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DeHart: Absentee ballots have different look

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland absentee voters will start receiving their ballots by mail this week, City Clerk Eileen DeHart said, and she warned that they'll notice some changes for the Nov. 8 city elections.

In another development, DeHart reminded potential new voters that they face a deadline of 4 p.m. next Tuesday to register. They can go to her office through Friday at

Westland City Hall or register early next week at a Secretary of State office.

Changes approved by state officials mean that absentee voters will not receive pencils and secrecy sleeves with their packets. Rather, they are asked to fill out their ballots with a black ink pen, fold them to hide their choices and return them in a special envelope.

The new process is expected to save time and money at city clerk offices across Michigan.

DeHart issued a warning to households with more than one voter: Each voter must return an absentee ballot in a separate envelope.

"Everybody has to use their own envelope," she said. "It has to be in the right envelope. Otherwise, we can't count it."

Absentee ballots can be turned in at the clerk's office until 8 p.m. on Election Day, although DeHart said that to expedite the process, "I would ask them to do it sooner than that."

On Tuesday, DeHart said her office

already has started processing requests for more than 2,700 absentee ballots. She estimated that the clerk's office sent out a total of 3,500 absentee ballots during the last round of city elections.

"I expect to surpass that," she said.

Westland voters will choose between incumbent Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and challenger Elenor Swistak, who are competing for a four-year term.

Voters also will elect four council

candidates from a field of eight. Incumbents Cheryl Graunstadt, Michael Kehrer, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlemeyer are on the ballot, along with challengers Normie June Brazier, Lori Brist, James Davis and former Mayor Robert Thomas.

In the council race, the top four vote-getters will earn four-year terms. The fourth-place finisher will get a two-year term.

dclem@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thrill of victory

John Glenn High School senior Richard White (right), who rode the last leg for the seniors, wins the tricycle race during homecoming pep assembly Friday afternoon. Coming in second was Brett Moore for the sophomores. For more on homecoming, see Page A4.

Wal-Mart donation puts fund raising at \$10,000

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland historians have now topped \$10,000 with money they have raised for an emerging historic village on Wayne Road, between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

The latest \$1,000 - a gift from Wal-Mart - was turned over to Mayor Sandra Cicirelli on Monday by Georgia Becker and Jo Johnson, two leaders of a historic village fund-raising committee.

Wal-Mart donated the money as a matching grant for one of the committee's earlier fund-raising efforts - a fashion show featuring clothing from the 1800s and early 1900s.

Cicirelli confirmed Tuesday that the Wal-Mart gift will be used for ongoing renovations to the Octagon House, an eight-sided home that was built around 1880 and that is flanked by two later additions.

Local historians and city officials also plan to renovate what is called the Rowe House, a Greek revival style house built in 1837.

"We'd like to get the Octagon House done first, partly because it has a basement that can be used for storage," Johnson said Monday.

Much work remains to be done on the Octagon and Rowe houses, which have been moved from previous locations to the historic village where other buildings, including the Westland Historical Museum, already stood.

A rift between historians had earlier threatened fund-

PLEASE SEE DONATION, A4

Kicks 4 Kids gets boost from UNO Chicago Grill of Westland

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A new Westland restaurant that opened last week already has become a good neighbor by employing 150 workers and donating \$500 to boost youth soccer programs, city officials said.

UNO Chicago Grill, known for its Chicago-style deep dish pizza, has opened on Wayne Road north of Warren, becoming the latest of sev-

eral restaurants to open near Westland Shopping Center.

The company has embraced the city and its government leaders as enthusiastically as local officials welcomed another eatery to its still-growing restaurant district.

During a Westland City Council meeting on Monday, UNO Chicago Grill spokesman Roy Moore said the restaurant has employed 150 workers.

"The vast majority of the staff is

from Westland," he said.

Moore gave a \$500 check to Mayor Sandra Cicirelli to help with the city's "Kicks 4 Kids" project, aimed at raising money for a soccer complex at Curtis Woods Park on Palmer Road.

Moore lauded state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, for helping to expedite UNO Chicago Grill's paperwork in Lansing - a move that helped lead to a smooth

opening.

Moore clearly had taken note of the city's slogan of Westland being "the place to be."

Moore clearly had taken note of the city's slogan of Westland being "the place to be."

Moore also commended city leaders for their efforts and singled out Cicirelli, saying that she "serves the city exceptionally well" and that "she gets the job done."

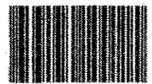
Moore clearly had taken note of the city's slogan of Westland being "the place to be."

"As the signs say, 'Westland is the place to be,' and we're glad to be a part of the city," he said.

UNO Chicago Grill specializes in pizza, but the menu also offers food choices ranging from steaks, burgers and salads to seafood and pasta dishes.

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Coming Sunday on the PINK page

Assembling your desk drawer survival kit



Michigan Humane Society continues animal rescue, relief efforts

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Michigan Humane Society sent a team and its mobile adoption vehicle to Louisiana to help rescue and care for animals.

It also has responded in the wake of Hurricane Rita, dispatching a 12-member team late last month to Beaumont, Texas, where it is rescuing and caring for animals in some of the hardest hit areas of that state.

And as part of its continuing support efforts, the MHS recently airlifted 94 animals from a Houston area shelter to Michigan. On Sunday, Oct. 2, the chartered cargo flight arrived at Willow Run Airport with 94 animals - half of them dogs and half of them cats.

Forty-four of the animals have been taken to the MHS's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland and, in conjunction with the Michigan Partnership for Animal Welfare (MPAW), made advance arrangements with several placement partner groups in Michigan to shelter and help the MHS find homes for the additional incoming animals. In addition to helping them find good homes, the move will free up space for newly rescued animals in Texas.

Volunteers from those groups met the MHS staff at the airport to transport animals directly to their facilities.

"The animals have been through a traumatic experience and have traveled a long

way," says David Williams, Michigan Humane Society director of operations. "They'll need time to adjust to their new surroundings. They will also need to be evaluated and receive medical treatment as necessary. Then, we'll make an announcement as to their availability for adoption."

Meanwhile, the MHS animal rescue efforts in Texas continue. Upon their arrival in Beaumont, about one hour east of Houston, the MHS Hurricane Rita rescue team was put right to work in all phases of the relief effort including field rescue, intakes, triage, ongoing animal care and logistics.

The MHS animal rescue team journal and other hurricane relief updates are posted

online at www.michiganhumane.org.

People interested in donating to relief efforts specifically targeted toward animals affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita can contribute in several ways:

■ Donate securely online to the Hurricane Animal Relief Fund at www.michiganhumane.org

■ Call (866) MHUMANE, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to donate by credit card.

■ Mail checks (payable to Michigan Humane Society) to: Michigan Humane Society, Attn: Hurricane Animal Relief Fund, 26711 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 175, Southfield, MI 48034.

On the check, please indicate Hurricane Relief Fund.

■ Drop off checks at a Michigan Humane Society location in Detroit, Rochester Hills or Westland.

■ Drop off monetary donations at any metro-Detroit Pet Supplies "Plus" store.

All funds raised in excess of those needed to support the MHS' relief efforts in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will be donated to animal welfare organizations in the affected areas.

Monetary donations are the most effective means for people to help due to the complexity of shipping, distributing and storing food and other supplies.

For more information, call (866) MHUMANE 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Michigan Humane

Society (MHS) is a private, nonprofit organization which cares for more than 100,000 animals each year at its three metro Detroit adoption and veterinary medical centers in Detroit, Rochester Hills and at its new, state-of-the-art Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland.

Established in 1877, the MHS is one of the oldest and largest animal welfare organizations in the country. Its programs include animal sheltering and adoption, behavior and training, veterinary care, reuniting lost animals with their guardians, cruelty investigation, emergency rescue, education and legislative advocacy.

For more information, call (866) MHUMANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

AROUND WESTLAND

Octoberfest

The Westland senior citizen Friendship Center will host an Octoberfest noon to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21. The event will include a German feast including sausage and sauerkraut, crispy chicken, meatballs and other items.

There will be line dancing, including many dances for beginners.

Tickets are \$8 for Friendship Center members and \$10 for guests.

Town Hall

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli will have her next Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at Hayes Elementary School, 30600 Louise, south of Ann Arbor Trail and east of Merriman. All residents are welcome to make comments or ask questions of Cicirelli and her administration.

Mark your calendars

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Harris Kehler VFW Post 3323 has plenty of things going on during October and November.

As a fund-raiser for the VA Hospital and PAC projects, the ladies will be hosting a psychic fair with readings by Mystiques West 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.

On Saturday, Oct. 29 the auxiliary will conduct a chili cook-off and bake sale auction at 5:30 p.m. at the post at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 721-9879 after 5 p.m. for more information.

On Saturday, Nov. 5 and 19, the auxiliary will be holding marathon bingo's noon to 5 p.m.

