

PRIMARY ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

OUR VIEWS, A6



WESTLAND WOMAN WINS FARMINGTON ROAD RACE AGAIN

SPORTS, B1

ENTERTAINING WITH COLD BREWED COFFEE

FOOD, B8

THURSDAY

July 22, 2010

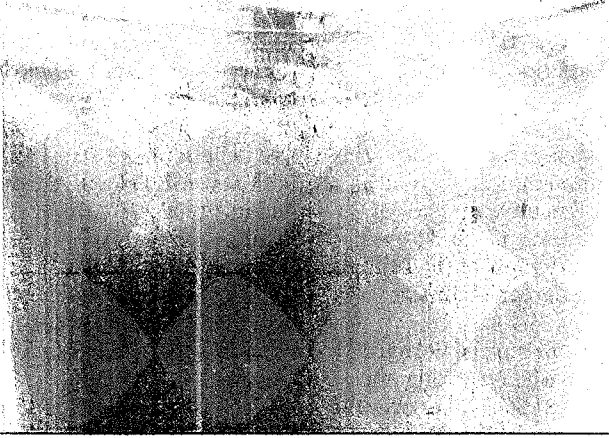
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WESTLAND OBSERVER

hometownlife.com



IN BRIEF

Clean your ride

It'll be the freshmen and JV vs. the varsity to see who can raise the most money when the John Glenn High School football team holds car washes at two locations in Westland Saturday, July 24. You can get your ride cleaned at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post at Avondale and Wayne Road or at Culver's on Newburgh south of Warren Road. The players will be doing the washing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Drug disposal

The Westland Police Department will be at the Westland senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, July 23, to help residents properly dispose of unused and expired medications. People should not bring syringes, needles or hazardous biomedical supplies.

Line of credit

Faced with an uneven cash flow and a dwindling fund balance, the Wayne-Westland Community Schools plans to secure a line of credit for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

The Board of Education has approved a resolution authorizing school officials to seek prior approval from the state Department of Treasury to apply from a line of credit not to exceed \$7 million from a private financial institution.

"We have cash flow concerns and fully anticipate having to borrow during the year to cover expenses," said Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for administrative and business services.

The amount of money the district receives is less than what it needs to keep operating, and due to a reduced fund equity and the expected further reduction in fund balance in the 2010-11 fiscal year, "the district has insufficient reserves to handle expenses in several time periods during the fiscal year," said Linda Kempton, senior executive director of business and operations.

The line of credit will be secured in advance of the school aid payments due to the district by the state of Michigan. It differs from the school aid anticipation notes, where the money is borrowed from the state. With a line of credit, the district pays interest only on the amount it uses and can pay it off at anytime. With the anticipation note, it must borrow the money for a year and pay interest on the entire amount.

"It (line of credit) is less costly than the state aid anticipation notes," Martin said, adding that the district is "not at the point" of having to borrow from the state.

According to Kempton, interest on the line of credit is tied to prime and is usually 2 percentage points higher.

"We'll negotiate the interest rate after we receive state approval," she said. "We'll go to Chase and negotiate the rate."

Livonia man pleads guilty in wife's death

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Livonia man will find out Aug. 4 what his sentence will be after pleading guilty to second-degree murder Tuesday in death of his wife, Sarah. George Williams, 33, had been charged with first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life with no parole. In May, he had decided to go to trial, rejecting an offer to let him plead guilty to the lesser charge and a sentence of 22-30 years.

He was set to go to trial when he accepted the second offer. "There will be a guided sentence which is yet to be determined, but the charge can carry a sentence of up to life in prison," said Maria Miller of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Williams has been charged with brutally murdering Sarah Williams, 28, in the parking lot of Chatters Bar and Grill on Wayne Road in Westland on Sept. 27, 2009. Sarah Williams was a barmaid at Chatters. The couple, who had been married just over a year, had been arguing after George Williams came to the bar during her shift.

The autopsy showed Sarah Williams had been strangled but also suffered severe blunt force trauma, including severe head and internal injuries, and a large abrasion on her back consistent with being dragged. At an earlier hearing, George Williams' former wife testified that he had called and told her he had killed Sarah Williams and that he had planned to kill himself. His ex-wife went to Chatters, found Sarah Williams fatally injured in the parking lot and called 9-1-1. George Williams fled the area and was subsequently arrested in Toledo. His sentencing will be before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Craig Strong.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751



PHOTO BY BRAD NOYES

Smoke billows from an early morning blaze Sunday that claimed the life of a 66-year-old Westland woman and damaged four condominiums at Colonial Estates.

Officials believe fatal fire was accidental

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland fire officials may never know the cause of a fire at the Colonial Estates condominium complex Sunday which claimed the life of the 66-year-old woman.

Firefighters found Veronica Kowal unresponsive on the floor of her kitchen near the stove, believed to possibly be the source of the early morning blaze. She was treated at the scene and taken to St. Mary Mercy Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. According to Deputy Chief Martin Reddy, she had sustained burns all over her body.

Firefighters were called to the complex on Newburgh south of Joy at 1:22 a.m. by a neighbor

who reported smelling smoke in his garage. When they arrived, they saw heavy smoke coming from the unit and encountered heavy smoke banking down from the ceiling of the kitchen, Reddy said. "The kitchen was fully charged," Reddy said. "We believe the fire started on the stove, but we're not certain. We're investigating it as an accident. We're not sure if it was from food cooking, from cleaning the stove or something near it. We may never know. Everything is destroyed." Westland firefighters received help from Livonia and Canton fire units in fighting the blaze, which spread to a commons area and into three other units. Two other units also sustained smoke damage.

Please see **FIRE, A2**

Westland acquires more homes under federal program

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Seven more homes have been acquired by Westland through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

The council recently approved using money from the federal program to purchase a duplex at 32018-20 Cheboygan for \$13,500, a quadplex at 2211-13-15-17 Emerson for \$18,000 and a home at 2818 Batavia for \$15,500.

At Monday night's meeting, the council also approved the acquisition of a home at 32352 Keewanaw for \$17,000, a home at 32208 Iosco for \$12,500, a home at 32540 Luce for \$9,900 and a duplex at 33390-92 Belding for \$18,000.

All of the properties are located in Norwayne, and the homes on Cheboygan, Emerson and Batavia are slated for demolition.

"Part of the program is not just to eliminate the worst blighted property, but also to reduce density," Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis said.

NSP funds the city's acquisition of foreclosed, abandoned or blighted vacant properties for demolition or rehabilitation in an effort to stabilize neighborhoods. Under the demolition phase of the program, Inglis said the city has acquired 29 homes, of which 17 have already been demolished.

The majority of properties demolished have been located in Norwayne, which initially was much of Westland's designated area of greatest need under NSP. The area of greatest need was subsequently expanded to include about two-thirds of the city.

To date, 26 homes have been acquired for rehabilitation either through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne or by contractors Guy Construction and Home Renewals Systems. The contractors are each to complete rehabilitation of 20 homes by the end of the year.

"We hope to have our first closing by the end of the month," Inglis said.

People will report houses that would seem to qualify by NSP acquisition due to the condition and being vacant, but Inglis said it's not always that easy for the city to purchase a property.

"We can't buy a home unless it's for sale. The city can't just take a property or demolish a home," Inglis said.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

Golden accomplishment: Scout earns top honor

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Laurin Chytry admits earning Girl Scouting's highest award took a lot of hard work and a lot of patience on the part of her mother, Kelly.

"My mom inspired me, she supported me all the way through," said the Westland resident. "It wouldn't have been possible without her."

A member of Girl Scout Troop 1752 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Westland, Chytry received her Gold Award



Laurin Chytry

during a May 16 ceremony in which the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan honored her for her significant leadership and dedication to community service.

The Gold Award is the equivalent of the Eagle Scout Award in Boy Scouting and requires each girl to develop a 65-hour service project that benefits her community. Chytry took on the job of stocking and organizing the Wendy Mart at Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights.

The facility houses girls ages 11-17 who have been abused or neglected. Wendy Mart provides them with clothing, accessories, games,

Please see **TOP HONOR, A2**



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Wayne-Westland fills two administrative positions

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board has approved the appointment of Kelly Bohl as senior executive director of human resources and Steven Kay as principal of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

Bohl will replace Bernard LaPorte, who is retiring effective Aug. 31. Kay takes over the career technical center from Ginny Kowalski, who retired last month.

Bohl has worked with

LaPorte as the executive director of human resources. She has been with the district since 2004. Prior to that, she worked as a benefits specialist with both SeverStal North America and its predecessor, Rouge Steel.

A resident of Grosse Ile, she has a bachelor of science degree in labor and industrial relations from Michigan State University.

"I really appreciate this," Bohl said. "It's absolutely been an honor to serve in this school district for the past six years. This is an honor and I am excit-

ed about it."

"You're an extremely bright and hard worker," Trustee Martha Pitsenbarger said. "Mr. LaPorte will be missed, but I believe you will do a good job."

"You have big shoes to fill and I'm not talking about the shoe size," Trustee Carol Middel told Bohl. "I know you're up to the job."

The district will not be filling the position Bohl is vacating.

Kay joined the school district in 2006 as assistant principal at the center. Prior to that, he had been vice president and general man-

ager of Spring Engineering and Manufacturing Corp., and an accountant with Plante Moran. A Brighton resident, he has a bachelor of science degree in business from Wayne State University and a master of science degree in educational leadership and education administration from Concordia University.

"He's a very talented young man whom I believe will help the Career Technical Center grow and establish relationships with business," Supt. Greg Baracy said in recommending Kay for the appointment.

"I'm excited to continue serving as principal and continuing the rich tradition of serving the Career Technical Center," Kay said.

"You have not only met our expectations, but exceeded them. The staff and students highly respect you," board Secretary Cindy Schofield said. "That speaks to the relationship you have at the Career Technical Center."

"You've done a great job for us," board President Skip Monit added.

LaPorte is one of three administrators whose retire-

ment was approved by the board last week. Also retiring are Judy Handley, director of elementary school development, and Sally Perkins, executive director of elementary education. Handley will retire Aug. 31 and Perkins July 30.

LaPorte has been with the district since 1969, while Handley has worked in Wayne-Westland since 1971. Perkins was hired in 1993. According to Baracy, the three retirees represent 120 years of experience in education.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Spaghetti dinner

If you love spaghetti, then pencil it in on your calendar for Aug. 6. That's when the Wayne Masonic Lodge will sponsor a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser for the Special Olympics of Wayne-Westland.

The dinner will be served 4-8 p.m. at the lodge at 37137 Palmer, west of Wayne Road in Westland. The cost is \$6 per person.

For more information about Wayne Lodge Masons, visit www.waynelodge112.org.

The Wayne Lodge Masons also will sponsor their free Child ID program 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 28 and 29 at the 2010 Wayne Wheelfest in Goudy Park in Wayne. More information about the Masons' Child ID program is available at www.michiganchildid.org.

Summer Concert Series

Westland's 2010 Summer Concert Series is underway. All of the concerts begin at 7 p.m. on Thursdays at the pavilion behind the William P. Faust Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford.

Upcoming concerts include folk/blues music by Peter Madcat Ruth on July 22, Latin jazz

music by the Lynn LaPlante 7 on July 29, country music by the Waco Band on Aug. 5 and R&B by the Tyrone Hamilton All-Stars on Aug. 12.

The free concert series is funded in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities Council.

Garage sale

The Village of Westland Senior Living Community will hold a garage sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 24. The sale is a fund-raiser for the senior residents. The Village of Westland is at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman, Westland.

Vendors needed

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is looking for sales consultants from direct selling companies to display and sell their products at a sales event Oct. 18.

Rental space is \$20-\$30 for the sale which will be held at the Salvation Army building at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. The event is a fund-raiser for two of the corps' youth groups which are working toward a week-long trip to the Northwoods Camp in Finlayson, Minnesota.

For more information, contact Sandy Kollinger at sandra_kollinger@usc.salvationarmy.org or Josh Hubbard at joshua_hubbard@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Car show for vets

The third annual Car and Bike Show for Vets is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, 1645 Wayne Road, Westland. This is a new location for the show.

Proceeds from the event, which last year raised \$27,000 for the Ann Arbor VA Hospital and the Wayne County Stand Down or Homeless Vets, benefits local veterans.

Bailey pool

When the weather gets too hot, cool off at the Bailey Outdoor Pool which is open daily through Sept. 6, weather permitting. There are two sessions daily - noon to 3 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. The pool features a toddler swim area, a water slide and a climbing wall. Swim lessons are also available in the morning.

HAP sponsors free aerobic aquatic classes 3-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Birthday party packages, and evening private rentals also are available.

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



Timothy Chytry (left) and wife Kelly share in daughter Laurin's receipt of Girl Scouting's highest honor, the Gold Award.

FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

Firefighters were on the scene almost 10 hours, the lengthy time due to the three-story building's construction, Reddy said. Holes had to be cut into the roof in several locations as well as in interior walls "to get at the fire," he said.

Eight units had to be evacuated in all. No one was injured. In fact, the residents of two of the fire-damaged units were away at the time. The man who called about the smoke occupied the fourth unit and is staying with friends. He was able to retrieve some of his personal property from the damaged unit with the help of firefighters.

"Our main goal when we

arrived was rescue. Evacuation of the occupants was our priority before attacking the fire," Reddy said.

Reddy praised the firefighters for their efforts in removing the victim, who may have had already died before they arrived.

"It was heartbreaking. They work hard," he said. "They work all night."

This is the city's third fire fatality this year. Xavier Williams, 13, and his brother Blake, 11, died in a fire at the Pointe West Apartments in February.

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TOP HONOR

FROM PAGE A1

toys and shoes, and Chytry revamped it, getting age-appropriate clothing, including prom dresses, for the girls.

She gave presentations to Girl Scout troops, churches and schools and put out donation collection boxes for needed clothing and supplies and recruited her friends, the Student Council and SAFE Club at Livonia Churchill High School to help sort through the clothing and organize it.

"We got rid of clothes that weren't for teens by giving them to the Purple Heart," she said. "We sent around 15 big bags to the Purple Heart. Some things we had to throw away."

Chytry estimates she put in close to 75 hours and two years to complete work on her Gold Award. She credits her mother and Vista Maria volunteer Janet McMillian in keeping her organized.

Kelly Chytry describes McMillian as her daughter's right hand assistant for the project, so much so that her daughter presented her with a Gold Award pin at the ceremony.

Chytry admits there were times when she wondered



Clothing, including prom dresses, hang on racks in the Wendy Mart at Vista Marie which Laurin Chytry, with the help of friends and classmates updated.

if she would get the award. It has to be earned before a Scout turns age 18.

"There is a denial point where you say you can't because there's not enough time to finish," said Chytry. "I said, 'Oh, my God, I don't think it's going to happen,' and my mom said it's going to happen."

"I'm so proud of her," said Kelly Chytry. "And then, of course, to be her mother and troop leader ... I think, wow, all we've accomplished and this was her goal."

Chytry, who just finished her first year at Schoolcraft College, was a Girl Scout for 13 years. She is now an adult Scout who is looking forward to the day she becomes a troop leader like her mother.

"Scouting is amazing, it keeps you out of trouble, it keeps you upright," she said. "People would tell me they didn't think it was cool to be

a Scout. I stayed in because of my mom and then I realized it was cool and stopped listening to others."

While Chytry has the Gold Award, she's not done with Vista Marie. She's still wants donations because "there's always new girls coming in and girls that graduate at Vista Marie." Donations can be dropped off at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Venoy north of Ford, or contact her by e-mail at laurinchytry@yahoo.com to make arrangements.

She's also looking for someone to pass the project on to, according to her mother.

"She appreciates what went into this and wants to find another Scout or volunteer to take it over," said Kelly Chytry. "She did a great job. I'm very impressed with what she did."

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Westland Mayor William Wild (center) cuts the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the Westland Farmers Market.

City celebrates market opening

City Councilman Michael Kehrer is planning a return visit to the Westland farmers market. His mission: To get some more peaches.

"The peaches I bought were the best I've had in two years, they were awesome," he said.

