

Raking it
all in

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Brookfield is city's biggest project in 20 years

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

City officials call it the biggest residential development in Westland in 20 years.

Brookfield Village - a sprawling mix of single-family homes and condominiums - has entered a second construction phase north of Cherry Hill and west of Hix Road.

When completed, the two phases will leave Brookfield Village with 230 single-family homes and 286 condos on the city's still-growing west side.

A third phase, expected within a couple of years, will add even more homes and spill over into neighboring Canton Township, said Marshall Kallen, president of Galaxy Builders, Inc., of Farmington Hills.

Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson called Brookfield Village the biggest residential development in Westland

since Millpoint subdivision was built on Palmer Road in the mid-1980s.

Builders, city officials and potential home buyers celebrated the second phase last weekend with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and other activities.

"I can't tell you how excited we are," Kallen said.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli lauded Galaxy Builders for a development that incorporates small ponds, common areas and quality homes.

"Some of the homes back up to the woods, and it's so nice and private," she said. "They have these big windows, and it's like being in a rural setting."

Brookfield Village's first phase began about three years ago. It included 109 single-family homes and 220 condominiums - some of them still being built.

The second phase will include 121 single-

family homes and 66 condos.

"People will be moving in, hopefully, before Thanksgiving," Kallen said.

The single-family homes are expected to sell for \$249,000 to \$320,000. Condos will start in the \$150,000 range and top \$170,000.

To accommodate the second phase, Galaxy Builders will have to extend Superior Parkway west to Lotz, Thompson said.

Kallen attributed Brookfield's success to "a wonderful area" that he said has competitive housing prices and such amenities as nearby places to shop.

The development is being built in an area that Thompson said was once zoned for industrial use. He predicted that the single-family homes, in particular, will sell.

"There's a huge demand for single-family homes in this city," he said.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marshall Kallen, president of the company that built Brookfield Village, shows one of the model homes to Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli following a ribbon cutting phase two of the project.

Singing in the rain

Rain dampens turnout for benefit concert

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Musicians who staged a Westland rock concert to raise money for hurricane relief efforts learned firsthand Sunday that rain can douse even the best-laid plans.

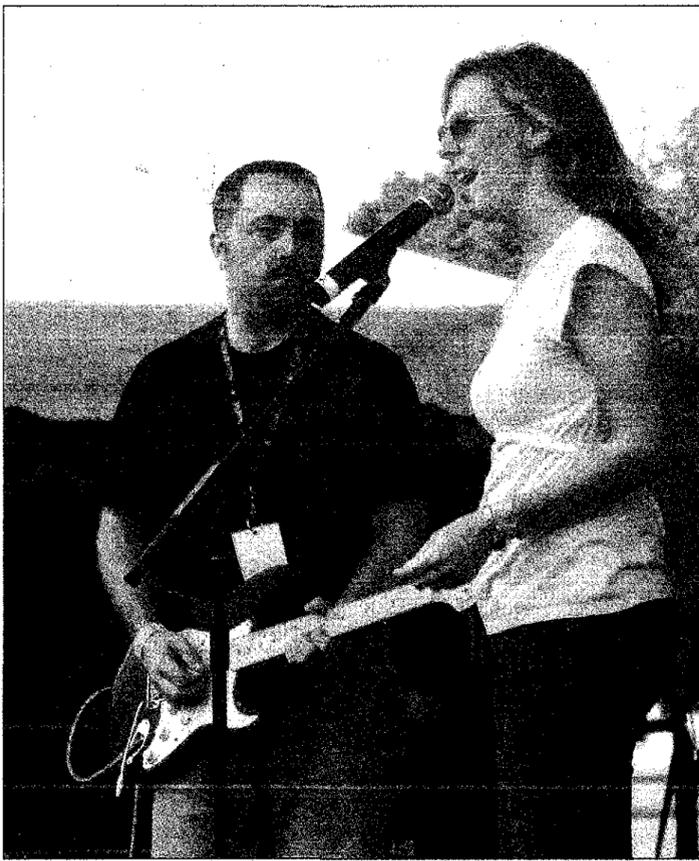
Event manager Dean Boucher estimated that 500-700 people stopped by the 12-hour Musicians for Relief concert in Central City Park. Organizers had hoped to draw thousands.

"The weather put a little hurt on us, but everybody said they would do it again in a heartbeat," said Boucher, a professional stagehand and drummer for Power Source, one of the bands that played. "Hundreds of people stood in the rain. The people that came out were some real troupers."

Boucher estimated that organizers will clear \$6,000 to \$8,000, far less than the \$100,000 they had hoped to raise.

The money will go to a hurricane relief fund established by Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, who said the funds will be split between the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. The city helped sponsor Sunday's concert.

"Considering the weather, I think they were pretty pleased," Cicirelli said of Musicians for Relief. "They were competing against so many other (fund-raising) activities and groups. But, they did



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Lenardon, who plays lead guitar for local band Red Hill, and lead singer Julianne entertain crowds during the 12-hour Musicians for Relief concert Sunday.

PLEASE SEE CONCERT, A4

Adams Middle School wins Muth Award for innovative teaching

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Adams Middle School has become one of only four Michigan schools to receive a prestigious award for improving student achievement through innovative teaching methods.

Dispelling any notion that schools in largely low-income neighborhoods can't compete, Adams has become the first Wayne-Westland school to receive the Middle Cities Education Association Muth Award for Excellence in Leadership.

The association is a coalition of 33 urban school districts in Michigan.

The latest award comes one year after another organization, Standard & Poor's, named Adams a benchmark school in reading and writing.

"We're getting state recognition for achievement and work that we've recognized for quite awhile now," Deputy Superintendent Charlotte Sherman said.

"Adams has been moving its student test scores steadily upward," she said, "and we believe it's a direct result of

the work that teachers have put into that building and their classroom time."

Adams Principal David Ingham attributed his school's gains on state test scores and in other areas to a new, collaborative teaching philosophy.

Each week, teachers carve out an hour of time to discuss what is working - and what isn't - in their classrooms. They learn from each other and return to their rooms armed with useful teaching ideas.

Teachers are divided by subject area when they meet.

"Instead of teachers working independently to improve student test scores, they work in collaboration," Ingham said.

The approach has helped the school make gains in English, mathematics, science and social studies, among other areas.

Adams' latest award came with \$1,500 in cash - money that the school can use to further its innovative teaching methods.

"The award is not given lightly because the money is from an endowment ..."

PLEASE SEE ADAMS, A6

Volunteer Fred Schaffer loads up bags of clothes for the hurricane Katrina victims to be sorted at St. John's School in Westland.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Church, school collection helps evacuees

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of hurricane survivors will have clothing and toiletries due to efforts of a Westland church and school.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, near Wayne and Glenwood,

collected nearly 200 bags of clothing and 20 boxes of items such as toothpaste and combs.

"I never expected it to get this large," volunteer Kendra Schaffer said of the hurricane relief effort.

Some of the clothing collected was new, and the rest was hardly used, she said.

The items collected will likely be distributed to hurricane evacuees who are now calling Michigan their temporary - or possibly permanent - home, Schaffer said.

Some items also may be shipped to the Gulf area, she said.

St. John Evangelical

Lutheran Church and School collected the clothing and toiletries during a two-week period.

Volunteers packed the items last Friday and put them on a truck last Saturday for delivery to a distribution center at

PLEASE SEE COLLECTION, A4

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Coming Sunday
on the PINK page

Exclusive designer denim event in the PINK List



Wayne County gets in the spooky spirit

HALLOWEEN TOWN

Trick-or-treaters unite. It's that time of year - the time when Livonia-based Gags and Games Inc. revamps its stores and caters to the spookiest time of year. Each year every Party USA store in the Midwest closes down for the night only to reopen the next morning as a Halloween USA center. In Wayne County alone, there are 10 locations to suit just about anyone's Halloween needs. The stores provide a large selection of costumes, masks and accessories, along with decorative yard displays and other seasonal and party items.



Amy Gajda, marketing and design manager, said the biggest challenge this time of year is meeting customers needs as fast as the demand arises this time of year. As for preferred costumes this year, classic films provided the most inspiration. "Star Wars seems to be top

on the list for men and boys," said Gajda. "Over the years Disney's princesses and other Disney characters remain popular with women and girls." Founded in Livonia in 1977, Gags and Games, Inc. has grown to include 30 permanent retail stores and more than 80 seasonal Halloween USA stores in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. The seasonal locations open each year in vacant spaces such as former Best Buy and F&M stores in Westland. "The openings of Halloween USA centers has been financially successful for us each year," said Gajda, "but in many

communities where Halloween USA centers exist, we generate additional retail trade that is a boost for the local market. New life comes to vacated buildings with empty parking lots. What's good for us is also good for the communities." For more information, or to find the nearest Halloween USA, check the Web site at www.halloweenusa.com.

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

AROUND WESTLAND

Railrodiana

Buy and swap toys and trains at a fund-raiser sponsored by Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and refreshments will be available. The church hall is at 32500 Palmer Road, west of Merriman, in Westland. Parking is free. For more information, call Norm at (734) 595-8327.

Senior flu shots

The Village of Westland will once again offer a limited number of flu shots to the seniors ages 65 and older 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14. Call (734) 762-8895 to schedule an appointment. The Village of Westland is located at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman.

