



## ONE WITH NATURE

Yoga students savor outdoor classroom **Community Life, B5**

# WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## PINK RINK

Ice skating fundraiser helps local woman with Komen 3-Day walk.

**SPORTS, B1**

## Westland mom charged in death of 4-month-old

Death initially ruled accidental

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

A 30-year-old Westland woman is in jail after being arraigned in 18th District Court Thursday afternoon on charges stemming from the death of her 4-month-old child on April 21, 2012.

Kassie Lyn Laretz is charged with involuntary manslaughter and child abuse second degree. A not guilty plea was entered in her appearance before Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli. She was jailed in lieu of a \$500,000 cash bond.

Laretz is among seven who face charges related to the deaths and in one case, injury, of children in their care that were announced by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy on Thursday.



Kassie Laretz

"Leaving your very young babies and children in unsafe sleep situations or unsupervised in swimming pools, houses, hotels, and hot cars can result in dead children and criminal charges," said Worthy in making the announcement. "These are difficult cases, but these children are just as dead as a child shot by a stray bullet or one battered to death."

Laretz allegedly left her infant child in a bed alone when she left her home in the 32100 block of Genessee Court to visit a home across the street for approximately 20 minutes. When she returned to her home, Laretz reportedly found the child nonresponsive and called for help.

The infant's death was initially ruled as accidental by the Wayne County medical examiner, but changed to undetermined after results of

See **CHARGED**, Page A2

Library's Journeys program explores Muslim culture



Tamanna Azim uses a cone filled with henna to draw on the hand of a participant at the library's recent Henna and Hijab presentation, a part of its Muslim Journeys series. PHOTO BY ANN ESPINOZA

## HENNA and HIJAB

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Tamanna Azim remembers the night she did a henna tattoo on her hand and then went to bed. The Troy resident usually wraps her tattoos in plastic, but that night she didn't.

"When I woke up, my head was resting on my hand, I ended up with the henna pattern on my face," she said.

It was a personal experience Azim

and friend Maisha Rahman shared with patrons of the William P. Faust Public Library during the recent Henna and Hijab program. The presentation is one of four the library is hosting as part of its Muslim Journeys program which looks at the the Muslim culture.

The two women talked about the ancient art of tattooing, using a paste made from the dried leaves of the henna tree, and about the traditional

See **PROGRAM**, Page A2

## Wayne-Westland begins registering Inkster students

64 assigned to school district

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Parents of students from the former Inkster Public Schools can register their children for the new school in their receiving districts at a familiar location — Meek-Baylor Elementary School.

The four receiving districts — Wayne-Westland, Romulus, Westwood and Taylor — will conduct registrations over the next two weeks at Meek-Baylor, at 28865 Carlyle St.

The start of registration comes less than two weeks after the Wayne RESA Board voted to dissolve the cash-strapped school district and divide it up among the four

districts.

Parents can register their children for school, get information about their child's new school and get their questions answered at the registrations. They will held in the school's media center:

» 2-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6, for incoming Wayne-Westland students.

» 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7, for students who will attend the Romulus Community Schools.

» 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, and Wednesday, Aug. 14, for the Westwood Community Schools.

» noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, for the Taylor Schools.

Information about the registrations have been posted on the former school district's website at [www.inksterschools.org](http://www.inksterschools.org)

See **SCHOOLS**, Page A2

## VFW auxiliary to give out school supplies

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

A Westland veterans organization is reaching out to parents having difficulty providing school supplies for their children for the upcoming year.

The Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 Ladies Auxiliary plans to distribute school supplies to eligible needy families on Monday, Aug. 26. Proof of need is required.

"We were going over our plans for the year and wanted to get back into family activ-

ities," said Kathy Carroll, the auxiliary's new president. "We want to make the VFW more than a social place and do more for youth."

Auxiliary members will register families to receive

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# Pair pleads guilty to armed robbery of Family Dollar

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Two Detroit men have pleaded guilty to charges of robbing the Canton Family Dollar store on Joy Road near I-275 in February — just one incident authorities say involved a suburban crime spree.

Raymond Maurice Whatley, 19, and Eric Anthony Reed, 21, are facing prison when they are sentenced Aug. 29 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Gregory Bill.

Their sentencing comes after Whatley and Reed pleaded guilty July 23 to one count each of armed robbery, felony firearm and conducting a criminal enterprise, according to circuit court records.

Their plea led to the dismissal of other Canton charges. Reed no longer faces charges of second-degree criminal sexual conduct following allegations he had fondled a woman working at Family Dollar when the robbery occurred shortly before 9 p.m. Feb. 6.

The pair had been charged with crimes in Canton, Taylor, Allen

Park and Westland. Whatley and Reed are accused of seizing cell phones from Family Dollar workers and taking money from the store, Canton police Lt. Dave Schreiner has said.

Westland police arrested the pair Feb. 16 outside a Cash Advance store on Merriman Road.

Once Westland police had Whatley and Reed in custody, they were identified as suspects in the Canton robbery.

"One of our dispatchers remembered an article in the

Observer from Canton (about an armed robbery)," Westland police Sgt. Dan Serrano said at the time. "We printed out the photos. One of the suspects was wearing the same clothes he was arrested in."

A relative of Whatley — suspended Detroit police officer and Canton resident Clifton Jermaine Whatley — is still facing charges arising from the alleged crime spree. His preliminary examination still hasn't concluded in Taylor District Court.

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Whatley



Reed

## PROGRAM

Continued from Page A1

head scarf worn by many Muslim women and then demonstrated how they are done and worn.

They were pressed into service to make the presentation after a friend who normally does the program moved away. It was the first time Azim had done such a presentation. She decided to focus on her personal experiences rather than fill the program with facts.

"You want to get the best stain, the best kind is made from henna leaves," Azim said. "It's all natural; it's good for the skin."

Turned into a powder, the henna becomes a paste that is applied to the skin. It stains the skin, creating a temporary tattoo that eventually fades in time.

### 'Cultural thing'

According to Azim, henna is "strictly a cultural thing." The tattooing dates back to ancient Egypt is done "just on hands, although some people do it on their feet." It's used for festivals and religious celebrations and weddings with the bride decorating her arm with tattoos from her palm to her elbow.

"It's usually done in intricate floral patterns, and you get better at it with practice," said Azim, who does the tattooing for her friends and family.

In the case of the hijab, Azim doesn't wear the scarf, but Rahman does. She talked about its purpose of the scarf and helped participants try on ones she brought to the program.



Maisha Rahman demonstrates how a bride might wear a hijab to her wedding using Teen Librarian Jody Wolak as her model. PHOTO BY ANN ESPINOZA



Tamanna Azim demonstrates how to apply henna using a cone shaped applicator full of the dye. PHOTO BY ANN ESPINOZA

Muslims in the United States and around the world.

"You can't walk up to someone on the street and ask them, these programs let people ask questions in a friendly environment and learn about the culture," said librarian Andy Schuck, who handles library programs and adult services.

### National program

The Faust library was among 8,423 libraries and state humanities councils nationwide to receive the 2013 Muslim Journeys Bookshelf, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. The collection includes 25 books, three DVDs and access to the films and access to the Oxford Islamic Studies Online database.

The books are currently in a special area of the library's nonfic-

tion section until the end of the year and then will be moved into the entire collection.

In addition to those materials, the library has partnered with the Arab American National Museum and the Islamic Center of America to develop the programs that complement the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf.

To date, there has been a musical program on the poetry of Rumi, the Henna and Hijab presentation that was geared for teens ages 12-18 and last week's viewing of the film, *Koran by Heart*. The next presentation will be Sept. 26 when Hashim Al-Tawil, professor and chair of the Art History program at Henry Ford Community College, will lead a viewing and discussion of movie, *Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World*.

Schuck said that the library's close proximity to Dearborn and its large Arab American community led to considering applying for the program. There are a lot of stereotypes out there and Muslim Journeys offered the opportunity to "talk about the Muslim faith and culture in a friendly manner."

"It's a free program and with all the free materials, it felt like a good fit," said Schuck. "It's absolutely been a success. We've had nice crowds for the programs and they people who come are super excited."

More information about the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf is available on the library's website at [www.westlandlibrary.org](http://www.westlandlibrary.org) or by calling 734-326-6123.

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## CHARGED

Continued from Page A1

blood tests were received from the Michigan State Police Crime Lab, Westland Police Sgt. Norman Brooks said.

"It took a year to get the blood results, they showed she was on seven different medications that weren't prescribed to her," Brooks said. "Ruling it accidental meant she couldn't

be charged. When we brought the results of the blood tests to him, the medical examiner changed it to undetermined."