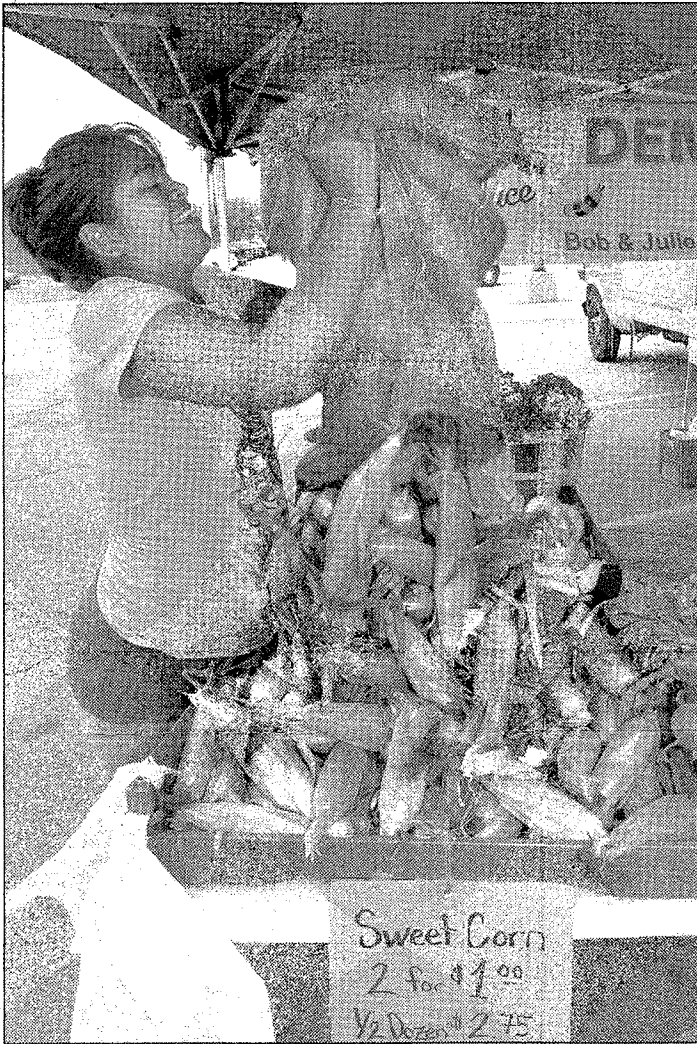
Kehrer was among a group of city officials on hand for the recent grand opening of the market that's held in the Westland Shopping Center parking lot 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays.

Mayor William Wild had the honor of cutting the ribbon. The official opening of the market was delayed until after July 4, when more crops are coming in and as a result, more vendors participating in the market.

"This is a very exciting day, we have farmers from all over southeast Michigan," said Wild.

Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Oct. 26, the market now has corn, cherries, rhubarb, potatoes, tomatoes and other produce. Other vendors offer baked goods, preserves, sausages and jewelry.

"It looks like we will have a full contingent of farmers for the rest of the summer," said Wild who was surprised by the size of the berries. "I don't know where they got them."



Angelica Lopez of Demeuenaere Farms unloads a sack of fresh sweet corn for customers at the Westland Farmers Market.

County golf course gets recognition

Inkster Valley Golf Course in Inkster has been named the No. 2 golf course in the state of Michigan.

The course, which is located in Inkster and Westland just north of Michigan Avenue, is a Wayne County-owned, public golf course managed by Torre & Bruglio Golf Management of Pontiac.

The honor comes from GolfLink.com, a website that ranks golf courses in all 50 states. Fifty courses in Michigan were ranked on an objective range of factors, including the preferences of more than a million visitors to the site.

Torre & Bruglio Golf Management President and CEO Frank Torre said his company's goal for Inkster Valley has always been to create a "country club-type atmosphere" and he added that in addition to the GolfLink.com ranking, Inkster Valley was rated No. 71 of more than 20,000 courses nationally - public and private - in another independent study.

"To be 71st out of 20,000, that's pretty good," Torre said.

Opened in May of 1998, this Harry Bowers design is filled with an abundance of natural wildlife, and it incorporates over 100 acres of wetland within its 400-acre surroundings.

Inkster Valley is an 18-hole, par-72 Championship Course, with water coming into play at 14 of the holes. The course creates an "up north" setting without the long drive and features a grille, pro-shop and professional golf instruction.

"I'm extremely proud of Inkster Valley Golf Course," said Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, whose 12th District includes the course. "This honor is well-deserved. From the moment you drive into the parking lot, you can tell that it's a first-class operation."

For more information about Inkster Valley Golf Course, call (734) 722-8020.

Teen duels to U.S. Yu-Gi-Oh! Championship

BY LARRY RUEHLEN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sean Montague, 16, recently conquered 1,194 foes to win the U.S. Championship in the two-day Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

"I'm not going to lie," Sean said. "I got a bit lucky. I had the perfect card at the perfect time and knocked out the best player in the world, Adam Corn ... the world championship would be big. I really want this."

Yu-Gi-Oh! is a trading card, strategy game that players say is something close to a combination of chess and poker. Each player chooses a deck of cards to play before the tournament. Every card has different strategic value and the order in which they are played is key. Sean has 20,000 cards in his collection and selected just 40 to use in the tournament. But most top players select similar decks for duels, so it all comes down to strategy and instinct — knowing how to read an opponent and play the right card at the right time.

"This is far and above the most popular game of its kind for this age group," said



Sean Montague, 16, recently conquered 1,194 foes to win the U.S. Championship in the two-day Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament.

Jason Lucas, an employee at Pandemonium, the Garden City gaming store where Sean plays Yu-Gi-Oh! with a group of 50-60 regulars. "To win this is pretty big."

Lucas explained that no single card can beat all others. A deck of cards sells for \$10, but players avidly collect and trade them in the hopes of assembling a more powerful deck for game play. Cards with significant strategic value can sell for \$350, but extremely rare cards — typically awarded to major tournament championships — fetch \$2,000 on the open market.

Sean, who will be a junior at Redford Union High this fall,

went 9-2 in the preliminary rounds, gaining entry into the final round of 64 players. After vanquishing Corn with his "lucky" play, Sean eventually made his way into the final match against 18-year-old Georgia resident Chris Arantes.

If front of a crowd of more than 1,000 spectators, Sean, with many friends from Pandemonium and RIW Hobbies in Livonia looking on, expertly outdueled Arantes in the final.

Sean is now headed to the World Championship in Long Beach, Calif., and will face 29 other top players from around the world.

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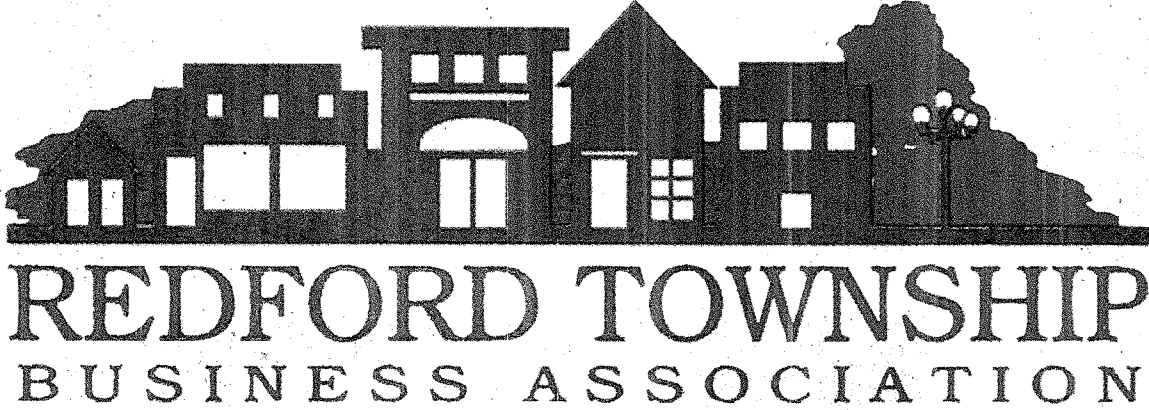
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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, July 22, 2010

hometownlife.com



For Karen Marold, United Home Health Services have made a big difference in her mother's life as well as her own.

United Home Health Services receives CHAP accreditation

United Home Health Services has received Community Health Accreditation Program accreditation for the third time.

In addition to CHAP for their skilled Medicare services, which the Canton-based not-for-profit home care company has had since 2004, it now is CHAP accredited for its private duty/caregiver programs as well.

"This distinguished accreditation really sets our caregiver/companion program apart," UHHS President Penny Rhein said. "When choosing home care for a loved one, it's very important that you research potential agencies and are comfortable with their standards of care."

CHAP accreditation is a voluntary, rigorous evaluation process that assures health care professionals and the community that United meets the home care industry's highest nationally recognized standards of excellence. CHAP accredited agencies meet standards that exceed those set by

the federal government and which are above the industry norm.

"This honor reflects United's commitment to maintaining the highest standards possible and providing the best home care around," Rhein said. "I am so proud of our staff, who work so hard each and every day to maintain this level of care and dedication!"

According to Karen Marold, assistant professor at Madonna University's College of Nursing and Health, United's services have made a big difference in her mother's life as well as her own.

"My mother has been receiving companion services from United since November 2007," she said. "She has been fortunate to have the same companion for all this time, who has become a friend to my mom and our family. These companion services have been instrumental in helping my 95-year-old mother continue to live independently and have also taken some of the weekly demands from me. I have

been able to go on vacation and know that someone will be visiting and helping in my absence."

UHHS has been providing home care in the community for 27 years. In addition to skilled nursing, therapy, home health aide and social work services, they also provide caregiver/companion services including personal care, medication reminders and management, housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, grocery shopping, transportation, errands, geriatric care management, nutritional counseling and a dedicated Alzheimer's/Dementia program.

United Home Health Services began Affiliated with Garden City Hospital in 1986. UHHS continues to work closely with GCH to provide patients with the highest quality home care services available.

For more information about UHHS, call Mary Jane Swanson at (734) 981-8820 or visit www.uhhs.org.

Chasing perfection: When is good enough?

Good morning, Michigan! Today's tip helps balance out the pursuit of perfection.

Sometimes "good enough" is good enough.

Yes, shooting for perfection usually gets better results than shooting for good enough. But at the same time, the focus on "getting it right" can lead to paralysis by analysis, so it's important to know when to stop.

Often taking action — even mediocre action — is better than taking no action at all, and inaction frequently results when we self-critically decide that our output isn't good enough.

This is on my mind because a friend recently mentioned he was thinking about my advice



Clarity Patton Newhouse

A SUNNY NOTE

when he published a press release he'd been holding onto because it wasn't yet quite right. He quoted back to me, "You always said, something is better than nothing." His press release resulted in a television news interview just a few days later. Yet, if he'd waited until the words were perfect, it might not have happened.

Here are two practical questions to help determine if something is "good enough."

1) Do the benefits of releasing a better product later outweigh the benefits of releasing a good enough product now?

2) Am I actually going to make it better later?

If the answer to either question is "no," then don't delay, like Nike says, "Just do it!" You might even be surprised to find yourself at the front of the class because everybody else decided they could do better but never

got around to it.

I'd like to delay this sunny note for at least a week to spend lots of time adding profound examples to better illustrate the concept. But since that'll never happen, I'm going to say "good enough" and send it out now — because a little helpful advice is better than none at all. And at the very least I can say.

Have a Sunny Day!

Clarity Patton Newhouse

P.S. It's often said that half of success is showing up. Woody Allen reminds us that "The other half is showing up on time!"

Clarity Patton Newhouse is Quality and Business Development manager for Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

New acquisition

Harvey Industries of Westland has announced the purchase of Hayes Lemmerz International — Laredo Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary that operates its Nuevo Laredo, Mexico manufacturing facility. The Nuevo Laredo facility manufactures cast aluminum and polymer components for the automotive and heavy

truck industry. The facility employs about 350 employees.

"This acquisition is very strategic for Harvey Industries. Combining Nuevo Laredo with our Wabash, Indiana operations will better position the combined company to grow and compete in the global market," President Jerome Harvey said. "Our employees look forward to leveraging our shared commitment to superior cus-

tomers service, product innovation and technology."

Harvey Industries is a premier global components supplier specializing in aluminum sand castings, machining, assembly, and testing for the transportation and industrial markets. Harvey Industries is a minority-owned business enterprise supplier. For more information, visit www.harvey-industries.com.

MILESTONES

Business Expo

Time/Date: Tuesday, Aug. 10

Location: Roma's Banquets, 32550 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: Businesses can sign up for the 5 Star Business Group annual networking event, Business 2 Business and Community Expo. Registration is at 10:30 a.m., followed by the networking luncheon from 11 a.m. to noon, the business expo from noon to 2 p.m., a public expo from 2-6 p.m. Space is limited; tables are available on a first come, first served basis.

Contact: The Garden City Chamber of Commerce at (734) 422-4448 or the Westland Chamber of Commerce at (734) 326-7222.

Reunion Cruise

Time/Date: noon to 3 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 22

Location: Jefferson Beach Marina, 24400 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores

Details: The Schoolcraft College Alumni Reunion Committee will host an All Decade Alumni Reunion on the Ovation Yacht on Lake St. Clair. Welcome Back II will feature an afternoon of sailing, fine dining, entertainment and the opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni and Schoolcraft College faculty and staff. The Ovation Yacht will board at Jefferson Beach Marina. Tickets are limited and the first alumni reunion cruise sold out.

Contact: For reservations and details, contact Victoria Rexius at (734) 462-4501. For more informa-

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sue Mason

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E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

SEND IT

Are you having a special event, a sale or just want to let people know where you are? Interested in being featured in our Business Q&A? It's as easy as sending your information to or requesting a Q&A form from Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com. You can also mail it to Sue Mason, Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

tion, visit www.schoolcraftalumni-reunion.com.

Vote for the Best

Time/Date: Voting ends Monday, Sept. 6

Location: Mister B's Pet Salon, 27853 Ford, Garden City

Details: Once again Mister B's has been nominated for the best dog grooming salon in the Detroit area for WDIV-TV's 4theBest contest. The salon was voted No. 1 last year by its many clients and friends and would like to retain that title. Al Bologna and the staff are asking people to go to www.clickondetroit.com/4thebest and pick Mister B's Pet Salon.

Contact: For more information or to make an appointment at Mr. B's, call (734) 261-1960.

Starting a business

Time/date: 6-9 p.m. July 28, or Aug. 25.

Location: Schoolcraft College's Small Business and Technology Development Center

Details: As an introductory ses-

sion delivered in a workshop format, the course helps aspiring entrepreneurs assess their abilities to lead and manage a company, as well as evaluate market and sales potential for their products. The basics of business ownership are introduced, along with resources available to help launch new ventures in Michigan.

Reservations are required. Cost is \$30.

Contact: (734) 462-4438.

Barbecue Buffet

Time/Date: 4-8 p.m. Fridays

Location: Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, Westland

Details: Stop by Hawthorne Valley for its all-you-can-eat barbecue buffet for \$12.95 per person. Enjoy chicken, ribs, pork, corn on the cob, corn muffins, potato, vegetables, salads, fruit and dessert table. Dine in only.

Contact: (734) 422-1970.

HBO movie star

Time/Date: Wednesday-Sunday, July 28-31

Location: Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Details: Catch comedian BT, best known from the critically acclaimed HBO movie "Suckers," at the comedy club. BT has appeared on everything from "Friday Night Videos" to Syfy's "The Black Scorpion." For more information about BT, visit www.BTROX.com.

Contact: For more information about the shows, visit www.kickerscomplex.com.



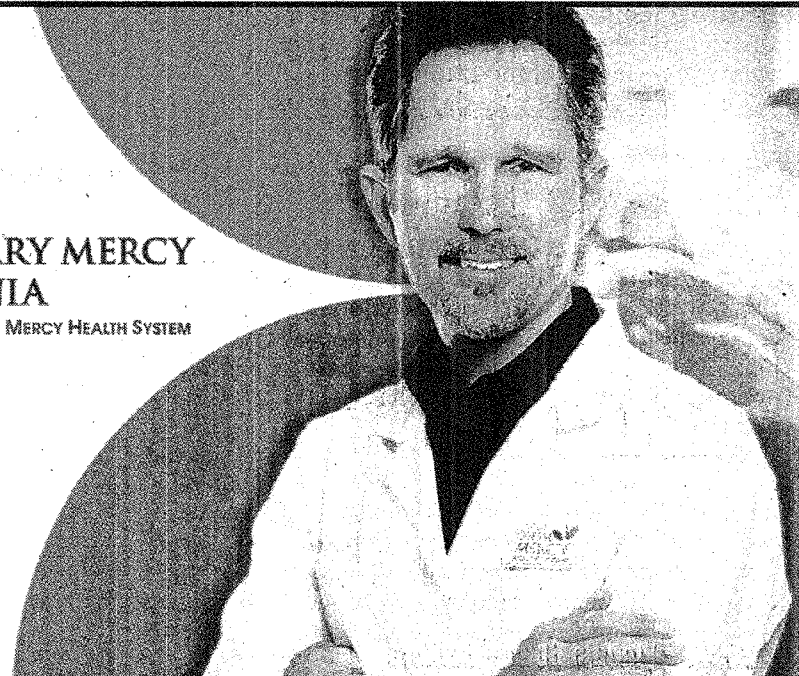
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OUR VIEWS

Our picks

James deserves GOP vote, 'yes' on SMART tax renewal

On Tuesday, Aug. 3, voters will go to the polls to decide who should advance in national, state, county and local races to the November general election.

The August primary is a partisan election; voters must declare their party preference and select candidates accordingly. The most local of the decisions Westland voters will make is who will challenge Democrat Joan Gebhardt of Livonia in the Wayne County Commission's 12th District — Republicans David James or Michael Case.

Both men are Westland residents, but we believe that Republican voters would be wise to select David James for several reasons.



James

James has a working knowledge of government with his service on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education, Westland Planning Commission and Westland City Council. He also has an understanding of the needs of the district, which includes Westland and Inkster and the southern portion of Livonia, and the county.

A Republican in a strongly Democratic district, James says the commission needs a Republican to offer an opposing or alternate viewpoint of the issues. He says he is strong believer in people before politics and in the best idea or solution no matter which party it comes from. His goal is present a different view of the current problems that face the commission and "spark creative problem solving and discussion."

We find that refreshing.