Halloween happenings

The Westland Jaycees will spook up the neighborhood when they open their haunted house for the season on Friday, Oct. 7, in the east parking lot of the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Ghouls, ghosts and screams await older children, teens and adults 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday and 7-10:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. It will close Monday-Wednesday, Oct. 10-13 and 17-20.

A special Friendly Haunted House event is planned for Saturday, Oct. 22. The haunted house will open one hour earlier to provide a friendly monster night for smaller children.

For more information, call (734) 637-8415.

■ The Jaycees also will be offering a Friendly Monster Lunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at the haunted house for kids under 12 years of age. The cost is \$1 per child and adults and includes lunch with some friendly monsters, face painting, pumpkin painting, games and a Moonwalk.

For more information, call (734) 226-0400.

■ Youngsters also will meet some friendly Halloween creatures in the forest at the annual Halloween Walk Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 27-29. The walk is sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department,

Westland Civitan Club, Dad's Athletic Club of Westland and the Westland Breakfast Lions Club.

Families will be guided on a walk through Central City Park where they'll meet the Neighbors of the Forest, including Little Bo Peep, the Friendly Troll and many others.

The a non-scary, guided tour event created for younger children. Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes. Proceeds generated from this event benefit the Fun-4-All Fund that enables children from financially stressed families to participate in our various programs.

Tours start every 10 minutes beginning at 6:50 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. This program runs rain or shine. If there is rain, tours will take place inside the Bailey Center. Pre-registration is required, a tickets are available at the Bailey Center. The cost is \$3 per person.

■ Kids also can get spooky with Mad Science of Oakland and Macomb Counties, in a Friday, Oct. 28, program sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department.

Count Eggbert and Countess Eggberta will be at the Bailey Center for a special science and magic show that includes the melting wicked witch, bubbling potions, flying eyeballs, spider web cotton candy, hover craft demo, vortex generators and more. And kids will need to watch for foggy dry-ice storms, bubbling potions, giant balls floating in midair, flashy reactions that go poof. The show for kids age 10 years of age and under is

6:15-7:30 p.m., and there will be a show for those 7 years of age and up 7:45-9 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Tickets are now available. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

For more information, call Mad Science of Oakland and Macomb Counties at (248) 293-0983 or e-mail them at madscioakland@yahoo.com.

Gala fund-raiser

Spectrum Human Services Inc. and Affiliated Companies will host the 2005 Celebration of Stars annual gala fund-raising event Friday, Oct. 21, at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include music, dinner, dancing and live and silent auctions. Special musical guests will be The Billy Rose Quartet, while the special guest will be national child welfare expert Carl Latona.

Tickets for the event cost \$125. For more information, call Nikita Cargins at (734) 458-8736, Ext. 6701.

Support meeting

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road., Westland. All are welcome.

Candy check

Halloween may be several weeks off, but parents concerned about their kids' candy can get it checked at 18th District Court Halloween night, Oct. 31. The checks will be done

6:30-20 p.m. at the court, 36675 Ford, behind the police station. For more information, call (734) 595-8720.

Seniors 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.

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 vetshaven.info.org on the Internet.

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 blackjack, table games, hourly raffles and nonsmoking Blackjack rooms. Admission will be \$7 and includes food (hot dogs, potato salad), pop and potato chips. Beer available at \$1 per glass.

For more information, call (734) 427-5150. St. Bernardine Men's Club

also is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, 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 theways@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 babysitting and crafts for available. Proceeds will benefit the Edison PTO.

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CORRECTION

Sunday's story about the Garden City Hospital Foundation/National City fall fund-raiser, Disco!, should have identified Daniel Moore as executive director of the foundation. People interested in obtaining tickets for the Friday, Oct. 21, event also should call the foundation office at (734) 458-4331.

Read Observer Sports

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The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

PLEASE NOTE: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

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1990 PONTIAC GRAND AM	2 DR	1G2NW14D4LC247410
1994 CHRYSLER LHS	4 DR	2C3ED56F1RH197910
1998 CHRYSLER CIRRUS	4 DR	1C3EJ56H6WN340301
1996 DODGE	SW	2B4GP4539TR624861
1992 DODGE	VAN	2B7HB21Y0NK154632
1992 DODGE DAKOTA	PU	1B7FL26X3NS666704
1990 MERCURY SABLE	4 DR	1MECM5345LG621483
1996 MERCURY COUGAR	2 DR	1MELM529W2TH604448
1996 CADILLAC SEVILLE	4 DR	1G6LY5290TU830259
1994 FORD TAURUS	4 DR	1FALP52U1RG217783
1990 FORD AEROSTAR	SW	1FMCA11U1LZA18035
1988 FORD CROWN VIC	4 DR	2FABF74F0JX128386
1991 FORD AEROSTAR	SW	1FMCA11U8MZB28878
1989 CHEVROLET	VAN	2CCGG35K0K4139332
1992 GMC JIMMY	SW	1GKCT18W6N0511887
1976 CADILLAC	2 DR	6D47S6Q822716

Publish: October 6, 2005

DONATION

FROM PAGE A1

raising efforts. Some favor renovating the Octagon House first; others, the Rowe House.

At least some work has been completed on both houses, although officials have said that thousands upon thousands of dollars will likely be needed to finish the projects.

Johnson and Becker have said the fund-raising committee has reached the \$10,000 mark through various events, including garage sales, dances, and the sale of such items as coffee mugs and T-shirts.

Becker's late husband, Howard, was remembered Monday during a Westland City Council meeting as working tirelessly to raise money for the historic village.

Other groups, such as

Veterans Haven and Women of Westland, also have helped with historic village fund-raisers.

On Monday, Johnson said she hopes that the Octagon House will have water and heat within two months. Ultimately, some historians have said they'd like to see the house used for events such as old-fashioned weddings, which could bring in more money to support the historic village.

On Tuesday, Cicirelli confirmed that the Wal-Mart donation will be used for Octagon House work, given that Johnson, Becker and other committee members consider that house their No. 1 priority in the historic village.

"Since they raised the money for the Octagon House, it's only fair to put that \$1,000 toward the Octagon House," she said.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Jeannie Schmidt used face painting to show her true colors while performing with the marching band.

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Glenn students pep up for homecoming

They came, they saw and they got pepped up.

From tug of wars to tricycle races, students at Westland John Glenn High School, packed the football stadium for some healthy competition in advance of Homecoming football game.

The Rocket marching band

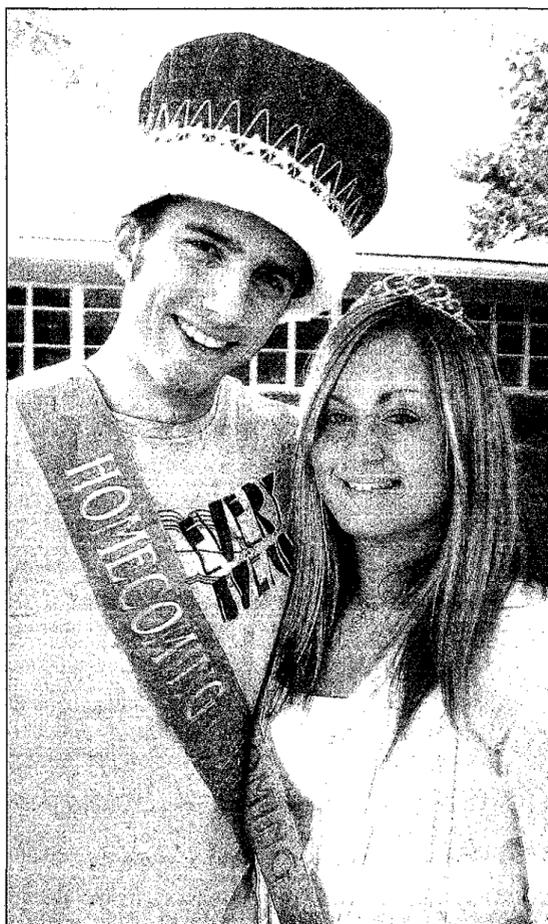
provided some "inspirational" music as freshmen, sophomores, junior and seniors took each other on in a variety of contests.

But the rally wasn't enough to lift the Rockets to victory in the gridiron meeting against Walled Lake Northern. The struggling Rockets posted a

28-0 loss in the game that saw seniors Josh Rogers and Amanda Eck picked as Homecoming king and queen.

Members of their court included Asia Rush, Brittany Smith, Kelly Borowiak, Jennifer Stevenson, Brandon Pitt, Chris Hylton, Curtis Adams and Gary Walker.

The Rocket marching band provided some 'inspirational' music as freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors took each other on in a variety of contests.



The crowns fit perfectly on John Glenn High School homecoming king Josh Rogers and queen Amanda Eck.



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Senior Anna Clark was the spirit girl for the Thespian Group at the pep rally.

Over there: She waits for her grandson's return

For Helen Duchan, the end of the year can't come soon enough. That's when the Garden City resident hopes to see her grandson, Eric Angvine, after a year of active duty.