Brooks said Laretz is the first person in the state to be charged in a sleeping baby death. If convicted, she could face up to 15 years in prison.

Her pretrial examination is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 8.

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## SCHOOLS

Continued from Page A1

s.org, and in the case of Wayne-Westland, on its website at [wwcsd.net](http://wwcsd.net).

The parents of the 64 children assigned to Wayne-Westland have already received a letter from Superintendent Greg Baracy as well as a registration information letter, map of the school district and a list of schools their children will be attending.

In the letter, Baracy told the families he recognized the difficulty of closing a school district, but assured them that their new school district

has "a strong tradition of excellence in education that is reflected in each classroom."

"We are eager to see the smiling faces of your children, and we will help them to feel at home," he told parents.

"I feel confident that your children will have opportunities from kindergarten through 12th grade that are unmatched by other districts."

Parents will need to bring an original birth certificate with raised seal (parents' names must be on the certificate) to registration. Only a parent named on the birth certificate or legal guardian with prop-

er Michigan Probate Court paperwork will be able to register a student.

They also will need to provide a current immunization record — students will have to be up to date on their shots in order to begin attending school — and three proofs of residency.

One must be a current mortgage/lease agreement or property tax statement or a Residency Affidavit, if the parents are living with someone and do not have a mortgage or lease agreement in their name. The other two proofs can be two pieces of business mail like a bank statement, current charge state, utility bills or current

employment record.

Parents who can't make the Wayne-Westland registration on Tuesday can complete the process at the district's Board of Education Office, 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday through Aug. 15. After Aug. 17, registration can be completed 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, or contact the Department of Instruction at 734-419-2083.

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## SUPPLIES

Continued from Page A1

the school supplies at the post, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale in Westland. Five different days and times are available for parents to register — 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Aug. 5, and Tuesday, Aug. 13; 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, and Friday, Aug. 16; and 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10.

Parents will need to bring identification in the form of a Medicaid card

for each child registering or EBT card, and a utility bill with name and address.

According to Carroll, children will receive backpacks filled with the supplies they will need for the grade they will be entering this fall. She is checking with the Wayne-Westland Community Schools to get grade-specific school supplies lists.

"It should be a good goodie bag," said Carroll, who has brought back pencils, rulers and patri-

otic books from the auxiliary's recent national convention. "I went to the youth section at the convention and brought back a lot of things that were there. We've also got some Pledge of Allegiance cards and things about the country to include."

The women also are getting help from state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who has put together a collection of items available through the state. In addition to giving away backpacks,

the auxiliary is planning a Halloween carnival and an activity at Christmas for families in the community.

"We hope to help as much as possible," she said. "We're just getting our feet wet, but we really want this to take off."

Parents with questions, or people who would like to a donation, can call Carroll at 734-895-1279.

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# FAITH AND FOOT WORK

## Westland man completes 200-mile Prayer Run

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Josh Sprunger was a man with a mission.

An avid runner, Sprunger trained hard for the 2012 New York City marathon, but when it was canceled just days before the race, he decided to channel his efforts into something else — a 200-mile run from his hometown of Berne, Ind., to his church in Westland.

Dubbed a Prayer Run, Sprunger solicited requests from members of Warren Road Light and Life Church in Westland where he is the youth minister. With each new mile, he ran he was handed a card with a Bible verse and a request. He prayed as he ran, covering 40 miles a day. Running, he said, relaxes him and brings him closer to God.

"It's really neat to praise God for the journey he took me on," Sprunger said. "There were a lot of constant reminders of the people he has put in my life to shape me. It was a very successful journey."

The Prayer Run was a chance to look at the changes taking place in his life. He's a new father — he and his wife Jessica are the proud parents of six-week old Lydia — and he has made the commitment to change from a part-time to a full-time youth minister at WRLL.

"As I started looking for something, I realized this summer would be a

transition with a new baby and going to a full-time ministry," he said. "I would be retiring from my part-time jobs and going full-time into my passion."

### Sweating heat

Sprunger made his run with five pairs of shoes during some of the most sweltering heat of the summer. He started his run July 17 in Berne where the temperature hit 91 degrees with a heat index of 98 degrees. At first, he would call and pray with the person listed on the prayer request, "but I sweated so much that after 15 hours my phone quit."

Jessica had been talking to her husband once or twice a day and following his progress on a cell phone app and posting his progress on Facebook. When the phone broke and she saw that he had only done three miles, she panicked until she talked to his father.

Jessica had tried to talk him out of doing the run. She was concerned that he wouldn't complete it or he'd have to walk a lot, but her husband offered her an explanation that put her at peace.

"She said what's the point if you're going to kill yourself," Sprunger said. "I told her God called me to do this. This isn't about me, it's to raise up Jesus Christ's name and make it known to the world."

Sprunger's father and Layne Thompson, who



Youth minister Josh Sprunger holds a sign up, after completing half of his 200-mile Prayer Run from Berne, Ind., to Westland.

works at WRLL, drove the support vehicle while he ran an average of 40 miles a day, mostly along country roads, only taking to major highways to cut a few miles off the trip. He figures with a detour and taking a wrong turn, he actually ran 202 miles.

His goal was to make it Spring Arbor in three days time. He ran in 90 degree plus weather with a humidity to match. At Spring Arbor, he met up with the cross country coach that had been his mentor and who ran four miles with him.

"I'd get up early and get 15 miles in the early morning," he said. "But I pretty much listened to my body. If it needed a break, I'd find a shady place."

### Faith in God

The group relied on God to provide for them.

They contacted churches and people along the way for places to stay. On the second day, Sprunger was starting his second run and decided he would do 7.75 miles, then stop on a country road and let God provide. He stopped at end of long country lane and prayed that the homeowner would let them set up their tent for the night. His father talked to the homeowner and she agreed.

"One verse that stuck with us was Deuteronomy 31:8 — The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged," Sprunger said. "We saw that through the whole trip. As we'd get to the next place, he would set up for us."

Sprunger's faith also helped him with his running. His first day was

one of his faster days, but by day four he was experiencing foot pain. By day five, it was a major pain. He prayed to the Lord to get through it and he started to run faster, he said.

"I started the last five miles running by myself, then my sister joined me for the last three, then Jessica and a youth leader joined in," he said. "There was someone on a bike, and a guy on a motorcycle."

Close to 50 family, friends and members of the church greeted Sprunger when he arrived at the church around 6 p.m. July 21. They held up a 200 Mile Prayer Run banner that he ran under before raise his arms in triumph.

"It was pretty amazing when I was coming down Farmington Road, as soon as I saw the group of people, they cheered," he said. "They were playing my theme song for the run, The Stand by Kristian Stanfill."

Sprunger admits that it was "an incredible five days." He learned a lot about himself, about the human body and God's faithfulness. As for doing it again: "In the middle of the run, I said I'll never do this again, but toward the end I was thinking if the Lord calls me to do it again, I would do it," he said. "But I'd be surprised if he did."

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## Inspire contest extended: Look for icons

Due to technical issues last week, many area readers did not receive a copy of the special Christmas in July INSPIRE in time for the original deadline.

The deadline has been extended to midnight Wednesday, Aug. 7. All contestants have until then to submit an entry form via U.S. mail or online at hometownlife.com.

Be sure to take advantage of the extra time and remember to include all page numbers on which the icons appear.

Winners will be selected in a random drawing of all correct entries.

You could win a \$500 gift card (grand prize) to Showroom of Elegance in Canton, a \$100 gift certificate (second place) to the Rugby Grill in the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham or a \$50 gift card (third place) to Meijer. In addition, up to 10 other winners will receive a pass for two to any area Emagine Theatre.

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**AVERAGES AND STANDARDS**

Physicians have problems explaining to a patient why he experienced an attack of gout. The patient had an attack of intense pain at the great toe; the doctor treated the pain, and believing that the attack was likely gout, drew a serum uric acid. The laboratory returned a result of 6.3 mgms. The doctor would tell the patient the laboratory result was in keeping with gout; the patient would protest. "Doctor, the laboratory slip says the normal value is between 4.0 mgms and 8.0 mgms. My uric acid was 6.3, I'm right in the middle range."

The physician didn't misspeak. A uric acid value of 6.3 mgms is high enough to precipitate an attack of gout. The patient is misled because of the laboratory's reporting of the reference value for uric acid. In the usual reports the reference values reflect normal values. Thus a hemoglobin reference value of 11.5-15.5 represents values of hemoglobin that are compatible with maintain daily activity.