Scrapbook class

Looking for help with your scrapbooking? The Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Adult and Community Education Program is offering a Scrapbook Page Layouts class 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4 and 11.

Participants will learn photo organization, page layout and journaling techniques. The cost is \$20 for the class and \$15 for the material. Call (734) 419-2426 to register. For more information about the class, call (734) 326-6111.

Car donation

People with a car to donate can give it to Veterans Haven. The organization is accepting cars, running or not running, that are given to veterans to provide them with transportation to work, school of medical needs. To date, the agency has given away more than 250 vehicles and three fully furnished mobile homes to needy veterans. To donate, call Veterans Haven at (734) 728-0527 or go to vshaveninfo.org on the Internet.

Mom2Mom sale

St. Damian Church and School will have a Mom 2 Mom Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the building at 30055 Joy between Middlebelt and Merriman, Westland. There will be more than 70 tables offering gently used children's clothes, toys, baby furniture and more. Table rental is \$20. Admission is \$1, children are free. All proceeds benefit St. Damian School. For more information or to reserve a table, call Dawn at (734) 983-0221.

Basketball clinics

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department and Hoops Stars Basketball will sponsor a six-week Hoops Stars Basketball Clinic 5:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 8-Dec. 6 at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

The clinic is for youngsters ages 7-13 and in grades 1-8. Participants will learn the fundamentals of basketball, such as dribbling, passing, shooting and defense. There also will be challenging games and drills and an opportunity to play in a 5-on-5 full court game.

Kids need to bring a water bottle and wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes. The clinic costs \$42 for residents and \$45 for non-residents. Register at the Bailey Center. For more information, call Ron Levin at (248) 496-3268.

Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Church is having a Las Vegas Party 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 21, at the church, located on the southwest corner Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland.

There will be blackjack, table games, hourly raffles and non-smoking Blackjack rooms. Admission will be \$7 and includes food (hot dogs, potato salad), pop and potato chips. Beer available at \$1 per glass. Call (734) 427-5150.

St. Bernardine Men's Club also is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16, Jan. 6, Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 17 and Feb. 24.

Participants don't need a partner to play. Snacks and soft drinks are included in the \$5 charge. Games start at 7:30 p.m.

Craft show tables

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women's craft show Saturday, Oct. 22.

The show will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall, 8200 Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) to reserve a table.

Crafters are needed for the annual Holiday craft show at Hawthorne Valley on Nov. 27. For information, call Sue or Paul at (734) 844-3128.

Crafters are still needed for the 19th annual Delta Kappa Gamma juried show on Saturday, Oct. 15. The show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth Township. Call Jan at (734) 844-1707 or e-mail to tways@comcast.net for more information.

Edison Elementary will have its Holiday Bazaar 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the school, 34505 Hunter at Wildwood, Westland. There will be 25 vendors, door prizes and bake sale. Admission is \$2. Children will not be allowed in the show area, however, there will be baby-sitting and crafts for available. Proceeds will benefit the Edison PTO.

17 bands meet for Americana Invitational at FHS

BY DIANE HANSON
CORRESPONDENT

In a spectacular display of musical mastery, marching prowess and colorful choreography, the Livonia Franklin Marching Band and Boosters hosted the 12th annual Americana Invitational Saturday.

After Emerson Middle School's band performed "The Star-Spangled Banner," 17 bands played in a judged exhibition that entertained some 3,000 spectators.

"It doesn't get any better than this," said Dr. Randy Liepa, Livonia Public Schools superintendent, who helped present awards along with Franklin Principal Dan Willenborg. "The kids work so hard for this and we're so proud of them. They do a wonderful job—it's really impressive."

"The parents are so involved and they have such great teachers. This is just a great activity."

Franklin Marching Band Director Kristi Jasin couldn't agree more. She was pleased with her 69 performers' presentation of this year's competition show, "Scheherazade."

"I'm very happy and very pleased with their progress," said Jasin. "Some of the drill and music was just added this week, so this is the first time they performed that part of it."

Jasin also had plenty of kudos for parents and staff.

"The staff here at Franklin is just top-notch," she said. "I have such a great parent group of incredibly hard-working, dedicated people."

That's music to the ears of Band Booster President Neal Durkin and event co-chairs Dan and Angela Woods.

"All the people in the band



The Franklin High School marching band will be among 17 bands competing in the 12th annual Americana Invitational Saturday at Stevenson High School.

boosters organization make this thing work," said Dan Woods of the 140-member group. "We have close to 100 percent participation at this event."

That kind of support is a definite boost to the performers, including the Woods' daughter, senior Rachel Woods, drum major for the Marching Patriots.

"I think our band did very well," she said. "It sounded really good."

The band is up for the challenge with practice two to three hours, six days a week.

"The practice is definitely worth it," said junior Ryan O'Neill, a tenor saxophonist and section leader. "The overall experience is incredibly rewarding."

Those sentiments were echoed by members of the

Livonia Stevenson Marching Band, which also competed at the invitational.

"I love everything about marching band," said SHS senior drum major Becky Bayer. "You build friendships that can last forever and you learn so much. You learn discipline and time management and it just makes you a better person overall."

Those are the kind of comments that put a smile on the face of Stevenson Band Director David Booker.

"We're not the largest group in our division," he said of his 82 Marching Spartans, "but the idea is to have fun and to be the best that we can be."

This was the season opener for the Spartans with their competition piece, "Oliver." "It's quite an exciting and

different show for us," said Booker. "I think they did a real fine job."

So did senior David Bernard, who plays a masterful trumpet solo during the production.

"It's a fun show and the crowd really got into it near the end," he said of the audience's spontaneous rhythmic clapping at the show's finale. "There is a lot of energy put into this and there was a great turnout by the band."

The Spartan marchers captured fourth place in Flight I at the invitational. Plymouth-Canton finished first and Westland John Glenn finished third in Flight I. Farmington finished fourth in Flight II. Flights are determined by a school's enrollment and not size of the band. Flight I is for the largest schools.

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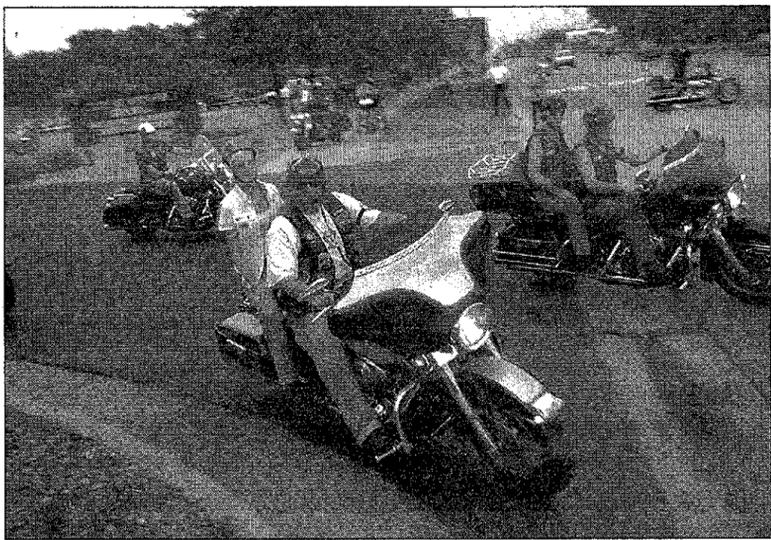
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Toy-fully good

Members of the Motor City Chapter of the Harley Owner's Group didn't let a little rain dampen their spirits as they set out Sunday from Westland City Hall on their 11th annual toy. The parade of motorcycles left the civic center complex at 12:30 p.m. with a police escort and rode throughout western Wayne County before ending up at Joy Manor for a spaghetti and pizza dinner. The Motor City H.O.G. group last year gave about \$40,000 to charity.

Verdict expected in trial of former Agape principal

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

To this day Mark Moore has no idea who forwarded him the e-mails which exposed a sexual relationship between a former principal and student at Agape Christian Academy in Canton.

The sexual assault trial for Clark Sexton, the former principal at the school, began this week in Wayne County Circuit Court. On Wednesday, both the prosecution and defense attorneys made their closing arguments, and a verdict was expected Thursday morning after this newspaper went to press.

Sexton, 30, of Westland was charged on Feb. 2, 2005, with three counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, a felony which alleges penetration, and one count of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, a misdemeanor.

Moore, the pastor at Agape, testified that he had received the e-mails between Sexton and the alleged victim, who is now a college student at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, in July, 2004, and it became apparent that the two had an inappropriate relationship. But at the time, no one believed they had a sexual relationship.

"The e-mails were intimate, but not sexual," he said in court Tuesday. He added that it seemed "so out of character" for both the victim and Sexton.

Moore met the former principal in 1995, when Sexton was hired to teach math and religion at the nondenominational Christian school. That's also the year Sexton met his wife, Gretchen, who was a student at Agape Christian Academy. She graduated in 1996, and Moore said the two married about a year later. Sexton was promoted to the position of principal in 1999.

"I was never aware of them being a couple" while Gretchen was still a student, Moore said, adding that to the best of his knowledge, the two did not

begin dating until after she graduated.

Sexton's attorney, Paul Clark, has not suggested that Sexton and the student did not have a sexual relationship. He's suggested that the girl had reached the age of consent, 16 years old, at the time of the dozen sexual encounters between the two.