We would like to say something about his challenger, but we can't. He didn't respond to our questionnaire and we were unable to contact him for an interview. We wish could have spoken with him. Voters deserve to have choices, a person who decides to seek an elective office should be more than a name on the ballot.

That said, we urge Republican voters to select David James in the Wayne County Commission's 12th District. He deserves the chance to present his viewpoints to residents of the 12th District.

We also urge voters to participate in the primary election. In addition to the partisan races, voters also will decide the fate of a four-year 0.59-mill property tax renewal for the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART).

SMART serves 75 communities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. More than 14 million people ride SMART buses every year, and many of those riders count on the bus service to get to and from their jobs. The millage provides nearly half of SMART's operating funds and serves as the local match for a lot of its federal funding.

Not everyone can afford a vehicle and its related expenses. And while gas prices have remained relatively stable, we need only to think back a few years ago to \$4 a gallon gas to see the number of people who parked their cars and took the bus.

The SMART service needs to continue in tri-county area. It's the only alternative we have to available to driving.

The polls will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If voters can't make it to the polls that day, there's still time to register for an absentee ballot.

Angelo Plakas will be missed

Last week, the City of Westland lost a special individual with the passing of City Attorney Angelo Plakas.



Mr. Plakas

Those who knew him remember his big smile, his kind words, his caring demeanor. He was wise. He was experienced. He was practical. He had a way of making you feel you were a longtime friend, even if it was your first time meeting him.

Mr. Plakas was Westland's city attorney for more than 20 years and looked out for the city and its elected officials. He kept them on the straight and narrow. Some may not have agreed with his legal opinions, but they, first and foremost, fair and honest.

The quality of the man was reflected in those who worked with him over the years — Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, retired District Judge C. Charles Bokos and current District Judge Mark McConnell, to name a few. It will take some time to get used to, but we know the mayor and council will find a city attorney who will be up to filling his shoes.

We, too, will miss Angelo Plakas. We offer our condolences to his family and to the City of Westland. This corner of the world is a better place because of him.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Of all of the candidates for governor, who do you think is best qualified? Why?

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



"I did like Andy Dillon. He has some good ideas. I like to hear him talk."

Shirley Polak
Inkster



"I won't say. I'm one of those few voters who won't say. That's why we have a secret ballot."

Dianna Mifsud
Garden City



"I really don't know much about them. I only know the one I don't like."

Evelyn Parshall
Garden City



"I don't think anything of any of them. I'm not happy with any of them."

Sharon Williams
Westland

LETTERS

Compressor system safety

I would like to respond to a recent letter to the editor that was published on July 15. The letter questioned the use of ammonia as a refrigerant at the Mike Modano Arena.

The City of Westland recently received an Energy Grant, which will allow us to add more energy efficient equipment at three of our City buildings. The Mike Modano Arena will be receiving the largest upgrade. We are replacing the original R-22 compressors with an ammonia-based compressor system. Ammonia is generally accepted as the most efficient and cost-effective refrigerant available. Other upgrades include a new dehumidification system and an HVAC unit.

Ammonia was chosen for several reasons:

- 1) R-22 is no longer being used in new equipment and is slated to go out of production. No retrofitting will be needed to the system in the future.
- 2) Ammonia is more efficient than the R-22 style refrigerants.
- 3) Ammonia is "green" and will not harm the ozone layer.
- 4) The system designed for the arena has a low ammonia charge.
- 5) Ammonia systems have been chosen by many of the local arenas, including Livonia, Canton, Novi, Farmington Hills and Dearborn.

In preparation of the addition of the ammonia system, we have set up extensive precautions:

- A T-style ventilation system was designed for the mechanical room.
- Installation of an ammonia detector with alarms was designed.
- Installation of an exterior kill switch will shut off the system once there is any detection.

All safety standards set forth by the IAR (International Institute of Ammonia Refrigeration) and by the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) will be followed.

Only qualified ammonia personnel will work on the system. The company that is installing the unit is certified and is contracted for the next five years to do all of the necessary service on the system.

We are working with our Fire Department to ensure all regulations are carried out and compliant.

Bob Kosowski
director Westland Parks
and Recreation

Consumers need information

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation strongly believes that consumers are entitled to the freedom to choose how their motorcycle, car or other type of vehicle is maintained, serviced or upgraded. That's why we support the Motor Vehicle Owners' Right To Repair Act (S3181/HR2057) and urge Congress to swiftly pass the legislation in order to safeguard individual vehicle ownership rights today and in the future.

The Right To Repair Act is a bipartisan bill that protects the right of American consumers to choose how they take care of their vehicles, be it in their driveway or at a trusted repair facility. It simply ensures that they have access to all the information required to complete service and repairs.

Vehicles, including motorcycles, are becoming increasingly complex with more and more comput-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.



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

er technology, and that is only going to increase in the future. Complete access to accurate service and repair information from the manufacturers is essential to the safety and well being of the entire American motoring public.

We encourage all motorists to visit www.righttorepair.org to send a letter to each of their congressional representatives, urging them to support the Right To Repair Act by adding their names to the growing list of co-sponsors.

Jeff Hennie
vice president of Government Relations,
Motorcycle Riders Foundation

Get cell phones off road

While I applaud your editorial of July 8, and the no-texting-while-driving law behind it, neither goes far enough. We need to outlaw the use of cell phones entirely in moving vehicles.

Over the past two years I find myself driving 80 miles per day to and from work, covering almost the entire length of M-14 and a nearly identical length of I-94, commuting from Northville to Grass Lake. I have learned to be very alert to the telltale signs of cell phone-preoccupied drivers: the driver who flies past you and then suddenly dies in front of you to take or make a call; the driver who drifts on and off the rumble strips on the shoulder of the road, singing a buzzy tire song as he or she drifts deeper into cell phone conversation; or the driver whose gaze is fixated on his or her lap, either texting or looking up a phone number.

I am very much on high cell phone alert at the major interchanges where routes 14 and 23 couple and uncouple. In spite of the fact that there are high traffic volumes, especially in the evening rush hour, converging at speeds ranging from 50 to 80 miles per hour, cell conversations must go on undisturbed, until the driver finds they have run out of pavement and needs to do something drastic, which generally means that two or three or four other drivers need to do something drastic in response.

We didn't get serious about drunk drivers in this country until the general public, working through groups like MADD and SADD, made it a major issue of public safety. It's time to raise cell phone use while driving to that same level. There is more than enough statistical evidence that the risks presented by cell phone distracted driving are just as high, or even higher, than drunk driving. Hang up your phone when driving, and call your state representative when you get home in support of a bill to ban cell phone use in moving vehicles.

John D. Webster
Northville

Domestic terrorism

A group, as yet unidentified, has sent a list of names and personal information to Utah residents claiming the names on this list are illegal aliens and must be immediately deported.

This list of 1,300 was sent to Utah's media outlets and law enforcement and contains names, Social Security numbers, birth dates and workplace locations, addresses and phone numbers. It also included children and pregnant women's due dates.

This violations of citizen confidentiality is tantamount to domestic terrorism. The promoters of these list must envy a fascist state where groups are stereotyped by name.

Our expectation is that the purveyors of such list be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and be charged with domestic terrorism.

Gerald and Dolores Maxey
Farmington Hills

A vision for America

The taxes I pay fund welfare. It is neither my job nor the government's job to compulsorily pay for other people's needs. I want the welfare state removed, privatized. I want to help, but I will not be forced to. Same with Obamacare. By removing government regulations, costs will go down and those not insured will be covered through an inevitable increase in charity due to the inverse relationship between the size of government and private charity.

When you enter into any agreement with another party, you must be aware of the risks ...

The income tax is unconstitutional. It punishes hard work and promotes idleness. I earned it, I keep it. Value-added, death and property taxes are also all destructive to our economy. In Michigan, the average citizen works Jan. 1-Aug. 7 just to fund government, and only then is money earned to cover expenses.

Minimum wage and union shop laws are also detrimental to Michigan's economy. Government has no constitutional power to tell an employee and an employer how much money will be exchanged between them or if the businessperson must allow unions in his business. And even as a minimum wage earner myself, I understand that minimum wage laws discourage hiring new workers and business expansion while union shop laws repel businesses from establishing factories and offices in Michigan.

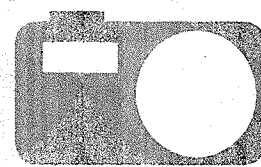
The United States is in decline. Our welfare programs are broke. Our spending threatens our security. Illegal immigration makes the American southwest as dangerous as a war zone. Taxes will skyrocket in 2011, and many economists are predicting an even worse economic climate. And this current decline falls on Mr. Obama against the majority of Americans.

So I applaud the Americans who believe in the Tea Party ideas ... For anyone who opposes the Tea Party message, please educate yourself on the founding and understand the virtues this great nation was founded on. Only then are you qualified to agree or disagree with the Tea Party message of constitutionally limited government. When the founding principles are understood, anyone can clearly see the solutions and we, as a nation, can return to prosperity and genuine freedom.

Jordan Adams
Highland

PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, July 22, 2010

hometownlife.comPHOTO
GALLERIEShometownlife.com

Printer stolen from locked construction trailer Thieves make off with car lot's safe

Break-in

1 A Canon printer was reported stolen from a construction trailer at Adams Upper Elementary School, 33475 Palmer.

An employee of McCarthy and Smith, which is managing construction work at the school, told police he had secured the trailer 7:30 p.m. July 19. When he returned the next morning, he found the padlock had been cut off and the door pried open, damaging the door and door jam.

The printer was valued at \$500.

Recovered purse

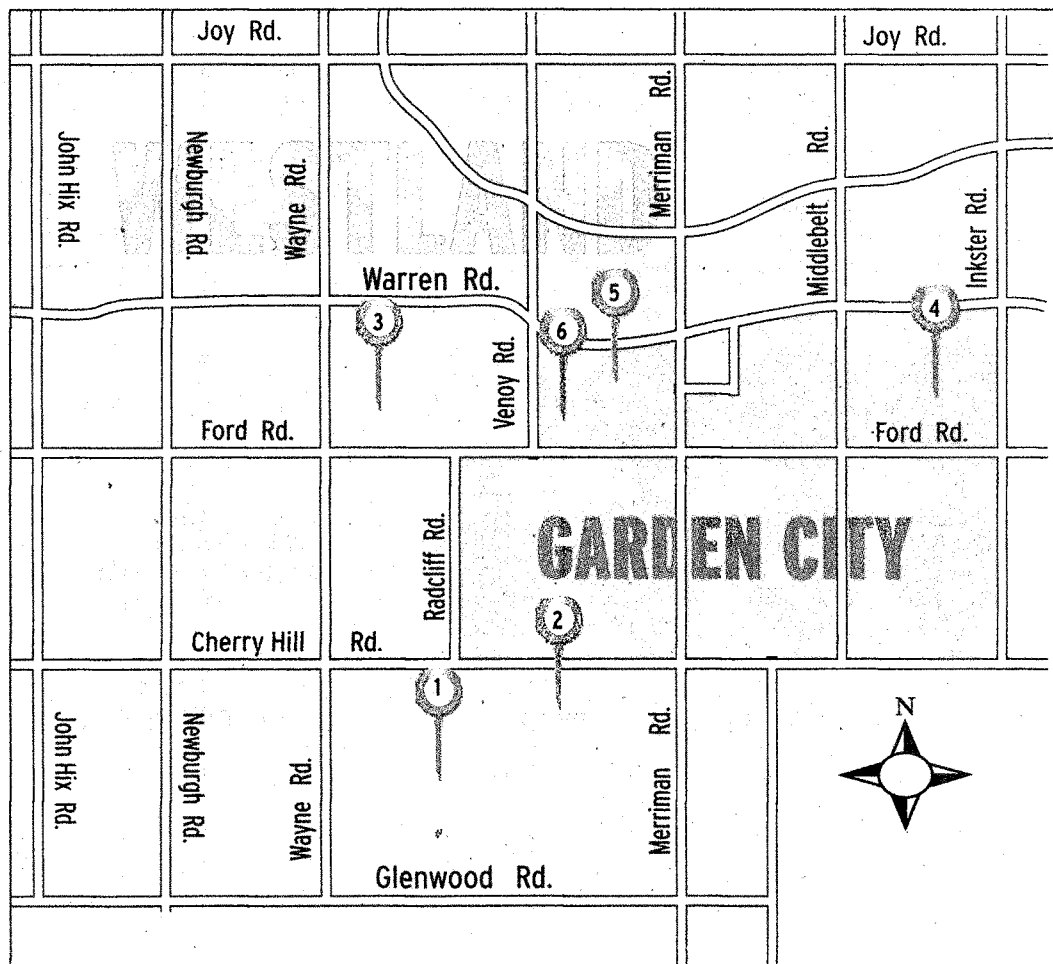
2 A Wayne resident got her purse and its contents back July 20 after two Westland residents retrieved the items from along two streets in the city.

A resident of Hazelwood brought in the purse which she found in the area of Fairchild and Gloria. A Birchwood resident brought in business cards and other financial transactions that she said had been thrown from an older model red car with a loud muffler that was eastbound on Birchwood east of Venoy. The woman said that there were two white women and a man in the car.

The woman told police the purse had been taken while she was at work at Bogart's Bar in Inkster. She had gone to the Inkster Police Department to report it stolen when she was told it had been recovered in Westland.

Attempted break-in

3 A resident of the Hampton Court Apartments told police someone attempted to break in to his apartment



about 3 a.m. July 21.

The man said he heard someone tampering with his door handle and when he checked to make sure it was locked, the suspect began kicking the door. The resident said he held the door closed, but the suspect continued to kick it until the door frame broke and the top hinge broke off the door.

A Canton man who was at the apartment witnessed the attempted break-in, however, he could not identify the suspect.

Home invasion

Some \$1,000 in household

goods were found missing from an abandoned home in the 35000 block of Nancy.

A representative of a servicing company, who reported the theft on July 20, said that someone entered the home on May 24 and removed the dishwasher, stove, disposal, vent covers and baseboards.

Stolen lawn mower

A resident of the 31600 block of Grand Traverse told police someone entered the backyard of her home and removed a 21-inch self-propelled Troy Bilt lawn mower sometime between 5 p.m. July 18 and 10 a.m. July

19.

The woman had been keeping the lawn mower unlocked and under a blue plastic tarp near a utility trailer in the yard.

Stolen property

A Dearborn Heights woman reported her wallet stolen from an unlocked locker at Fitness USA, 7677 N. Wayne Road, on July 20.

The woman, who had been at the fitness center about an hour, said the wallet contained \$20 in cash, a bank card, Social Security card, school identification and several gift cards.

Larceny

4 The police and the owner of Waela Financial Inc., a used car lot located at 27849 Ford, were summoned to the location at 2 a.m. July 17 after an alarm sounded.

When the police arrived, they discovered that someone had stolen a 200-pound safe and its contents from inside the business.

A suspect had pried open a door on the west side of the building and left on the floor the loaded, unregistered shotgun that was on the safe.

The safe contained 180 motor vehicle titles, 18 "deal" folders with cash down payments and other cash.

The police questioned two employees and a relative who each said they were somewhere else at the time of the theft.

The police said that the owner made a "vague effort" to look at video footage and then summarized that the system wasn't working.

Home invasions

5 Someone broke into a home in the 32700 block of Marcello sometime before 11:45 a.m. July 18 and stole a TV from an apartment. The resident said that the suspect entered through a window, stole the TV and then locked the front door behind him.

The resident said that he suspects a relative who has an "illicit" prescription addiction. The police were able to lift fingerprints from the window screen.

A resident in the 31400 block of Block said that she fell asleep on the couch and when she awoke about 5 a.m. July 18, she found out that someone had turned down the volume on the TV and taken a key to her apartment and the apartment complex and left a pack of cigarettes on

the living room floor.

Entry was gained through an unlocked window.

The resident told police that she suspects a former friend may be responsible.

A mother who lives in the 29037 block of Dawson made a delayed police report about the theft of an Xbox system, a Nintendo Wii, other game systems and games. She believes they were taken between June 19 and July 14, but she didn't discover the theft until she went to play a game.

She said that the items belong to her 11-year-old son who is out of town for the summer.

The suspect allegedly gained entry through an unsecured window.

Stolen property

6 A resident in the 220 block of Clair reported that sometime between 5-8:30 p.m. July 17 someone stole a Blessed Virgin Mary statue from a table on her front porch. The owner said that she doesn't want to prosecute but would like the statue, valued at \$200, returned to her.

An employee at Jet's Pizza, located at 29855 Ford, reported that someone stole the license plate from his Ford pickup truck while he was at work from 7-9 p.m. July 17.

Loss prevention officers at the Kmart store at 29600 Ford reported that a 41-year-old Canton Township man stole four Diehard auto batteries by putting them in his cart at 2 p.m. July 17 and not paying for them.

The owner of a 2002 Ford Taurus which was parked in the 32200 block of Kathryn before 10 a.m. July 15 reported that someone stole a small wallet with \$100 that was dangling from the rear view mirror.

A cell phone and charger were also stolen from the unlocked car parked in the driveway.

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NEWSPAPER
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Mackene Hill works with a pipe cleaner during craft time at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army summer day camp.