In contrast, reference values of serum uric acid of 4.0-8.0 reflect averages in the community; in theory, the body can dissolve up to 6.5 mgms of uric acid in the blood, and any number above that value puts the person at risk for an attack of gout.

In reality, some people can tolerate uric acid levels of 9 or 10 mgms and never have an attack while other individuals will experience a flare of gout when their blood levels are at 5.5 mgms. In gout what matters is not the level of uric acid in the blood, but the genetic makeup of the person with that level of uric acid.

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## LPS board hires design firms for bond projects

By Karen Smith  
Staff Writer

The Livonia school board on Monday appointed two architectural firms to perform the design services for the projects that will be completed with the \$195 million bond approved by voters in May.

It also appointed an investment adviser to assist with the investment earnings from the bond proceeds.

The board voted 7-0 to use SHW Group, which has an office in Berkeley, to design the high school, middle school and upper elementary school projects and to employ French Associates, which has an office in Rochester, to design the elementary school projects.

The board authorized Superintendent Randy Liepa to negotiate and execute the final contracts. The companies had both already agreed to the contractual terms.

Plante Moran CRESA, corporate real estate service advisers, recommended the two architectural firms based on criteria it had developed with the board and interviews it had conducted with the help of district employees.

Seven firms completed requests for proposals for the high school projects, and eight did so for the middle and elementary school projects.

### 'Best of the best'

"You have the best of the best," Plante Moran CRESA partner Paul

Wills said of the two recommended firms.

Plante Moran CRESA Vice President Paul Theriault said they recommended two architectural firms so as not to put all of the district's eggs in one basket. He said SHW Group actually ranked higher than French Associates for the elementary projects. But while SHW may currently have the staffing available to handle all of the projects, workloads and the economy can change over time, he said.

Board president Mark Johnson said the process used to select the architectural firms took the emotion and subjectivity out of it. "This is really an objective process ... and we've been following that process every step through and we will continue to do that with the remaining construction managers and the tech folks," he said.

Theriault said the next step is to come up with a game plan for the order in which the projects will be completed.

The projects covered by the bond include \$124.9 million in classroom upgrades and infrastructure improvements, \$24 million for rebuilding high school auditoriums and renovating music and choir classrooms, \$6.8 million in safety and security upgrades, \$25.8 million in new technology and \$13.5 million in bus and equipment purchases.

Board Trustee Eileen McDonnell said she also

was pleased with the selection and Plante Moran CRESA's involvement in the selection.

The board unanimously appointed SBA Investment Advisers of Ann Arbor to assist in maximizing investment earnings from the bond, record keeping and reporting within the requirements of the Michigan Revised School Code, Internal Revenue Service regulations and board policy.

Lisa Abbey, director of business services for the district, said SBA is one of two well-known, well-respected firms used by school districts across Michigan. The district did not use a formal bid process to select SBA. Abbey said of the two firms, SBA had overall lower fees.

### Assistant principal hired

In other action, the board hired Matthew Moll to be the new assistant principal at Emerson Middle School. He was assistant principal at Kennedy High School in Taylor. He has a master's degree in education administration supervision and a bachelor's degree in secondary education. He's married with three boys ages 5 and under.

The board also recalled 16 teachers, leaving 29 remaining on the June 3 layoff list. Administrators said the district is ahead of schedule this summer in meeting its annual goal of calling back all laid-off teachers before the start of school.

## State fair boosts urban farming with scholarships

The future of urban farming in Detroit and other Michigan cities has just received a big boost in the form of educational scholarships aimed at rewarding the efforts of students participating in revitalization.

The Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair announced that, in collaboration with the Detroit Shriners and the Metropolitan Detroit Convention & Visitors Bureau, the fair will award \$10,000 in educational scholarship funds to deserving youths across Michigan.

The Urban Youth Farming Scholarship Program aims to increase involvement and awareness of youth agriculture programs, and to promote farming, agriculture, and livestock management in Michigan.

"We feel this is one of the most important initiatives that the revival of the State Fair at the Suburban Collection Showplace can contribute at this time, to in-

## FIFTH THIRD BANK MICHIGAN STATE FAIR



spire and encourage the next generation to continue the legacy of the great agricultural industry in our state," said Blair Bowman, manager of The Michigan State Fair, A Private Entity, LLC and operator of the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair.

"This commitment of \$10,000 in scholarship resources, dedicated to help recognize and reward youth participation in urban agriculture, is an investment in our future.

"Our next challenge

is to quickly spread the word that this program has been launched and connect with those youngsters who qualify for consideration."

The Detroit Shriners Organization and Metro Detroit CVB have each contributed \$5,000 to the 2013 Urban Youth Farming Scholarship Program.

The entire amount of \$10,000 in scholarship resources is aimed at educating young urban farmers about planting, cultivating and harvesting fresh produce in their cities.

## SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE UPDATES

### Disney Institute seminar in health care

Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education and Professional Development Department on Monday, Sept. 16, welcomes the Disney Institute and its one-day seminar on Building a Culture of Health Care Excellence.

This seminar will teach how to create a sustainable culture of service that can lead to

a competitive edge for health care organizations.

For more information, call 734-462-4448 or email CEPD@schoolcraft.edu.

### Social media safety presentation

Wayne County Sheriff Cpl. Erin Diamond will speak about the benefits and pitfalls of using social media, especially for high school and college students, at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12,

in the VisTaTech Center, main campus in Livonia.

In many cases, young adults aren't aware how what they say and post on social media sites can affect their higher education aspirations and even career goals.

The message, said Diamond, who is also a member of the Michigan State Police and FBI's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, is to teach and remind kids how to be smart and safe online.

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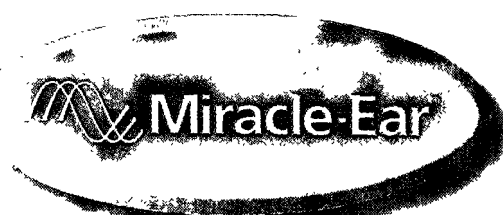
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(313) 441-5393

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# VERY GOOD NEWS

## Air Museum gets extension on bid to buy part of bomber plant

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

The Yankee Air Museum received very good news Wednesday — an extension on the purchase of the former Willow Run Bomber Plant.

The museum will have an extra two months to raise the money it needs to buy 175,000 square feet of the bomber plant where 8,600 B-24 Liberator Bombers were built during World War II.

"It truly is exciting that we have the extra two months," said Bob Catalano, who works in the museum's collections department. "Those extra months give us time to raise money."

In April, the museum entered into an agreement with RACER (Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response) Trust to buy that area of the former GM Powertrain Plant where the aircraft were completed and then exited the plant for delivery to the government. The staff was aware a big announcement was coming, but Catalano thought "in my heart of hearts it was about a big donor."

The museum has been conducting a Save the Bomber Plant campaign and has raised \$4.5 million of the \$8 million needed to cover the purchase price — \$5 million — and enclose, secure and power up the area to eventually become the new museum.

### Cause for optimism

The extension was announced Wednesday

by the Michigan Aerospace Foundation, Yankee Air Museum and RACER Trust, just a day before the original Aug. 1 deadline. The museum now has a 60-day extension.

Elliott P. Laws, RACER administrative trustee, said the success and momentum of the campaign is cause for optimism and warranted an extension.

He praised the staff and supporters of the Yankee Air Museum for the tremendous job they have done with their campaign to raise the necessary funds.

"RACER has been supportive of the Yankee Air Museum effort and wanted to present every possible opportunity for the campaign to reach a successful conclusion," he said.

"We wish Yankee Air Museum success in its campaign and we will continue to support that effort consistent with the mission of the trust and its plans for the Willow Run plant."

Extending the deadline will not delay or disrupt RACER's work, including dismantling the building, Laws said.

Dennis Norton, the founder of Yankee Air Museum and president of the Michigan Aerospace Foundation, was grateful that the foundation and museum will be "able to continue working toward our goal of preserving a portion of the former bomber plant to tell the Arsenal of Democracy story and how Americans, men and women, of all races, came together to not just build aircraft needed to win World War II,



The museum would use the existing hangar doors to move aircraft in and out of the building.

but to change the country forever."

"We've had a great response to our campaign," he said.

"So many people have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and generosity, and with a bit more time, I believe we will hit our target."

"We truly appreciate RACER Trust and everyone else's support for our mission" added Ray Hunter, chairman of the board of the Yankee Air Museum.