He is a sergeant serving with the U.S. Army Reserves in Iraq. "He landed in Germany on New Year's Eve," said his grandmother. "He was supposed to get out in October, but his time was extended."

Angvine is assigned to Camp Anaconda in Iraq providing security for the military convoys.

"He likes to go to Kuwait," said his grandmother. "They go across the boarder and that's where the insurgents wait for them. He's been hit once, but they didn't do any damage, but his best friend was killed over there."

Angvine is the son of Terry and Denise Angvine of Westland. He had been staying with his grandmother in

He's been in the reserves for 12 years. He also was in the regular army for four years. He thought he'd get out of the reserves for a year to get married.'

Helen Duchan
Eric Angvine's grandmother

Garden City before he got married last October.

His wife Veronica lives in Australia. That's where they met three years ago while Angvine was on vacation.

"He's been in the reserves for 12 years. He also was in the regular army for four years," said Duchan. "He thought he'd get out of the reserves for a year to get married."

Duchan is hoping her grandson gets back by the end of the year.



Army Reserve Sgt. Eric Angvine looks out over the desert while on convoy duty in Iraq.

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Many left to grieve 7 who died in boating accident

BY DAN WEST
AND DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

As funeral home visitations begin today across Livonia for the seven local victims of the tragic New York state tour boat accident, the investigation of the cause of the tragedy was continuing.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board planned a "road test" of a similar ship Wednesday and looked for other clues as to why Shoreline Cruises' Ethan Allen ship overturned on Lake George, killing 20 people. The ship's weight was among the other factors being investigated, according to reports.

One certainty was that officials determined that the boat should have had more than just the one crew member aboard.

Twelve Livonia residents were

among those on board the boat. Five local survivors were Delores, Lillian and Theodore Milek, Russell Quick and Marge Ramsey. They were all due home Wednesday.

As the shock turned to mourning this week, the enormity of the loss of seven active, well-loved senior citizens rippled across Livonia and well beyond.

Those Livonians who perished were Caryl and William Gilson, Charles and Louise Greenwald, Margaret and William Nadvornik, and Marjorie Perry.

Two of those couples, the Gilsons and Greenwalds, had also been close friends, a kinship based on their long-lasting second marriages. Both couples had met their spouses through the support group, Parents Without Partners.

"They would always go to dinner together and get together to play pinocle," explained Margaret Rubbo,

daughter of Bill Gilson.

Stories on the loss felt by family members, friends and neighbors of the lives of the Nadvorniks, Gilsons, Greenwalds and Ms. Perry can be found inside today's *Observer*.

"In a very real sense, we have all suffered a loss ..." said Mayor Jack Engebretson. It was a loss felt directly at the Civic Park Senior Center and through members of the Livonia Travel Club.

"It's very, very sad," said Gerry Mumm, a Westland resident who was at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center Tuesday. "Things can happen. Anything can happen. That's so sad. It's just a freak thing."

The 30-year-old travel club organizes some 100 trips a year for its 1,700 members, most of whom are retirees. The majority of the excursions are daylong trips to nearby cider mills, casinos and museums, with most of the extended trips involving cruises.

Livonia residents make up most of the membership, however, there are members from around metro Detroit, Canada, Traverse City and even Florida, according to Chris Abrams, who runs the club along with her husband, Rick.

The trip to Lake George was inspired by a popular fall colors trip last year to West Virginia.

"That trip sold out," Abrams said. "It was well-received, so we offered something in New England, this year."

The 12 members of the Livonia Travel Club joined a similar group in Trenton to make up a 47-person group who boarded a motor coach Sept. 27 for the trip to New York, to explore fall colors in a region about 80 miles north of Albany. They were scheduled to have returned Tuesday.

"It seems people love trips that involved boats and rails," Abrams said. "This trip offered both."

The trip was coordinated by

Shoreline Tours, a company that's served the Livonia Travel Club for eight years, and "everyone has been satisfied with them," Abrams said.

She added the travel company is not affiliated with Shoreline Cruises, the company that owns the Lake George tour service and the ill-fated boat.

With a heavy heart, Abrams said Tuesday she had been busy since Sunday coordinating arrangements for the safe and secret return of tragedy survivors, so they do not have to face television cameras and other media covering the story.

She has also called on Engebretson to coordinate grief counseling. Engebretson made arrangements for counselors to be at the senior center to help club members and others impacted by this tragedy.

"I'm sure the entire community will do all we can to help these people and their families," Engebretson said.

Victims will 'really be missed' at senior center in Livonia

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The sign was posted for all to see. The Livonia Travel Club's October meeting, set for this Friday at the Civic Park Senior Center, had been canceled following the tragic events on Lake George in New York.

A dozen members of the Livonia Travel Club had been aboard a ferry boat there Sunday, and seven of those local travelers were among the 20 who perished after it overturned.

Ron Hendry works in the library of the Senior Center and he, too, is a member of the club. Hendry and his own wife had considered going on the fall foliage tour, which left on Sept. 27 from Schoolcraft College. Having lived in New York state, though, he said he'd seen the Adirondacks several times before and "didn't feel like going."

Now, he's glad about that decision.

Because of the sheer size of the club - about 1,700 members - and the fact that not all members participate regularly, "not everyone knows everyone," he said.

But Hendry did know Louise Greenwald. She volunteered in the Senior Center's library with him once a week.

"I think Louise was a terrific volunteer," he said. "She volunteered for the Yankee Air Force Museum. She was a jazz lover. Her husband, too, he liked trains."

As the news began to spread among senior citizens at the center, the mood became somber this week.

"They're aware of it," said Hendry. "It's impacting them of course. It has impacted me as a loss. Caryl should've been in class this morning."

For those at the Senior Center, Caryl Gilson will be remembered as the woman who helped run the 9 a.m. exercise classes on Tuesdays and Fridays.

She was eager to set out the equipment before class, according to Karl Peters, recreation supervisor at the center. "That was her thing," he said.

As of Monday, Peters wasn't even aware that members of the Livonia Travel Club had been on the ill-fated trip. By Tuesday, he said "everyone's talking about it."

Talking and, for some, mourning the loss of both Caryl Gilson and Louise Greenwald.

"They'll really be missed," said Peters. "They can't be replaced."

As the media reports continue to circulate about the tragedy in upstate New York, Rick and Chris Abrams, the Livonia couple who run the Livonia Travel Club, continue to receive calls from club members who want to register for future trips.

"Nobody has canceled any trips," Chris Abrams said. "You know how it is with seniors, they just go on."



Charles and Louise Greenwald attended his U.S. Navy reunion in Las Vegas in 1993. Charles still fit into the uniform he wore during World War II.

Couple embraced love of jazz, museums, travel

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Louise Greenwald waited on the ground as her husband, Charles, scrambled down the rungs of the C-47 in the hangar temporarily housing the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport last year.

The Livonia couple were inseparable in life, but their children never expected to receive the phone call telling them that both had died together, as they did in the tragic sinking of the Ethan Allen tour boat on Lake George in New York Sunday afternoon.

Whether volunteering thousands of hours at the museum or the annual Michigan Jazz Festival at Schoolcraft College, they worked as a team to save vintage aircraft and promote their favorite music. Charles was an aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Navy during World War II and later worked in purchasing for the Department of Defense. Louise was a secretary until retiring from Wayne County General Hospital.

They were charter members of the Yankee Air Museum. When a fire left nothing but rubble on Oct. 9, 2004, the Greenwalds vowed to rebuild the museum dedicated to preserving aerospace history in southeastern Michigan.

"All the times our parents went on senior trips, this is incredible," said Louise's son, Michael Slowey of Wayne. "Dad was excited about going to see the fall colors."

"They were always doing something. Monday after-

noons, mom volunteered at the Vest Pocket Library in Livonia. On Wednesdays she swam at Schoolcraft College."

The children of Louise and Charles call them mom and dad even though all six were born before the couple married 36 years ago.

Both were widowed, she with four children, he with two when they met. Gayle Leader of Camp Hill, Pa., and Mark Greenwald of Malone, N.Y., survive Charles, 83. Michael Slowey, Kathy Slowey of Ypsilanti, Suzanne Pierce of Mesa, Ariz., and Patricia Farnham of Allen Park survive Louise, 78, as does her brother, Thomas Heckman of Grand Blanc. Between them they had five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Louise will be buried next to Charles' first wife Beatrice. He will be cremated and sprinkled over their graves.

"I heard about it on CNN, then Trish called," said Suzanne Pierce. "I never expected it. Their granddaughter Anna was waiting for them at the dock."

"Dad just went to his 65th high school reunion in Saginaw," said Gayle Leader. "They were very outgoing," added Kathy Slowey. "They were happy and enjoyed life. They would have been married 36 years on Oct. 9."

Midge Ellis was devastated by the loss of her friends who contributed so much to the community. Throughout the year, they worked to raise money for the Michigan Jazz Festival held every July. Louise served on the committee that

hosted the free event featuring 200 Michigan musicians on five stages.

