Bronner's official said.

Reader reaction to the first column was both heated and poignant.

"What about the Asian population?" a reader asked. "Many are Christians, yet how many Chinese angels do you see? Chinese Santas? Even worse, what about the fact that the word Christmas is becoming politically incorrect? Will Bronner's have to change its advertising to say it is the holiday store? It gets to be a little ridiculous."

Another reader called to thank me personally for that first column. She said it brought her back to the 1950s when she couldn't find a black doll for her daughter. It took years and a lot of tears,

The ornament in question stood side-by-side with many other ballerinas. She wore the same outfit, the same smile and the same toe shoes as the ballerinas to her right, but her skin was dark. It wasn't just dark in a way that could represent people from many minorities, it was black.

but the woman finally found such a doll and gave it to her daughter.

"I thought we would have come further by now," she said.

So did I, I thought, so did I.

Robin and I recently returned to Bronner's. We didn't go to investigate the ornament situation, we went because we like the store and still had plenty of things to buy for our first tree celebrating Christmas as a married couple. We also wanted the tasty chicken the town is famous for and wouldn't leave until our bellies were full of broasted bird.

Bronner's is the place to go to find fancy ornaments and that's what we were after. We wandered around the store for a couple of hours, looking for items to add to our small but swelling collection. Our honeymoon was in Hawaii, so we bought a Mele Kalikimaka ornament — the Hawaiian way to say Merry Christmas — and a hand-carved sea turtle to remember the stoic creature we swam along side for five wondrous minutes in a lagoon off the north shore of Oahu.

The store was packed with shoppers, but it was more than tolerable as most displayed the type of holiday happiness that typifies late-November shopping trips. Give them another three weeks and they'll be fighting over the last \$29 cashmere scarf at Macy's, but for now the legions were happy. I have to admit I was starting to think more about the chicken at the Bavarian Inn at this point, but I was encouraged by what I saw on the shelves. Perhaps it was because we went two weeks earlier in the shopping season, but Bronner's had a wide selection of ornaments including people of color this time around. We didn't buy a single one, but at least they were there.

While this country continues to struggle with issues of race — just ask former *Seinfeld* star Michael Richards, if you think it isn't true — a simple thing like the willingness to celebrate Christmas and diversity at the same time is a step in the right direction.

Larry Ruehlen is the editor of the *West Bloomfield Eccentric*. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2556 or by e-mail at lruehlen@hometownlife.com.

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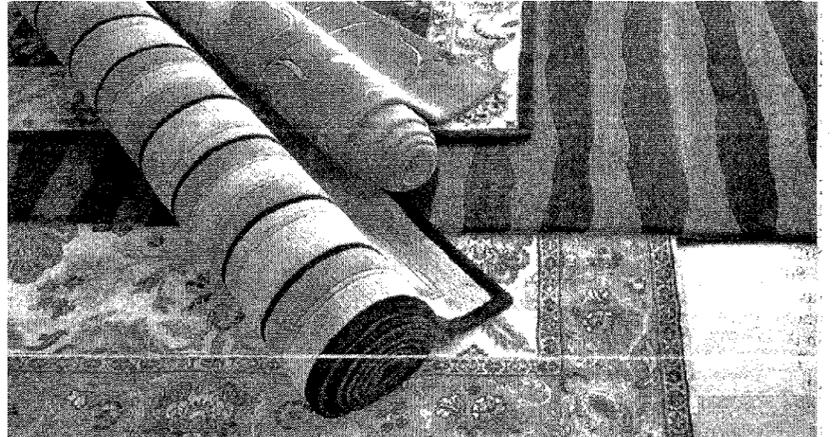
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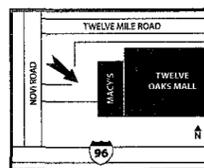