"It's incredible to see and hear from so many people who recognize the opportunity to honor and preserve a physical connection to that era."

### Under one roof

If the "Save the Bomber Plant" campaign is successful, the Yankee Air Museum will move from its current location on the east side of Willow Run Airport to the former bomber plant, which is adjacent to the airport's western boundary.

All of the museum's collections and exhibits, including aircraft, would be then be reunited at a single site.

"The museum is getting the area at an incredible price, but a majority of the money is for infrastructure,"

Catalano said. "The power plant will be torn down."

"We'll need to get electricity, water and

heat. We'll also need to construct a west wall and a north wall to enclose it."

Catalano had the opportunity to visit the plant on Wednesday while NBC was filming there.

He described the plant as "gigantic."

"When I looked at the area, after seeing the plans, in my mind's eye, I could see planes sitting on the assembly line," he said.

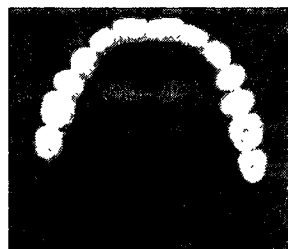
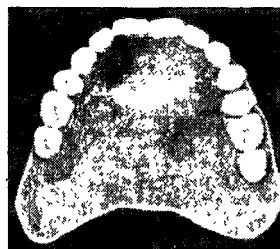
"This is very exciting."

More information about the Save the Bomber Plant campaign can be found by visiting [www.savethebomberplant.org](http://www.savethebomberplant.org).

[smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com)  
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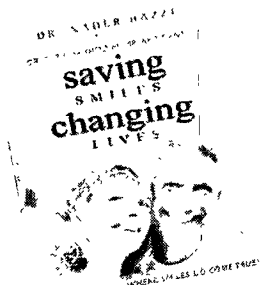
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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by email at [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com). They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at 313-223-3318. For more information, call 313-222-6751.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## PRESCHOOL SIGNUP

**Location:** Westland Free Methodist Preschool, 1421 S. Venoy  
**Details:** The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is enrolling for the 2013-14 preschool year. Enroll now and save half off the enrollment fee, a \$25 savings value. The preschool is a tuition-based Christian program that offers classes for 3-4-year-old children. It offers a theme-based curriculum taught by certified teachers and includes all the basic preschool academic skills as well as a low child-teacher ratio, indoor gym and playground.  
**Contact:** For more information, to schedule a tour or enroll, call 734-728-3559, visit the website at [www.preschool.livesarechanging.com](http://www.preschool.livesarechanging.com) or send an email to [wfmppreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:wfmppreschool@yahoo.com).

## OPEN HOUSE

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 17  
**Location:** McKinley Cooperative Preschool, inside St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Is your child ready for kindergarten? The preschool offers 2-, 3- and 4-year-old classes with affordable tuition and parent involvement. Register for fall classes at the open house and meet the teacher with over 25 years of experience.  
**Contact:** Contact Erin Gibbons at 734-729-7222 or [erin1600@gmail.com](mailto:erin1600@gmail.com) to schedule a personal visit, if you are unable to attend our open house or if you have questions.

## MOM TO MOM

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24  
**Location:** First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Towne Square, Wayne.  
**Details:** The church has tables available for its Mom to Mom Sale. The cost is \$20 per eight-foot table. More than 30 tables will be available.  
 There also will be a large item room as well as concessions and a bake sale. Admission will be \$1 at the door.  
**Contact:** For more information, email to [mom2momwayne-fumc@gmail.com](mailto:mom2momwayne-fumc@gmail.com) or call the church office at 734-721-4801.

## TRIP TO NYC

**Time/Date:** Oct. 3-9  
**Location:** New York City  
**Details:** The Garden City Public Schools Leisure Program is offering a trip to New York City in October. The price is \$699 per person and includes seven days, six nights, double occupancy and motor coach transportation. Also included are 10 meals - six breakfasts and four dinners - two guided tours of New York City. See Central Park, Rockefeller Center, Times Square, Wall Street, and more.  
**Contact:** For more information, call Cambridge Leisure Department at 734-762-8430, Ext. 306.

## BOWLING BENEFIT

**Time/Date:** 12:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 (check in starts at noon)  
**Location:** Town and Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland

**Details:** \$12 per bowler (any age welcome to bowl) includes two games of bowling, shoe rental and pizza and pop. Raffle tickets will be on sale for over 50 awesome local business prizes and baskets. Any registered bowler that is 5 years old or younger will be entered into a "kids raffle" for free.  
**Contact:** Registration form available online at [mckinleypreschool.org/fundraising-information](http://mckinleypreschool.org/fundraising-information). They can be emailed to Rebecca Lay at [beccanew1027@yahoo.com](mailto:beccanew1027@yahoo.com). Call her at 734-776-7741.

## SUPPORT GROUP

**Time/Date:** 6:30-8:30 p.m. second Monday of every month  
**Location:** Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland  
**Details:** Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? Is your heart broken because of it? Then contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts who will provide a safe place to talk and share with others, a place where you can learn how to cope with all of the new and frightening experiences. Learn from others as they share ideas, resources and support. Donations appreciated.  
**Contact:** Bonnie at 734-646-2237 or [prettymonarch@comcast.net](mailto:prettymonarch@comcast.net).

## WIDOWED MEN

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. Thursdays  
**Location:** Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia  
**Details:** Widowed Friends, a peer group of the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed men to meet with other widowed men for breakfast at 9 a.m. at Steve's Family Restaurant on the

second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Many topics are discussed including those that may be pertinent to your own situation. Also, ideas are presented to help you become involved in the activities of Widowed Friends.

**Contact:** For more information, call Dick at 313-534-0399.

## BURROUGHS OLD TIMERS

**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. on the last Friday of the month  
**Location:** Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth  
**Details:** Any former employees of Burroughs/Unisys are welcome to join in to socialize or renew acquaintances. There is no cost to join or to attend. A cash bar and a fish buffet are available but not mandatory.  
**Contact:** John Kusch 734-751-9765 or [kuschjt@yahoo.com](mailto:kuschjt@yahoo.com)

## FALL CRAFT SHOWS

**ST. THEODORE**  
**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12  
**Location:** St. Theodore's Parish, 8200 Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** St. Theodore's Confraternity of Christian Women is looking for crafters for its Fall Craft Show. Seventy tables available at a cost of \$25 each. No vendors, please.  
**Contact:** Mary at 734-425-4421 (vm#10)

## ST. MEL

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5  
**Location:** St. Mel's Parish Gym, 7506 N. Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights

**Details:** Crafters are needed for St. Mel's Fall Craft Show. There are more than 50 tables available. Table cost is \$30, table with electricity is \$35.  
**Contact:** For applications, call 313-274-0684 or email [stmelcraftfair@yahoo.com](mailto:stmelcraftfair@yahoo.com).

## PERRINVILLE

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12  
**Location:** Perrinville Early Childhood Center, 28201 Lyndon, Livonia

**Details:** Crafters are being sought for the Perrinville Early Childhood Center's fourth annual Craft/Vendor Show.  
**Contact:** Brenda at [wjob2000@ameritech.net](mailto:wjob2000@ameritech.net)

## FOR SENIORS

**FRIENDSHIP CENTER**  
**Location:** 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

**Details:** The Senior Resources Department Friendship Center offers a variety of programs for older adults.

**Contact:** 734-722-7632, [www.ci.westland.mi.us](http://www.ci.westland.mi.us)  
**DYER CENTER**

**Location:** 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland

**Details:** Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

**Contact:** 734-419-2020

## SENIOR FITNESS

**Location:** Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City  
**Details:** The Senior Fitness Room is available to those age 50 and older. There's an annual membership is \$55 per year or get a daily pass for \$1. Senior aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Drop in for \$3 per day.  
**Contact:** 734-793-1870

## SENIOR SERVICES

**Location:** Senior Services Lounge, Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne

**Details:** Wayne Seniors Services offers Sew Friendly 1-3:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Material Girls 6-9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month; the Golden Hour Club at 11 a.m. Thursdays; bingo at 1 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month for adults age 50 and older and the Sometimes Travel Club for adults age 30 and older with \$5 annual dues.  
**Contact:** For more information, call 734-721-7400.

## VOLUNTEERS

## FIRST STEP

**Details:** First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program.  
**Contact:** 734-416-1111, Ext. 223

## VNA HOSPICE

**Details:** Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's VNA-hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.  
**Contact:** 248-967-8361, [www.vna.org](http://www.vna.org)

## You can help us pick out the Seven Wonders of Michigan



A contender: Lake Michigan Overlook at Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, Sleeping Bear Dunes. TRAVEL MICHIGAN

## Send nominations of your favorite places

Remember the first time you crossed the Mackinac Bridge?