"I consider a 16-year-old still a child," the alleged victim said from the witness stand Tuesday. "I should not have been worrying about having sex with my principal."

The woman did say that she hadn't had intercourse with Sexton until after her 16th birthday. However, she said that three incidents - one in which she engaged in oral sex with Sexton, and two in which he had touched her on her breasts and genitals - occurred when she was 15 years old.

The woman said at Sexton's preliminary examination in March that the first time he had kissed her she was 14 years old, and the kiss occurred in his red pickup truck. A few months after that, the sexual contact began. However, Clark produced documents from Ford Motor Co. which prove that Sexton had not bought the truck until September of 2000, when the girl was 15. If the rest of the girl's timeline is correct, she would have been 16 at the time of the sexual touching and oral sex, Clark said.

The alleged victim also testified that some of the encounters took place after Sexton sent her e-mails or instant messages. But her e-mail account was not created until the beginning of 2001, when the alleged victim was 16 years old.

Further, the school did not have Internet access until sometime after 2001, Moore said. And the girl's family did not have a home computer and Internet access until late in 2000, just after the girl's 16th birthday.

She claimed, however, that

she is absolutely certain of her age at the time of the sexual contact. She's sure, she said, because she had participated in a "celebration of purity" ceremony in which students took a vow to remain chaste until marriage.

The young woman said that by the time she participated in the ceremony in January 2001, the sexual contact between her and Sexton had already begun. She said he watched her throughout the ceremony, and afterward told her that he was glad that he hadn't had sex with her yet because she may have become very emotional.

Sexton's attorney has suggested the family may have financial motivation to pursue the case. Moore said in court that the victim's family has several times threatened to sue the school and church. The victim's mother was a teacher at the school and in January, when she contacted police nearly six months after the e-mails were brought to her attention, she had asked the school for leave with pay for the rest of the year.

The school, however, offered her six weeks pay.

Moore added that after she was denied pay, she had sent out a letter to the parishioners and families of students at Agape Christian Academy. He was not allowed, however, to discuss the contents of the letter in court.

Moore said that Sexton's contract was not renewed at the end of the 2003-04 school year, due to "unrelated domestic issues." It was while Sexton's office was being cleaned out that the e-mails were found, he said. According to Sexton's attorney, he is currently unemployed.

Agape Christian Academy is on Geddes Road, east of Canton Center. It is a nondenominational Christian K-12 school with about 350 students.

cmarsall@oe.hometown.com

Cash drawers, ATM taken in break-in

Bar break-in

A business owner told police that someone broke into his bar, the Ivory Room, about 7:30 a.m. last Sunday, stealing two cash drawers and an ATM. The bar is located at 35500 Ford Road.

The ATM apparently was dragged out the back door of the business. A neighbor told police that he saw a pickup truck behind the bar about the time the break-in is believed to have occurred.

Barson's break-in

A business owner told police that someone broke into Barson's Greenhouse, on Merriman north of Ford, between 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday.

CRIME WATCH

The owner told authorities that the business was missing various tools and walkie-talkies.

Street fight

Two men sustained injuries during a fight that occurred about 4:35 a.m. Sunday in the 8600 block of Shari, near Merriman and Ann Arbor Trail on the city's north side.

A 21-year-old Westland man and a 21-year-old Livonia man had been to a party when, according to police reports, the Livonia man pushed the Westland man and spit on him.

The Livonia man then knocked the Westland man to the ground and began attacking him. It wasn't clear why the dis-

pute started, other than the suspect had been drinking heavily. The Westland man's head was slightly injured when he fell, and he hit the Livonia man on the head with a beer bottle in an attempt to fend him off, according to police reports. The Livonia man was taken to a hospital for treatment, and a police report indicated that he tried to jump from the ambulance while en route.

Sexual scrawlings

A 44-year-old Westland woman who lives on Willow Lane told police that she heard a tap on her bedroom window while she was on her computer. She looked out and didn't see anyone, but someone had used a black marker to write sexual words on her window.

WLND airs local candidates' messages

WLND, the official government access channel for the City of Westland is helping inform Westland residents about their political choices on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8.

The channel will broadcast campaign speeches by the two mayoral candidates and eight city council candidates beginning this week.

The city council messages debuted at 8 p.m. Tuesday. The mayoral messages follow at 9:30 p.m. The city council

speeches re-play at 10 a.m. and 3 and 8 p.m., and 2 a.m., while the mayoral messages will run at 11:30 a.m., 4:30 and 9:30 p.m. and 3:30 a.m.

All of the speeches air through Monday, Oct. 3. The messages will air again at the same times Tuesday, Nov. 1, through Tuesday, Nov. 8.

City council candidates had up to 12 minutes to record their messages, while mayoral candidates were allotted 15 minutes. This year's mayoral

candidates are incumbent Sandra A. Cicirelli and Elenor Swistak. The council candidates are Normie June Brazier, Lori Brist, James R. Davis and Robert J. Thomas and incumbents Cheryl A. Graunstadt, Michael A. Kehrer, Charles Pickering and Bob Stottlemeyer. For the complete WLND programming guide, visit the city Web site at www.ci.westland.mi.us, and click on the WLND icon on the right side of the page.

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CONCERT

FROM PAGE A1

a tremendous job. It was so well-organized. It was a nice concert. It's just too bad the weather didn't cooperate." Rare Earth headlined the event, which featured nine bands, a classic car show and other activities. Organizers managed to get a professional stage and sound system donated for the day. Livonia resident Joe Sanavage, 49, who works in computer graphic designs, stood near the stage after rock band The Ride finished its set. "I follow The Ride and Power Source," he said. "They play at Chatters (bar in Westland), and I go there." Sanavage commended the musicians who volunteered their time to raise money for hurricane relief efforts. "I think it's what everybody should do if they get a chance," he said. "The more people who

do it, the better. They're helping their fellow man." Don and Holly Gilbeau of Dearborn Heights stood under a tent that organizers erected to help keep the crowd dry. Don Gilbeau, a 50-year-old grocery chain employee, heard about the concert at work. "I like The Ride, and I thought this was for a good cause," he said. Michigan Humane Society volunteer Pam Barski of Canton promoted that organization's pet-rescue efforts by setting up a table with Ellen Thomas, who provides foster care for pets at her Commerce Township home. "We hope to drum up support for people to realize that, as much as they need to help the people (in hurricane-stricken areas), they also need to help animals that are displaced from their owners." Hungry concert-goers could choose from food ranging from tamales to pizza to hot dogs. "They really seemed to like

the fresh corn on the cob," said Sue Haslacker, who worked a concession stand sponsored by the Westland Summer Festival committee. On the stage, musicians seemed to work as hard as they would for an arena-filled crowd. Guitarist Joey Gaydos, Jr. - from the movie *School of Rock* - infused Little Richard's *Lucille* with some impassioned guitar licks. Like others, Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski had hoped for a larger crowd. "It's hard to raise money when the weather is like this," he said. "But when people are losing their homes (in the Gulf region), it doesn't hurt to stand out in the rain here and listen to some music for a good cause." Even before Sunday's concert, the city's hurricane relief fund had topped \$25,000 - largely due to Westland firefighters who earlier held out their boots to collect money in



Helen and Stan Wickman of Livonia spent time with granddaughter Annalisa Lenardon, eight months old, while at the concert. Annalisa was there with her mom Noreen. Her dad, John Lenardon, plays lead guitar for the band Red Hill.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

major city intersections. Donations still may be made by making checks payable to City of Westland/Hurricane Help and sending them to Westland City Hall, Finance Department, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI, 48185.

Boucher, meanwhile, said musicians still will be raising money for the effort. He said Power Source will play Saturday night at Chatters, on Wayne Road near Central City Parkway, during a show that will include raffles for a Red

Wings jersey signed by hockey players, a Rare Earth guitar autographed by the band, and tattoo gift certificates. The show will be from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m., he said. dclcm@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110

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Facility could produce renewable fuel

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

With the opening of the DTE Hydrogen Technology Park at 11 Mile and Inkster Roads, Southfield has joined a distinguished group of cities. The technology park - unveiled at a recent open house - is one of three in the U.S. which generates and stores hydrogen for the production of electricity, DTE spokesman Scott Simons said. DTE developed the \$3-million facility in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy. Two other hydrogen generating and storage facilities are located in Arizona and Hawaii, Simons said. They also involve partnerships between utility companies and the DOE. The new facility puts Southfield in the forefront of efforts to develop renewable fuel for homes and vehicles, said Robert Fletcher, who directs the alternative energy program at nearby Lawrence Technological

University. LTU will be involved in collecting, analyzing and reporting data, Fletcher said. The Southfield-based university currently generates electricity from 63 solar panels located on the roof of the engineering building on campus. "It's exciting to be involved in technology that has the potential to improve the entire world," said Kevin Pawlowski, a mechanical engineering student from Troy. "It's fun to make energy on the spot," said Pawlowski, who worked to bring the facility online. He also expects to work at the facility in the fall. The facility uses a fundamental principle familiar to most high school chemistry students, said Bruce Whitney, DTE technical specialist. "We pass a direct current (of electricity) through water producing hydrogen and oxygen." That hydrogen can be used immediately or stored for future use, he said.