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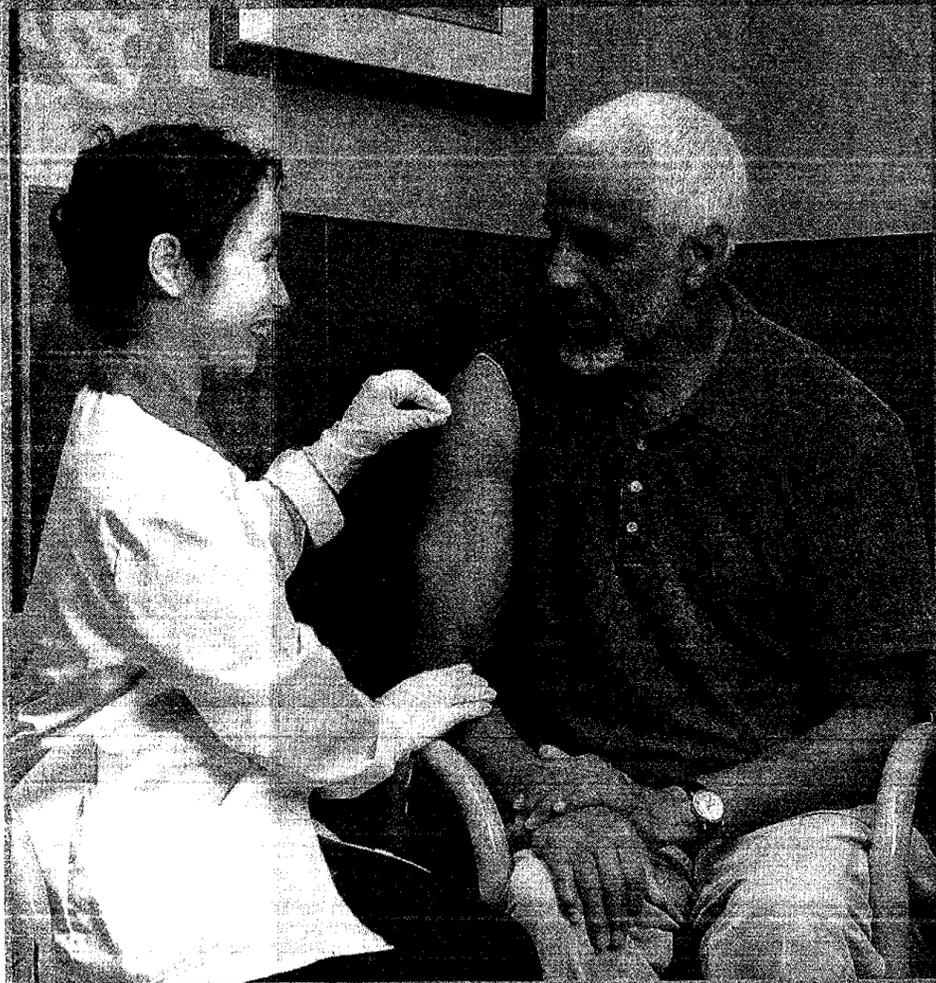


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Ficano proposes major renovation for Cobo Hall

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Citing an increasingly competitive environment for conventions and the possibility of losing a major event, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano is proposing a new plan to put a new face on Detroit's Cobo Center.

Ficano is putting forward a plan to renovate Cobo and reorganize its operations to draw business into the region and keep existing business where it is.

"Cobo generates \$800 million a year in economic activity," Ficano said. "If a business came in offering to do that we'd all be turning backflips."

Part of that activity, the North American International Auto Show, is on shaky ground. For years, participants have complained the Cobo venue isn't large enough anymore and competing shows, in Los Angeles, Beijing and other cities, could be poised to eclipse



Ficano

the Detroit event. "We're competing with the world, not just other American cities," he said. "We have to look like it." The new Cobo plan would expand the floor space, reorganize the layout around the center to make it easier to navigate and place the building in private hands.

The building would be operated by Walbridge Aldinger and Hines Interests with representatives from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan serving as an advisory board. The plan also creates a \$180 million endowment for operating funds.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has long been an opponent of suburban funding of a new Cobo Arena. The new plan has some brighter

points, but he still finds it unacceptable.

"The good news is that Ficano and his team dropped the price from \$650 million to \$450 million," he said. "The bad news is there are a lot of stakeholders who aren't at the table."

The first of those stakeholders is the state. He said the DeVos Arena got a \$60 million bump from Lansing and there should be something similar, even if not so large, for the state's marquee city. He also said the new Cobo plan only affects Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties when other counties, like Washtenaw, should be part of the plan.

Similarly, the two largest beneficiaries of a new Cobo should be somewhere in the mix.

"The effort to retain the North American International Auto Show is one of the biggest reasons to have a new Cobo and the Big Three aren't involved?" Patterson asked.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The North American International Auto Show is a major event each year at Cobo Hall. Keeping the auto show competitive with other shows in other cities is a major reason for a proposal to expand and rebuild the hall in downtown Detroit.

"What about the three casinos, who will benefit more than them from more convention traffic?"

The upshot, he said, would be that more players at the table would make the continuation of the existing hotel tax more palatable for suburban voters. It would certainly sweeten the deal for him.

"Over the past two years,

county judges have released inmates from jail because of overcrowding," he said. "I'm looking at \$90 million for a new jail and he wants \$200 million for a new Cobo? That's what I'm dealing with."

The new Cobo plan offers a carrot to counties in the form of cash payments (\$233 million in all) to allow the liquor/hotel tax to go on for another 35

years to pay for the reconstruction.

Of course, this is not the end of negotiations.