Did you hug the window in the backseat of your parents' car, with your neck craning to peer over the edge to the straits below?

What about the first time you huffed and puffed your way to the top of Sleeping Bear Dunes and caught a glimpse of turquoise water from that magnificent vista?

Michigan is full of places that take your breath away, places you hope your children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren will someday enjoy, places that make you realize Michigan is one of nature's masterpieces.

## What are your favorites?

The Observer & Eccentric Media wants to celebrate Michigan's majesty.

We're ranking the Seven Wonders of Michigan and we need your help.

We're accepting your nominations for Michigan's grandest sights - either natural or man-made.

To nominate your favorite places, visit [www.hometownlife.com/7wondersofMI](http://www.hometownlife.com/7wondersofMI) and click on the nomination form or go to Twitter and include #7WondersofMI in your tweet.

Finalists will be revealed online on Aug. 8 and winners announced online on Aug. 29.

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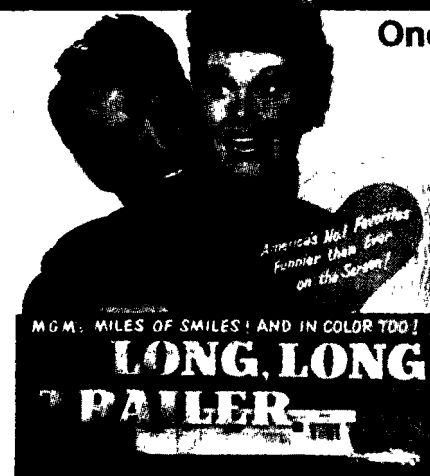
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# Pretending to succeed is a failed strategy

No, I did not predict the demise of Detroit 60 years ago.

Yet, in 2004 when I was state superintendent of public instruction, I did say the funding model for our schools and far too many of our municipalities were unsustainable. (See Structural Funding Problems Facing Michigan Schools in the 21st Century: [www.michigan.gov/documents/michigan-schoolfunding\\_110803\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/michigan-schoolfunding_110803_7.pdf))

Did the governor, legislature, State Board of Education and other local policy makers and educational leaders listen?

Nope. Collectively, for the most part they acted like Rip Van Winkle, waking only long enough to kick the can further down the road.

And like Detroit, they, too, are running out of both the road and the can.

My report foreshadowed what is now true today. Fifty-five school districts are in substantial financial deficits.

Two, Inkster and Buena Vista, are being dissolved and the sitting state Superintendent is now calling for collapsing the 550 plus local school districts into 83 county-wide districts.

## Solutions take time

Problems left alone do not solve themselves. Cleaning up historic messes takes time. Yet



Tom Watkins

as we all know, the first step in problem solving is admitting you have a problem. Denial is a potent enemy of sensible change.

Even today in dealing with the unsustainable nature of our schools and many local units of government, the response in far too many cases is to pretend, deny, and continue to spend.

We need to get serious about the scope of the problem. Only when the magnitude of the problem is revealed and accepted can leaders persuade citizens to take action on necessary sacrifices needed to fix it.

Think General Motors, Chrysler and the city of Detroit.

## Stein's Law

If there's an obvious rule in economics, it is Stein's Law (named after Herb Stein, former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers): "If something cannot go on forever, it will stop."

The Economist magazine put it this way in a recent article entitled: *The Unsteady States of America: It is not just Detroit.* "American cities and states must promise less or face disaster ... Public employees should retire later. States should accelerate the shift to

defined-contribution pension schemes, where what you get out depends on what you put in. These are the norm in the private sector. Benefits already accrued should be honored, but future accruals should be curtailed, where legally possible. The earlier you grapple with the problem, the easier it will be to fix. Nebraska, which stopped offering final-salary pensions to new hires in 1967, is sitting pretty."

Other than the federal government, who reverts to printing money, there are only three ways to balance a budget:

- 1) Increase revenue
- 2) Reduce expenditures
- 3) A combination of the above.

Pretending has a way of catching up with everyone. If you have a hole in your roof, pretending to fix it has never kept the rain out.

Look across Michigan and America - the fiscal roofs on far too many schools, cities, counties, and states are leaking. Hey, Rip: Wake up! GM, Chrysler, Inkster, Buena Vista and now Detroit are the canary in the coal mine.

That is far too many canaries to ignore.

Tom Watkins served as state superintendent of schools, 2001-05. He is a U.S./China business and educational consultant. He can be reached at: [tdwatkins88@gmail.com](mailto:tdwatkins88@gmail.com). Follow him on twitter @tdwatkins88

## Seedlings event raises \$3,250 for braille books for children

Fifty-five supporters of Seedlings Braille Books for Children raised \$3,250 for braille books for blind children during Seedlings' recent Summer of Giving program at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar.

For the fourth year in a row, the Livonia-based nonprofit has partnered with the Livonia restaurant for the program, which is an opportunity to raise funds for a great cause while enjoying great food and sampling several fine wines.

Of the amount raised, \$2,150, will be used to make 210 braille books for blind children locally and all around the world.

The remaining \$1,100 will go to the Adopt A Reader Program, which will provide 11 visually impaired children with a \$100 gift certificate to Seedlings to purchase much-needed braille books.

Seedlings volunteer Tiffany Taylor, who is blind and a braille reader, spoke about the importance of having braille books accessible.

"Seedlings has been an invaluable resource to both me and my mom," she said.

"It was so important to me to have



Seedlings volunteer Tiffany Taylor, left, with Seedlings Director Debra Bonde.

some of the same books that my sighted friends had growing up. Seedlings made that possible for me."

For more information about Seedlings Braille Books for Children, visit [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org).

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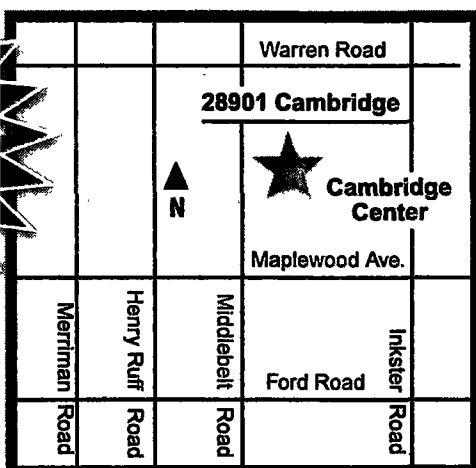
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## New exhibit: 'Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow' opens at center Aug. 4

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus will host "Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges," from Aug. 4 to Dec. 15.

The exhibit tells the story of Jewish professors who fled Nazism and came to America in the 1930s and 1940s, finding teaching positions at historically black colleges and universities.

The exhibition explores the encounter between these scholars and their students, and their impact on each other, the Civil Rights Movement and American society.

The Rev. Kenneth J. Flowers, pastor at Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, will be the keynote speaker at the

exhibit opening event at 4 p.m. Aug. 4. Tickets are available for \$10 (free for Holocaust Memorial Center members with registration).

A nationally and internationally renowned community and social activist for human rights issues, Flowers has traveled on goodwill missions to Israel, was the first African American to speak at the World Trade Center in Johannesburg in 1993, and has spoken before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee on numerous occasions.

"Intolerance is not something that affects just the Jewish community or the African American community," said Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director Stephen M. Goldman. "It affects people of all

religions and ethnic backgrounds.

"By bringing exhibits like this to the museum, we can show visitors how the power of mutual respect between two groups can help one day to bring us closer to reaching universal hope, tolerance and understanding of one another," he said.

"Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow" tells the story of Jewish academics from Germany and Austria, who were dismissed from their teaching positions in the 1930s.

After fleeing to America, some refugee scholars found positions at historically black colleges and universities in the Jim Crow South.

Jim Crow laws mandated segregation in all public facilities, creating a "separate, but equal"

status for African Americans. Together with the use of intimidation and terror by whites, these laws isolated blacks physically and culturally.

The exhibition explores what it meant to the students to have these new staff members as part of their community, how they were affected by the presence of these teachers, and what life was like for white, European Jews teaching at black colleges and universities.

The exhibit looks at the empathy between two minority groups with a history of persecution, some of whom came together in search of freedom and opportunity, and shared the early years of struggle in the Civil Rights movement.

"Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges" is made possible through major funding from the Leon Levy Foundation. Additional support provided by the Helen Bader Foundation; The Lupin Foundation; The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; the Alpern Family Foundation; and the Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation.