Fun, fun, fun

Salvation Army day camp makes for happy kids

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tatianna Lightsey, 9, is glad to be at summer day camp with the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

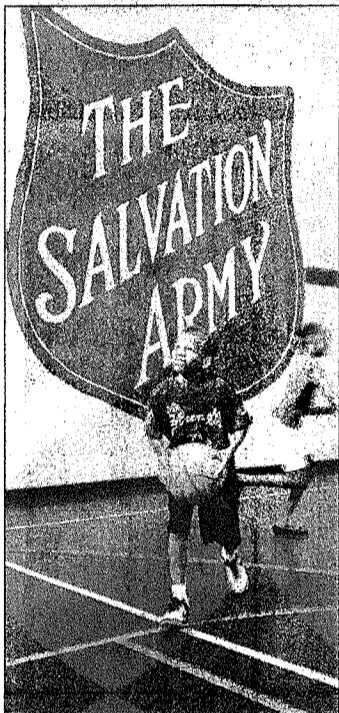
"This is my second time going to camp," said Tatianna, who'll be a fourth-grader at Schweitzer Elementary School this fall. She likes "playing tennis" best.

"I like hitting the ball to other places," said Tatianna, who also likes kickball.

Gym, Bible time, arts and crafts, music, computers and board games are among the fun activities for campers ages 6-12 at the corps building on Venoy south of Palmer. A total of 55 kids are registered this summer, said Andrew Barylski, director of community and youth ministries.

"We just want to provide a safe, friendly, learning Christian environment for the kids and give them a variety of learning activities this summer," Barylski said. "They love the field trips." There's one coming up to the Detroit Zoo that's popular with the kids.

The children also like going to the beach at Kensington Metropark near Milford. When they're at the corps building, gym and music are particularly popular, Barylski said.



Adam Hainley sets his sights on making a basket during play time at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army's summer day camp.

He agreed the annual summer offering serves the nearby Norwayne community well.

"It serves a need for the families, gives the kids an opportunity to do things," he said. "It fills a huge need. We thank God for the opportunity he's given us."

Another camper, Adam Hainley, 9, will also be a fourth-grader at Schweitzer Elementary this fall. He's been to camp at the Salvation Army several times.

"It's pretty cool. Arts and crafts and gym are my favorites," Adam said. "I told my friend, David, he should go."

Home shouldn't own you; factor in all costs

I was approached recently by a couple who asked about purchasing a home.

They wanted to know how much they could afford, what down payment is required and the best type of mortgage for them.

After answering their questions, they were surprised when I told them that in their situation, I probably would recommend renting rather than purchasing a home.

They were surprised because of the dramatic drop in property values over the last few years and the fact mortgage rates are at near-record lows, it would be a slam dunk for them to buy. A home, however, is not necessarily a great investment. I have said that for years and, in fact, many people have criticized me for that statement.

Even when real estate prices were rising I still believed that homes were not great investments. That doesn't mean that I didn't encourage people to buy homes. I stressed quality of life rather than the investment potential.

I have always believed that the main benefit in owning a home is not the tax breaks nor the potential to make money



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

The cost of home ownership is more than making the payments to the mortgage company. There is no home in America that is not a money pit. Homes require constant maintenance that is not required when you rent.

upon the sale. It is the quality of home ownership vs. renting. However, that being said, I did recommend to this couple that they consider renting. They are a relatively young couple and have not decided whether they are going to reside in Michigan or move out of state.

I recommended that, until they made that decision, they should not buy. They thought if they decided to move in a couple of years, they would be able to sell the home without taking a loss. I question that assumption.

There is no doubt real estate prices have fallen dramatically over the last few years. According to studies, home prices in Michigan are now below what they were in 2000. However, the fact home prices have fallen does not mean that they will rise any time soon.

Michigan continues to experience record high foreclosures, and home prices are still declining.

Because this couple's time horizon was only a couple of years, from a financial standpoint it doesn't make sense to purchase a home.

The cost of home owner-

ship is more than making the payments to the mortgage company. There is no home in America that is not a money pit. Homes require constant maintenance that is not required when you rent. In addition, when you own a home you also have to factor in the lost-opportunity cost — money you could have earned on the down payment on your home. Even if that money was put into a CD it would earn some money, and that is a lost-opportunity cost.

Another factor of buying vs. renting is the cost when the home is eventually sold. The cost of doing necessary repairs and putting a home in sellable condition, the cost of closing (title work, legal fees), along with commissions paid are all part of the equation.

In addition, don't forget the risk of not being able to sell your home or having to sell it at a loss.

The cost of renting is easy to determine and easy to understand. The annual cost of renting is merely the monthly rental fee. There is some lost-opportunity cost — a security deposit which is money that could have earned interest. However, a security

deposit is substantially lower than a down payment.

Let me be clear: I am not discouraging people from purchasing homes. However, I want people to purchase a home with their eyes wide open.

A key question is how long you plan to be in your home. If it's just a few years, it doesn't make sense to buy. If it is an extended length of time, there are some great opportunities available to buyers. Not only are homes more affordable than they were a few years ago, but there are also tremendous deals on mortgages — a 30-year, fixed-rate below 5 percent.

I've always believed in homeownership. However, over the last few years we have seen the consequences of people purchasing homes that they could not afford. Therefore, before you decide to buy a home make sure to calculate the cost of homeownership.

Home ownership can provide a great quality of life; however, it is not so great if instead of you owning your home your home owns you.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at mon-eymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.



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'MIRACLE' MASHING

Derby gives players chance to swing for fences and field project

DERBY DOINGS

What: First annual PCEP Home Run Derby to benefit the Miracle League of Plymouth. Current and recent varsity players from Salem, Canton and Plymouth will compete.

When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Salem High School's varsity baseball field. The final round will begin around 2:30-3 p.m.

Field: Proceeds will help with the construction and maintenance of a rubberized baseball field for special needs children.

Misc: The event is free, with players from area little leagues invited to watch. There will be a silent auction.

Going to bat: Event co-chairpersons are Salem grad Chris Kordick, Salem senior Natalie Zazula, Ted and Tonya Barker of the Plymouth Rotary A.M.

Comment: Zazula said the derby "is giving me the opportunities to mix many facets of life that I care about: community service, helping special needs children and of course, baseball."

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Baseball players from "The Park" are taking a serious swing at community service — and baseballs — thanks to a unique fund-raising event Saturday at Salem's varsity field.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the first annual Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Home Run Derby will give current and recent varsity players from Salem, Canton and Plymouth the opportunity to mimic big-league power hitters while raising money for a worthy cause.

That would be the Miracle League of Plymouth's baseball field for special needs children, a \$1.1 million project that is slated to open in late April 2011 on Theodore Street between Main and Farmer streets. The land was donated by the Plymouth-Canton school district.

"When I first caught wind of it (the project), I was floored," said 2010 Salem graduate and event co-chair Chris Kordick, "because I didn't even think anything like this organization around the country was even available."

"The fact we can give kids who have disabilities — both physically and mentally — the ability to play baseball and that I'm going to have the ability to share my love of the game and my passion

Please see **MIRACLE, B2**



Taking a cut during a 2010 Salem varsity baseball game is Chris Kordick, who was instrumental in putting together Saturday's home run derby to benefit the Miracle League of Plymouth.

SIDELINES

McIntosh shoots ace

Jennifer McIntosh of Westland shot a hole-in-one July 14 at Fellows Creek Golf Course. She used a pitching wedge to ace the 96-yard, fifth hole on the East Course.

McIntosh, who works for the city of Westland in the Department of Public Services, is a member of the Wednesday Chicks With Clubs League.

Her achievement was witnessed by fellow league golfers Patricia Cooney of Livonia and Carol Cooper of Westland.

It was the first hole-in-one for McIntosh in the 10 years she has been playing golf.

Volleyball all-stars

Six area volleyball players will participate in the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association's annual all-star competition Friday, July 30, at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

The event will feature the top seniors in the state from the 2009 season. The players were selected from the ranks of those who were named to an all-state team by the MIVCA.

The Observer-area players are Jordan Kielly, Canton; Sarah Suppelsa and Cierra Yetts, Livonia Churchill; Claire Dezelski of Farmington Hills, Livonia Ladywood; and Emilie Freeman and Rachel Storck, Lutheran High Westland.

Two semifinal matches will be played at 5:30 p.m. Championship and consolation matches will follow at 7:30 p.m.

City Golf Challenge

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and Bill Hawley are announcing the City Golf Challenge in conjunction with the 51st annual City Golf Championships, all set for the weekend of July 31-Aug. 1 at Fellows Creek Golf Club.

Tee times are 8 a.m. both Saturday, July 31, and Sunday, Aug. 1.

Each city must have at least five golfers to be entered into the contest. In 2009, Westland topped the field with a total of 376 strokes, followed by Canton (395) and Wayne (427).

The challenge is open to women and men of all ages, and all abilities. For more information, e-mail bhawk@wowway.com or swinkelman@ci.wayne.mi.us.

Golf entries due

Entries for the Motor City Junior Golf Championship are due by Friday, July 24, at Whispering Willows Golf Course.

The tournament, to be played Wednesday, July 29, is for golfers in the 12-17 age group. The entry fee is \$49, which includes lunch and a gift pack.

Download an entry form from www.golflivonia.com or call Whispering Willows at (248) 476-4493.

All in the family

Rick Wilson, former Salem golf coach and his son, Salem grad Adam Wilson, won the 72-hole West Shore Invitational in just their second year of competition.

The tournament took place July 8-11 at West Shore Golf and Country Club in Grosse Ile.

Rick recently retired from the Plymouth-Canton school district while Adam — an All-Observer golfer at Salem — lives in Toledo and works for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Golfers: Put the O&E tourney on schedule

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you're a competitive golfer, you might consider teeing it up in one of the upcoming *Observer & Eccentric* golf tournaments.

The women will play an 18-hole event Saturday, Aug. 7, at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia.

The men's tourney will be a two-day, 36-hole competition Sunday and Monday, Sept. 5-6. The first round will be played at Fox Creek Golf Course, the second at Whispering Willows on Labor Day.

Kirk Osler, 45, of Canton is the reigning men's champion. He shot a 151 total (74-77) in the championship flight and won by five strokes over Drew Mossioan of Livonia, a 2010 graduate of Stevenson High School and a member of the All-Observer team.

Leon Kashawlic, 32, of Livonia was the first flight winner. The former Churchill High School golfer won a playoff over Riley Butcher of Ontario after they had tied for first place at 167.

There will be championship and first flights again and possibly more, depending on the number of entries, according to Paul Worley, the golf professional at Whispering Willows.

The men's tournament will include a senior division for golfers age 50 and over. If there are enough entries, the senior event could have two flights, also.

A total of \$2,500 in prize money is guaranteed. Thirteen players in the championship flight won something last year due to ties and seven in the first flight.

The championship flight winner received a \$400 gift certificate to the Whispering Willows pro shop and a trophy. The prize for the first flight champion was a \$200 gift certificate and a trophy.

Worley anticipates there being more entries this year with the tournament being played on a holiday weekend. Fifty men

entered last year.

"We're hoping to pick up some publinx players, because they don't have anything going on that weekend," Worley said. "I think we'll have more than we had last year."

"We might pick up some college kids, too — kids from Madonna, Schoolcraft and OCC and others who are home for the weekend. We're looking to catch some of those guys, as well as the publinx players."

The men's entry fee is \$95, which doesn't include a cart. The deadline to enter is 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28.

The tournament is open to the first 120 golfers. Players must have a U.S.G.A. index to participate. The maximum handicap is 20.

For the women's tournament, entries close at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 2. The fee is \$50 and does not include a cart. Women must also have a current U.S.G.A. index to enter.

The women's tournament had championship and first flights last year. There is no senior division for the women.

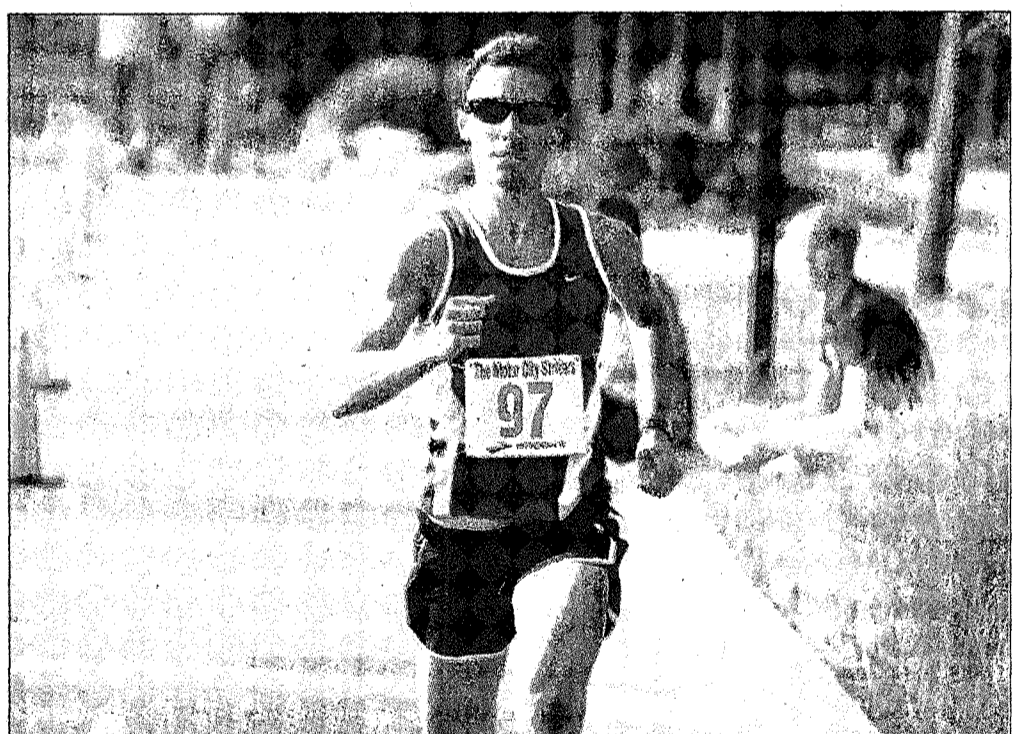
A total of \$350 in prize money is available. First place got a \$90 gift certificate and a trophy last year.

Darci Stocker of the Flint area, the golf coach at Davison High School, shot 74 and won by eight strokes over two-time past champion Susan Macinkowicz.

Whispering Willows also has a new clubhouse with a dining facility that can accommodate 98 people and a covered patio for another 45.

"The course is in real good shape," Worley said. "We're looking for some increased participation this year and a couple good tournaments."

For more information and to download an entry form, see the website at www.golflivonia.com and go to "leagues and outings" on the right side of the menubar. The phone number to Whispering Willows is (248) 476-4493.



Angela Matthews of Westland was the fourth overall finisher (22:30) at the Farmington Founders Festival road race.

Matthews wins Founders Fest race for second year in a row

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Angela Matthews showed she can run well in hot weather, too, when she repeated as the women's champion in the annual Farmington Founders Festival road race Saturday.

The 26-year-old Westland resident won the four-mile race for the second year in a row and was the fourth overall finisher with a time of 22:30.



Emery Pitcel

"I ran eight seconds faster than I did last year," Matthews said. "I feel my fitness level is better than eight seconds faster. I think I should have run faster."

"It was significantly warmer this year. Last year, the weather was real cool. In light of the heat and humidity, a win is a win. It's always exciting to come away with a win."

Matthews, who is now two-for-two in Founders Festival races, said there was no advantage for her in knowing the course as a second-time entrant.

"Not really, because I've run around that area so much," she said, adding she and others run through downtown Farmington regularly. "I'm very familiar with that area."

"It's nice to know the last mile is a downhill

to the finish (line on Grand River Avenue). It's pretty impossible to run slow in that last mile."

Matthews was nearly four minutes ahead of the next fastest female — former Livonia Stevenson runner Linda Montgomery, who won the women's 20-24 age group with a 26:18 time.

Matthews said she was focused on the men's race occurring in front of her and trying to close the gap between herself and the three male counterparts.

Emery Pitcel, 19, of Richmond won the men's race, overtaking Matthew Yacoub of Farmington Hills in the last mile.

Pitcel, who runs cross country and track at Grand Valley State University, finished in 21:25; Yacoub, who coaches both sports at Southfield Christian High School, had a 21:51 time.

"Mostly, I was watching the three guys in front of me, because I can see everything down Grand River," Matthews said. "My world at that time revolved around the three guys in front of me and trying to maintain contact as best I could with what was going on up there."

"I felt I had enough left at the end if somebody had come up on me. I would've had enough kick or energy left."

Matthews, who works as a technical writer and is a Yacoub's assistant coach, went out fast and ran with Yacoub early. If she had paced

Please see **FOUNDERS, B3**

MIRACLE

FROM PAGE B1

with those kids, it's amazing." It was Kordick who got in touch with the right people about doing a home run derby. He contacted Debra Madonna (Miracle League of Plymouth co-chair) and the project-backing Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. and the wheels were in motion.

"For me, I want to see as many people down there as possible just to watch and cheer on and make it so the kids can really benefit from this," Kordick said. "It's going to be a great day and a great event and we look forward to it for the years after, also."