"We're going to have ongoing meetings, this is not an end-all plan, it's a framework that works," Ficano said. "This is a very viable plan."

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OCC to host bird flu forum Dec. 11

Oakland Community College's Student Life Committee will present a forum on a possible bird flu epidemic, Monday, Dec. 11, at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The two-hour program begins at 10 a.m. in the campus' Smith Theatre. Admission is free and the public is invited. Light refreshments will be served. Speakers include Dr. James

Averill, deputy pandemic influenza coordinator of the Michigan Department of Health. Dr. Averill will describe the nature of influenza and cover the state's plan for dealing with an outbreak.

Public Health Nurse Elaine Houser of the Oakland County Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Office will make a PowerPoint presentation on the

county plan.

Finally, OCC Environmental Health & Safety Manager Michael Schmidt will speak on the college's plan for coping with a pandemic.

For further information call Dusty Rhodes at (248) 522-3595.

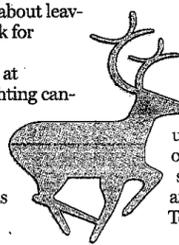
The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696. Free parking is available in nearby campus lots.

What's your favorite holiday tradition?

Everyone knows about leaving cookies and milk for Santa.

Or making latkes at Hanukkah. And lighting candles during Kwanzaa.

Even the festive pole has become a seasonal icon thanks to *Seinfeld*.



But we'd like to know how you personalize the holidays.

Maybe you've created a totally new tradition or you've put a unique spin on an old one. What makes the season special for you and your family? Tell us in 200 words or

less about your favorite holiday tradition and we'll publish responses in an upcoming issue. Also, share your Christmas photos with our readers.

Send replies by Friday, Dec. 15, to Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

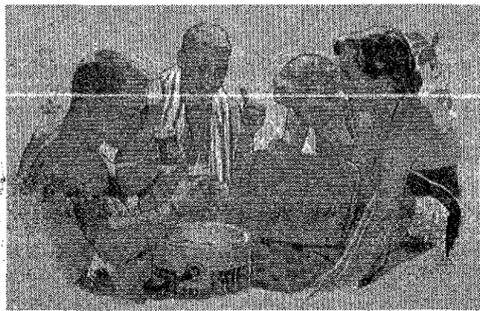
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Birds chart their own courses in the sky

"At any time of the year and in any part of the world, a bird student can always find pleasure in his hobby, where unseeing, unhearing people find little of interest."

- Samuel Scoville Jr.

Enormous pleasures are to be found in expected activity at cold weather bird feeders: A chickadee industriously works the meaty kernel out of a sunflower seed on a frosty morning, a downy woodpecker tears voraciously into a suet slab, a flock of doves settles in to peck seed, and the occasional Cooper's hawk dives to snag a slow-respond dove. But for me, the best pleasures of observing the avian world are the unexpected. And those notable birding moments are almost always away from the feeder.



Oakland Naturally

Jonathan Schechter

are almost always away from the feeder.

It's a tale of adaptation, birds independent of flock behavior, birds exploring their way and blending their natural behavior to the opportunities of the ways of nature and the acts of mankind.

Birds do not always follow conventional printed wisdom. "They do not range north of Ohio" may be very wrong. "By November they have departed for warmer climates." Tell that to a species and they would flap their feathers in amusement at the assumption.

Grant you, I am not an avid "birder" with a "life list" of birds. And I classify almost all small birds, especially warblers, as LBJs: Little Biddy Jobbers. And my favorite species is usually the one that draws my attention at the moment, be it a crumb-snatching house sparrow on a cold Birmingham sidewalk or a great horned owl sinking talons into rabbit flesh.

You can't go out looking for such moments. But when we see them, it reminds us that birds have been adapting to changing ways and weather — without the bonus of feeders — ever since the last great glacial retreat set the stage for an influx of avian explorers.

One such moment presented



Eastern bluebirds sometimes over-winter in Oakland County.

itself a few mornings ago, shortly after dawn at the very moment sunlight dealt streamside frost a lethal blow. The location: An urban area of the Clinton River Watershed not far from downtown Rochester, at the confluence of the Paint Creek and Clinton River and the Clinton River Trail. The actor: A great blue heron.

Conventional wisdom has these colonial nesters already way south for winter. But this majestic loiterer knew that confluence still held treats to eat. I witnessed one lightning fast stab into water: a gullet filling moment.

And as gusts of cold wind sent dry leaves swirling over my meadow, I noticed motion high in a black walnut, a crow perched precariously near the end of a branch. He had discovered tasty remnants of caterpillar carcasses inside a weathered fall webworm nest. After 10 minutes of tearing the web was gone, and I suspect a crow belly full of protein.