During its appearance at the Holocaust Memorial Center, programmatic sponsors include: the Anti-Defamation League, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Montford Point Marines and Michigan Department for Civil Rights.

For more information on the Holocaust Memorial Center, visit [holocaustcenter.org](http://holocaustcenter.org) or call 248-553-2400.

## Say no to financially challenged son

**Q: Dear Rick: We need your help on a family situation. My wife and I are in our early 80s and in good physical and economic health. Our required minimum distributions along with our Social Security cover our living expenses. We have no debt. Our problem is our youngest son. He is always having money problems and we are constantly giving him money to pay his bills. We are at a point where we really cannot afford to give him anything more. Currently, his house is being foreclosed and he has approached us about us doing a reverse mortgage on our house and using the proceeds to pay off his mortgage. We love our son and we want to help him but we need a second opinion on whether this is a smart move for us.**

**A:** In general I am not opposed to reverse mortgages. I believe that in many situations they are a great vehicle for seniors. After all, many seniors have a substantial amount of equity in their home and the fact that a reverse mortgage allows them to tap into the equity and still remain in the home is a great benefit.

Another benefit of a reverse mortgage is that husband and wife can stay in the home for as long they choose without making payments. That being said, in your situation a reverse mortgage is not appropriate.

It is obvious that your son has not done a good job of managing his financial affairs. My fears are if you do the reverse mortgage and if he hasn't changed his spending habits he will



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

run into more financial problems in the future and you would not be in the position to assist him.

I also don't like doing a reverse mortgage in this situation because I believe it puts you at risk. You are comfortable now but you no longer have the cushion that you would like.

When you factor into the equation that you both can be around for at least another decade and your costs are going to go up, somewhere in the future you may have to do a reverse mortgage to maintain your lifestyle. If you do it now and use the proceeds to pay your son's mortgage off and your need more resources in the future you could have difficulties.

As difficult as this may be, I recommend that you tell your son you're not in the financial position to do a reverse mortgage.

What I recommend to your son is that he learns to live within his means. Whether he has to sit down with someone professionally who can help him with a budget or take a course on money management, he needs to get his act together.

If he has too much debt then he may have to explore filing for bankruptcy. The bottom line is that throwing more money at him is not going to help him solve his problems. Throwing money at him is only a short-term fix.

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).*

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# NEW HELMET LAW

Fatalities steady, but insurance claims are on the up

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff writer

It may be too early to determine any correlation or impact from the 15-month old state helmet choice law on crashes and injuries, but it appears insurance claims and associated costs have increased.

"Right now we only have one year of data," said Lt. Gary Megge of the Michigan State Police Traffic Services Section. "We are speaking in general terms, we don't have a lot of data."

In April 2012, Michigan's longstanding law requiring helmets for all motorcyclists was scrapped for leaner rules that allow riders 21 years and older to legally ride without a helmet if they carry at least \$20,000 in medical payments insurance coverage and have at least two years of riding experience and special safety training.

Today, only 19 states require all riders to wear helmets, while 28 require helmets for some motorcyclists. Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire don't have helmet laws.

The move was taken in an effort to boost tourism for Michigan. Advocate organizations, such as ABATE of Michigan, maintains that Michigan was losing a lot of potential tourism dollars because out-of-state motorcyclists avoided the state because of the strict helmet law.

"The new law has increased Michigan travel," said Vince Consiglio, ABATE president.

At a motorcycle tour in Muskegon, Consiglio said, it was evident that attendance was up 30 percent and participants witnessed license plates from 25 states.

Despite any potential increase in tourism, the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI) conducted

a study of the new helmet law on insurance losses. Researchers compared losses under medical payments and collision coverage during the 2010 and 2011 riding season with the 2012 riding season.

HLDI's study showed that overall medical payments were 50 percent higher than expected for Michigan after the law changed in April 2012. HLDI researchers qualified that result by adding that some of the increase may reflect an increased crash risk because collision claim frequency on its own increased about 12 percent.

The research group made it very clear that the increase in medical payment overall losses stems from a definite 36 percent increase in the severity of claims. Following the change in the law, motorcyclists who chose to ride without a helmet increased their medical payments policy limits to the required \$20,000 minimum.

Yet even with the change in policy limits, HLDI found that medical payments claim severity is estimated to have increased — just in 15 months — by 22 percent. HLDI said the results are "consistent with (the) expectation that crashes after the law change resulted in more severe injuries as a result of less helmet use."

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation, which advocates safe motorcycling, holds fast to its belief that helmets work, just as different types of helmets work in sports and other professions, including construction, football and the military.

As far as increased insurance costs, Consiglio points out that in Michigan, motorcyclists pay into the state's catastrophic fund, while many other states, in-

cluding those in HLDI's study, don't even have catastrophic funds.

"We are covered when a car or truck hits us," he said.

In 2012, Megge said, the state had 112 motorcycle fatalities. In 2011, the total was 109. Curiously, in 2008, 125 fatal motorcycle accidents were reported. In 2009, there were 103 fatalities. Based on these statistics, it is difficult to determine the impact — yet — of the helmet law.

"It appears we don't have hard numbers. The fatalities are comparable," Megge said. "The injuries are up over 2011 but down from 2008."

The only factor Megge said he believes affected 2008 statistics is that gas prices that year reached an all-time high, sending more auto drivers to save gasoline by riding motorcycles.

"The more exposure on motorcycles, the more apt you are to have a crash," Megge said.

"When you are on a motorcycle, you don't have a lot of protection."

That's why motorcycle safety classes, as well as improved awareness of motorcycles on the road on the part of car and truck drivers goes a long way in creating safe riding for motorcyclists, Consiglio said.

# Wayne County wins national awards

Wayne County's Compass program and its Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility have received awards from two national organizations.

Wayne County Compass has earned a 2013 Achievement Award in the category of transportation, from the National Association of Counties, while the treatment facility has been awarded the National Association of Clean Water Agencies Platinum Peak Performance Award.

Wayne County Compass — [www.compass.waynecounty.com](http://www.compass.waynecounty.com) — is a Web-based, user-friendly, one-stop-shop where motorists can get up-to-the-minute traffic and weather conditions in Wayne County and the surrounding region.

"We are delighted that NACo has recognized our Compass system, one of the first of its kind in Metro Detroit and in the United States," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

"We believe Compass, as part of our Wayne County Roads Division Integrated Command Center in Romulus is an example

of providing enhanced services to citizens while making the best use of resources."

## Plenty of data

Launched by Wayne County in 2011, Compass also provides GPS data, route histories of the Roads Division vehicle fleet and video feeds from dozens of Michigan Department of Transportation traffic cameras.

New this fall, Wayne County will roll out a redesigned Compass that includes mobile compatibility (cell phones and tablets) and allows users the ability to report road hazards directly to the Compass site.

For information on other services provided by the Wayne County Roads Division, visit the Wayne County website at [www.waynecounty.com](http://www.waynecounty.com) and click on the Roads link.

This is the second consecutive year Wayne County's Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility has earned the Platinum Peak Performance Award.

The award recognizes a facility's outstanding compliance —

100 percent — with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for five or more consecutive years. The Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility has more than six years of consecutive 100 percent NPDES permit compliance.

## Collaborative effort

Wayne County and 13 Downriver communities — Allen Park, Riverview, Belleville, Romulus, Brownstown Township, Southgate, Dearborn Heights, Taylor, Ecorse, Van Buren Township, Lincoln Park, Wyandotte and River Rouge — collaborate to oversee the facility's operations.

"The communities which are customers of the Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility are pleased with the progress that has been made to make this facility compliant with all pollution control requirements," said Dearborn Heights Mayor Dan Paletko. "It has been an example of how the communities and Wayne County partnering together can accomplish great things"

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

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

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Each year, Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center offer career-technical programs to the high school districts of Wayne-Westland, Melvindale, South Redford, Redford Union, Crestwood, Dearborn Heights #7, Van Buren, and Plymouth-Canton and area private schools. These programs are designed to prepare high school students for a broad range of employment and training services and are offered under the guidance of certified teachers, counselors, and cooperative education coordinators. For further information on course offerings and admissions, please call (734) 419-2100 or visit our website: [wwcsd.net/ford](http://wwcsd.net/ford).