To underscore one practical application, three Daimler-Chrysler vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells were featured at the open house, offering rides to the estimated 300 people attending. "We have 100 hydrogen-powered vehicles throughout the world," said Nick Cappa, the company's manager of advanced technology communications. Two of the hydrogen-fueled cars available Saturday were F-Cell passenger vehicles. The third was a Dodge Fuel Cell Sprinter, a full-sized van currently used by UPS in Ann Arbor. "This is a great opportunity," said Giorgio Zoia, business development manager for BP, formerly known as British Petroleum, another partner in the hydrogen technology park. It will take coordination between the scientific, business and academic communities as the country makes the transition into the hydrogen economy, he said.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteers Carol Sharp and Kendra Schaffer sort through clothes at St. John's School.

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COLLECTION

FROM PAGE A1

Detroit City Airport. Schaffer, who went along for the ride, was amazed at the outpouring of donations to help evacuees. "It was one of the most moving experiences I ever had," she said. Volunteers worked more than eight hours last Friday

sorting the clothing and packing it for delivery to Detroit City Airport. Adults had help from students in fifth-eighth grades, Schaffer said. The items went to the airport on the same day that the city of Westland and a group calling itself Musicians for Relief staged an all-day concert in Central City Park to raise money to help with hurricane relief efforts.

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Decorating by design

Studio warehouse helps homeowners make aesthetic decisions

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

The popularity of television shows such as *Trading Spaces* and *Extreme Home Makeover* have made homeowners more aware of what their homes need and in need of a place to go to get help accomplishing the feat.

With the addition 3,000-square-foot warehouse to its established Old Village studio, the ladies at Designer's Choice warehouse are trying to help them take advantage of the knowledge.

"With TV and those home-and-garden shows, people are much more cognizant of home design," said Judy Hepler, a designer with the company. "They don't have anywhere to go to get the help."

That changed, according to owner Dawn McAllister, some 18 months ago, when she added the warehouse in Provincetown Center on Northville Road. While full-home design help is available at the studio i Old Village, the warehouse allows McAllister and her staff to help customers more with single pieces of furniture and accessories.

The warehouse, which opened in March 2004, features a variety of lines of quality furniture McAllister uses as an extension of the studio. It's filled, she said, with "unique pieces" of designer furniture, accessories, wall art, rugs, custom cabinetry and custom floral designs.

While the customers at the design studio are generally revamping an entire home, shoppers at the warehouse are usually looking for 1-2 pieces, or something to complement designs they've already done.

"People who come to the design studio are doing whole rooms, or a whole house," McAllister said. "We're not all things to all people at the warehouse, but between the two we can be. They can start (at the warehouse) and get



The folks at Designer's Choice Warehouse - Dawn McAllister, Judy Hepler, Abigail Mitchell, and Linda Simko - have assembled an interesting and ever-changing collection.

comfortable with us, and then move on."

Designer's Choice should be qualified to help them do just that. McAllister's career goes back some 30 years, and her parents owned McAllister House of Decorating in Northville. Hepler has worked in a variety of design positions in the fashion and cosmetic industry. And designer Abigail Mitchell has a degree in interior design from Michigan State University.

"I trust the gals working for me," said McAllister. "They understand the needs, budget and time frame."

McAllister said one of the things that makes Designer's Choice unique is the advent of frequent "Design Events," seminars and sales at the warehouse that include a short, informational presentation on whatever item happens to be featured.

The next event is Sept. 24, featuring art from the

Carolinas. Many items will be discounted 40 percent. It's all designed to do one thing: Keep customers happy.

"My mom and dad trained me a long time ago to satisfy the customer," McAllister said. "It's our job to get into their home and add the products that would complement what they have."

According to Hepler, that's accomplished by putting together a map of the customer's home, helping the client figure out what is needed.

"Clients don't know what it is that's missing," Hepler said. "They need someone to come in and see with a fresh eye, and bring a balance to it."

That makes decorating a home much like life itself, according to McAllister.

"That's what design is all about," she said. "There's balance in all things in life."

bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459-2700

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Art and other accessories are among the eclectic inventory at Designer's Choice Interior Warehouse.

FOR THE RECORD

B
Michael A. Bacon
Bacon, 55, of Canton, died Sept. 23.

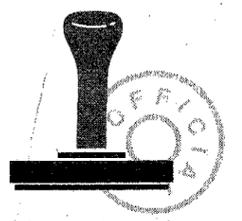
E
Dennis Michael Ehrhart
Ehrhart, 59, died Sept. 24.

Jeanette Erwin
Erwin, 80, of Waterford, formerly of Birmingham, died Sept. 26.

Gary L. Innes
Innes, 65, of Livonia, died Sept. 18.

M
Esther E. Marcotte
Marcotte, 91, of South Lyon, died Sept. 25.

Evelyn G. McFadden
McFadden, 74, of Bloomfield Hills, died Sept. 24.



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

RECREATIONAL SPORTS

The City of Westland offers several sport leagues for men and women throughout the year.

Dad's Athletic Club of Westland
Call Bud Prough at (734) 595-2951 or Michelle at (734) 721-7614 for more information.

Wayne Dolphin Swim Team
Come join one of the longest running recreational swim teams in the area. We need boys and girls ages 6-18 to continue a tradition of friendship and fun. For more information visit the Web site or contact President Mary Schirmer at (734) 397-8196, Vice-President Donna Fox at (734) 729-5049 or Treasurer Tammy Deck at (734) 728-1099.

Warriors of Westland
The Warriors of Westland sports team for the physically challenged trains people ages 5 and up to participate in track and field events. For more information, call Head Coach Cindy Hawk at (734) 513-8745.

Wayne Ford Civic League
The Wayne Ford Civic League provides T-ball, coach pitch, baseball and spring and fall soccer for children ages 4-10. For more information, call Patricia Tatum at (734) 467-8243.

Wayne-Westland Soccer Association
For more information, call (734) 467-5260.

Westland Hockey Association

For more information, call Chris Simonian at (734) 326-2146.

Westland Lawn Bowling Association
For more information call (734) 722-7630 or (734) 5228229.

Westland Wizardz

The Westland Wizardz wheelchair basketball team is for individuals 16 years of age or older with any impairment that prevents them from playing regular basketball. There is also a junior team for ages 10-16. For more information, call Shaun Graham at (734) 762-9573 or Jose Zavala at (734) 721-1835.

Westland Youth Athletic Association

The Westland Youth Athletic Association offers youth basketball, baseball, cheerleading and volleyball. For information, call (734) 421-0640.

FUN-4-ALL

This children's recreation scholarship program that was started by several concerned parents who wanted to find a way for children from financially stressed families who live in Westland to be able to participate in recreation programs.

All applications must be turned in at least two weeks before the first class. Those who are interested in helping the program or need an application can contact Margaret Martin, program supervisor, at (734) 722-7620.

PRESCHOOLS

Preschool listings should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.homecomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

Willow Creek

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Newburgh and Wayne Road in Westland, is a non-profit co-op preschool for tots, 3 and 4 years old. It serves Westland, Canton and surrounding communities. The Moms and Tots program meets Friday mornings. Three-year-olds meet Tuesday and Thursday and four-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning and afternoon sessions available. For more information, call Lucy Arunachalam at (734) 453-5959.

Preschool program

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has registration for preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 419-2635.

McKinley

Looking for a great preschool? Choose McKinley Cooperative Preschool at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland.

Nondiscriminatory and fully licensed, the program is open to youngsters ages 2-4. Morning and afternoon classes are offered. For information, call (734) 729-7222 or visit the Web site at www.mckinleypreschool.org.

Charter school:

The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills and offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

Methodist

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is now enrolling for the 2004-05 school year. Four-year-olds attend on Mondays and Wednesdays; three-year-olds attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call the preschool office at (734) 728-3559. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9-11:30 a.m.

Garden City Co-op

Garden City Co-op Nursery, housed in the Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt at John Hawk, has openings in its programs for children 18 months to 4 years. The tots class meets on Wednesday mornings, while the older youngsters meet on Mondays and Thursdays. Parental involvement is required. Parents can call (734) 261-2838.

ADAMS

FROM PAGE A1

Sherman said. "You have to really earn it."

The award is especially significant considering that Adams, with 750 students and 45 teachers, serves some of the Wayne-Westland district's lower-income neighborhoods, Ingham said.

The school and its staff will be honored by the Wayne-Westland school board during a meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, Sherman said.

While some people who aren't familiar with the school might be surprised that it has received numerous accolades over the years, local educators aren't among them.

"We're not surprised at all," Sherman said.