Henry David Thoreau, perhaps the finest observer to ever write on nature, civil disobedience and the ways of man, saluted the eastern bluebird as the harbinger of spring. "If the warble of the first bluebird of spring does not thrill you, know that the meaning and spring of your life is past."

Fact: Many eastern bluebirds over-winter in Michigan among the sheltered valleys and rural lowlands rich with shrubs and dried berries. One such bluebird perched on my crab apple on the dawn of December. A reminder to me — a reminder to all — that as the darkest days of the season approach, the natural world is full of light and life and surprise.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way in Oakland County. E-mail him at oaknature@aol.com.

Ensure you have fire-safe holiday season

Michigan is a great place to live during the holiday season.

While I hereby reserve the right to change my mind in January, doesn't almost every holiday classic movie show some type of "White Christmas"?

Visiting family and friends, the warmth of a fire in the fireplace and the beautiful decorations of the season are great memories for most of us. I will ask us all to take fire safety into consideration as we prepare for the holidays, and I will give you some simple steps to take along the way to help ensure that "fire-safe holiday."

Let's start by looking at the centerpiece of the holiday season, the Christmas tree. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has found that, in a four-year study period, Christmas trees were the item first ignited in 310 cases in the average year. These fires caused an average of 14 civilian fire deaths, 40 injuries and over \$16 million in direct property dam-

age, and the statistics include both real and artificial trees.

If you choose a real tree and cut it down yourself, keep it outside until you are ready to bring it in to decorate. If you choose a real tree bought from a lot, then make a fresh cut at the base of the tree before bringing it in to decorate. This makes it easier for the tree to absorb water, making it less likely to catch fire. Choose a sturdy stand for the tree, with a large reservoir for holding water. A real tree that is six-feet tall can take up to one gallon of water every two days.

If artificial is the type of tree you choose, then pick one that is labeled as fire-retardant. This does not mean that the tree won't catch fire; it only means that it is less likely to catch fire, and will spread the fire more slowly than other trees. If you are going to get a metal tree, then do not use electric lights on it (bad combination).

Regardless of which type of tree you choose, keep the tree away from heaters, fireplaces, radiators, space heaters or any other heat source. As you take out your light sets for the tree, inspect them for signs of cracks or fraying. Discard the damaged ones and replace with newer

ones. Lights should be listed by an independent testing agency, such as Underwrites Laboratories (UL). Use indoor-rated lights indoors and outdoor-rated lights outdoors. Unplug or turn off your tree lights when leaving the house or going to bed at night.

Although I never was a part of the tradition of using real candles on Christmas trees, many people have fond memories of doing that. The risk is not worth it, and I never recall seeing candles on a tree. In the recent study period cited earlier, an average of 8 percent of the Christmas tree fires during the holiday season were ignited by candles. Candles need adult supervision, sturdy holders and need to be kept away from open flames and heat sources.

As you decorate your home for the holidays, make sure you check smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and review your family escape plan with your family. Make sure everyone knows how to open windows, call 911 and tell the dispatcher what type of help they need, and know the family meeting place.

From all of your Livonia firefighters, have a safe and happy holiday season!

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.

Rabbi Wine offers forums on Jewish history

Rabbi Sherwin Wine presents a series of three forums about the Jewish migration to America, in honor of the 100th anniversary of his father's arrival in the U.S.

Topics include: "The Voyage: The Incredible Journey from Suffering to Freedom," on Dec. 11 and "Arriving in America: The Greatest Success Story in Jewish History," on Dec. 18.

All three forums will be held at 8 p.m. at The Birmingham Temple, 28611 West 12 Mile

Road in Farmington Hills. There is an \$8 charge for individuals who are not Temple members. Advance registration is not required.

For additional information, visit www.birminghamtemple.org or call (248) 477-1410. The Birmingham Temple, a Humanistic Jewish congregation, welcomes all who seek to identify with the history, culture and future of the Jewish people.

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Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain and how this accidental discovery has led to the most promising back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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Family Favorite Recipes

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....so good, you'll think we peeked at Grandma's cookbook!

We all have holiday recipes that are Family Favorites, recipes that are loved and cherished and passed down from generation to generation.

Send us yours today!

Through **December 8th**, send in your Family Favorite Recipe complete with cooking time and temperature (and maybe a bit of history or origin) to: classified@hometownlife.com and maybe yours will be picked to print!

Share your Family Favorite Recipe with your Observer & Eccentric Family!

- Fluffy Rice and Chicken:**
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup.
 - 1 soup can of milk
 - 3/4 cup uncooked rice
 - 1 can mushroom pieces (4 oz.)
 - 1 envelope Onion soup mix
 - 4 split chicken breasts

Heat oven to 350 F. Mix mushroom soup, milk and add rice, mushrooms and onion soup mix. Pour into ungreased baking dish, lay chicken breasts on top of mixture and bake 1 hour. Uncover and bake an additional 15 minutes. Serves 4, very easy.