"They were both avid jazz lovers," said Ellis of Livonia. "Charlie was always making tapes and CDs, copying programs from television and making a DVD so you could have it. They were always sharing. He made loaves of bread for friends."

"Every year they worked at the jazz festival downtown through Southeastern Michigan Jazz Education Association. Wherever there was jazz they were there. They're going to be so missed. As volunteers with Michigan Jazz Festival from the beginning they would do anything you'd want them to do. They're going to be sadly missed. It's such a loss to so many people."

Louise was planning to raise funds by selling merchandise.

"Louise was going to be selling T-shirts from this year's festival," said Ellis. "She always worried when they were left over. Louise handled all of the volunteers. Whatever she did, he did. They were together no matter what. It was a beautiful relationship. I don't know what one would have done without the other."

Visitation is 4-9 p.m. Friday Oct. 7, at the Leonard Turowski & Son Funeral Home, 9300 Middlebelt, Livonia. The funeral will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, followed by burial in Glen Eden Cemetery. For more information, call (734) 427-3400. Donations may be made to the Michigan Jazz Festival or Livonia Vest Pocket Library.

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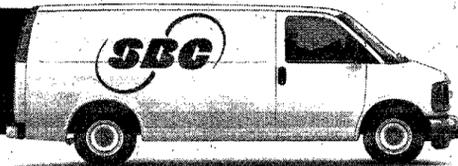
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Couple was 'loved by so many people'

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Livonian Bill Gilson recently completed successful surgery and treatment to battle prostate cancer and resumed his regular walking schedule. "He just had a clean checkup about six months ago," his daughter, Margret Rubbo said. "We all thought, 'He's in great shape, then this comes along.'" Gilson, 82, and his wife, Caryl, 76, were among 19 Michiganders killed when a tour boat capsized on Lake George in upstate New York. They were among 12 members from the Livonia Travel Club who made the trip.

Rubbo heard news reports about the tragedy on Lake George before she went to bed on Sunday, because she did not know the exact location of their parents' trip. She was awakened at midnight by a phone call from a worried step-sister.

"Before I looked at their travel itinerary, I just knew they were on the East Coast somewhere," Rubbo said.

As she viewed the itinerary, she became horrified, realizing her dad and stepmother might have been on the boat. They started praying. They started making phone calls in a frantic search for information, until they received the bad news at 2 a.m. Monday. The Warren County Sheriff's Department, the police agency that responded to the boat accident, confirmed the Gilsons did not survive.

"They were both very dear to me, and now we are without both of them," said Rubbo, who lives in Garden City. "They were loved by so many people and they will be missed by many people."

The couple lived in a ranch near Devon Aire Park since they were married 38 years ago. They were frequent travelers who would take three or four trips a year, Rubbo said.



Livonia residents Bill and Caryl Gilson had been married 38 years and were frequent travelers.

The couple also kept busy with their other hobbies and by keeping track of their 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Bill Gilson had five daughters from his first marriage and Caryl Gilson had three daughters from her first marriage.

Bill Gilson lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois before moving to Michigan 40 years ago to take a job at Chrysler. The Army veteran, who was deaf in one ear since birth, worked as a chemical engineer until his retirement in the early 1980s. He loved collecting stamps and walking.

Caryl Gilson worked at the Sears store at Livonia Mall for 30 years. She retired in the early 1990s, but remained

active as a member of the store's retirement board. She also took senior aerobics classes, volunteered at bingo games at the Civic Center Senior Center, taught line dancing and loved sewing.

"She was a very vibrant person," said Rita Plant, a former co-worker and long-time friend. "They will both be sadly missed by many people."

Visitation for Bill and Caryl Gilson will take place from 7-9 p.m. Thursday and 2-9 p.m. Friday at the Mann-Ferguson Funeral Home on Middlebelt near Six Mile. The funeral will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Paul Presbyterian Church on Five Mile near Inkster.

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Inseparable pair enjoyed family, friends, travel

The picture of a smiling Marge and Bill Nadvornik tending the grill at the first Hunter's Brook Condo Association picnic in June 1999 seemed to say it all for friends and neighbors.

"They were a wonderful, fun-loving couple," said Rosemary Olst, a Vassar Street neighbor and treasurer of the condominium association where the Nadvorniks lived. "We will miss them."

The Nadvorniks, Marge and Bill to their neighbors, were both 80 and loved to travel. On Sept. 28 they set off on the fall foliage tour with others of the Livonia Travel Club.

"They seemed to be constantly on-the-go," said Timothy Yales, their grandson. "They traveled all over the world. I don't know that there is any state they didn't visit."

Yales said his grandparents were always together.

"If you didn't see the two of them it was because Grandpa had gone to the grocery store or Grandma had a hair appointment," he said.

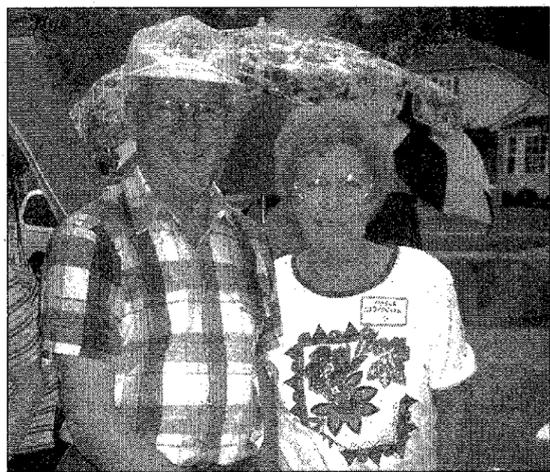
The couple had been married for 59 years.

Pati and Bill Bonanno, who live next door, spent time with the Nadvorniks. Bill Bonanno is president of the condo association. Pati is known in the neighborhood as the "first lady." The Bonanno garage is known as the "club house" and every night a host of neighbors - including Marge and Bill - would stop by, sit for a while and talk.

Pati, Bill and Rosemary gathered Tuesday to talk about the couple.

"She loved her flowers, was a good pinochle player, kept an immaculate house and had a great sense of humor," said Pati. "He was a good guy too," said Olst. "He always had a hug and kiss for everyone. Always had a smile on his face. He was a real loving guy."

"Marge liked to do things that included history. She was an avid reader," said Pati.



Marge and Bill Nadvornik of Livonia were always together, and always on the go.

"They both liked square dancing," added Bill.

The couple were members of St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Livonia. Bill Nadvornik, a World War II veteran, had worked as an insurance adjuster for Marsh & McLennan in Detroit. Marge had worked as a dental office manager in Plymouth.

The couple has two daughters, Karen Yales of Westland and Nancy Provost of Brighton, and they were preceded in death by their son, William Nadvornik, who died in 1999. The Nadvorniks were also great-grandparents to Alexandra and Logan Provost and neighbors said "they doted on their grandbabies."

They are also survived by sons-in-law Larry Yales and John Provost; grandchildren Timothy Yales, Lisa (Perry) Fetterley, Todd (Jennifer) Yales, Jeffrey (Michelle) Yales, Kevin (Krystal) Provost, and Mickey Provost.

Visitation for the Nadvorniks is 5-9 p.m. today, Oct. 6, at Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman roads. The couple will lie in state Friday 9:30-

10:30 a.m. before the funeral at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard (north of Five Mile). Interment will be in Roseland Park.

"They used to put out all the little American flags on all the lawns for holidays," said Rosemary. "She was on the flower committee and he helped too."

The Nadvornik home stands out among the Vassar Street condos with its carefully tended front yard of geraniums, impatiens and marigolds.

"Grandma always has some type of garden," said Timothy Yales. "The front of the house was covered with flowers."

Neighbors said the Nadvorniks moved to their Vassar Street condo about eight years ago from a Six Mile/Myrna Street home where they raised their family. And the neighborhood was stunned by news of the accident.

"This is a close-knit neighborhood. We all look out for one another," said Olst. "This just doesn't seem right," she added her voice trailing off into a whisper.



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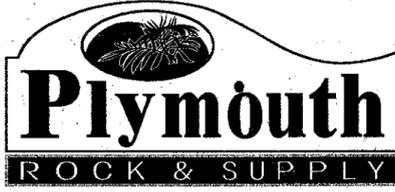
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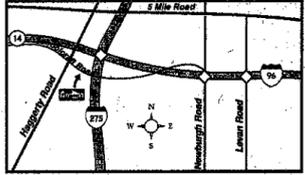
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BOATING TRAGEDY

Traveler 'went to have a good time'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Marjorie Perry was a real "go-getter," someone who enjoyed traveling, gardening, bike riding and spending time with those she loved.

The news that she had perished in the Lake George ferry boat tragedy Sunday was "unbelievable" for her daughter, Diane Fallot.

A Livonia resident for nearly 50 years, Perry had raised four children in the community: Fallot, who lives in South Lyon; Joyce Barnard of Central City, Mich.; Doug Perry of Plymouth; and John Perry of Redford Township.