Each hitter will pay \$25 to give it a go on Saturday, with spectators invited to watch for free.

All concessions proceeds are being donated by the Salem Dugout Club baseball boosters while a silent auction (including premium Detroit Tigers tickets) also is expected to help generate cash.

GREAT IDEA

Kordick, who will go to Benedictine University near Chicago, caught wind of the fledgling field project and caught the ear of Ted Barker — a member of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., event co-chair and construction manager for the local effort.

Salem alum Barker noted how Kordick, a pitcher and first baseman for the Rocks, put aside personal pursuits to approach the Rotary.

"Here's a kid in his senior year of high school looking to start college soon," Barker

'For me, I want to see as many people down there as possible just to watch and cheer on and make it so the kids can really benefit from this.'

CHRIS KORDICK,
Salem grad, event co-chair

said. "It's a pretty selfish time in your life and a lot of fun, (But) here he comes, approaching us in the late spring about wanting to do a home run derby to raise money. How can you argue with that?"

Kordick said he had discussed doing a home run derby with other PCEP players and subsequently received the green light to host one by Salem varsity coach Dale Rumberger.

Here it is a few months later. More than a dozen participants are lined up to swing for the fences, looking to slam as many balls over the fence as they can before recording 10 outs.

Other 2010 PCEP grads to compete include Canton's Joe Galanty and Cody Blakita, Salem's Ken Novak and Plymouth's Erik Lee.

Meanwhile, Kordick is hopeful that current college players from PCEP will be on hand, with Canton head varsity coach Mark Blomshield also expected to join in on the fun.

IN THE MONEY

Each participant will don prep colors and bring his own batting practice pitcher. A



NATIONAL MIRACLE LEAGUE ASSOCIATION

This is what the Miracle League of Plymouth field might look like. The rubberized ballpark for children with special needs is tentatively set to open in late April 2011.

"money ball" kicks in after each hitter's ninth out, with local donors lined up.

No matter how the derby turns out, Shaw Construction president Barker said it will succeed in helping a community tune in to the effort.

"This is our first year, so our expectations are modest," Barker stressed. "We'd love to raise money, but it's also (about raising) community awareness and this has been great."

The project itself will feature a rubberized playing surface with 50-foot baselines and a distance of 125 feet from home plate to the center-field fence.

What has Kordick most excited is knowing that young girls and boys with handicaps will get to live the Miracle League's motto: "Every Child Deserves A Chance to Play Baseball."

According to the 2000 U.S. census, there are about 5.2

million youngsters between ages 5-19 with disabilities.

"I take my ability to walk on the field for granted every day," Kordick said. "I can pick up my glove and my bat and go play, and I can go play four more years in college."

"But these kids didn't have it (a chance to play) before and now they do."

Barker, like millions of Americans, knows firsthand why the Miracle League is like a dream come true. He has a

3-year-old godson with Down syndrome.

"Mr. Barker said a while ago that he has a relative who has a son with a disability and he (the father) wondered about sports," Kordick said. "He just looked at (Barker) one day and said 'You know, I wonder if my son's ever going to play baseball.'"

"And now, he can. That's what inspired me the most."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Co-ed champs

Livonia Clarenceville High alums, named Off Constantly, recently finished 9-1 to come away with 2010 Livonia YMCA Soccer League co-ed division title. Members of the team include: Chris King, Vaughn Walker, Adam King, Matt Garant, Ryan Glass, Amanda Moody, Joe Nelson, Trevor King (coach), Nicole Lewandowski, Gavin King, Brad Pozniak, Garek Hintzman, Jill Brown, Phil Strachan, Matt Parent, Ardit Dushkaj and Paisley Mackie.



The Wright stuff

Erik Wright, a Canton High School alum who recently completed his redshirt freshman season at Saginaw Valley State University, pitched a no-hitter June 12, for Coach's Corner in the team's 6-0 victory over the defending Livonia Collegiate Baseball League champion Michigan Rams in a LCBL game. The 2007 First-Team All-Observer selection fanned 10 Rams and did not allow a runner past first base over the final six innings. Helping his cause was Plymouth alum Brad Lineberry, who hit a three-run homer.

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Blowout win lifts Bucks into first

The Michigan Bucks flexed some muscle last Thursday night in a must win game in their final regular season home game of the 2010 United Soccer League's (USL) Premier Development League (PDL) season.

The home team came out early and scored often in a 6-0 win over the Toronto Lynx before another enthusiastic crowd at Ultimate Soccer Arenas.

Learning just before kickoff that forward Stefan St. Louis had been selected to the PDL Team of the Week for his outstanding performance in two games the prior week, the Trinidad native and Oakland University graduate picked up where he left off and put on a show for the home crowd.

St. Louis added three goals and an assist to his scoring totals to lead the Michigan offense that

outshot the Lynx 26-2 on the night. The win moved the Bucks (9-3-2, 29 points) into first place in the Great Lakes Division, with two games left to play.

St. Louis started the goal fest early when Andy Lorei (Erie, Penn.) crossed a ball that evaded Toronto goal keeper Matthew Silva and landed at the feet of strikers Kenny Uzoigwe and St. Louis.

Stefan neatly tapped in the first goal of the game in the 6th minute. The combination of Lorei's aggressive flank play and St. Louis' instincts around the goal paid off again in the 34th minute when St. Louis scored his second goal of the game for a 2-0 half-time lead.

The Bucks started out the second half as aggressive as they did in the first half, when St. Louis sent a great ball across the box to strike partner Kenny Uzoigwe at the penalty spot.

Uzoigwe smartly left the ball to run through the box to an over lapping Simon Omekanda (Rochester, MI) who smacked home his second goal of the year.

While scoring leader Uzoigwe was probably the most active of all the Bucks offensive weapons, he didn't get on the scoresheet until Tommy Catalano (Shelby Twp./Oakland) broke free in the penalty box and was hauled down to prevent what appeared to be an easy opportunity to score.

Kenny stepped up and buried the PK for his 10th goal of the season in the 57th minute.

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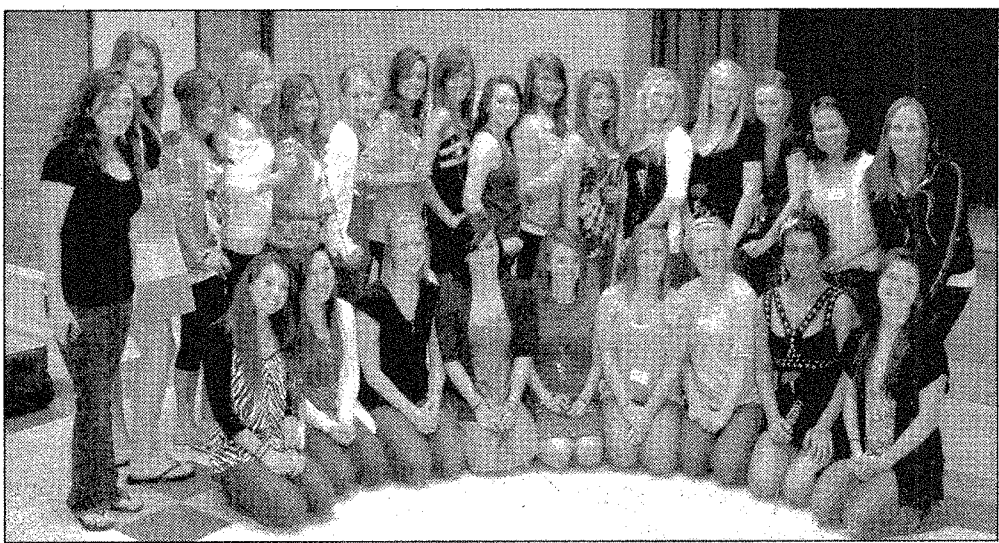
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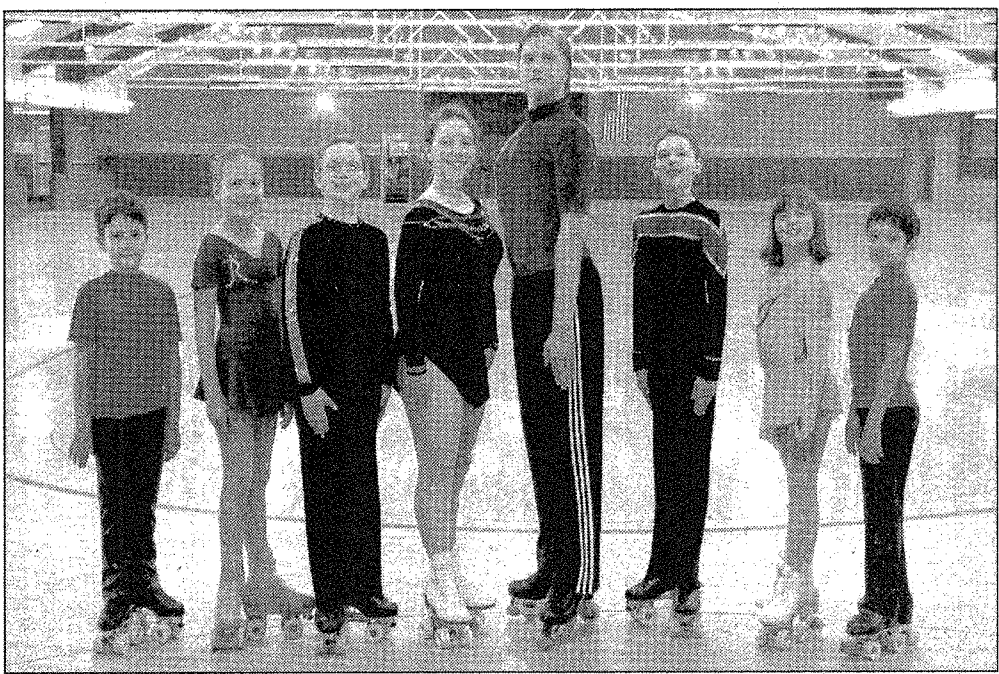
www.mr-shovel.com





Cutting-edge Chiefettes

The 2010-11 varsity Canton Chiefettes pom squad racked up some impressive performances at the Mid American Pom Camp held June 26 at Davenport University in Grand Rapids. The Chiefettes captured first place for Senior Kick and also won the Grand Champs award as well as awards for showmanship, unity and peppy pom (on Day 3). Members of the team are as follows: (back row, from left) Mikayla Schnettler, Melissa Webster, Rylie Miller, Nikki Webster, Alyson Darmofal, Jessica Goodbred, Lindsey Mason, Allie Stephens, Abby Rice, Samantha Juback, Emily Underwood, Amanda Rodgers, Rachel Partain and Coach Jen Kesler; (front row, from left) Sarah Lindlbauer, Renee Janisse, Sarah Mabie, Maggie Kokoszka, Tori Parrelly, Ashley Polydoras, Ashley Garvin, Julia Beydoun and Rachel Martin.



The Riverside 8

Eight local figure skaters from Riverside Arena Skating Club in Livonia recently qualified to compete at the 2010 USA Roller Sports Figure Skating National Championships beginning Saturday in Lincoln, Nebraska. The qualifiers include (from left) Pirro Marko, Valentyna (Tina) Stadnik, Ryan Heersink, Jillian Heersink, Alexei Castillo, Chloe Lamay and Jayanthesh (Gene) Kalmat. Gold medalists were Marko, Lamay, Ian Heersink, Ryan Heersink and Castillo. All qualified late last month at the Great Lakes Regional Championships in West Chester, Ohio.

FOUNDERS

FROM PAGE B1

herself better, she might've had a stronger finish, she said.

"After Matt took off and I got passed by Emery and Steve Menovick, it was like a time trial," Matthews said. "I was running alone for most of it."

"I felt I could've run faster. In light of the conditions and everything, I was happy with it. I just think I'm a stronger runner than the way I raced on Saturday. But a win is a win. I'm not too disappointed about it."

With the temperature hovering around 90 degrees, Matthews managed to deal with the heat and humidity well.

"It wasn't too big of an issue for me, and I didn't feel any wind either," she said. "I would definitely take heat over wind any day."

Matthews said it's quite likely she'll return and try to go three-for-three next year.

"I don't have anything penciled in, but there are certain races I just enjoy doing and Farmington is one of them," she said. "If everything is aligned and I'm healthy and I'm around, I'll definitely plan on going back there."

MEN'S OVERALL WINNER

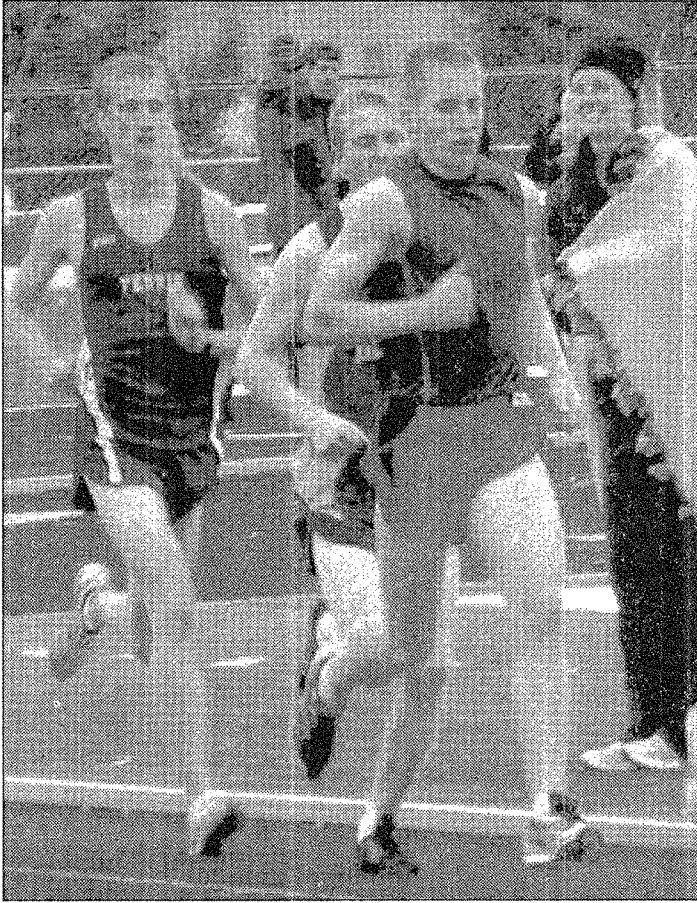
Pitcel was running in his second Founders race, having finished third last year. The length of the race is what brought him back for another attempt at winning.

"I enjoyed it so much last year," he said. "Being a four-mile race, there aren't too many of those out there. That's the thing pulls me into it."

"We run 5Ks in high school for cross country and, once you get to college, it's 8Ks. Last year, I used it as a stepping stone to get more race distance. You don't get to run a four-mile race that often."

"It wasn't my goal to win going in. I find if I put too much pressure on myself, I buckle and don't perform as I should. Usually, all I do is worry about running to the best of my ability and whatever happens, happens."

After Yacoub, 36, established



Emery Pitcel of Richmond (black shirt), shown competing in a college track meet, is the Founders Festival men's champion.

himself as the early leader, Pitcel said he tried to stay within 45 seconds of striking distance.

"I just ran a patient race early," he said. "At a mile and a half, I said: 'It's time to start rolling up people and moving up.'"

"That final stretch comes right down Grand River. I made a good turn and noticed I was slowly pulling him (Yacoub) in. From a runner's standpoint, that's a good mental boost, to keep feeding on that and closing the gap."

"With a half mile left, I was on his shoulder. That's when I said: 'Well, here it is! It's either all in to pass or not.' I committed to it and didn't look back."

Pitcel added he was able to adjust to the heat in the days leading up to the race.

"The last two weeks it's been pushing 90 all the time," he said. "The last week it was kicking my butt pretty hard."

"If it had been the very first hot day of summer, I think I would have been struggling along with everybody else. I learned to cope with it."

He added he ran a good time, which was evidence his training was having its intended result.

"I really came around this year in the outdoor season," Pitcel said. "All the extra work and mileage was starting to pay off, so it was nice to see it continue through the summer."

"My goal was to run quality splits. I was able to do that extremely well and was rewarded with pretty good success."

OTHER ROAD RACE WINNERS

Masters division winners: Donna Olson, 60, 45th overall, 28:21; Steve Menovick, 41, third overall, 22:22.

Female age-group winners: 12-under, Maddy Trevisan, 12, 29:51; 13-14, Brianna Hatcher, 13, 30:36; 15-19, Angela Wright, 16, 27:41; 20-24, Linda Montgomery, 24, 26:18; 25-29, Heather Dyc, 26, 26:26; 30-34, Aimee Began, 31, 29:38; 35-39, Mikelle Adamczyk, 38, 27:02; 40-44, Cynthia Lee, 41, 31:33; 45-49, Sheen Watkins, 49, 29:47; 50-54, Marilyn Weimer, 54, 32:45; 55-59, Patricia Cummings, 56, 37:55; 60-64, Faye Stevenson, 60, 31:56.