Submitted by: Kim Schmidt

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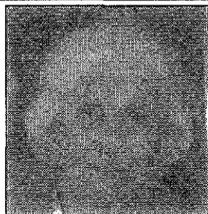
Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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CAROLINE FORD MASON

Sept 13, 1915 - Oct 27, 2006. Passed away from the complications of Alzheimer's disease in Sequim, WA at age 91. She was a 50 year resident of Birmingham and taught third grade at Pembroke Elementary School in Troy. She was born to George A. and Marie (Chalmers) Ford in Toledo, OH. She married James M. Mason in Toledo on October 3, 1942. Jim preceded her in death in 2004. Caroline and Jim lived for 50 years at 964 Kennesaw before moving in 2001 to Petoskey, MI with a final move to Sequim, WA in 2002. She was an avid sailor on Lake St Clair and member of Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Survivors include her son, Dr. Stephen and DeeDee (Carlson) Mason of Allouez, MI, daughters and sons-in-law, Diane and Ed Sherman of Mill Valley, CA and Marilyn and Don Thomas of Sequim, WA; six grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Services for Mrs. Mason were held on November 1st in WA.



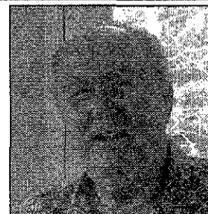
KALLOPE VARON

Age 92, of Middletown, Ohio, died on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at her residence. She was born in Constantinople, Turkey, on January 1, 1914, to parents Constantine and Fanni (Raizopoulos) Papadopoulos. She has resided in Middletown for the past eight years. She was a member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Bloomfield Hills, MI, from 1937 to 2000, and a member of the Philoptochos Society for 40 years where her duties included visiting nursing homes. Mrs. Varon is survived by a daughter, Mary (David) Habig, Middletown, OH; three sons, Michael G. (Stacy) Varon, Joliet, IL, Gus W. (Sherry) Varon, Rochester Hills, MI, Dan G. (Elaine) Varon, Bloomfield Hills, MI; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Varon. Services will be Saturday, December 9, 2006, at 1:30 pm, at the Ottawa Park Cemetery Chapel, Clarkston, MI. Visitation will be prior to the service from 1:00 - 1:30pm at the chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2500 Grand Ave. Middletown, OH 45044. Arrangements by Wilson-Schramm-Spaullding Funeral Home, Middletown, OH.



PATRICIA K. MCGLONE

Age 85 of Plymouth, December 3, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Frederick Loving mother of Bruce (Diane), Scott (Catherine), and Janis (Kelly). Dear grandmother of Lisa Fanni (Raizopoulos) Papadopoulos. Dear great-grandmother of Jack and Luke Chambers. Her love of visitors, family and friends alike deeply touched all who knew Mumsey. Her laughter and enthusiasm brought a sense of joy to anyone who spoke with her. Memorial service Sunday 1PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd. (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Saturday 3-6 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Michigan-College of Pharmacy (Kristen McGlone Memorial) 428 Church Street, Ann Arbor MI 48109. To leave a message of condolence, log on to www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



STANLEY J. DOBIS

Age 76, died suddenly on December 2, 2006. Husband of Carmen. Dear father of David (Amy), Carole (Michael) Dominick, Linda (Brad) Juday, Grandfather of Jessica Mary, Stanley and the late Katherine Dobis and Hannah, Madelyn and Mia Juday. Brother of Mildred (Don) Freeman, Lillian (Jack) Schenden and Margaret (Dick) Fusco. Uncle to many nieces and nephews. U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict. Active member of St. Colette Church, Livonia Post VFW #3941, Monaghan Council of Knights of Columbus, Livonia Cable Commission, founding member of the Livonia Amateur Radio Club, and volunteer cameraman at various Livonia City events. Visitation Tuesday 5-9pm with a K of C Rosary at 7:30pm at Harty J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia, Wednesday, Prayers 9:30am at the funeral home, to St. Colette Catholic Church for 10:00am Mass. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

CHERYL A. BAKER

Age 61, November 30, 2006. Dear mother of Greg (Debbie) and Kristin Baker. Grandmother of Julia Baker and Mark Baker. Sister of Patricia Guido. Daughter of Bertha Rowden. Memorials suggested to Make a Wish Foundation.