Known simply as "Marge" to her friends, Perry had been a widow for the past 30 years. She was 77.

"She loved to travel," said Fallot, who works at the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. "Every chance she got, she went on trips. She went to casinos. She liked to go everywhere."

Perry had just renewed her U.S. passport, so she could continue taking day trips to Canada. The passport came in the mail Monday, Fallot said.

When she wasn't taking off on adventures, Perry enjoyed gardening and planting flowers outside of her Livonia home. She also spent time riding her bike and playing cards. Before retiring, Perry worked in customer service for Michigan Bell.

"She loved the community," said Fallot. "She loved her neighbors. Livonia has a lot to offer seniors. There is transportation if they need it. There are all different service organizations."

On Saturday mornings Perry could often be found



Marjorie Perry loved her community, relatives said. She lived in Livonia for more than 50 years.

at her Livonia Go-Getters club meetings, which always ended with a luncheon.

Last Wednesday, Sept. 28, she embarked on the fall foliage tour with her friends Russell Quick and Marge Ramsey, as part of the Livonia Travel Club. "She went to have a good time," Fallot said.

On Sunday, Fallot saw a newscast depicting the ferry accident - but it didn't occur to her that her mother could be aboard that boat. She knew her mother's trip included a visit to Maryland, but didn't realize she would also be in New York.

"Something in my mind said, 'Something is not right here,'" Fallot recalled. "I started pacing the floor. My brother had the schedule of where the group would be. It was 11:30 (p.m.) on Sunday. I didn't want to bother my brother."

She tossed and turned,

unable to sleep. Over an hour later Fallot received a call from her sister-in-law, Anita Perry, who also saw the television news.

"She tried to call New York for three hours," said Fallot. "The Red Cross called her back. We did find out two of her friends (Ramsey and Quick) survived. The three of them went on trips all the time."

Fallot said friends and neighbors have been wonderful to her family during this trying time. They have sent bouquets of flowers and their condolences.

Fred Wood Funeral Home will host visitation for family from noon to 3 p.m., followed by open visitation from 3-9 p.m. today, Oct. 6. A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 7, also at the funeral home, 36100 Five Mile at Levan in Livonia.

scasola@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 953-2054

Clergy call on city leaders to face 'undercurrent of racism'

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Lutheran ministers and pastors from across metro Detroit gathered in Livonia Tuesday to denounce racism and encourage city leaders to develop ways to address an "undercurrent of racism."

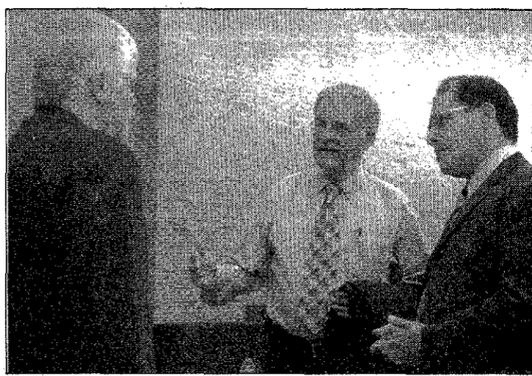
More than 30 ministers affiliated with the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met at Livonia's Emmanuel Lutheran Church for Tuesday's media event, which included Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, County Commissioner Kay Beard (D-Westland) and Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretson.

The ministers were reacting to racial comments by some Livonia residents two months ago when they opposed plans for a Wal-Mart Supercenter at Wonderland Mall because the store would attract "Detroit residents."

The Rev. Robert Carr, pastor at Livonia's Faith Lutheran Church, said such racism is sin.

"We recognize and fervently believe that such overtly-expressed sentiments do not reflect the views of all the citizens of Livonia," Carr said. "We, nevertheless, view these overt voicings as being symptomatic of the presence of a deeper, covert undercurrent of racism within the community."

"Such comments would not be voiced openly were there not a degree of comfort in the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After the meeting, the Rev. Skip Wachsmann, of Genesis Lutheran in Detroit, speaks with Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretson and County Executive Robert Ficano.

mind of their speaker that they were not alone in harboring such views."

Carr called on Engebretson, the Livonia City Council and the city's Human Relations Commission to help create an atmosphere of "openness and welcome to all people," he said. City and religious leaders should discuss ways combat all racism in Livonia, Carr said.

"We really don't know what the forum will be, but it's important that we all sit down, be open and discuss some strategies," Carr added.

Several ministers said they mentioned the racial issues in recent sermons at church services. They called the matter, "an invitation to dialogue and

to look at your life."

Ficano said diversity is a sign of strength for Wayne County. "If you survey the majority of Livonia and Wayne County residents, they would condemn racial statements," he said. "I was pleased to see Livonia's leadership. They stood up immediately and said such comments would not be tolerated."

Diversity is also a tool for economic development. "We are the most diverse county in Michigan and that's what many companies are looking for," Ficano said. "It helps that we look like the rest of the world."

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Toy's office offers medication wallet cards

State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, is offering medication wallet cards are available through her office.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for residents of the 6th Senate District to have a handy card that fits in their purse or wallet," Sen. Toy said. "These cards will help make it easier for people to keep track of their medications."

The cards also have a chart for keeping track

of immunizations and space for individuals to list their personal medical information such as allergies and medical conditions.

Peace of Mind booklets, do-it-yourself guides to medical and legal decisions, are also available free of charge from Sen. Toy's office.

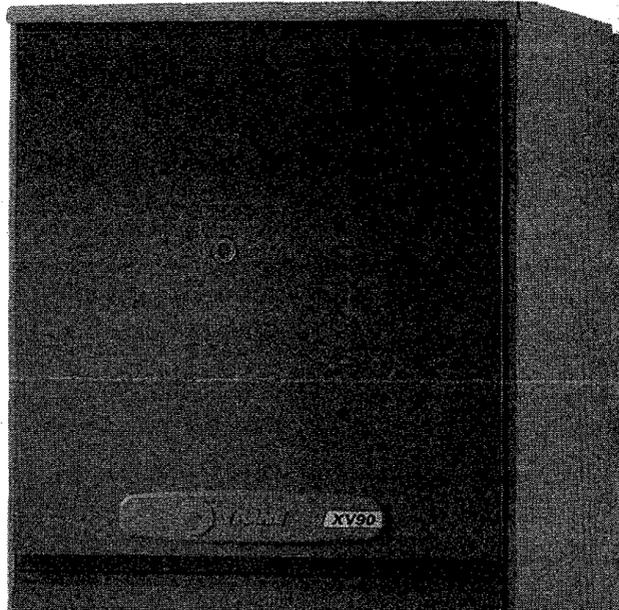
For more information about the medication cards and Peace of Mind booklets, contact Sen. Toy's office at (517) 373-1707.

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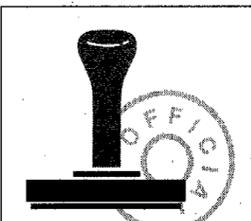
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FOR THE RECORD



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper section in Passages on page C12.

- A**
- Haj G. Aulie, M.D.
Aulie, 92, of Birmingham, died Sept. 28.
- C**
- William A. Cassidy
Cassidy, 81, died Sept. 30.
- Marie L. Cripe
Cripe, 90, of Dexter, died Sept. 30.
- F**
- Paul Fontana
Fontana, 81, of Livonia, died Sept. 27.
- H**
- Billie Colleen Harley
Harley, 78, died Sept. 29.
- Lois Hoopingarner
Hoopingarner, 74, of Ortonville, formerly of Clarkston, died Oct. 2.
- Jack Charles Hughson Jr.
Hughson, 77, of Capac, died Oct. 3.
- M**
- Christopher Jeffrey Miracle
Miracle, 16, of Westerville, Ky., died Oct. 2.
- N**
- Gerald Eugene Nelson
Nelson, 82, of Ann Arbor, died Oct. 1.
- Marie Neyer
Neyer, 93, of Plymouth, died Sept. 25.
- R**
- Jonas Algimantas Ramonaitis

- Ramonaitis, 70, of Florida, died Sept. 27.
- P**
- Priscilla S. Rasmussen
Rasmussen, 81, died Sept. 22.
- Eleanor Raup
Raup, 85, formerly of Birmingham, died Sept. 30.
- T**
- Stephan J. Turk
Turk, 87, of Northville, died Sept. 27.
- W**
- Lena M. Wahl
Wahl, 96, of Auburn Hills, died Sept. 4.

ACHIEVERS

Christopher J. Mark of Westland has been named a winner of a '31E scholarship at the University of Michigan. Mark was one of seven winners of the scholarship, which are given to students who are most likely to bring honor not only to themselves but the university and its 1931 engineering class. Mark will receive his scholarship at the 74th annual reunion dinner of the Class of '31E Friday.

Artwork by seven-year-old Evan Anderle has been published in October 2005 issue of Farm Collector magazine.