The following is a list of programs being offered during the 2013-14 school year:

Alternative Energy Technology, Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Technology, Business/Computer Technology, Early Childhood Teacher Education, Construction Technology, Culinary Arts/Hospitality, Digital Media, Electronics/Robotics Technology, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Firefighter, Game Design and Programming, Graphic Design, Graphic Printing/Communications, Health Occupations, Heating/Air Conditioning/Refrigeration (HVAC), Mathematics, Media Production, Medical Assisting, Welding Technology.

All career-technical programs comply with Federal Laws and Regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education to prohibit any acts of unlawful discrimination in all matters dealing with students, employees or applicants for employment. The Wayne-Westland Schools reaffirms its policy of equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, age, height, weight, marital status or disability which is unrelated to an individual's qualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's ability to utilize and benefit from the School District's services, activities, benefits, privileges, or programs. Wayne-Westland Community Schools assures that the lack of English skills will not be a barrier to admission of participants. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and Title II legislation should be directed to the Executive Director of Student and Legal Affairs, Wayne-Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185 (734-419-2083).

Publish: August 4, 2013

AT148105 - B2

# Sisters to present cabaret-style show

Two sisters will be taking over the Village Theater in Canton for an evening to present a cabaret performance of "A Strange Series of Unexpected Events."

The show will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at the theater at 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton.

"So through a strange series of unexpected events, my sister Rebecca Timmons and I have somehow been allowed to have a theater for a night so rather than let it go to waste we thought we'd put on a concert," said local actor/singer Sarah Faix. "We used to write our own shows and put them on in our basement as kids, and while we don't plan to revive any of our greatest hits of the '80s and '90s, we do promise that the evening will be at least as good and with higher production values."

Both sisters earned theater degrees from Michigan State University and now reunited as residents in the Ann Arbor area, they are teaming to appear together onstage for the first time in more than a decade.

Faix has been seen most recently on stage in the Penny Seats production of *Little Me*, and has appeared with companies such as Wild



Sisters Rebecca Timmons and Sarah Faix will present a cabaret show of the Village Theater in Canton on Friday, Aug. 16.

Swan Theater, Arbor Opera Theatre, Comic Opera Guild, Spotlight Players and the Movement Artist's Guild.

Faix will appear as Hansel in Main Street Opera Theatre's production of *Hansel and Gretel* this fall.

Timmons has been recently reimported from Canada where she appeared in a series of concerts with Broadway and West End legend Peter Karrie. Prior to that, Timmons worked with groups in the Park City, Utah, region, such as the Rodger's Memorial Theatre and the historic Egyptian Theatre. She currently sings with the internationally known group Bocca Musica.

The sisters will be

accompanied by music director and local teacher Rebecca Biber, who just completed a stint helming the music duties for The Penny Seats production of *Little Me*.

She has worked extensively with other local theater groups as well, including Spotlight Players, Farmington Players and Encore Theatre. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan.

The evening of musical theater favorites will be presented in the Biltmore Studio, a small room with a portable stage and seating. Admission is \$5. Information is available at the Village Theater website at [www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater/performance\\_glance.aspx](http://www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater/performance_glance.aspx).

## GARDEN CLIPPINGS

### Health, Safety Fest

Mark your calendar now for the Wayne County Health and Safety Fun Fest 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, on the grounds of the Wayne County Department of Public Health, 33030 Van Born at Venoy in Wayne.

The free back-to-school health fair features free immunizations, health-related vendors, prizes and giveaways, plus fun for the entire family.

Free book bags and school supplies to the first 300 school-age children.

For more information, call 734-727-7000 or 734-727-7030.

### Help wanted

The Garden City Parks and Recreation office is hiring for the upcoming school year.

Being sought are part-time basketball coaches, ages 18 and up, available 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and possibly Saturday mornings to coach boys and girls basketball programs 3-8.

The pay is \$8.25 per hour, and the schedule is approximately 5-10 hours per week.

Interested people can contact the recreation office at (734) 793-1882.

### Lunch and Learn

Dr. Deborah Kay will discuss the importance of "Back to Health 101: What Parents Need to Know" at Lunch and Learn on Saturday, Aug. 10, at Westland Shopping Center.

Hosted by Garden City Hospital, Lunch and Learn will be at 1 p.m. in

the East Court of the mall, located at Warren and Wayne roads in Westland. Kay will cover school safety, proper sleeping habits, packing a nutritious lunch and immunizations.

There also will be lunch for attendees, giveaways and a raffle.

### Museum fundraising

The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum are continuing their fund-raising efforts, selling engraved brick pavers and renting the Grande Parlor for social and business occasions.

The bricks are \$50 for a 4-inch by 8-inch size that has room for up to three lines of text.

The 8-inch by 8-inch bricks are \$75 and have room for up to six lines of text.

The Lathers General Store is open from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, offering a variety of collectibles and gift items.

The museum is located in the Straight Farmhouse at 6221 Merriman, north of Ford Road, Garden City.

For more information, call 734-838-0650 or visit [www.sfhonline.org](http://www.sfhonline.org).

### No Coffee Hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will not be hosting his monthly coffee hours in Livonia and Garden City in August. Coffee hours will resume in September.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson can contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing,

MI 48909, by phone at (866) 262-7306 or by email at [SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov).

### Cruise the Rouge

Cruise the Rouge River on the Diamond Belle with Friends of the Rouge 5:45-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The tour is \$50 and includes dinner and narration of the Rouge by Dr. Orin Gelderloos as well as an update on the cleanup of the Lower Rouge sediments by the EPA.

Proceeds from the tour go to support Friends of the Rouge whose mission is to promote restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River.

For more information and registration go online to [therouge.org](http://therouge.org).

### Health Coach

The Garden City Hospital Health Coach, a mobile unit that provides services to address health care needs for the community, for those who are low income and uninsured or underinsured, is at the Maplewood Center the third Wednesday of the month.

Services offered include health screenings and assessments, health coaching and patient care follow-ups.

People must be 18 years or older to qualify for the program at no cost, regardless of their insurance status.

The mobile unit parks on the Maplewood side of the center from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call 734-458-4330.

## Wayne-Westland Community Schools, William D. Ford Career-Technical Center

### Programas de Carrera y Técnica

Cada año, Wayne-Westland Community Schools y el William D. Ford Career-Technical Center ofrecen programas de carrera y técnica a los distritos de las escuelas secundarias de Wayne-Westland, Melvindale, South Redford, Redford Union, Crestwood, Dearborn Heights #7, Van Buren, and Plymouth-Canton y a las escuelas privadas de estas áreas. Estos programas están diseñados para preparar a los estudiantes de secundaria para una amplia gama de servicios de formación y empleo y se ofrecen por la dirección de profesores calificados, consejeros, y coordinadores de educación cooperativa. Para más información sobre las ofertas de cursos y admisiones, llame al (734) 419-2100 o visite nuestro sitio Web: [wwcsd.net/ford](http://wwcsd.net/ford).

El siguiente es una lista de los programas que se ofrecen durante el año escolar de 2013-14:

Tecnología de Energía Alternativa, Reparación de Colisión Automotriz, Tecnología Automotriz, Tecnología de Negocio/Computadora, Educación para profesores de niños y escuela primaria, Tecnología de Construcción, Artes Culinaria/Hostelería, Medios Digitales, Tecnología Electrónica/Robótica, Técnico Médico de Emergencia (EMT), Bombero, Diseño y Programación de Juegos, Diseño Gráfico, Impresión Gráfica/Comunicaciones, Ocupaciones de Salud, Calefacción/Aire Acondicionado y Refrigeración (HVAC), Matemáticas, Producción de Medios, Asistencia Médica, Tecnología de Soldadura.

Todos los programas de carrera y técnica cumplen con las leyes federales y regulaciones del Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos.

Es la política de Wayne-Westland Community Schools Junta de Educación de prohibir todo acto de discriminación ilegal en todos los asuntos relacionados con los estudiantes, empleados o solicitantes de empleo. Las escuelas de Wayne-Westland reafirma su política de igualdad de oportunidades educativas y de empleo para todas las personas sin respecto a raza, color, género, religión, edad, altura, peso, estado civil o discapacidad que no está relacionado con las calificaciones de un individuo para empleo o promoción, o que no está relacionado con la habilidad de un individuo para utilizar y beneficiarse de los servicios del distrito escolar, actividades, beneficios, privilegios o programas. Escuelas comunitarias de Wayne-Westland asegura que la falta de conocimientos de inglés no será una barrera para la admisión de participantes. Investigaciones relativas a la aplicación del Título VI, legislación Título IX, la Sección 504 y el Título II debe dirigirse a la Directora Ejecutiva de Estudiantes y Asuntos Jurídicos, Wayne-Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185 (734-419-2083).