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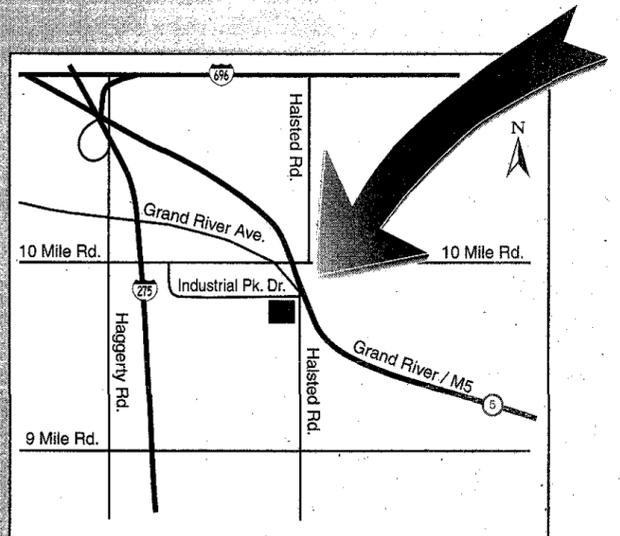
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From home-based to worldwide, company celebrates 20th year

When Alex Krulikowski founded Effective Training Inc., it was a one-man operation, based in his home. Known as the "Doctor of Dimensioning," Krulikowski is celebrating the 20th anniversary of his training and consulting corporation that's now based in Westland. The company provides geometric dimensioning and tolerancing (GD&T) products and services to organizations across the globe. GD&T is an international language of symbols used on engineering drawings to communicate design intent. It is used by thousands of manufacturers world-wide. A year after founding Effective Training Inc, he published his first GD&T self-study course. Krulikowski continued his full-time design career, working nights and weekends to maintain the



Krulikowski

growing business. In 1987, ETI expanded to an office in Wayne. Three years later, ETI moved to Westland where the company currently employs a small team of professionals, including several instructors and consultants. ETI has continued to flourish. In 1999, the company had sales of \$500,000. In 2002, the company celebrated its goal of more than \$1 million in revenue. "For me, the rewards of teaching go beyond the financial benefits," said Krulikowski. "I know that by teaching GD&T, I am providing the tools to help people grow and gain skills that will help them for a lifetime. It is

a very satisfying career." Krulikowski's dedication has paid off. Effective Training now boasts clients such as Ford, GM, Daimler-Chrysler, Boeing, Delphi, GE and Hewlett Packard. ETI's training and products are purchased by thousands of organizations world-wide. Its textbooks and other teaching materials are used in hundreds of educational institutions in the United States, Canada, and overseas. A self-study workbook and GD&T pocket guide have been translated into Spanish. In the past 20 years, the name Krulikowski has become synonymous with GD&T. As a world renowned GD&T expert, he has often been referred to as "the doctor of dimensioning." He is the member of many national standards organizations, including the ASME Y14.5

Committee on Dimensioning and Tolerancing and he served for six years as chairman of the Y14.41 Committee on Solid Model Dimensioning. He has published more 20 books and articles about GD&T, has created a dozen GD&T-related courses, and has developed a wide variety of products devoted to learning the topic. As technology has evolved, the demand for new types of GD&T training options has risen. Krulikowski has met each challenge successfully. He developed his self-study course into a video series, and then into a computer-based training program called "The GD&T Trainer," which has been sold to corporations worldwide. ETI's instructor kits were developed into digital versions that contain hundreds

of teaching slides on CD-Rom. In 2003, ETI produced the GD&T Trainer Professional Edition, a new level of computer-based training that includes technical animations, audio narration, 3-D drawings and other advanced features. In 2004, Krulikowski created the only solid model tolerancing course available for learning how to use GD&T on digital drawings. This year ETI unveiled a Fundamentals of GD&T Web-based training option. Krulikowski retired from his full-time position in 2004 and devotes all of his time to teaching, consulting and managing ETI. The company provides onsite workshops to major corporations and industries around the world, and Krulikowski has personally taught GD&T to organizations in Australia, Poland,

Mexico and France. The company has also provided onsite workshops in Japan, England and China. ETI's Web site sells GD&T products globally and provides a variety of free GD&T resources, including an online newsletter, a discussion board about GD&T and the ASME Standard, a tip of the month, technical papers, a technical calendar of events and the digital tolerancing forum (a network for sharing ideas and information on the uses of digital tolerance information). Its latest resources include a tool that calculates any company's potential savings using GD&T and a free GD&T skills survey that tests an individual's knowledge of tolerancing principles. Visit ETI's Web site at www.etinews.com to learn more about Effective Training Inc.

Toy: 8 sites to collect donations for Katrina

State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, is sponsoring a donation drive to collect supplies for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina and living locally. "The American Red Cross estimates that more than 3,000 people have been relocated to Michigan from the disaster area," said Toy. "This is just one way to help them as they try to rebuild their lives in our state." Donations of personal items including combs, hairbrushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, personal

hygiene products, diapers, wipes and other necessities will be accepted through Friday, Oct. 7, at the following local drop-off sites:
 ■ In Westland, take donations to Leon's Family Dining at 303 S. Wayne Road, south of Cherry Hill.
 ■ In Garden City, visit Gordon Chevrolet at 31850 Ford between Venoy and Merriman roads or Merriman Road Baptist Church at 2055 Merriman, south of Ford.
 ■ In Livonia, take goods to Cardwell

Florist at 32109 Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Merriman, or Leon's Family Dining at 28904 Seven Mile, east of Middlebelt, or St. Mary's Church at 18200 Merriman, north of Six Mile.
 ■ In Redford, stop by the Redford Inn at 25800 Five Mile or (between 9 a.m. and noon) to St. James Presbyterian Church at 25350 Six Mile east of Beech Daly. "Our state's budget may be tight, but when your neighbors are in need, you help them," said Toy. "That's just what Americans do."

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YOUTH ASSISTANCE

The Westland Youth Assistance Program is at 36701 Ford Road in an addition to the Westland Police Department. The separate glass entrance facing City Hall and comfortable waiting area allows for private, professional, environment to assist families in Westland. Westland youth ages 7 through 16 are referred to Youth Assistance by the police, courts, schools, parents and other agencies. Once referred, an intake appointment is scheduled to explain the program's services to the youth and parents (guardians), and to offer them the opportunity to discuss their concerns and to ask questions. All information discussed is confidential. All services are free to Westland residents. If the assessment determines that a youth is appropriate for Youth Assistance, the following services may be required for the youth:

- Life Choices classes.
- Drug screens.
- Supervised Community Work Service.
- Jail/prison tour.
- Team Adventure Challenge.
- Mentoring.
- Karate.
- Counseling.

Parents are required to participate in a Parenting Skills and Support Group. For more information, contact Executive Director Ronalee Bowman or Deputy Director Paul Motz at (734) 467-7904, or by e-mail at yap@ci.westland.mi.us.

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Author's memoir takes honest look at Detroit

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Paul Clemens was born in 1973, the year Detroit voters elected Coleman A. Young mayor and the city's population began to tilt toward a black majority.

Clemens grew up in the northeast section of the city. During his childhood, his family moved from an area near Six Mile to an area near Seven Mile as the population continued to change the racial makeup of what had once been a solidly white, working-class Italian Catholic neighborhood.

In his new, well-received book *Made in Detroit: A South of 8 Mile Memoir* (Doubleday, \$23.95), Clemens writes with blunt honesty about what it was like growing up in a minority in a black city. As Nathaniel Rich wrote in the Sept. 11 *New York Times Review of Books*, "... besides being a funny and moving memoir, it is one of the frankest accounts of race relations in America in recent years."

COMPELLING STORY

Clemens begins with a story that is at once funny and scary. A drive-by shooter takes out a window of the family truck at 3 in the morning. The 16-year-old Clemens is frantically roused from a deep sleep by his mother to go after his father who has sped off in pursuit of the shooters. Together they box in the vandals on the westbound lanes of Eight Mile, fortunately only to have them slip away across the median without further violence.

It's a dramatic set piece that takes us immediately into the danger, fear and tension that Detroit had become. For the people in Clemens' neighborhood it was "us vs. them" and the brush mayor of Detroit was symbolic of all that was wrong with the city.

At first, Clemens wanted to turn his experiences into a novel but several attempts to spin limp fiction from dramatic fact proved dissatisfying. A friend advised him that his real life stories were better.

"For me I seem to have a greater capacity for making sense of experience as memoir than as a novel," Clemens said in an interview last week.

Clemens' mother, from a strong Italian family with deep roots in the city, cleaned houses

in Grosse Pointe. His father worked for the city but his passion was working on and racing automobiles. He didn't like Coleman Young, but he also didn't like the heated racial conversations at Sal's Barbershop either.

In many ways Clemens' memoir is the typical story of a Catholic boy in the city. He went to Catholic schools where he excelled academically. He was active in sports.

But at the center of it all was the fact that he and his family were part of a diminishing minority in the city. When he was in the fifth grade he was the only white kid on a junior football team.

'INVERSE DYNAMIC'

"There is an inverse dynamic here, unlike other cities," Clemens said. "This was a black city and black controlled. ... There was an inverse of power."

But as a budding writer, Clemens began to see his situation as fodder for his writing.

"I'm thrilled to have grown up in Coleman Young's Detroit. What great material. He's great quotable material," Clemens said.

For Clemens, the blustering and bullying Young is one pole of the book, his father is the other.

"There is a humorous antagonism between these two 'characters' and I tried to capture that on the page," he said.

Clemens said he felt strongly that his story needed an anchor.

"My father is this profoundly decent man and for the reader you needed him as the anchor," he said. "People who knew my father, I would ask them, did I get this right, is this how pop was when I was growing up. One of the most tense moments was months ago when I showed the book to my father. I was on pins and needles waiting for his response. It was more important than a favorable review in *The New York Times*. It was understated. He said, 'It's good.'"