The son of Alois and Rota Anderle and the grandson of Pete and Rosie Urbaniak of Westland, Evan drew a picture of a tractor that was accepted for publication in Farm Collector, a national monthly magazine that focuses on the preservation of vintage farm equipment. Evan is a second-grader at Coolidge Elementary School.

Zonta Club meets Mondays

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Drama and dance
The Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program and the Shoe String Theatre are offering a drama and movement program for children with special needs. The class will be 5-6 p.m. Fridays Nov. 4-Dec. 16. Each week there will be a different theme based on a children's story. Drama, music, movement and dance will teach youngsters gross motor, listening and focusing skills while letting children use their imaginations. The class will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. Cost is \$30 for residents and \$31 for non-residents. Scholarships are available for Westland residents. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Halloween Walk
Tickets are on sale for the 17th annual Halloween Walk at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe. The Halloween Walk will be held Wednesday, Oct. 26, through Thursday, Oct. 27, at Attwood Park. Guided walks every 15 minutes and ending with cider and donuts. The walk is not a haunted house and is geared for the whole family. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$4 for residents and \$4.50 for non-residents. Children age 2 and under are free. Call (734) 721-7400 for more information.

Starfish programs
Starfish Family Services Great Parents, Great Start teachers help

prepare children, ages 2-4 years for preschool and school in their own home. Fun, learning activities help children grow and learn and parents learn tips, too. The program is open to families in western Wayne County, if they qualify. Call (734) 595-0411, Ext. 104, for more information. Starfish also has an ongoing, free Pregnancy Support Group, offering pregnant women a chance to talk with other pregnant women, meet with a prenatal nurse, hear baby's heart beat and learn about nutrition, pain management and other topics. Groups to be held in Wayne, Westland and Inkster areas. To register, (734) 595-0411, Ext. 104.

BINGO

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

Dems hold bingo
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club has bingo 10:45 a.m. every Monday at the Wayne Ford Civic League, on Wayne Road south of Ford in Westland. For information, call Jan or Cliff at (734) 591-1694 or Cliff at (734) 729-8681.

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

Shamrock Bingo
Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

K of C Bingo
Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

Metro Wayne
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club offers a bingo at the Wayne-Ford Civic League on Fridays. Doors open at 9 a.m. with bingo starting at 10:45 a.m. An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet is available for \$3. For more information, call Cliff Johnson at (734) 729-8681.

FOR SENIORS

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

Crochet & Knit

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

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

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

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

Exercise
Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

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

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

Vietnam Vets
The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam

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

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

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

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

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

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

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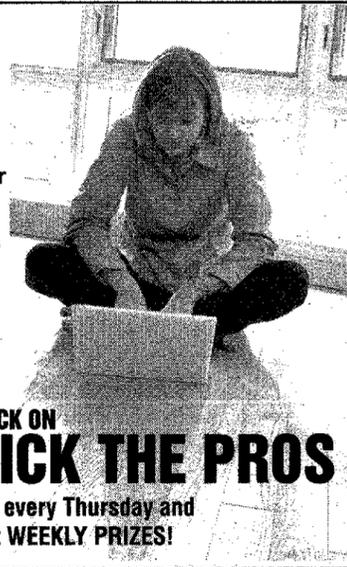
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Movement finding little local support

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

Intelligent design, the hypothesis that biological mechanisms are too complex to have risen from simpler forms and therefore must have had an initial designer, asserts neither could have come from a common ancestor that was only a chain of proteins.

A group of parents is suing the Dover (Pa.) Area School District for advancing what it believes is an intrusion of religion into education in the form of intelligent design. The Kansas State Board of Education has been deliberating whether to place a sticker on biology textbooks with a disclaimer about evolution's shortcomings.

Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel for the Thomas More Law Center in Ann Arbor, is defending the Dover Area School District in the lawsuit. He said the controversy in the court in Pennsylvania is about a disclaimer, not the teaching of intelligent design.

"The Dover policy is to read a one-minute statement that says evolution is a theory, not a fact and that an alternate theory is intelligent design," said Thompson, the former Oakland County prosecutor. "The policy also says only evolution will be taught and tested on. The plaintiffs' argument is that by mentioning intelligent design twice, it violates the establishment clause (preventing the establishment of religion)."

He said intelligent design argues that some biological constructions are so complex that they could not have been created by natural selection. The eye is an example of a mechanism that has no worth in its component parts and therefore couldn't have come from more simple forms.

He also said allegations that intelligent design was "stealth creationism" are baseless.

"Creationism goes back to a literal translation of the Bible, of six-day creation," Thompson said. "Intelligent design does not look to the Bible, instead it looks at the empirical data to come to the conclusion that all life can't be explained by natural selection."

Oakland University professor of evolutionary biology Thad Grudzien has formulated his position on intelligent design: It isn't science.

He said intelligent design isn't a theory. A theory is a group of hypotheses that have been rigorously and repeatedly tested. The idea that evolution at some point was influenced by a supernatural agent falls into the realm of metaphysics and therefore cannot be tested.

University of Detroit Mercy professor of ethics and religion James Tubbs said he doesn't get the schism between science and religion. The two aren't mutually exclusive.

"I've never had a problem blending the Jewish, Christian and Muslim ideals with evolution," he said. "There isn't a problem unless you read the Bible as literal history. I've never seen a huge problem with reconciling the science with the biblical accounts of what's meaningful in human life."

He said there are "certain unresolved issues" in evolution that leave open the question of where the spark of uniqueness came from in animals and humans alike.

"There's something beyond what the species were biochemically made up to do," Tubbs said. "There's something unique about the human soul or personality."

Not only is there room for both, he said, there shouldn't be an all-or-nothing contest between the two. They seek answers to different questions.

"To think that one way of thinking must dominate the other is an impoverished way of thinking," Tubbs said. "It all adds to the richness of our understanding of the world. Take the Grand Canyon: You know how it was done, by trickling water over thousands of years, but it's still a miracle in its sweep and scale."

Dr. Frank Mink is the president of Great Lakes University, a liberal arts Bible college in

'To think that one way of thinking must dominate the other is an impoverished way of thinking. It all adds to the richness of our understanding of the world.'

James Tubbs
University of Detroit Mercy professor of ethics and religion

Auburn Hills. He said intelligent design arrived on the scene in 1991 with a premise saying that complex forms could not spontaneously come together — like a clock forming itself out of nothing. An argument, he said, about why things can't happen. The criticism about intelligent design not being testable, he said, was valid.

He said intelligent design should not be taught in a science class, as it's a societal expression rather than a product of the scientific method.

That said, it did open some interesting doors. "Darwin's theory, to a certain point, is a fact," Mink said. "The concept of survival of the fittest particularly. There are taller people in warmer climates and shorter people in colder climates, all having to do with dispersion or retention of heat."

But, he said, that's about as much as he's willing to cede to Darwin. He said frogs may have evolved over the years, but they're still frogs. He believes that man came into

the world, by divine caveat, as man — albeit as a more primitive version of homo sapiens.

Troy High School biology teacher Joe Brandonisio presented intelligent design to his students at the beginning of the school year. He purchased a film from the Discovery Institute in Seattle and showed it to his classes. He's not a proponent of intelligent design, but he wanted to have a discussion at least.

"It was very persuasive, like an episode of *Nova* with special effects and music," Brandonisio said.

One of the proofs the film introduced was the concept of "irreducible complexity," the idea that certain natural structures are too basic to have evolved from simpler structures, in the form of the motile appendage the flagellum. This

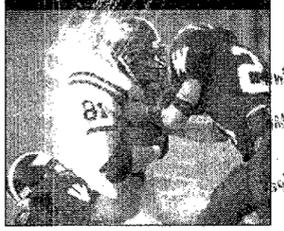
is most often referred to as the "mousetrap theory," comparing the cell structure to a mousetrap, a mechanism so simple that it cannot exist any simpler than it currently is.

The students debunked those concepts.

"The students researched it and discovered that many of the mechanisms in the flagellum are used by other cells," Brandonisio said. "We spent a few days reading articles and seeing if the theories of intelligent design stand up."

He said he wanted his students to understand what intelligent design was from a scientific standpoint. He did end up catching some heat for introducing the class to it, but it came from parents who objected to intelligent design being taught at all.

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Routine Physical Exams	Covered	\$10 each exam; Covered up to 1 exam per year.	\$5 for each exam; Covered up to 1 exam per year.
Routine Hearing and Eye Exams	Covered	\$10 for each Medicare-covered hearing or eye exam.	\$20 for each Medicare-covered hearing or eye exam.
Prescription Drug Benefit	\$400 benefit annually with significant discounts after benefit depletion (subject to limitations).	You pay 100% for most prescription drugs.	No individual limit on Generic drugs; \$10 limit per prescription for Brand drugs.
	\$40/month premium*	\$113/month premium*	\$199/month premium*

*You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium

Source: www.medicare.gov Personal Plan Finder

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The HAP Senior Plus network includes Henry Ford Hospital and the Henry Ford Medical Group, Henry Ford Bi-County & Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospitals.