Publish: August 4, 2013

AT148183 - 3x8.9

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

### GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF

#### JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: August 20, 2013

Time: 11:30 a.m. EST

Place: Board of Education  
Wayne-Westland Community Schools  
36745 Marquette  
Westland, MI 48185

Attn: David Kaumeyer, Senior Executive Director of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after July 31, 2013.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ARCHITECTURE, INC., 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION DODGE PLAN ROOM, Livonia, Michigan; or the CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Compliance Form must be included as well. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include both of these statements, which are included on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to comply with the Michigan Prevailing Wage Rate for Wayne County.

Publish: August 4, 2013

AT148183 - 2x7

## CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

### Petition #2790-CVS Pharmacy-31411 Cherry Hill

Req. for a 64.61 sq. ft. sign area variance from Ord. 248 as a result of the installation of 192.11 sq. ft. of wall-mounted signage at the site; whereas Sec. 15:6.2(a) allows the building a maximum of 127.50 sq. ft. of wall-mounted signage.

### Petition #2791-B. Arnette-35221 College St.

Req. for 2 variances from Art. X of the Westland City Code to install a 4' high chain link fence in the front yd. of the home; whereas Sec. 22-304 states that front yd. fences are allowed as a split rail/ranch type style fence and Sec. 22-303(f) states that front yd. fences that are allowed cannot exceed 3' in hgt.

### Petition #2792-T. Hasan-733 S. Wildwood

Req. for 2 variances from Art. X of the Westland City Code to install a 6' high privacy fence in the north side yd. of the home; whereas Sec. 22-304(a) states that only rear yds. may be enclosed with a fence and Sec. 22-303(c) states that side yd. fences that are allowed cannot exceed 46" in hgt.

Publish: August 4, 2013

AT149038 - 3x4

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

### GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF WILLIAM D. FORD CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER STORAGE BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: August 20, 2013

Time: 11:30 a.m. EST

Place: Board of Education  
Wayne-Westland Community Schools  
36745 Marquette  
Westland, MI 48185

Attn: David Kaumeyer, Senior Executive Director of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after July 31, 2013.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ARCHITECTURE, INC., 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION DODGE PLAN ROOM, Livonia, Michigan; or the CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Compliance Form must be included as well. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include both of these statements, which are included on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to comply with the Michigan Prevailing Wage Rate for Wayne County.

Publish: August 4, 2013

AT149078 - 3x8



## AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

### Circus tickets

Tickets are on sale for the Kelly Miller Circus, with shows at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10. The cost is \$6 for kids and \$10 for adults. The prices cost \$15 for adults and \$7 for kids on the day of the event.

Tickets are on sale at the Wayne-Westland Community Center, Henry's Service Center, Mark Chevrolet, Jack Demmer Ford, Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union and the Westland Municipal Golf Course.

### Blood Drive

The Wayne-Westland Fire and Police Departments will host and American Red Cross blood drive 1-6:45 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5, at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford.

Residents interested in donating blood in honor of everyday heroes can make an appointment by calling 313-549-7043 or by visiting [www.red-crossblood.org](http://www.red-crossblood.org) and using sponsorship code wwfp.

### Concert in the Park

The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a concert 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7, Goudy Park behind the Wayne City Hall.

The band will be The Missing Link, a Blues and Vintage Rock band. Their performance is sponsored by Henry's.

### Community Gathering

Westland Mayor William Wild will be holding his first community gathering of the summer on 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, at Corrado Park on Gladys at Flamingo south of Joy Road.

The free event will include water slides, water activities and a dunk tank. Residents will be able to view police and fire vehicles and the new Department of Public Service equipment. Other activities include a putting contest and kid's safety activities.

There will also be free food and drink and free giveaways.

### Health, Safety Fest

Mark your calendar now for the Wayne County Health and Safety Fun Fest 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, on the grounds of the Wayne County Department of Public Health, 33030 Van Born at Venoy in Wayne.

The free back-to-school health fair features free immunizations, health-related vendors, prizes and giveaways, plus fun for the entire family. Free book bags and school supplies to the first 300 school-age children.

For more information, call 734-727-7000 or 734-727-7030.

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# Customers turn out for Appreciation Day

By Sue Buck  
Staff Writer

Larry's Auto Parts' first Customer Appreciation Day held at Garden City Presbyterian Church on July 28 was billed a success.

"This is the best turnout that Larry's has ever had," Deacon Scott Minch said. "We are already talking about doing it twice a year."

With an hour left to go, 600 free hot dogs had already been consumed.

The deacons who sponsored the event offered free ice cream. There were door prizes and raffles. Everybody got a ticket when they came in.

Customers who had classic cars or special interest cars had the option to being them to the event. Many did.

"We counted about 75 cars," Minch said.

Some customers of Larry's drove for miles to attend the event because they appreciate the service they receive.

Chuck Schroeder, an Ann Arbor resident, buys many parts from owner Tim Carner.

"I travel a long way because he is a book of knowledge," Schroeder said.

Doug Gordon, a Garden City resident, brought a 1958 Corvette that he has owned since 1964.

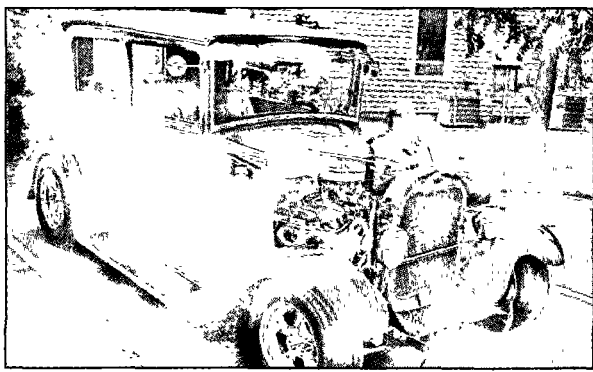
"I have been buying parts for it for 20 years and have had it for 30 years," Gordon said.

He likes Larry's because he can always "get what he wants to get."

Joe Galdes, a Garden City resident, brought a yellow pickup truck that is completely restored and customized. The 1967 Chevy took three years to restore. He's had it since 1969.



Deacon Scott Minch (from left), Tim Carver and Pastor Herschel Ele enjoy Larry's Auto Parts Customer Appreciation Day at Garden City Presbyterian Church. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Among classic cars on display at the Customer Appreciation Day was this 1929 Ford two-door sedan.

event, sponsored by Larry's Auto Parts in Garden City. Jim Carner, manager of Larry's Auto Parts, said the event became too large to hold at the store on Ford Road. That's why the church offered its grounds.

Members of the public didn't have to be a customer or a church member to attend the free event.

"I believe it will become the first of many to come that will be at the church," Minch said. "It makes a great customer relationship for Larry's and a good community outreach for the deacons at the church."

[sbuck@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbuck@hometownlife.com)  
313-222-2249

Twitter: @SueSBuck

Its original color was maroon.

He painted it yellow four years ago. "I did everything myself, custom work and engine change," Galdes said.

He spoke highly of the store owner and employees.

"Larry's has good service."

Galdes said. "He has everything you need and if he doesn't have it, he will get it."

Now, Galdes is getting ready to build a 1957 Chevy.

This was the seventh annual

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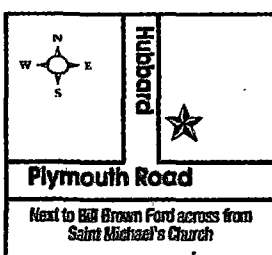
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**FREE** \*To GED holders ages 17 and over

**FREE** \*To non-grads over age 20

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\* Some restrictions/availability may apply.

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- Construction Technology
- Culinary Arts/Hospitality
- Digital Media
- Electronics/Robotics Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Graphic Design
- Heating/Air Conditioning Refrigeration (HVAC)
- Medical Assisting
- Welding Technology

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**734-419-2100**

**William D. Ford Career-Tech Center**  
36455 Marquette • Westland, MI 48185  
Wayne-Westland Community Schools

It is the policy of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education to prohibit any acts of unlawful discrimination in all matters dealing with students, employees or applicants for employment. The Wayne-Westland Schools reaffirms its policy of equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, weight, height, marital status, national origin, or disability and/or handicap which is unrelated to an individual's qualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's ability to utilize and benefit from the School District's educational opportunities, programs and facilities. Inquiries concerning the application of Section 504 legislation should be directed to the coordinator (734-419-2645). Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title VII or Title IX legislation should be directed to the Deputy Superintendent/Educational Services (734-419-2015).

AT147194