DOLORIS SINKOVICH

Age 89, Oct. 2, 2006, of Westland, Michigan passed away under the loving care of friends, Mary Christoff, George and Virginia Cross, Gene and Jan Suchy, Peggy Ellenwood, the Bialowicz family, Dan and Karen Stachow, Lois Mach and Alfred Elias. Preceded in death by her husband George Sinkovich and son, James W. Frank. Also survived by several grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted on Oct. 6, 2006 from St. Theodores Catholic Church. Resting at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

MARGARET ROCKWELL GREGORY

Age 96, December 2, 2006. Wife of the late William Bruce Gregory. Mother of Joan Mountford, Carole King, and Mary Warner (Mrs. F. Stephen). Grandmother of David, Laura, and Christopher Mountford, Barbara King Dawson and Edward Gregory King, Bradford and Andrew Warner; and six great-grandchildren. Services were held at Franklin Community Church, 26425 Wellington, Franklin. Interment Oak Hill Cemetery, Pontiac. Memorial gifts may be made to Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, 405 Oakland Ave., Pontiac, MI 48342. For information, call A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

MARY I. SIDDALL

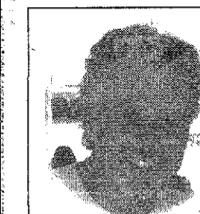
Age 85, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, passed away surrounded by family on December 2, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Dean E. Siddall, loving mother of Susan Burnett, David Siddall and Bruce (Karin) Siddall. Loving grandmother of Drew, Brett (Nora) and Kirk Burnett, and Amanda and Stephen Siddall. Mary was born on May 3, 1921, near Laurens, Iowa. A registered nurse, she served as a U.S. Army nurse in the 58th evacuation hospital in the South Pacific during World War II. Visitation Friday 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at William R. Hamilton Funeral Home, 820 East Maple, Birmingham. Services Saturday 11:00 am at Franklin Community Church, 26425 Wellington, Franklin.

NANCY ROTHFUSS THEURER

of Bloomfield Hills passed away Saturday, December 2, 2006. She was born to Gladys Brothers and Rolland Rothfuss in Toledo, Ohio, on October 20, 1927. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband Richard Franklin Theurer. She is survived by daughters Kathryn (Mark) VandeBrake and Annette (David) Kelter, and son Britton (Glenna) Theurer. She has six grandchildren: Sally and Jacob VandeBrake; Brooke, Grant, and Cole Kelter; and Michiko Theurer; and one great-grandchild, Kathryn VandeBrake. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 9th at St. James Episcopal Church of Birmingham. Donations in Nancy's name may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 2525 Telegraph, Suite 100, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Arrangements by the Wm. R. Hamilton Co. of Birmingham, 248-644-6000.

FREDERICK D. "Fred" ATIYEH

Age 84, December 3, 2006. Beloved husband of the late Nicolena. Dear father of J.R. (Diane) and David (Susan). Loving Grandfather of Brandon, Chelsea, Darren, Dominic, Tony and Alecia. Dear brother of Rebecca Barragato. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi, 248-348-1800, Wednesday 2-4 & 6-9 PM. Instate Thursday at Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook, Novi, 9:30 AM until the funeral service at 10:00 AM. Entombment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, 20300 Civic Center Dr., #100, Southfield, MI. Online condolences: www.obrien-sullivanfuneralhome.com



HAROLD R. "BUTCH" WATTON

Age 65, of Canton, passed away December 1, 2006. Devoted husband of Joyce. Loving father of Pam (Mark) MacLennan, Jill (Kevin) McAndrew, Jeffrey Watton. Step-father of Nick Mancini, Gina (Matt) Meares, and Paula (Scott) Staebler. Beloved grandfather of Chelsea, Tori, Rory, Morgan, Ashleigh, Dj, Aj, Alyssa, Lyndsey, Kristin, Martin. Dear brother of Carol (Edward) Valente, Elaine (Jim) Crawford, David (Kathy) Watton. Also survived by his friends at Station 885 Restaurant in Plymouth, where both Butch and Joyce enjoyed. Preceded in death by parents Leslie and Charlotte and by brother Ronald. Butch worked for the local 247 Teamsters Union as a cement truck driver. He enjoyed car restoration and especially the Woodward Dream Cruise. Funeral services were held on Monday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main, Plymouth. Share memories at www.schrader-howell.com



PAUL R. KUEBLER, SR.