Visit www.medicare.gov for a full comparison of competing plans.

To get the facts about Senior Plus, call 1-800-971-7878, TTY/TTD 1-313-664-8000.

OUR VIEWS

Hiring Burton is a plus for arena

Two years, Westland decided to recognize a native son by naming its ice arena after NHL superstar Mike Modano. And now it's returned to the ranks of hockey to bring in minor league legend Joe Burton to manage the facility.

Burton gave fans something to cheer about during the dark days of last season's NHL lockout. As a member of the Motor City Mechanics, he scored his 600th career goal.

You don't score that number of goals sitting and waiting for the puck, you get in there and make things happen, and we believe that's what Burton will do at the arena ... make things happen. Maybe not tomorrow or the next day, but we believe he will use his skill, his love of skating and maybe a few well-placed connections — wasn't that Detroit Red Wings Chris Chelios and Derian Hatcher he was hanging with last season? — to help breathe new life into the arena.

Burton faces a challenge. The ice rink is in need of an influx of cash to make improvements, and cash is one thing that is in short supply in the city.

Considering the current economic climate, it's going to take creativity to get money. Working in Burton's favor is the fact that the arena has one of the lowest hourly rates around. Also a plus is Burton, who has name recognition, thanks to his stint with the Mechanics. That could help attract more skaters, especially hockey skaters, to the arena.

The city of Westland made a wise decision in hiring Burton to manage the Modano Ice Arena. As a hockey player, he was dedicated and committed to the sport, and we believe he will bring those same virtues to his new job.

We think Joe Burton is the shot in the arm the arena needs to erase its red ink and becoming a profitable enterprise. And we look forward to hearing about more good things happening at the arena.

Wireless plan sheds light on development

While the state of Michigan has been under an economic cloud, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is finding a silver lining. And that break in the gloom is coming none too soon, as political thunder dampens any progress the governor is trying to make.

This lining is actually what Oakland officials like to refer to as a "technological cloud." Patterson's idea is to overlay all 910 square miles of the county with an Internet-ready plan called Wireless Oakland. The plan would bring free wireless computer access to the Internet to everyone in the county.

Patterson is not alone in his initiative. Genesee County also plans to have a system in operation by 2007.

Wayne County would benefit from a similar arrangement. The benefits, as outlined by Patterson, are basically two-fold.

First, not everyone can afford Internet access. Consider, during the recent hurricanes, how pivotal that access was for both information and communication.

There were many shocking photos from the days just after Hurricane Katrina hit, but one of the surprising ones was that of evacuees huddled around computer terminals at a shelter looking for lost people and pets.

Now, we won't be having hurricanes here, but the Internet offers opportunities for communicating with agencies, institutions and people never before experienced. Furthermore, the proposed service will shed light on our future workforce that is now in school, aiding in study skills and preparing for a technologically savvy world.

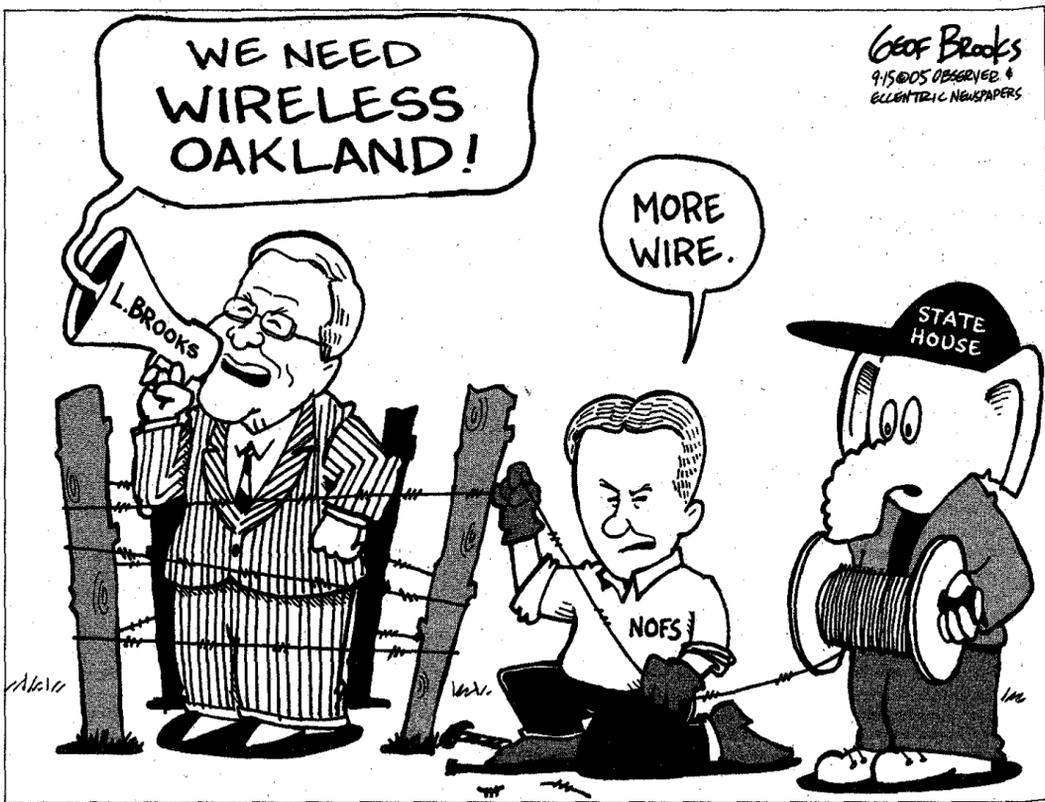
Second, Wireless Oakland is designed to encourage business development in the county. It follows on other business endeavors in the county, including Automation Alley and the Emerging Sectors initiative.

It's a service that the business world is likely to welcome as spending the work week in an office becomes obsolete. Officials locally and throughout the state have to give businesses a reason to locate here; Wireless Oakland is one way.

Some state legislators have been short-sighted in wanting to stop the plan before it gets under way.

This plan doesn't take the place of local communication companies; it works with them. The companies would provide the basic service free, with enhancements at a fee. What they would gain is area-wide coverage through existing infrastructure. Small discs would be placed on such structures as existing light poles.

The plan is an enlightened approach that should be copied throughout southeastern Michigan.



Geoff Brooks
915@OCS.OBSERVER &
ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS

Due to space constraints last week, we are running this letter again in its entirety.

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

Let's start at the beginning of last year. Neal Greenfield stepped down due to personal problems that have been resolved. The court appointed you as interim administrator to set up speedy nominations and election, with three rulings: Neal Greenfield couldn't run for president; you, Vic Barra, couldn't run for president; and the bylaws that were in place would remain with no changes to them.

Everyone thought you would be OK and had no problem with you, and since the state took the bingo licenses until we had an elected president and officers to sign for them, and that was to happen in October 2004, and you couldn't run for president, no one had a worry.

As for your overwhelming election victory, the lawyers split the membership into two lists, thus removing 40 percent of the members from being able to vote, but on your list were people who lived in Oakland County that by our bylaws couldn't join along with people living in Detroit (I was on your list).

And as for getting out of debt, when members of the community met at the Wayne-Ford Civic League to find ways to handle the debt and came up with refinancing its loan and having a bank to do so, you said no when they said they would have to see the books.

As for keeping politics out of the league, is that why the administration had four and five police cars at every Civic League meeting. Was that keeping the fox in the hen house?

Vic Barra, the Wayne-Ford Civic League got here when its president stepped down. So when Theresa McEvoy stepped down as president, why didn't the league have new elections?

Jim Davis

I am appalled as to why the *Observer* would print in its Sept. 22 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.

Elenor Swistak

Web site to tell all

As I read online the responses from Jim Davis, Elenor Swistak and Judy McKinney to my Sept. 22 letter, "Westland deserves better," I was not a bit surprised that they continue to twist the truth to meet their objective, Destroy Vic Barra and recapture the Civic League. Sorry, not going to happen.

However, rather than play a game of cat and mouse in the press with these so-called group of independents, I've decided to put all the cards on the table and assist them to "smell the stuff they are shoveling."

I intend to meet their ridiculous allegations head-on by posting to the Internet (www.wayneford.org/truth/index.html) in the very near future, excerpts from city council video tapes where the public can review their statements first-hand, several audio files I have collected from my personal cell phone that clearly demonstrate the malicious personnel attacks and threats I spoke of in my letter.

Additionally, I will scan copies of the official legal documents associated with the mess my administration was left with and are cleaning up. You see Mr. Davis, sooner or later the truth always finds its way to the surface. It is by your own hand that I've been forced to take these actions, let the chips fall where they may.

I'm looking forward to watching you try to spin the obvious into gold and if you're successful, donate a few bucks to the league so we can continue to help and work with the seniors, Girl Scouts and little athletes in our community.

I still say, Westland deserves better" and soon they will know why I feel this way.