But the book is also about Clemens' own struggle to make sense of his past and his negative feelings about Detroit and its black majority.

"In a typical dramatic structure you have a protagonist and an antagonist. In a memoir the struggle takes place in my head, the push and pull is with myself," he said. "We all have two parts in us, one is progressive, open-minded, which is good, but we also have this other part of us."

INFLUENCES

As an English major at Grand Valley State University, Clemens

black kids - boxing matches in basements, fall football practices - centered around physical contact: violence, supervised and unsupervised. From these early experiences may stem my frequent surprise, later in life, at the belief of many whites that black folks are to be treated with kid gloves - that they are untouchables, basically, about whom there is a great deal that can't be thought or said. In Detroit it was different, with a greater respect given to the black ability to absorb physical and linguistic blows. They hit and you hit back; it's how the game was played. Coleman Young was quite capable of defending himself.

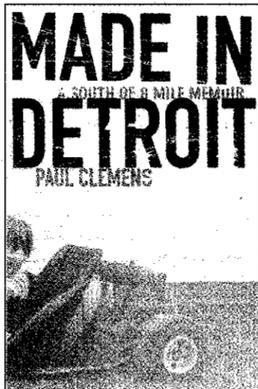
College opened him to other views.

"There is a natural tendency when one goes away to college from a conservative, Catholic family one becomes more literary. The world is bigger than you think. Though I lived in a black city, all I ever heard was the white point of view. There is another point of view, the black experience. It's a tug of war and there are two sides to everything."

But the war is difficult. A potentially deadly carjacking of his father and finding out that his future wife had been raped by a black man test Clemens and bring out some of his most vitriolic writing.

"The idea of living in Detroit is not on the table," said Clemens, who lives with his wife and two children in Grosse Pointe Farms but works in Detroit as an administrator at Wayne State University.

He said he's encouraged by what's happening in parts of the downtown but said there won't be any real improvement until the city stems the tide of diminishing population.



Paul Clemens' memoir has been receiving good reviews for its honesty and insights.

began extensive reading, particularly works by noted black writers especially Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin. He also read Malcolm X's famous *Autobiography*. He came upon a sentence in Baldwin's *Notes of a Native Son* that began to put things in perspective. Baldwin admits to hating and fearing white people, but that did not mean he loved black people. "On the contrary," he wrote, "I despised them because they failed to produce Rembrandt."

"It opened me up to that point of view," Clemens said. "How do you create that bond with readers, an honesty of motive and intellect. With that sentence Baldwin had me in the palm of his hand. It was a literary awakening."

Clemens doesn't like or trust the usual "liberal" defenses and bridges at the notion that black culture and leaders are beyond criticism.

In the book he writes, "... my early, playful interaction with



Redford artist Sergio De Giusti created this charcoal and pastel drawing titled Ziggurat at Ur.

Artists create requiem for victims of Iraq war

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Nancy Paton has put together exhibits on social issues before. Her latest gives artists an opportunity to respond to the Iraq war.

Through Oct. 2, Redford sculptor Sergio De Giusti and 21 other artists show emotion wrenching work in War Requiem: A Visual Retrospect of War in the Exhibit Gallery on the second floor of the library at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan in Livonia.

Paton spent nine months planning and inviting artists to create works for the exhibit. She wanted not only to raise awareness but find a way to bring about peace.

"For some of the artists it was a real emotional process because of the topic," said Nancy Paton, a Plymouth resident who teaches introduction to art and music, and art appreciation at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Paton is a 1993 graduate of Madonna University.

Other artists include nationally known painter Georg Vihos, whose work is displayed at Providence Hospital Mission Health Center in Livonia, Doug Semivan, George Booth, Deborah Friedman, Margaret Nowak, Jeanne Poulet, Sharon Simms, Dennis Guastella, and photographer Patricia Izzo.

"I was angry about the loss of life - Americans and Iraqis. I was horrified. I thought this was a way to respond. There's a lot of sculpture, conceptual works. It's an emotional exhibit."

"One artist, Joan Verla, her brother was just sent to Iraq so it was a very emotional issue for her."

All of the works are dramatic. Verla places a baby on top of a casket.

De Giusti's Ziggurat at Ur, a charcoal and pastel drawing, features a dark landscape. Best known as a sculptor, De Giusti has created commissions for clients in the U.S. and Europe.

His large scale project, Legacy of Labor with David Barr, is on permanent display next to Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit.

Other artists include nationally known painter Georg Vihos, whose work is displayed at Providence Hospital Mission Health Center in Livonia, Doug Semivan, George Booth, Deborah Friedman, Margaret Nowak, Jeanne Poulet, Sharon Simms, Dennis Guastella, and photographer Patricia Izzo.

Back Pain?

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

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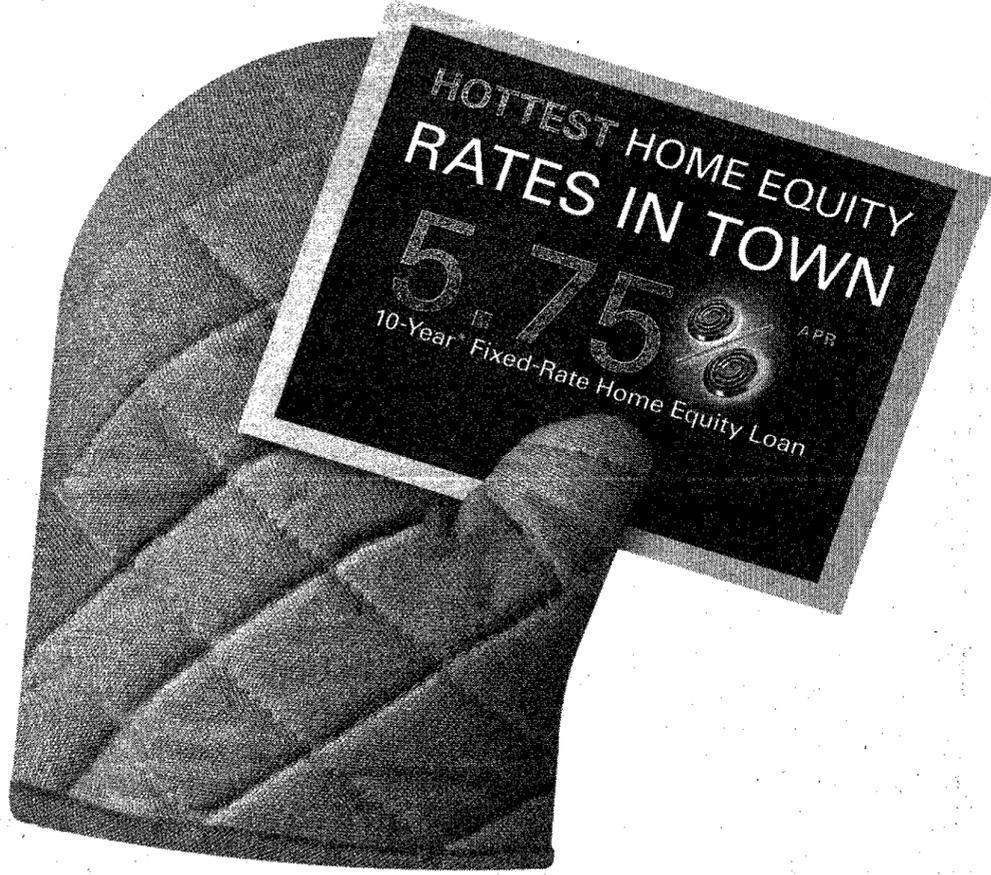
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OUR VIEWS

Board motivates with its 'apples'

For the third time in roughly 18 months, the Wayne-Westland Board of Education has honored three schools for academic achievement, giving out their version of Golden Apples.

In this case, Taft-Galloway, Elliott and Roosevelt-McGarth elementaries received the board's Encore Award for continuing to show improvement on state standardized tests.

The Golden Apple Award was created by John Engler's administration to honor "students, teachers and administrators who have worked hard to improve the quality of Michigan schools." Recipients had to have a composite score for the students who took the MEAP test increased at least 60 points over three consecutive academic years. The award came with a minimum \$50,000 award for the school and staff for school improvement.

The Golden Apple was one of many programs dropped by the cash-strapped state, but it didn't go by the wayside in Wayne-Westland, which gave out its first awards in February 2004. Since then it has awarded seven Golden Apples and five Golden Apple Encore Awards.

The school district has asked a lot of its staff and students to meet the state's demands for continual improvement on the MEAP tests. It's no easy task, but they have responded.

One need only look at the recently released MEAP test scores and the state report card to see how far the district has come.

Giving out Golden Apple and the Encore Award are, we believe, an excellent way to keep teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and volunteers actively involved in student achievement.

We congratulate the staff and students of Taft-Galloway, Elliott and Roosevelt-McGarth elementaries. Your success is truly a reason to celebrate and we hope you do.

And we tip our hats to the Wayne-Westland Board of Education, which has found new and creative ways to encourage and reward academic achievement. Board members are focused on the students and it shows.

Heed the call: Slow it down on freeways

In the aftermath of the fatal crash Sept. 13 that killed a 23-year-old man on I-275, we heard a plea from police — and it bears repeating: People need to slow down.