Male age-group winners: 12-under, Joe Soave, 12, 33:23; 13-14, Michael Higgins, 14, 27:25; 15-19, David Hong, 17, 23:08; 20-24, Keith Button, 21, 22:57; 25-29, Seth Koohes, 28, 27:37; 30-34, Ben Schaut, 32, 25:02; 35-39, Matthew Yacoub, 36, 21:51; 40-44, Steve Harris, 44, 22:53; 45-49, David Watkins, 49, 23:13; 50-54, Hugh Leidlein, 50, 24:43; 55-59, John Tarkowski, 57, 24:22; 60-64, Philip Bowman, 61, 32:49; 65-69, Monte Piliawsky, 66, 30:05; 75-79, Mel Ettenson, 76, 47:56.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wayne-Westland soccer

Registration for the fall 2010 Wayne-Westland Soccer League (ages 4-19) will be held through Friday, July 30.

There will also be a co-ed adult league offered this fall.

For registration information, call (734) 467-5260, or visit www.wwsoccer.com.

Pride needs coaches

The Plymouth-Canton Pride is taking coaching applications for all ages for the 2010-11 fast-pitch season.

Experienced coaches are needed for 10-, 12-, 14-, 16- and 18-and-under teams with an emphasis on college exposure.

Those interested can e-mail a resume to: j4olszewski@sbeglobal.net. Applications are also online at www.eteamz.com/PCPride. You can also send a resume to: Jon Olszewski, 48465 Antique Road, Canton, MI 48187.

For more information, call (313) 570-0800.

Baseball tryouts

The Canton Motor City Giants 9U and 10U travel baseball teams are hosting tryouts on Aug. 20, 21 and 28 at 48055 Michigan Avenue in Canton. Please e-mail giant-baseball@wowway.com or madtyreag@wowway.com for details.

Franklin needs coaches

Livonia Franklin is seeking a freshman girls volleyball and freshman girls competitive cheer coach for the 2010-11 seasons.

For more information, call Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye at (734) 744-2889.

Tryouts for Riversharks

The Motor City Riversharks will host tryouts in mid-August for its competitive travel baseball program of the Kensington Valley Baseball and Softball Association. Players from Canton, Plymouth and surrounding areas are welcome to participate.

Tryouts are slated from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14 and Sunday, Aug. 15, followed by a 2-to-4 p.m. tryout on Friday, Aug. 20. All three tryouts will take place at the UAW Local 735, located at 48055 Michigan Ave. in Canton.

Players must be willing to commit to 40-to-50 games including weekends and tournaments, with the schedule running from April through July of 2011.

To pre-register or have questions answered, contact coach Bill Boyd — 734-718-7782; motorcityriversharks@gmail.com. Players do not have to attend all three tryout dates.

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The Livonia Concealed 14U travel baseball team celebrates winning the AABC North Central Regional last weekend in Rockford, Illinois.

Concealed slugs way to AABC regional title

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lou Pirronello's return to coaching couldn't be going any better.

His Livonia Concealed Security 14U travel baseball team last weekend knocked off the Michigan Bulls in the semi-finals and finals of the AABC North Central Regionals in Rockford, Ill.

That qualifies Concealed for the AABC World Series.

Relishing in the regional championship with Pirronello — who came back to coach Concealed after a season off (other than being a Livonia Stevenson varsity assistant) — were four players he coached in 2008 when Concealed's 12U squad went to the 12U AABC World Series in Puerto Rico.

With only one varsity player from 2010 on the roster (Woodhaven's Zach Tallman) compared to five on the Bulls,

Pirronello's underdogs stepped up.

In the final, Concealed (23-14) scored seven runs in the fourth inning to overcome a 4-1 deficit and tacked on six more in the sixth for good measure.

Seven players had two or more hits, as Concealed tallied 18 hits. Rodney Bies (Livonia Stevenson) and Tom Daffern went 3-for-4 while Plymouth-Canton's Brandon Waack went 2-for-4 with two RBI. Livonia Franklin's Alex DeYonker had two hits in two at-bats.

Brett Davis (Walled Lake Northern) went the distance for the victory.

For the Bulls, Mike Vomastek (Stevenson) and Jake Semak (Stevenson) combined for five hits in seven at-bats.

Concealed defeated the Bulls 16-12 in the semifinals, with Austin Stevens (Stevenson) ripping two doubles among three hits and knocking in three runs. Homering and driving in

four runs was Waack.

Earlier in the regionals, Concealed rolled to wins of 21-4 over Hutchinson Minnesota, 18-4 over Princeton Illinois and 20-4 over Iowa.

The lone blemish was a 12-4 loss to the Bulls on Friday.

The regional championship brought a big smile to Pirronello's face for a couple reasons.

It took place the day before he and wife Denise's 24th wedding anniversary; several Bulls players were on Pirronello's 2008 World Series team but opted not to join the coach when he returned after the year-long hiatus.

Concealed assistant coach Steve Tallman and '08 team member Zach Tallman encouraged Pirronello to return this season and were instrumental in helping build the regional-winning squad.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

ADULT REC SOFTBALL

CANTON SPORTS CENTER ADULT SOFTBALL STANDINGS

As of July 7

SUNDAY MEN'S D 3:00/4:15	W-L-T-PTS
84 Tigers	11-6-0-22
Ghost Man on First	11-6-0-22
DA	10-6-1-21
Shot Callers	10-7-0-20
Nordiques	9-7-1-19
Kicker's All-Stars/Harris	9-8-0-18
Detroit Assn. of Deaf	3-12-2-8
Davis Security	3-14-0-6

SUNDAY COED 3:00/4:15	W-L-T-PTS
Dirt Bags/Polks Auto	14-3-0-28
Zo's Pros	14-3-0-28
Dirt Bags	13-4-0-28
Cuggers and Sluggers	9-8-0-18
Team Thacker	6-11-0-12
Value Pharmacy	5-12-0-10
Nit 2 Win It	5-12-0-10
I'd Hit That	2-15-0-4

SUNDAY MEN'S D 5:30/6:45	W-L-T-PTS
AKA Sports	16-2-0-32
Belleville Moose	13-5-0-26
Samurai Detroit	12-5-1-25
Helluva Job Construction	11-5-2-24
Dirt Stars	9-9-0-18
Plumbing Professors	9-9-0-18
Duffs	7-10-1-15
PF Flyers	7-10-1-15
Zinos	2-15-1-5
Ball Sacks	1-17-0-2

SUNDAY MEN'S SUPER D 5:30/6:45	W-L-T-PTS
CJ's Financial	17-0-1-35
Dirt Bags	11-7-0-22
I'd Hit It	9-6-1-19
Varsity Lounge	7-11-0-14
Ransom	4-12-0-8
Chatters	3-15-0-6

SUNDAY MEN'S D 8:00/9:15	W-L-T-PTS
I'd Hit It	15-3-0-30
Oh So Pure	13-4-1-27
Full Throttle	9-8-1-19
All Year	12-6-0-24
Tackett	10-7-1-21
Plymouth Rock	9-8-1-19
The Mighty Merkin	8-9-1-17
Ransom	7-10-1-15
Boilermakers	7-11-0-14
Ex Players	7-11-0-14
Flying Monkeys	3-15-0-6
JC Trappers	1-17-0-2

SUNDAY COED 8:00/9:15	W-L-T-PTS
AA	17-1-0-34
The Ringers	14-4-0-28
That's What She Said	14-4-0-28
Team Kryska	14-4-0-28
Master Batters	12-6-0-24
No Glove No Love	12-6-0-24
Fun Police	8-10-0-16
AKA Sports	6-12-0-12
P-Fit Lunks	5-13-0-10
Bailey's Bar and Grill	3-15-0-6
Stockdales on the Ave	3-15-0-6
Evans Solution Inc.	0-18-0-0

SUNDAY NORTHRIDGE	W-L-T-PTS
Gray	13-1-0-26
Black	10-4-0-20
Red	10-4-0-20
Orange	7-7-0-14
Green	7-7-0-14
Blue	6-8-0-12
Yellow	3-11-0-6
Brown	0-14-0-0

MONDAY MEN'S D	W-L-T-PTS
Kickers/Rusty Nail	17-1-0-34
Moon Knights	13-5-0-26
Swinging Dicks	12-6-0-24
Mothers Pizza	10-8-0-20
New Era	9-9-0-18
The Staff	6-12-0-12
Tropic Thunder	4-13-1-9
Here for Beer	0-17-1-1

MONDAY COED	W-L-T-PTS
Aubrees	16-1-1-33
Rainbow Rehabilitation	15-3-0-30
Moylan's Martians	12-6-0-24
Clowntastic	10-8-0-20
UHY	5-7-0-10
Kickers	4-14-0-8
Psycholics	2-15-1-5
Team Lauer	1-11-0-2

TUESDAY MEN'S D COMP	W-L-T-PTS
Paradise Hunt Club	16-2-0-32
Red Army	14-4-0-28
Bailey's Pub/Johnny's Grill	11-7-0-22
Team Romulus	10-8-0-20
E&E Manufacturing	9-9-0-18
Showroom	7-10-1-15
Hitmen	2-15-1-5
Firestone	2-16-0-4

TUESDAY MEN'S D REC	W-L-T-PTS
Full House Storage	17-1-0-34
Crow's Nest	14-4-0-28
Mangia Pizza Catering	13-5-0-26
LaChambre	12-6-0-24
Step's Tax	11-7-0-22
Durham Softball Club	11-7-0-22
Brownberry Bombers	9-9-0-18
Canton Sports	6-12-0-12
Brewers	4-14-0-8
Simmons	4-14-0-8
DC	4-14-0-8
Royal Rumble	3-15-0-6

WEDNESDAY MEN'S D REC	W-L-T-PTS
Tail Gators	15-3-0-30
US12	13-5-0-26
Mosquitos	12-6-0-24
Applebee's	9-8-1-19
4 Stabilized Nailed Braves	9-8-1-19
Work'n the Curve	9-8-1-19
The Beers	8-9-1-17
Lozano's Farm Bureau	7-11-0-14
Traffic Dodgers	4-14-0-8
Mold Stoppers	2-16-0-4

WEDNESDAY MEN'S D COMP	W-L-T-PTS
Swinger's Softball	15-3-0-30
Dolphin Floggers	15-3-0-30
Lost Boys	11-7-0-22
SWAT	10-8-0-20
Calif. Penal League All-Stars	10-8-0-20
Rustys	5-13-0-10
112 Bar	5-13-0-10
Krazy Kops	1-17-0-2

WEDNESDAY COED REC	W-L-T-PTS
Skunks in the Outfield	17-1-0-34
Team Vargo	15-3-0-30
Auit's Mobil	13-4-1-27
Mangia	12-4-0-24
AAA Life Hit & Run	10-7-1-21
Valassis Vipers	9-8-1-19
DTW Jets	9-9-0-18
Plymouth Rock	8-9-1-17
Random Hook Ups	8-10-1-16
Valassis Grand Slammers	6-11-1-13
Shake N Bake	6-11-1-13
Buffalo Wild Wings	5-11-0-10
Culvers	5-13-0-10
Fly Ballers	0-18-0-0

WEDNESDAY COED COMP	W-L-T-PTS
Kickers/Laclear	13-5-0-26
Kickers/Coolers	12-6-0-24
Library Pub	9-8-0-18
Team Spears	1-17-0-2

THURSDAY MEN'S SUPER D	W-L-T-PTS
Blue Crush	14-3-1-29
Team Sinister	13-4-1-27
Blaizers	12-6-0-24
Talent Ind	8-10-0-16
SLG Bombers	6-12-0-12
Team Lafain	0-18-0-0

THURSDAY MEN'S D COMP	W-L-T-PTS
Certified Home Improv.	15-3-0-30
Doc's Sports Retreat	12-6-0-24
MSA Delivery/BWW's	11-7-0-22
TNMG Law	9-9-0-18
State Farm	9-9-0-18
Buffalo Wild Wings Westland	8-10-0-16
2nd String	6-12-0-12
Eastbound	2-16-0-4

THURSDAY MEN'S D REC	W-L-T-PTS
Gerou Chiropractic	13-5-0-26
Kramerica	13-5-0-26
Alcohol Alliance	12-6-0-24
4 Friends Bar & Grill	12-6-0-24
Lake Point Yacht Club	10-8-0-20
Grillers	10-8-0-20
Plymouth Rocks	10-8-0-20
Team Nadolski	9-9-0-18
Vandelay Industries	7-11-0-14
Bayside Tigers	6-12-0-12
Master Batters	5-13-0-10
Angry Pelicans	1-17-0-2

THURSDAY MEN'S E	W-L-T-PTS
APPS	17-1-0-34
Tail Gators	14-4-0-28
Foundation Breakers	13-5-0-26
Rusty Bucket	11-6-1-23
The Well	11-7-0-22
Buds	11-7-0-22
Project Fellowship	8-10-0-16
Grumpy Old Men	7-11-0-14
Bottom of the Fifth	6-11-1-13
Persistent Productions	5-13-0-10
Cougars	3-15-0-6
Control Freaks	1-17-0-2

FRIDAY MEN'S D REC	W-L-T-PTS
LHI	8-1-0-16
Double Nickles	7-2-0-14
Blue Ballers	6-3-0-12
Belleville Milling	5-4-0-10
Nu Kidz	4-5-0-8
Sultans of Swat	3-6-0-6
Super Bowl	3-6-0-6
Team Expeditors	0-9-0-0

FRIDAY MEN'S D COMP	W-L-T-PTS
Continental Canteen	8-1-0-16
Titans	7-2-0-14
Thunder Ducks	4-5-0-8
Team Hangover	4-5-0-8
Alcohol Alliance	4-5-0-8
Extang	0-9-0-0

FRIDAY COED REC	W-L-T-PTS
Bob	9-0-0-18
IHI	8-1-0-16
Lee's Auto Sales	8-1-0-16
Night Sneaks	4-5-0-8
Masters	3-5-1-7
Andrew Outdoor Maint.	3-6-0-6
Who's Up	3-5-0-6
Roc Bar	2-5-1-5
Bottom of the Fifth	1-7-0-2
Boozin and Ballin	1-7-0-2

Big week for Michigan Rams

The Michigan Rams reeled off four straight victories, capped off with Monday's 6-0 white-washing of Chief Pontiac at Bicentennial Park.

Brad Guenther (2-for-3, 2 runs, 1 RBI) and Brett Mazmanian (2-for-2, 2B, 2 runs) keyed the offense, with Sam Ott also singling home a run.

Earning the win was starter Alex Pierse, who gave up no hits and five walks over 5 1/3 innings. Pierse struck out seven batters. Finishing up for the save was Joe Posler, who recorded the final five outs.

With the win, the Rams improved to 24-7-1 and held on to a thin lead over the Michigan Bulls and Coaches Corner.

RAMS 9-9, DODGERS 2-5: The hitting shoes were on Sunday for the Rams, who cranked out 18 hits in a twinbill.

Top batters included Scooter Williams (3-for-4, 4 RBI), Brett Mazmanian (3-for-7), Sam Ott (3-for-4, 3B, 4 RBI) and John DiLaura (2-for-4

in Game 1).

In the opener, Mike Schypinski went the distance, giving up one earned run and five hits while striking out 11 and walking none. Aaron Cieslak homered and collected four RBI.

In Game 2, Tyler Higgins picked up the win with 2 2/3 innings of relief of Neil Zalud (4 1/3 innings, 2 runs, 2 hits). Mazmanian drove in Williams with the game-winning run.

RAMS 4, NFWB COBRAS 2: On Friday, the Michigan Rams parlayed a three-run fourth into a 4-2 victory over the North Farmington West Bloomfield Cobras at Bicentennial Park.

Doubling and driving in three runs was Jeff Sorenson, while Brett Mazmanian (1-for-3, 1 RBI) and Aaron Cieslak (2B) also contributed.

Going all seven innings was winning pitcher Brandon Sinnery, who gave up two unearned runs and just one hit (by Myles Smith) while striking out five batters.

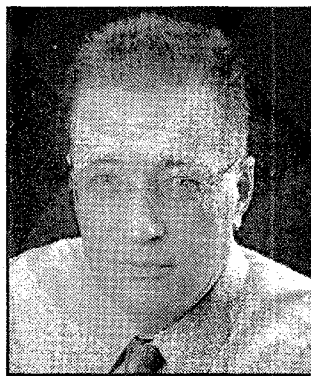
SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

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

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.



In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be

eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, July 22, 2010

PHOTO GALLERIES
hometownlife  .com

Local band still rockin' in Westland after 20 years

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Benny Jet has performed in 65,000-seat arenas, suburban back yards and everything in between.

He and his Benny and the Jets band have toured with Chubby Checker, Bob Seger, and Ted Nugent. They played back-up to Bo Diddley, opened for Humble Pie, Bad Finger and Eddie Money and worked for Dick Clark. They've entertained festival crowds and wedding guests, at retirement homes and biker parties.

But their most consistent gig — the Wayne Road Pub in Westland, which Jet often handles as a solo musician these days — has kept them busy Tuesday nights for two decades.

"You'd be hard pressed to find a show 20 years running," said Jet, whose real name is Benny Spear. "When you look at it, we've been doing business in town for a long time. We've seen generations in this quiet corner of Westland. Years ago, someone would say, 'My mom met my dad here.' Now it's 'my grandma met my grandpa here.'"