December 4, 2006, age 89, of Westlake, Ohio, formerly of Birmingham, Michigan. Beloved husband of Catherine M. (nee: Pelletier) for 62 years. Dear father of Paul, Jr. (Maureen), Robin O'Callaghan (Liam) and Walter. Loving grandfather of 16 and great-grandfather of 13. Brother of Kathryn Kuebler. Preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Olivia Kuebler, his brother, John Kuebler, his sister Mary Byrnes (John) and his grandson, Padraic Kuebler. Memorial Mass Saturday, December 16, 2006 at 11 AM at Holy Name Church, 630 Hamton at Woodland, Birmingham. Visitation at church begins at 10:30 AM. Memorial Tributes to Holy Name Church or The Capuchins. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-562-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

RANDOLPH A. "Scotty" ADAM

Age 87, November 29, 2006, of Warren, formerly of Madison Heights. Born October 24, 1919, in Dundee, Scotland. Husband of Grace Adam (deceased 1972). Father of Randy Adam, step-father of Bert Mason, Harold Mason, Art Mason, and Bob Mason. Also survived by one granddaughter, Angeline (David) Misener, and one great-granddaughter, Madelyn Grace. Predeceased by four brothers and two sisters. Mr. Adam loved to watch sports, especially stock cars and racing; he was a great Tiger fan. He served in the British Army for six years during World War II, and retired from Culligan where he was employed as a Water Softener. Visitation Thursday, 5-8pm, and Friday, 6-9pm; services Friday, 7pm, at the funeral home, E. J. Mandziuk & Son (Warren Chapel). Inurnment White Chapel Memorial, Troy. Funeral luncheon will be held Sunday at Royal Canadian Legion in Royal Oak, 1005 East 11 Mile Rd.

SCOTT E. BIDDLE

Age 54, died of a heart attack September 24, 2006. Scott is the loving son of Melvin Ralph & Patricia Biddle. Brother of Ralph Jr. Father of Justin and Lindsey Biddle & Grandfather of Austin. A graduate of Redford Union & served in the Navy on the U.S.S. Peidmont. He is preceded in death by his father, who is dearly missed as is Scott.

TIVADAR "TIV" BALOGH

December 1, 2006; age 79. He was born December 16, 1926 in Detroit. Retired architect and professor of architecture at University of Michigan. Beloved husband of Dorothy "Dot" (Nee: Bleimelster). Loving father of Melissa (Tim) Waidley and Margaret Balogh. Grandfather of Clara and Hope Waidley and Gwendolyn and Zoltan Seger. Memorial visitation Thursday 2 PM until the celebration of his life at 4 PM at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Road (W. of Lilley Rd.) Canton (734-981-1700). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Michigan Parkinson's Foundation.

VIRGINIA CATHERINE CLOHSET

widow of Clarence, mother of Phillip, Kaye Nightengale, Caron Trese and John (deceased) died December 2, 2006 of complications from pneumonia. She lived in the Birmingham area since 1949. She had a Masters in Social Work and a Masters of Library Science with Cognates in Archives from Wayne State University. She was a member of the American Library Association and Michigan Archival Association. She has served as the Archivist for the Birmingham Historical Society, Manuscript Chairman for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society; Historian of the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library; Lineage Research Chairman of the Piety Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and National Vice Chairman of the Genealogical Records of the NSDAR. In 1971, she received the Heritage Award of the Birmingham Historical Society. She documented much of the history of Birmingham and co-authored "The Book of Birmingham". Besides her children, she is survived by two grandsons, Three step-grandsons and six great-grandchildren. She was a complex and intellectually curious great lady who will be sadly missed by all. Birmingham has lost a true friend. Visitation at the Wm. R. Hamilton Co. of Birmingham, 820 E. Maple will be from 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday. A private funeral service will be Wednesday in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ROPARD, P. O. Box 250425, Franklin, Michigan, 48025 in honor of her son-in-law, Dr. Michael Trese or the Michigan Kidney Foundation, 1900 E. Jefferson, Suite 222, Detroit, Michigan, 48207 in honor of her longtime physician and friend, Dr. Jerry Danckik of Beaumont Hospital.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

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RELIGION CALENDAR

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.

DECEMBER

Traditions of Christmas

Multi-event open house with carols, stories, musical performances, model train layouts, cookie decorating, crafts, displays, film, and The Best Christmas Movie Ever 3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. A gift to the community. No tickets, donations or reservations necessary. Call (248) 644-2040.

Glory of Christmas

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and Sunday, Dec. 10; 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 and 9, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets are \$13.75 and \$15.75, and available by calling (800) 585-3737. Call (734) 414-7777 for information.

Sock party/potluck

Admission is a pair of new socks, scarf or mittens and a dish to pass (real food please) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at St. Linus Activity Center, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths. For details, call (313) 996-8644.

Men of Grace

A special night of worship featuring Christmas songs, spirituals, hymns, traditional and contemporary, original music, and arrangements performed by Men of Grace from Grace Centers of Hope (Pontiac) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, one block east of Beck, Plymouth. Free will offering will be taken to benefit seminary study Scott Eberlein. Call (734) 453-5252.