Of course, there were plenty of other factors in this accident, as there are in many such crashes. Sometimes it's the weather; sometimes there are distractions; and sometimes a driver's judgment is impaired. But traveling way beyond the posted speed limit in a vehicle always makes these accidents worse.

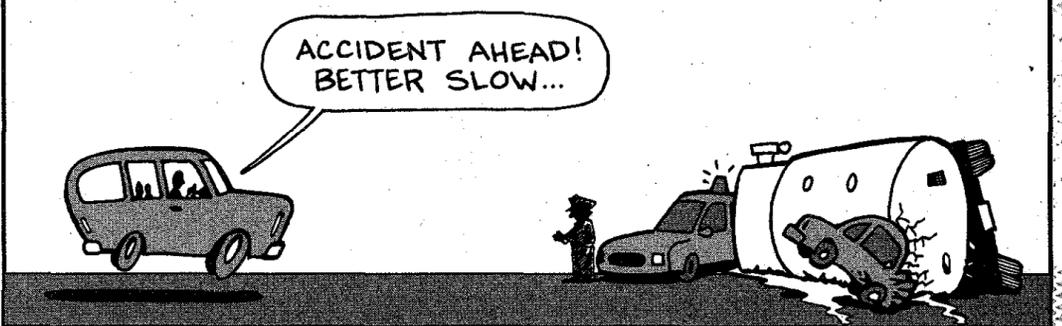
In this case, police believe a woman in a van clipped the rear of a car, which was forced off the freeway, went flying through the median and up the other side before smashing directly into an oncoming tractor-trailer. The man's life was ended and the woman has been charged with two felony charges for failing to stop at the accident scene and a misdemeanor count of negligent homicide. Once the case is adjudicated, we will know whether this woman is at fault in this case. But before that was even close to happening, police made a point of making sure that people knew that, whatever driving errors or judgment issues were involved, the cars are just going too fast on our freeways. Anyone who drives I-696, I-75 or M-14 knows that. Livonia police say drivers regularly get caught doing 100 mph on I-275.

These crashes often bring up another issue: People wonder, if there were guardrails or cement barriers, would a life have been saved? After all, it's almost impossible to cross a median if there's a barrier stopping your vehicle.

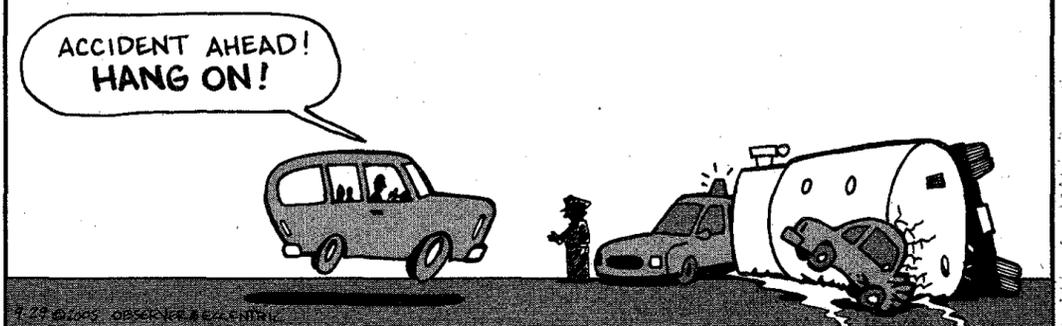
State transportation officials say that isn't always a solution. On I-275, the road is designed as a rural freeway — which has nothing to do with its location in heavily traveled, urban setting. The rural freeway, which officials say is the safest, is designed with a wide median to allow cars that are bumped or forced off the roadway to skid off onto the grass and come to a stop before, in theory, safely re-entering the roadway. Not having a guardrail, experts say, can be safer than having one. Adding guardrails would only turn many of those one-car accidents into multi-car and more serious crashes due to a ricochet effect on the vehicles that have nowhere to go when forced off the road.

With the price of gasoline and the cost of speeding tickets, we'd think people would choose to lighten up on the gas pedal for the obvious economic advantages. But if that isn't enough, we'd hope that stories like the fatal crash on I-275 should give us all the inspiration we need to slow it down and not become another traffic statistic.

COMMON SENSE



COMMON



Workers deserve kudos

I write this letter to hopefully help many who face placing a loved one in a convalescent center. You see, my sisters and I had to make that painful decision to place my father who was at the time 92 years old. He had lived independently and fortunately was pretty healthy.

Until a year or so previously, he did not visit a physician. A hernia began his medical journey, a few weeks later he had a G.I. Bleeding requiring seven units of blood, a few more weeks and he was found on the floor when his family could not reach him by phone.

You see, he wanted to maintain his independence and continued to live on his own. Oh yes, we did oversee him very carefully. Then on that dreaded day, in December, his last visit to the hospital, we were told we would not be able to care for dad as he would require 24-hour care. Our hearts were heavy, as we were told he needed to be placed in a facility where he could receive the care he needed.

Dad had always told us that he never wanted to be put in one of those nursing homes. I must say there was not a doubt in our mind that it would be negative and he would never adjust to such a thing. I believe the horror stories of nursing/convalescent homes always surface and put people in a negative mindset about such a place.

I feel people should know of the very positive that came from my dad's placement at the Westland Convalescent Center. At first dad didn't realize he was there, he seemed to think he was still in the hospital.

The staff could not have been any better. I cannot give enough credit to the staff as a whole. Administrative, nursing staff, therapy staff, social workers, physicians, physician assistants, psychiatrists, aides, clerical staff, cleaning staff, laundry staff, kitchen staff, recreation staff, maintenance staff and all in between were so supportive.

Dad was a personable person and people took the time to give of themselves in so many ways. Almost six months after being there, dad realized he was in a convalescent center. (Sometimes I wonder if he was protecting us, by not acknowledging his placement, as he knew we would respect his wishes, if we could). In a very short time, Dad conveyed to us that he knew why he was there. He also told us that the staff was good to him and took good care of him.

Another part of adjustment for a patient being placed in a facility is for loved ones to be there for their family member. We made a point of visiting very frequently. Dad had visitors almost every day during the 1 1/2 years he was there.

The family also made a point of speaking to other patients who were roommates or in surrounding rooms. We became acquainted with their family members. We bonded, sharing with each other. We would visit their loved ones and likewise they would visit Dad. It allows a little more company for each and gives a support system to them and the family.

Dad used to say, people like to be rec-

ognized and it, too, is a selfish thing because you get it back in return. It is about extending to others and others extending to your loved one.

Acknowledging to the staff appreciation for all they do. Of course, there will be a few bumps in the road, that is because we are all human beings. I have to say, that there certainly are many angels who cared for dad at the Westland Convalescent Center.

Dad passed away May 17 and in the last few days, staff couldn't do enough for us. Our wish was their command. So many from all the various divisions came in to say their goodbyes, shed tears and give us a hug and their condolences. I know we have made some good friends who we will never forget. We will, I am sure stay in touch with some of the staff and also some of the other patients and their families. We became an extended family to one another.

It is looking out for each other which gives one comfort, if you cannot be there. That doesn't make you exempt from doing your part in turn. The old adage, "One hand washes the other" certainly applies in this situation.

I can't give enough credit, words are so inadequate to give credit where credit is due. Please share the positive with the general public. These people deserve kudos from all of us. We can never thank them enough.

Marilyn Jarvi, Dawn Buie, Carol Erb and families

Questions for Roberts

Like many of the nominees of the current administration the selection of John Roberts to be nominated to the Supreme Court is misguided. His close ties and involvement with the Bush administration reveal questionable activity. And of course, the background information the judicial committee will be reviewing of his ability to occupy the court will be incomplete, the White House withholding information regarding his background.

John Roberts was part of the volunteer legal team for George Bush in the Florida election in 2000. As with most volunteers, he supported the efforts of the Bush team to subvert the election process. This had been done to impede and stop a legal process and the petition the court to stop the ballot recount. This was appealed to the Supreme Court where the decision was made to stop the legal recount and appoint Mr. Bush to the White House.

The judicial committee should question John Roberts if he supported this decision of the Supreme Court after they had stopped the legal recount and appointed George Bush and agreed with the comment "the will of the people had been granted."

While in Florida, John Roberts had spoken with the Republican Election Committee to elect George Bush, which included Jeb Bush and Kathryn Harris. They initiated and participated in the removal of 60,000 or more legal eligible Democrats from the voter roles. These were 60,000 legal registered voters wanting to vote in the election that were

denied the right to vote by the Republican Party in Florida.

A court hearing confirmed Jeb Bush and Kathryn Harris participated in this activity. The judicial committee should ask, "In his meetings with Jeb Bush and Kathryn Harris, did he become aware of the trashing of voter registration roles of Democrats?"

The last question judicial committee should ask John Roberts, "with this knowledge, does he feel the will of the people was granted in the Supreme Court decision and should the members of the court supporting Mr. Bush's appointment resign?"

Allan Biber Westland

Letter was flight of fantasy

We were taken back when we saw the letter from Vic Barra in your paper's Opinions on Sept. 22 that was full of lies and a flight of fantasy and in good conscience couldn't let it pass without responding:

The letter amazed me. At least I was kept in good company. The facts were distorted to say the least. Since I'm not running for office, I must be a thorn in someone's side. The *Observer* has edited letters in the past, I wonder how that sneaked through.