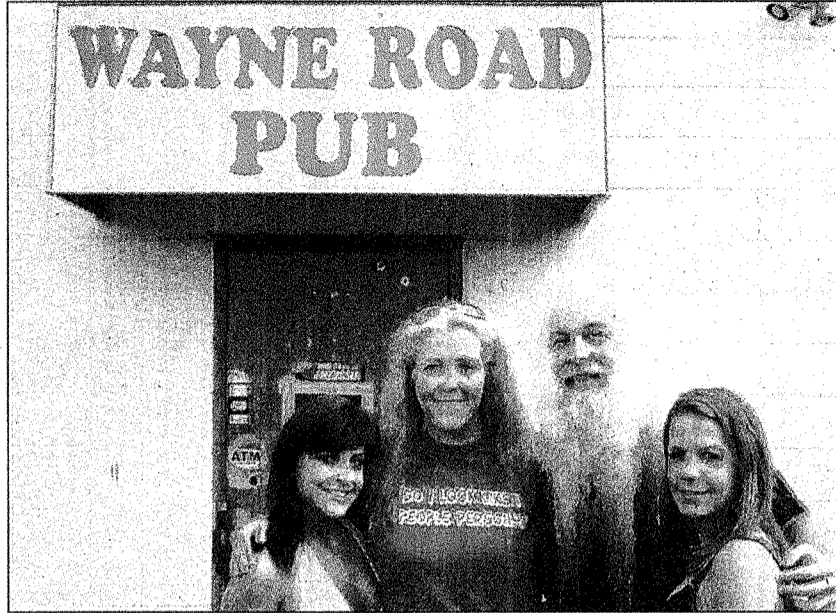
"We've been quietly plugging away for 20 years."

Westland Mayor William R. Wild recently recognized Jet's 20-year anniversary of performing in the community. Jet hopes the written proclamation will be hung in the Wayne Road Pub.

"Westland is a forgotten entertainment town," said Jet, who grew up in Plymouth and now lives in Inkster. "The Studio Lounge was a real famous club on Wayne Road. Chatters is a big music club. The Token Lounge is legendary. The Wayne Road Pub — it's unheard of running a band for 20 years."

Jackie Wrouble, kitchen manager for the pub, said Tuesday nights just wouldn't seem the same without Jet.

"People love him. He has a big following that comes in with him. He's very personable with everyone in the bar, not just his following. He's been



Benny Jet with employees of the Wayne Road Pub, in Westland. Kitchen manager Jackie Wrouble (left of Benny) says the pub wouldn't be the same without the longtime musician.

here so long it would be weird if he weren't here."

TUESDAYS IN WESTLAND

Jet, who is married and has three grown daughters, said he planned vacations around Tuesday nights for years, making sure he was back in town for the weekly gig. In the old days, when the band was on the road opening for a headliner in another state, its members would drive home after the show in order to keep their commitment at the pub.

"Over the years a lot of famous people came to see us. Guys from Kid Rock's band, (radio DJ) Arthur Penhall. When (country singer) John Michael Montgomery came in and played, the next night he was on the Jay Leno show."

Jet has rubbed shoulders with nationally recognized musicians since high school, when he formed Benny and the Jets in 1973. His father, Leo Spear, was a physician who also owned the Michigan Palace Theater in downtown Detroit. The venue became a springboard for

Benny and the Jets to meet other rockers, including Aerosmith, KISS, and others.

"It was nothing to answer the phone at home and it would be David Bowie on the line," Jet said.

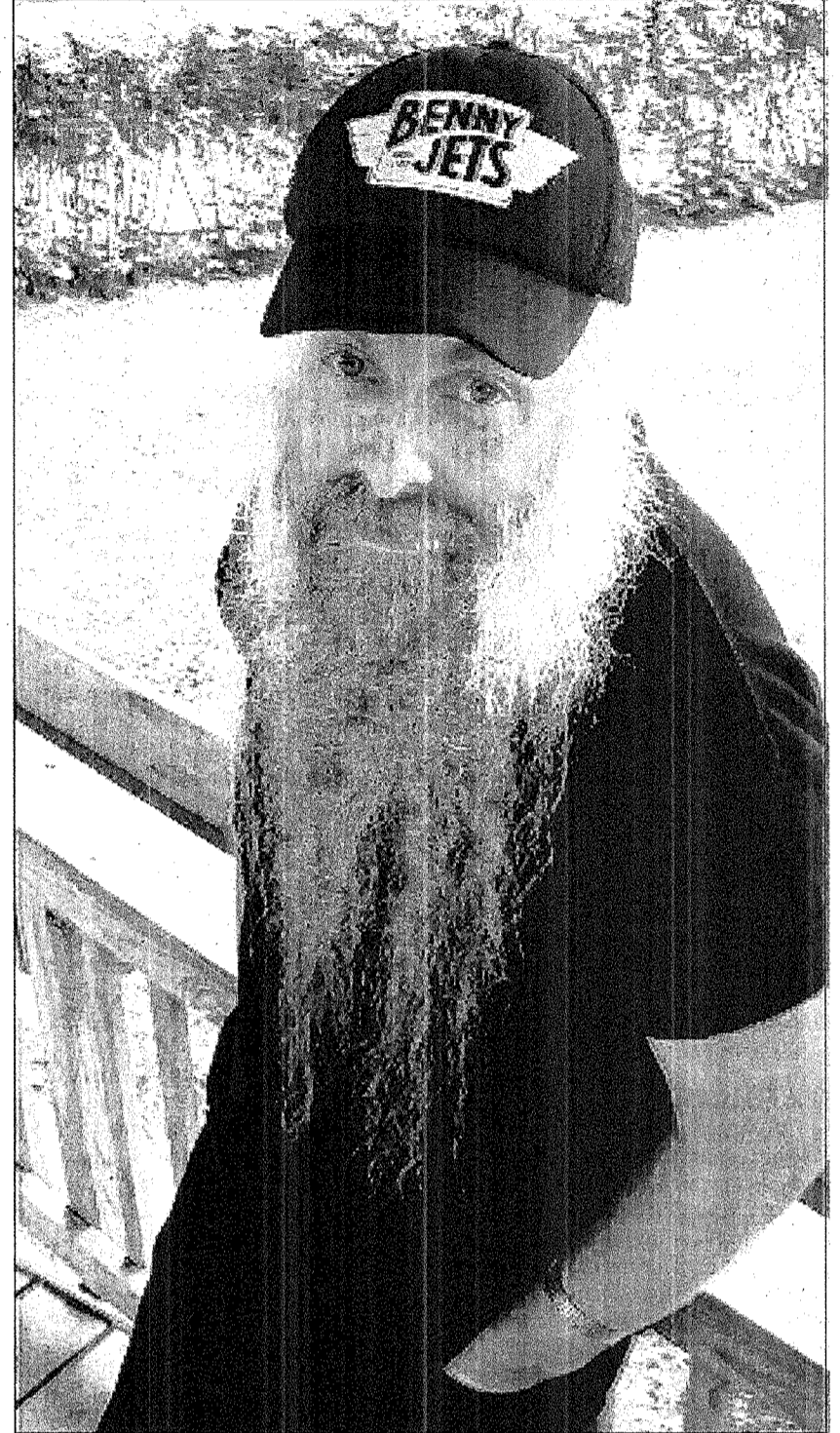
His own band recorded several albums and Jet has ventured into other media through the years. He's on the air with "JT the Brick" on Foxsportsradio.com every Wednesday night. He also writes for *Detroit Live Magazine*.

He's looking forward to the next 20 years at Wayne Road Pub, especially now that smoking is prohibited in bars and restaurants.

"I have guitars that are so yellowed. I can't tell you how happy I'll be the next 20 being smoke-free. It's like being in paradise."

To order one of the band's recordings or keep track of its appearances, visit bennyandthejets.com or www.myspace.com/bennyandthejets.

The Wayne Road Pub is located at 1870 S. Wayne Road, Westland; (734) 728-9330.



Benny Jet (aka Spear) of Benny and the Jets band

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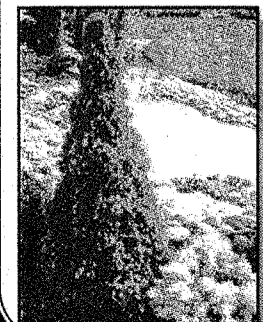
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Picnics strengthen bonds within church communities

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Carol Kapusky remembers when one member brought an old fire truck to the annual picnic at St. John's Episcopal Church and gave children rides around the parking lot.

This old-fashioned form of summer fun remains one of the favorite ways to nurture fellowship among members. The congregation at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth Township has been gathering every summer at least since the early 1940s.

"It's a community strengthening," said Catherine Byrd, office manager.

This year's picnic with pastor Dorian McGlannan on June 13 attracted many of the 250 families. Kapusky, the church historian, forgot to take photos of the event but then she was too busy thinking about next year. The 2011 picnic kicks off the centennial celebration of the church originally founded in 1898 but disbanded in 1903 due to lack of members. It officially was re-established Feb. 19, 1912, and today offers three services.

"When you're involved with a church you don't always see everybody," said Kapusky, a Northville resident who began coming to the picnics 26 years ago. "It's kind of nice to catch up. The picnic is a wrapping up of the season for church school to wind down and summer to begin. For me the number one thing is probably the fellowship. St. John's feels it's important to be part of a small group."

In addition to an annual picnic, the church provides opportunities for fellowship through Bible studies, a women's league, food pantry, knitting group, and projects to help non-church related organizations like First Step. "It's being involved so you have a closer connection to the parish so if there are any personal needs it's being able to care for one another," said Kapusky.

FUN, FELLOWSHIP

The church picnic is one of four fellowship events throughout the year and one in which the 1,600 members of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia come together for an afternoon of activities. On Sunday, July 11, they gathered for an outdoor worship service followed by a picnic with games for all ages and traditional foods like hamburgers and hot dogs along with dishes brought by members. It was the third annual picnic.

"Our primary goal is to provide Christian fun and fellowship for all who attend," said Linda Hollman, outreach director. "A lot of people don't know each other very well so it provides a wonderful opportunity to get together in a relaxed setting."

Angela Hill remembers when as a young girl she enjoyed the picnics at Our Lady of Good Counsel

See related story, B7.

Catholic Church in Plymouth. Back then the fun-filled days were held at McClumpha Park. Today she and husband Brian bring their children Andri, 14, Ally, 11, and Vincent, 8, to the grounds of the church built 10 years ago in Plymouth Township. Angela and Brian are chairpersons for the Aug. 1 picnic that celebrates the 90th anniversary of the founding of the church and a decade at the "new" location.

Along with traditional food and a birthday cake to mark the occasion, games provide fun for all ages and include a water relay with buckets, volleyball tournament to involve teenagers, and Bingo for older members. The parish priests judge the annual dessert contest.

SPECIAL CELEBRATION

"It's a time especially for young people, but all families to celebrate as a church family," said Angela Hill, 42. "This year we have a dunk tank for Father John Riccardi and associate priests, and Deacon Tim Sullivan of the PB&J ministry to feed the homeless. The dunk tank is to raise money for PB&J. It's special because we're celebrating our 90th anniversary as a parish, Nov. 24."

Hill, a parishioner since 1968, has special memories of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

"I went to Our Lady of Good Counsel, got married at Good Counsel. Our kids now go to the school," said Hill. "We have a lot of families I knew that are now raising their children at Good Counsel."

Bob and Marian Smentowski sent their six children to the school and naturally became involved with parish activities. The Plymouth Township couple were in charge of the picnics about 30 years ago.

"We loved to bring people together for fun, just to have a good time," said Bob Smentowski, a parishioner since 1970. "We had food and old-time games like sack races, a free pancake breakfast, signup sheets for volleyball tournaments, a baseball game usually youth against adults, senior games, tons of prizes. We'd be there till dark when we had a sing-a-long. The key was to make it fun, family fun."

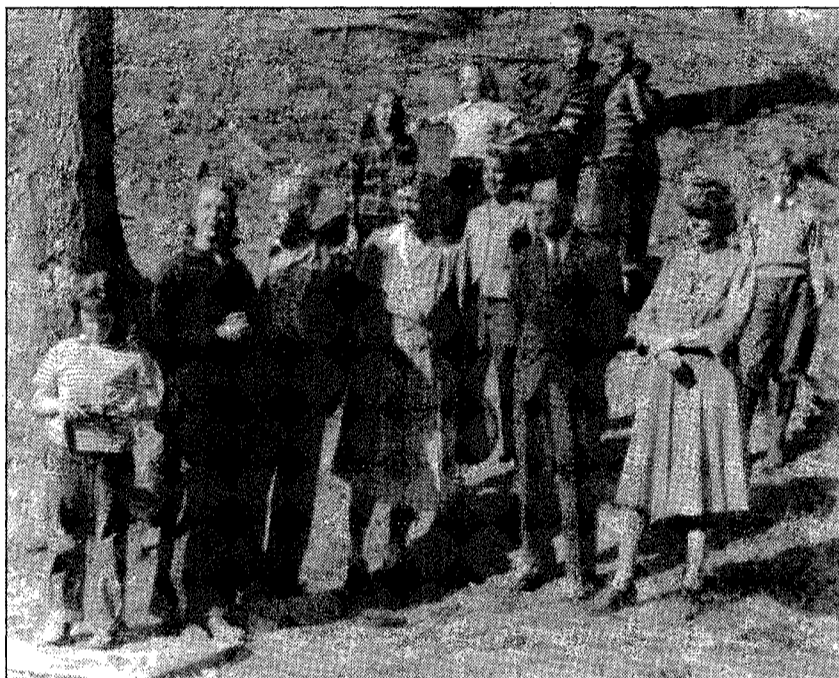
It's a time for fellowship, any time parishioners enjoy a meal together, according to the Rev. Dave Furno, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westland. This year's church picnic is Sept. 13, on the school grounds. The event kicks off the new season of Sunday School and Bible Class for the congregation that numbers around 200.

PICNIC TRADITION

"I've been here nearly 16 years and



Youngsters participate in a sack race at a picnic at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth Township.



St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth Township has held summer picnics since the early 1940s. This photo shows a few members gathered for summer fun, along with the Rev. Francis Tetu, second from right in front.

July 25, Aug. 22, and Sept. 5, in Freedom Park in Canton have a purpose. He's starting worship services Sept. 12, at Field Elementary School in Canton.

"The picnics are an opportunity for residents to meet us and find out who we are," said Fletcher. "Our annual picnic was more of a social fellowship for membership. This is more of an invitation to the community."

Fletcher said the church congregation strives to "follow the example of Jesus," by living a life that includes an emphasis on service, peace and justice.

"Our congregation felt peace ministry was an important part of our identity and wanted to hold onto that, wanted to find ways to express that peace is more than an absence of violence, but a way of life."

Lunch takes place from noon to 2 p.m. and offers children's activities in addition to food. The first of a total of four picnics drew about 35 to 40 people.

"It's kind of an informal setting and people can come and ask questions and meet people," said Fletcher. "We hope to meet people from Canton, learn a little bit about them and hope they might come and learn about us, people who might be looking for a church home. We welcome people to come out, share with us. We're interested in hearing about their ideas for the community."

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form.

JULY 22-28

Bell Creek Church

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m.-noon, July 26-29
Location: 9101 Hillcrest, Livonia
Details: Vacation Bible School; free for kids entering kindergarten through 5th grade
Contact: www.bellcreek.org or (734) 367-4632

Berean Bible Church

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-noon, July 26-30
Location: 35375 Ann Arbor Trail, between Wayne and Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Free Vacation Bible School "High Seas Adventure" is open to all kids age 4 through completed 5th grade. Each day includes singing, crafts, games, snacks and Bible stories. Register at www.groupvbpro.com/vbs/ez/berean-biblechurch

Contact: Carrie Bulbuk at (734) 266-0311 or e-mail to davidbulbuk@att.net

Canton Christian Fellowship

Time/Date: 6-9 p.m., Sunday-Thursday, July 25-29

Location: 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton
Details: "Saddle Ridge Ranch" Vacation Bible School

Contact: (734) 404-2480 or register at www.CantonCF.org/events.htm

Christ Our Savior Lutheran

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., July 26-29

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Soccer mini-camp for boys and girls, 5-12, of any skill level. Learn and develop the proper skills and knowledge of the game. Fee of \$10 per student includes instruction, snacks, and soccer ball to take home. Students may bring their own soccer ball or shin guards if desired. Items are not required to enroll.

Contact: Linda Hollman, outreach director, at (734) 522-6830; FAX: (734) 522-5949; register at christoursavior.org

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., July 25

Location: 9083 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Annual Mass in the Grass service, followed by cake and beverages in celebration of the Rev. Wayne Knockel's 10th anniversary of ordination.

Contact: Arlene Williams at (734) 422-7106

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m., July 26-30

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: High Seas Adventure Vacation Bible School for first through sixth grade students; free

Contact: (734) 466-8694

Living Peace Church

Time/Date: Noon to 2 p.m., Sunday, July 25

Location: Freedom Park, located at the southwest corner of Sheldon and Palmer, in Canton

Details: The church invites Canton area residents to a picnic. Church members want to meet residents and hear their concerns and ideas for the Canton community. Food available free of charge. Children's activities will be provided. Additional picnics scheduled Aug. 22 and Sept. 5. Living Peace Church will begin meeting for worship Sept. 12 at Field Elementary, 1000 S. Haggerty, in Canton.