Crosstalk

A lively discussion for singles on a topic of current interest 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Learn how the Bible approaches modern day events. Free childcare provided. For details, call (248) 374-5920.

Cookie walk

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 13th Annual Cookie Walk takes place Saturday, Dec. 9, at 36075 W. Seven Mile, 3/4 mile east of Newburgh on south side of street, Livonia. Doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until we are sold out. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and over 50 different varieties of ethnic (kifli, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia, biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale.

Christmas cookie walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daley and Inkster, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound.

Cookie walk

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 9, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Towne Square. Homemade cookies, pies, breads, and candies. Special orders taken for pumpkin rolls. For information, call (734) 721-4801.

Live Nativity

During open house noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Please join us for cookies, juice and coffee in Knox Hall as the Live Nativity is displayed. Be sure to bring your camera to capture the live nativity scene featuring real animals and actors. For more information, call (248) 374-5932.

Fine arts festival

An afternoon of Christian youth entertainment and holiday shopping 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Westside Christian Academy, 9540 Bramell, one mile east of Telegraph, between Plymouth and Chicago, Detroit. Program promptly begins at 3 p.m. Vendors and crafters interested in obtaining table space or for more information, call (313) 533-1956.

Christmas play

Journey to Bethlehem returns for a sixth year, a walk-through play of the birth of Jesus 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. For more information, call (734) 421-1760.

Advent mass

9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Felician Sisters Chapel at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Use the Newburgh entrance. Breakfast to follow mass. An activity of Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths. For information, call (734) 513-9479.

Praise worship concert

Randy and Marli Brown perform 11

a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Faith Bible Church, 34541 Five Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. No admission but a love offering will be received. Nursery provided. For information, call (734) 464-7990.

Advent tea party

12:30-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at The Retreat Center at St. John's, 44011 Five Mile, Plymouth. Reflect on Advent scripture readings, four Sundays of Advent and the essence of Emmanuel - Christ with us. Tickets \$10, includes tea and lunch, benefits Catholic Social Services of Wayne County Pregnancy Counseling Department. Please bring an item for a newborn to donate. For reservations, call (734) 414-1104 or visit www.TheRetreatCenter.org.

Youth Christmas program

Garden City Presbyterian Church will present the annual youth Sunday school Christmas program, a play with singing entitled "You Can't Cancel Christmas" 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road. Come and share the joy of Christmas in a warm and friendly environment. Refreshments immediately after program in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Christmas concert

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, in the sanctuary at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96 (Schoolcraft), Livonia. The sounds of Christmas will be enhanced by the Christ Our Savior Festival Choir, Jubilation Handbell Choir, Laudate Choir (grades 1-6), Confirmation Choir (grades 7-8), a Brass Ensemble, and various instrumentalists.

The concert is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken. Mark Lohmeyer, Minister of Music and organist, will be leading the concert. For more information, call (734) 522-6830 or visit the Web site at www.christsaviors.org.

Christmas music

Christmas Jazz Vespers Service 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400. Jazz in the Spirit, from First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, will present a musical, poetic and prayer filled worship experience. Childcare provided to age 4. No charge.

25th annual concert

St. Aidan Catholic Church presents its 25th annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission is \$5 plus TWO non-perishable food items. Proceeds go to Christmas Baskets prepared by St. Aidan Christian Service Commission.

A Christmas Prayer

A musical drama, a prodigal son's journey featuring musicians and liturgical dancers 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 553-7170.

Hanukkah gift shop

Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood Hanukkah/Judaic gift shop opens from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 10. Selection includes holiday gift wrap, chocolate coins, dreidels, candles, electric and traditional menorahs and many Judaic gift items. Congregation Beit Kodesh is located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.

Choral festival

Concert of Advent and Christmas carol festival featuring Kirk in the Hills Young Children's, and Junior and Senior Boys' and Girls' Choirs, 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. No charge. For details, call (248) 626, 2515, ext. 109.

Bible-based ESL classes

Mondays 7-8:30 p.m. Registration: Dec. 11 and 18 (classes closed after that), at First Baptist Church of Farmington, 33400 Shiawassee. Call (248) 474-0350 ext. 222. Open to adults 18 and over. Book fee only.

One, the movie

A contemporary journey toward a timeless destiny 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Love offering accepted at the door. Presented by Citizens for Peace. Call (734) 421-1760.

Advent services

7:30 p.m. Wednesdays Dec. 13 and 20, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Begins with a simple soup and bread supper at 6:30 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer accompanied by our handbell choir. A pick your favorite Advent hymn sing precedes the service. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

Advent worship

Services 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 13 and 20, at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday Worship services are 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary). Sunday School & Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Sunday.

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you in this
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