Judy McKinney

Thanks for free advertising

I am appalled as to why the *Observer* would print in their Sept. 22nd issue a libelous, propaganda letter. In my opinion, based on the facts, and in his own words, he is the "bully pulpit and political opportunist."

To him and others, I say thank you for making me famous. I appreciate the free advertising, too.

P.S. Don't step in your own "mud-slinging" on your way out.

Eleanor Swistak

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

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"We want to be accountable, we want to raise the standards and we want to do right by our students, but they all have different learning styles. We need the resources to deal with a differentiated instruction for thousands of students."

— Wayne-Westland Schools Supt. Greg Baracy, about the state's switch to the ACT to measure high school achievement

Recent racial controversies show we haven't come far

During a public hearing last month about a proposed Wal-Mart Supercenter in Livonia, a few in the audience said they were scared of African-American folks coming out into the mostly white suburbs to shop and work. Livonia could become a ghetto, one said.

There are lots of reasons to have concerns about Wal-Mart, but that isn't one. A number of sensible people were quick to condemn these remarks, including Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretson, leaders of the Livonia Planning Commission and developer Robert Schostak.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, who has lived in Livonia for years and has considerable support from the black community, was forthright: "We're not going to be a world-class city or region if we have racial barriers standing in the way. We have to make sure there is an intolerance of this type of thing."

What a surprise, then, when Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick jumped in to attack "slurs" that people made in the meeting. The week before, Kilpatrick — who is trailing

challenger Freman Hendrix in the polls — asserted without providing any evidence that "In Birmingham, in Bloomfield Hills and all these places they do more meth, they do more ecstasy and they do more acid than all the schools in the city of Detroit put together."

For years, I watched former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young's tirades at the suburbs, understanding they were nothing more than transparent attempts to curry favor with his black constituency.

This was more of the same. Kilpatrick's comments were predictable, miserable, boring and the best evidence he's really worried about being turned out of office.

Unfortunately, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who has plunged into city-suburb debates many times in his long political career, couldn't resist slamming Kilpatrick back. As an old political pro, Patterson should have known better. Instead, all he did was extend an embarrassing news story a couple of more days, thereby playing into Kilpatrick's hands.

As to the racist reactions of a minority of Livonians attending the public hearing, they're just as miserable as Kilpatrick's. But morally, they are far worse. So far as I know, none of the people quoted in the news media are fighting for their political lives and hence have anything to gain from race-baiting in public.

The statistics don't lie. Of all the cities in the nation with 100,000 people or more, Livonia is

still the whitest, just as Detroit is the country's blackest. And not surprisingly, the U.S. Census Bureau says the Detroit metropolitan area is the nation's most segregated.

But, thank God, times are changing. When I first broke into the community newspaper business nearly 40 years ago, the suburbs in western Wayne County were essentially all white.

The then-dominant community newspaper group we were competing against published the addresses of homes purchased by black families, in effect inviting vandalism and cross burning.

One of the first editorial decisions I made was to treat as a non-story black families moving into the suburbs. Just like anybody else, if they took care of their house and were good neighbors, they were welcome to the benefits of a suburban lifestyle. And according to the U.S. Census, Livonia's African-American population tripled in a decade, rising from 265 to 951, with an additional 1,113 residents identifying themselves as multiracial.

Sadly, there's no doubt that race lurks under many feelings that people have, especially when times are tough and the economy of southeastern Michigan seems to be spiraling down without a pause.

Crises, whether it's a bad economy, a tight election race or the disaster in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, often bring out the worst in people.

The local parallel to Katrina, of course, was the riots that shook Detroit in 1967. As I recall those dark days, it seems that media coverage this year was much more sympathetic to the plight of poor African-Americans than they were to the blacks in Detroit back then.

Back then, black Detroiters — then called Negroes — were portrayed, unfairly or not, as having brought disaster on themselves and their community by looting, burning and attacking the police.

Since 1967, a lot of people of both races have moved out of Detroit into the suburbs. They have done so for the same reasons as an earlier generation of migrants when I first got into this business. They wanted then and want now to live in good communities with good schools and a suburban style of living.

Both the yahoos who said silly things at the public hearing in Livonia and the mayor of Detroit ought to remember that people mostly do what is in the best interests of their families.

We'd all do well to remember that's something we all have in common, regardless of race.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

Nancy Drew: good role model, kept me reading

Nancy Drew was one of my idols growing up, and the years have been kind to the intrepid girl sleuth.

She's perennially 18 and, with friends Bess and George (who always enjoyed her masculine name), hot on the trail of yet another exciting mystery.

Local librarians report that Nancy, whose books my mom read in the 1930s, is still popular with young readers. The Hardy Boys series, recounting the adventures of brothers

Frank and Joe Hardy, still circulate widely as well.

Sally Smith, children's librarian at the Canton Public Library, said the books are "very consistent." "I think it's because partly people have read them as kids" and want to introduce their children to the characters, she said.

Why do these stories continue to do well after so many years and with so much competing for young readers' time? They tell of friends coming together to help those in need, having great adventures along the way.

Nancy's books, ghostwritten under the Carolyn Keene name, tell more about fashion along with the mystery. The Hardy Boys, under the pen name of Franklin W. Dixon, focus more on food, particularly for friend Chet Morton, who never misses a meal. I always found it interesting that Frank and Joe, students at Bayport High and members of the football team, never had to go to school for more than a day or so. Their adventures took them far and wide, even overseas.

Nancy and her friends have invited the friendly yet definitely romantic interest of local college students, with Ned Nickerson particularly interested in Nancy. What 10-year-old girl could resist such a story?

Granted, Frank and Joe did more than Nancy and her friends in my day. The boys could fly planes, for example, while Nancy's cruising was done in her sporty convertible. Still, for the era in which the books were published, Nancy was quite a formidable protagonist, taking on the bad guys of River Heights and environs with aplomb and determination.

I recall one story where an adversary tossed Nancy down a well, then broke up the wooden ladder and tossed the pieces down at her. Determined, Nancy used a nail to dig footholds in the side of the well, eventually climbing out. That may sound tame to today's girls who

have a lot of fiction and nonfiction to choose from, but it was heady stuff before the women's movement came along. To be mostly self-sufficient, to need minimal help from Ned and caring attorney father Carson Drew (Nancy's mother had died, leaving her with the loving care of housekeeper Hannah Gruen) showed Nancy could take care of herself.

"I haven't read one for a long time. In my memory, she was pretty independent," Smith said of Nancy.

Smith has three sons and knows the reading habit suits children well for life. "I think anything kids enjoy reading within reason is good." It's probably true that children then move on to more challenging books, she said. "Once they get that habit, it's going to stay with them their whole lives."

Local libraries stock a lot of other series, including Magic Tree House and the Cam Jansen mysteries for younger kids in second/third grade, she added.

When I outgrew Nancy's stories, I moved on to Agatha Christie and from there to other more challenging books. We recently cut back on our cable so I have more time to read, including *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, our next Contemporary Books selection at the Plymouth District Library. (We'll meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, at the library in Plymouth for discussion, if you're interested.)

Nancy Drew's made the transition to large and small screen in various permutations through the years. Those are fun, but I still prefer the books, using my imagination and the occasional illustration to develop the story in my mind.

If Nancy could do so well for baby boom girls like me, just think about the generation before us and the way of life she modeled. Granted, it was genteel with no job or college responsibilities to speak of, but still Nancy found her way in the world with great dignity. She was always kind.

A quick Web search reveals that Nancy has kept up with the times, enrolling in college and becoming even more the modern heroine. I haven't read these newer editions, only the original blue-covered ones and the later yellow hardcovers.

I hope Nancy has retained her zest for life and ability to move about with dignity. I'm pretty sure that's true, as she always was quite a dynamo.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jbrown@oe.homecomm.net.



Julie Brown

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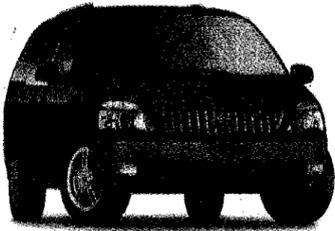
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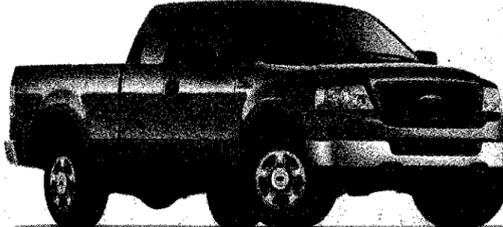
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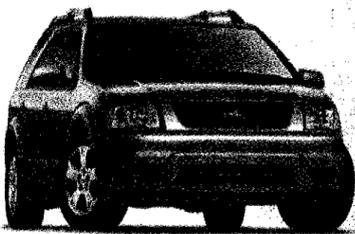
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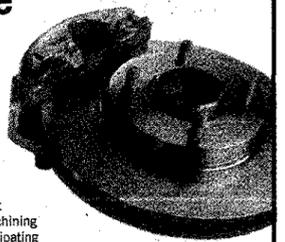
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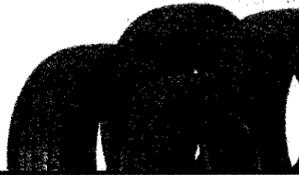
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