Contact: (734) 233-1466 or e-mail to livingpeacechurch@yahoo.com

Time/Date: 8-11 p.m., Friday, July 30; arrive at the restaurant by 7 p.m.

Location: Portofino's, 3455 Biddle Wyandotte

Details: Join Bethany Suburban West and Bethany South Downriver for a "Moon Light Cruise" on the Detroit River, starting at Portofino's. Tickets are \$30. Bethany provides spiritual, social, and educational assistance to divorced, separated and singles of all faiths through peer-to-peer ministry. It is a non-profit volunteer organization, and is part of the ministry of the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese Of Detroit

Contact: Pat at (313) 769-5818 or Judy at (313) 389-4730

Geneva Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Aug. 2

Location: 5835 N. Sheldon Rd. in Canton.

Details: Recruiter's orientation meeting for the annual Plymouth/Canton CROP Walk that will take place Sunday, Oct. 17. The Walk raises funds for Church World Service and the Plymouth Salvation Army.

Contact: Barb Fichtenberg at (734) 981-4205 or bfichtenberg@hotmail.com

Lola Park Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m., Aug. 1-5

Location: 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Vacation Bible School for ages 3 through adult, featuring lessons, crafts, singing and snacks

Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523; lolaparklutheran.com

Newburg United Methodist

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to noon, Aug. 2-5

Location: 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: "Campground of Miracles" Vacation Bible School for kids, 4-11. They'll explore their faith, enjoy summer activities such as sandcastle building, cooking over a campfire and fishing, make crafts and learn about the miracles of Jesus. \$10 per child

Contact: (734) 422-0149

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Aug. 1

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Free coffee house for teens

Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. John Lutheran School

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon, Aug. 2-6

Location: 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills

Details: "High Seas Expedition" Vacation Bible School; for children age 3 through fifth grade

Contact: (248) 474-0584

AUG. 5-11

St. Aidan Parish

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 7

Location: 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Fifth annual church tour will visit National Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Detroit. Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch at Pasquale's in Royal Oak.

Contact: Debbie Dufour at (248) 719-2535 or David Conrad at (734) 425-5950, Ext. 203

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 16-19

Location: 9451 S. Main Street, Plymouth

Details: "Hero Headquarters" Vacation Bible School for ages 4-12. Program includes Bible study, games, snacks, songs and crafts; free admission. Registration begins Aug.

Contact: Capt. Jolene Hull or Cassie Hull at (734) 453-5454 or e-mail to jolene_hull@usc.salvationarmy.org

Time/Date: 5-10 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 19; 5-11 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20; noon to 11 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21; and 1-9 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: 51st Annual Family Fun Fair with rides, games, Las Vegas-style games in the gym, bingo in the church basement, \$4,999 raffle, craft booths, bake walk, dollar menu food booths. Entertainment includes Terry Bar and the Full Tilt Boogie Band on Friday, Hard Cover and All Wheel Drive on Saturday and Terry Bar on Sunday

Contact: (313) 534-9000

AUG. 19-25

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 5-10 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 19; 5-11 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20; noon to 11 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21; and 1-9 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: 51st Annual Family Fun Fair with rides, games, Las Vegas-style games in the gym, bingo in the church basement, \$4,999 raffle, craft booths, bake walk, dollar menu food booths. Entertainment includes Terry Bar and the Full Tilt Boogie Band on Friday, Hard Cover and All Wheel Drive on Saturday and Terry Bar on Sunday

Contact: (313) 534-9000

Time/Date: Aug. 27-29

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School; \$5 per child with a maximum of \$20 per family

Contact: Register at (734) 464-0990

Time/Date: Aug. 27-29

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Applications are being accepted for the annual fall craft show. Rental spaces are 8- by 5-feet and can be reserved for one day at a cost of \$20 or two days for \$30. Tables an additional \$5

Contact: (734) 464-0990; download an application at www.riversideparkchurch.org

Time/Date: Oct. 9

Location: 555 South Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Looking for crafters and vendors to participate in a fall craft sale

Contact: (734) 721-5023

Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals

Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals

Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

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Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine – a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions

Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 9 a.m., Monday-Friday

Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture reading

Contact: (313) 531-2334

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Wednesday and 10:30 a.m., Thursday

Location: 26701 Joy

Details: Wednesday study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey

Contact: (313) 274-3820

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays

Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held

Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank

Canton Christian Fellowship

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday

Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty

Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need

Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Crafters wanted

First United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 23

Location: Eight Mile and Taft in Northville

Details: 3rd Annual Community Bizarre Bazaar to benefit Village Banking at the church. A great opportunity for local entrepreneurs and artists to showcase their talents and products to hundreds of local customers. Booking now

Contact: For details and to reserve a place, e-mail to Pat Breslin at fumbazaar@gmail.com. Learn more about Village Banking at www.FINCA.org

Riverside Park Church of God

Time/Date: Oct. 22-23

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Applications are being accepted for the annual fall craft show. Rental spaces are 8- by 5-feet and can be reserved for one day at a cost of \$20 or two days for \$30. Tables an additional \$5

Contact: (734) 464-0990; download an application at www.riversideparkchurch.org

St. John's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: Oct. 9

Location: 555 South Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Looking for crafters and vendors to participate in a fall craft sale

Contact: (734) 721-5023

Fellowship dinner

St. James Presbyterian

Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals

Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Food Bank

New Hope Church

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only

Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton

Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.



Our Lady of Good Counsel's annual picnic included a balloon race last year. The church is in Plymouth Township.

Local congregations set aside days for fun and fellowship

It's time for fun, food and games at local church picnics. Here is a list of upcoming events:

- Living Peace Church invites the community to learn about the congregation that begins meeting for worship this fall in Canton. Three informational picnics are being held noon to 2 p.m. Sundays, July 25, Aug. 22, and Sept. 5 at Freedom Park, 44527 Palmer Road, between Canton Center and Sheldon roads. For information, call Pastor Michael Fletcher at (734) 233-1466 or send e-mail to livingpeacechurch@yahoo.com.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church picnic celebrates its 90th anniversary as a parish — 10th year at the present location — 1-4:30

p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1, with afternoon Mass on the grounds at 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth Township. Call (734) 453-0326 or online at olgceparish.net.

- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church starts its new season of Sunday School and Bible Class with a picnic Sept. 13 on the school grounds, 35320 Glenwood, Westland. Bring a dish to pass. For information, call (734) 721-5377. Activities include a game of softball played with Civil War rules.
- St. John's Episcopal Church is already planning its 2011 picnic that kicks off centennial celebrations for the founding Feb. 19, 2012. For information, call (734) 453-0190.

— By Linda Chomin



Passages

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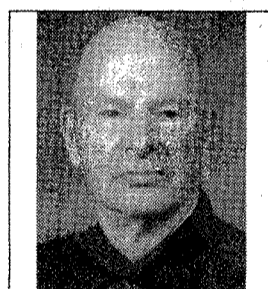
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

ETHEL L. CASSIE

Age 91, formerly of Livonia, died July 16, 2010 in Cheboygan, MI. A memorial service will be held at 12:00pm, July 24, 2010 at the Berean Bible Church in Topinabee, MI. Visitation will be held from 11:00am until the time of service. Surviving are her son, Charles (Kathryn) Cassie of Fenton, her daughter, Joyce (James) Palmer of Topinabee, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, siblings, Jim (Rosetta) Maddick of Canton, sisters, Marlene Bowe of Roseville, and Carol Hardt of Berkeley, and several special nieces and nephews. Contributions in memory of Ethel are suggested to the Berean Bible Church. Lintz Funeral Home in Indian River cared for the family. Condolences may be made at: www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com

WILLIAM FOX

Of Cadillac, passed away Sunday, July 18, 2010, at Autumnwood Nursing Home in McBain. He was 87. Private family services will be conducted at a later date. Memorial donations in William's memory may be directed to the American Cancer Society. Arrangements under the direction of Hitesman-Holdship Funeral Home, Cadillac, Michigan.



WALTER S. JONES

Born May 17, 1922 in Emerson Twp., Gratiot County, Michigan, and died July 17, 2010 in Wayne County, Michigan. He was the son of Floyd D. Jones and Margaret G. (McDaid) Jones. Brother of

FOOD

Thursday, July 22, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Entertaining with cold brewed coffee

Cool off guests at your next summer party or backyard BBQ with refreshing iced coffee drinks. A growing number of coffee lovers are finding that the best way to make an iced coffee drink is to start with a smooth-tasting cold brewed coffee concentrate.

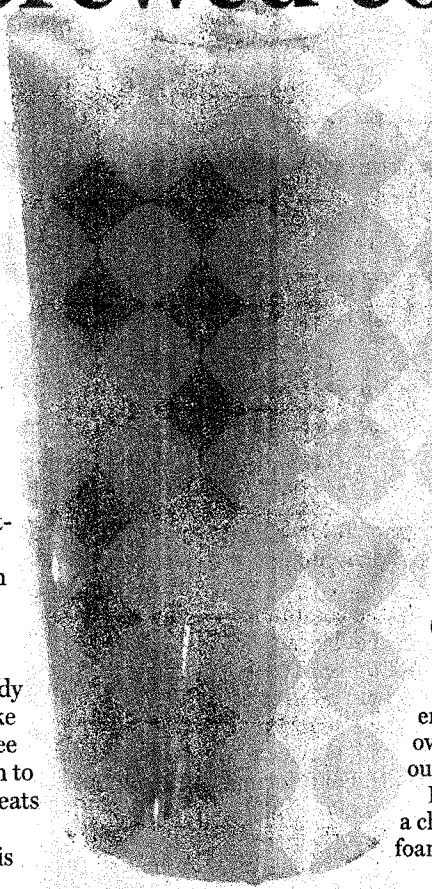
Cold brewing is a process that uses cold water to extract the natural flavors of coffee and leaves behind undesirable bitter acids and oils. The result: a bold, slightly sweet, a little crisp, super-smooth taste with more than 50 percent less acidity than conventional brewing methods. Using a system such as the Seattle's Best Coffee Toddy brewing system lets you make up to 48 fluid ounces of coffee concentrate, which is enough to make plenty of iced coffee treats for a party.

The cold brewing process is simple:

- Use regular or coarsely ground coffee with your Toddy.
- Add two cups of water and a half pound of ground coffee.
- Wait five minutes and then slowly add two additional cups of water.
- Allow to cold brew in the refrigerator for 12 hours before draining for maximum results.

Create a party-ready iced coffee bar for guests by setting out a bowl of ice, pitchers of water, milk, sugar, tall glasses and cocktail umbrellas. And you can get creative with different flavored syrups or add-ons, like whipped cream.

If you have leftovers, the cold-brewed coffee concentrate may be refrigerated for up to 14 days without any deterioration in taste or freshness. If frozen, the concentrate will remain great tasting for up to six months.



CLASSIC ICED COLD BREWED COFFEE

- 1 part cold brewed coffee concentrate
- 1 part cold filtered water

Pour contents over ice into a chilled glass. Add a flavored simple syrup and cream to taste and mix.

ICED COLD BREWED COFFEE VANILLA LATTE

- 1 part cold brewed coffee concentrate
- 1 part chilled milk
- 1/2-1 ounce vanilla syrup (depending on size)
- 1 serving cup of ice

Combine all ingredients into a cocktail shaker over ice and shake vigorously.

Pour all ingredients into a chilled glass letting the foam rise to top.

ICED COLD BREWED COFFEE SPITZER

- 1 part cold brewed coffee concentrate
- 3 parts cold sparkling water
- 1 lemon twist

Simple syrup to taste

Pour contents over ice into a chilled glass. Top with a lemon twist garnish.

ICED COLD BREWED COFFEE MOCHA

- 2 parts cold brewed coffee concentrate
- 1 part chilled half and half
- 1 ounce bittersweet chocolate sauce

Combine all ingredients into a cocktail shaker over ice and shake vigorously. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

— Courtesy of Family Features

Apricot hybrid delivers intense sweet flavor

If you're looking for something healthful to satisfy your sweet tooth, skip the angel cake and try an Angelcot.

This white-flesh apricot is a specialty hybrid of Moroccan and Iranian apricot varieties. It's grown in Central California and has a limited season and supply.

They have a very pale yellow skin color with a pale peach blush and a very fine velvety fuzz. The inside flesh is extremely juicy with the texture of a perfectly ripe nectarine with the delicate yet intense sweet flavor of an apricot.

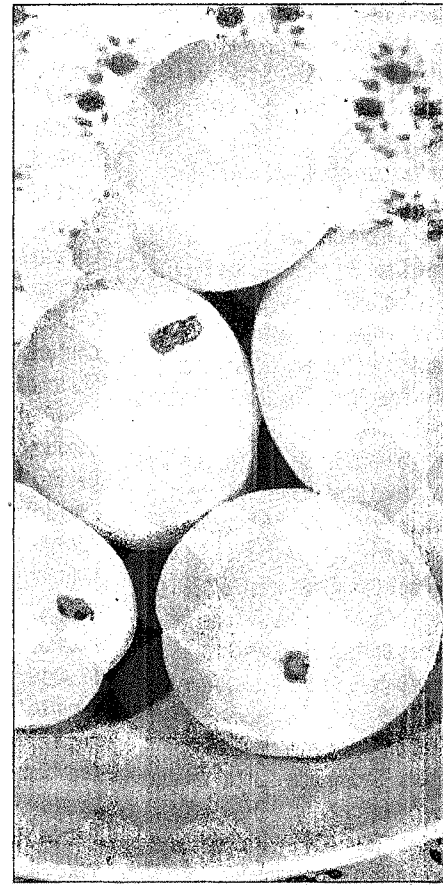
These tree-ripened, hand-packed fruits are juicier than a typical apricot and possess a balance of acid and sugar with a buttery, tropical, perfume-like sweetness. Apricots are a good source of vitamins A and C.

Frieda's Inc., a specialty produce company, ships Angelcots to markets throughout the United States, including Kroger stores locally.

According to Hazel Kelly, Frieda's public relations specialist, these Kroger stores have received shipments:

- Livonia — 30935 Five Mile; (734) 421-1685, Ext. 6
- Westland — 7350 N. Middlebelt; (734) 793-1022, Ext. 5
- Westland — 36430 Ford Road; (734) 595-6638, Ext. 6
- Garden City — 5866 Middlebelt; (734) 522-2870, Ext. 6
- Dearborn Heights — 26400 Ford Road, (313) 827-3715, Ext. 6

Eat them fresh or combine them with other fruits for a dessert or snack.



An apricot variety called Angelcots.

FRESH ANGELCOT TART

This simple no-bake tart is a great way to showcase the natural sweetness and juicy texture of white-fleshed apricots.

- 6 to 8 Angelcots (peeled if desired), pitted and sliced (3 cups)

- 1 block (8 ounces) nonfat cream cheese, sliced
- 1/2 cup raspberries

- 1/4 cup sugar

- 1 pre-made graham cracker pie crust (or pre-baked tart shell of your choice)

- 1/2 cup seedless raspberry jam

Mix the cream cheese, raspberries and sugar in

a medium bowl and beat with an electric mixer for 2 minutes, until smooth. Spread over the pie crust and arrange the Angelcot slices decoratively over the top.

Melt the raspberry jam in a small saucepan over low heat. Spoon over the apricots. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving.

Adapted from "Peaches and Other Juicy Fruits" by Olwen Woodier (Storey Publishing: 2004)

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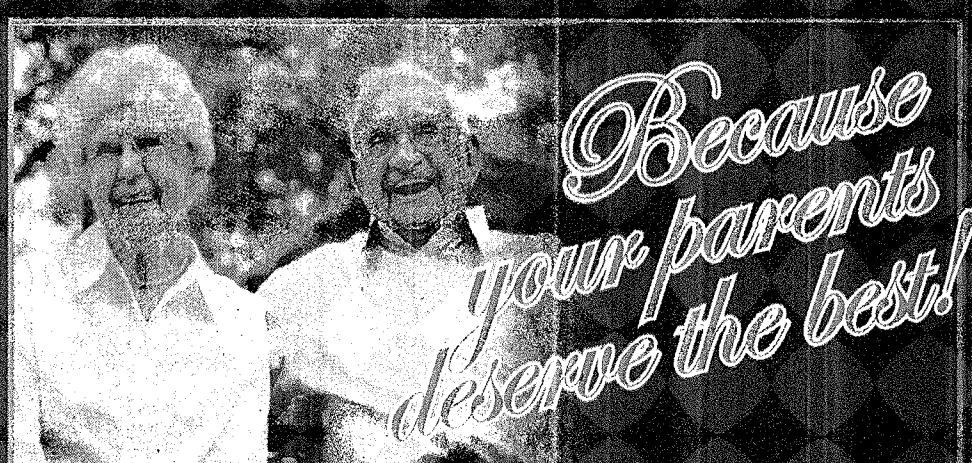
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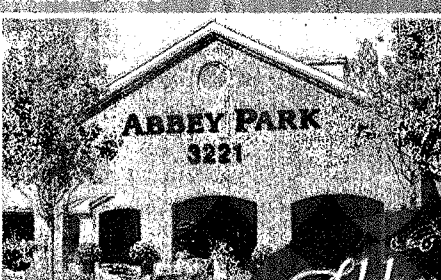
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