Vic Barra

Association endorsements

We recommend the following candidates in the upcoming election:

Mayor — We endorse the incumbent, Sandra Cicirelli. As mayor, she has led our city to national acclaim. Her innovative and tireless efforts have allowed our city to maintain its high level of services for all of the residents and increased the city surplus in the face of drastic cuts in state and federal revenue sharing funds.

For those and many other reasons too numerous to mention, we strongly recommend the re-election of Mayor Sandra Cicirelli.

City council — we support: Council President Charles (Chuck) Pickering for re-election. During his tenure as president of the council, due to his strong leadership, civility has once again returned to the council meetings. Because of his untiring efforts, the business of the city is now being conducted in an efficient and orderly manner.

Councilman Michael A. Kehrer for re-election. Mike's diligent investigation into the complex issues that come before the city council enable him to reach the correct decision before casting his vote.

This diligence benefited all the residents of Westland during his first term in office, entitling him to be re-elected for another term.

Councilman Robert Stottlemeyer for re-election. Councilman Stottlemeyer's contributions to the city council have benefited our city. Also, his many hours of relentless pursuit of ways to improve the lives of the residents of our community make him deserving of our support for re-election.

Lori Brist, current president of the Chamber of Commerce. Lori is a newcomer to city politics. Although it is the first time that Lori is seeking an elected office, her past and present involvement in the city definitely qualifies her for a seat on council. Lori is past director of the senior Friendship Center, she is currently president of the Westland Chamber of Commerce and vice-chair of the TIFA board. Not only has Lori exhibited strong leadership qualities, but she also has proven her ability to work with others to get things done.

Duane Moody, president
Robert Campbell, vice president
Rita Taylor, secretary
Fran Zimecki, treasurer
Westland Condominium Directors
Organization

No need for national ID

The proposal in Congress to require picture ID to vote and mandating a National ID, if someone does not have a state-issued ID, would burden the poor, the disabled and the elderly.

We should not be making it harder for Americans to vote. And we should not increase the burden our neediest citizens already carry.

Current requirements that voters present a wide range of items as identification works well. There is absolutely no need for this change — unless the goal is to keep some of our citizens from voting. That is just plain wrong.

Nancy Melke
Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"We didn't hire him just because he was a professional hockey player, but it was a definite plus. He may be able to bring in some other professional players for some camps and things like that."

— Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski, about the hiring of Joe Burton, the new manager of the Mike Modano Ice Arena

WESTLAND
Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

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Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor	Peter Neill General Manager
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Amending term limits an idea whose time has come

Last month, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce came forward with a reasonable, sensible and constructive proposal — which astonished me. Over the years, I've learned not to take anything proposed by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce too seriously.

When it hasn't been acting as a transparent shill for right-wing Republicans, the chamber too often has been a willing lackey for the libertarian ideologues at the Mackinac Center.

But now, it has come up with a sensible idea: Extent term limits for our state Legislature.

The idea, according to Jim Barrett, the chamber president, would be to mount a petition drive to amend the state constitution. The amendment would allow legislators to serve a maximum of 14 years in the Legislature, though they could serve them in the House, the Senate or a combination of both.

The proposal would also require disclosure of lawmakers' financial holdings (Michigan is one of only three states not to have such a requirement),

impose a ban on lobbying for two years after a legislator leaves office and dock our highly-paid lawmakers' pay for each day they have an unexcused absence.

Here's the way it works now: Under a constitutional amendment the voters adopted in 1992, state representatives can serve a maximum of six years in that body; state senators, eight. Then they are barred from future legislative service — for life.

Anybody who has experienced the chaos in Lansing in recent years knows that term limits are one of the major causes.

This is why: It takes a new legislator a couple of years just to learn where the men's (or women's) rooms are. Another two years is occupied with positioning for legislative leadership (the current Speaker of the House, Craig DeRoche, is in his fifth year in the Legislature.) The final two years are typically devoted to figuring out how to run for some other office or lining up a job as a lobbyist.

The net result is that nobody knows anything. Nobody except the lobbyists remembers anything. And no complex or far-reaching policy matter is ever given thoughtful consideration.

I was not surprised to see the chamber's proposal immediately attacked by Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer as "nothing more than a Republican incumbent plan." Criticizing chamber initiatives is by now a reflex action among Democrats.

He figures Democrats have a chance in 2008 of taking control of the House because several GOP incumbents in competitive districts would not be able to run again under present term limits. Extended limits might allow them to run for several more terms and lock in continued

Republican dominance.

Bob LaBrant, the chief political operative at the chamber, disagrees, of course. But his disagreement isn't pure reflex, either.

According to Gongwer News Service, LaBrant says if Brewer wants a later effective date for extended limits, the chamber would consider it. "If I could get Mark Brewer to endorse this particular proposal, we'd be happy to work out any starting date he wanted." If LaBrant means what he says, it's a big step forward toward real bipartisanship on something vitally important to our state.

Moreover, the Michigan Education Association helped underwrite the polling and focus groups used by the chamber in developing the proposal. Usually a big Democratic ally, the MEA has for years opposed the current term limits, but says it has too many other priorities in 2006 to jump on board just now.

But Al Short, the MEA's chief lobbyist, said the teachers' union is prepared to take a hard look in 2008, according to Gongwer.

Well, well. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is the biggest kid on the block in Michigan politics. But the MEA isn't far behind. Anytime these two powerhouse organizations get together to propose something, ears prick up all over Lansing.

They certainly pricked up at a national outfit called U.S. Term Limits and its Michigan affiliate, Don't Touch Term Limits. Patrick Anderson, the president of the Anderson Consulting Group in Lansing and an author of the original term-limit amendment, told Gongwer he was "pretty mad about the whole deal."

If the chamber is serious about initiating a truly bipartisan discussion about how best to undo the damage Michigan's term limits have done, it deserves a big pat on the back. One of the reasons our politics are such a mess these days is that short-term legislators have no idea what they're doing, which puts them at the mercy of special interest groups with fat pocketbooks.

Extending the terms of service for our legislators would go a long way to repair the broken connection between our political system and the real needs of our citizens.

Perhaps not long enough. As Rick Cole, now the chief administrative officer for the Detroit Medical Center, noted that the way things now stand: "You and I are deprived of retaining quality Republicans and Democrats in legislative offices."

Still, he adds, "I am glad someone is doing something — however minor — to improve on a very defective voting rights resolution, and you can quote me on it."

So I just did.

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

Do we really need to fight terrorism in Casnovia Twp.?

While the nation's human and fiscal resources appear more ready to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Rita than they were with Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, I remain puzzled by how the federal government defines "Homeland Security" as it relates to how I see the feds spending — or, in my opinion, squandering — our ever-dwindling financial resources.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created in the wake of 9/11 at the urging of President George W. Bush to provide the necessary resources to protect our nation from future terrorist attacks. Its powers and authority have since been broadened to deal with any major disaster to hit the country, be it a terrorist attack, earthquake or hurricane.

I think it is a good idea to have such a cabinet-level department fully funded and at the ready to protect our country and respond to a major crisis. But I don't agree with it becoming a pork barrel that politicians can use to show how they are "bringing home the bacon" for their local constituents.

Last month, we reported on how the Bloomfield Township fire department was awarded a \$90,000 homeland security grant to buy exercise equipment.

We questioned U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Township) about the grant. Knollenberg said he had no knowledge of the grant, and expressed surprise that it could be used for such a purpose. Knollenberg also acknowledged that "someone" at the federal level should pay a little closer to how the money is being spent.

Based on a press release received earlier this week from the Department of Homeland Security news desk, Knollenberg's suggestion either wasn't delivered, or acted upon.

Instead, the department's press release boasted how a fourth round of the fiscal 2005 program awarded 328 grants to fire departments around the country, totaling more than \$27.85 million. In all, the department expects to issue about 5,500 grants totaling \$600 million.

According to the release, the grants are intended to offer "direct assistance to firefighters and first responders throughout the country, demonstrating Homeland Security's commitment to ensuring that America's firefighters have the resources they need to protect their communities."

To understand the absurdity of these grants is to understand the absurdity of the bureaucratic tangle which has become the Department of Homeland Security. No wonder the good folks of New Orleans were left to fend for themselves all the while thinking the federal government was actually going to help them.

These grants are part of The Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program, which is administered by the Homeland Security Department's Office for State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, in cooperation with the Department's United States Fire Administration, which is a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which has been swallowed up by the Department of Homeland Security.

Huh? Is it possible that no less than four federal agencies have a hand in awarding the Casnovia Township fire department in Bailey, Mich., \$102,000 to battle terrorism? And since these grants are supposed to be used by the departments for "operations and safety," it appears the funds can be use for just about anything.

To quote ABC's John Stossel, give me a break.

So what is Michigan's slice of the pork barrel pie? About \$667,519 to 12 mostly rural fire departments in the latest batch of grants.

Again quoting the DHS press release, the State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness department is "the principal Federal agency responsible for the preparedness of the United States for acts of terrorism, including coordinating preparedness efforts at the Federal level, and working with all state, local, tribal, parish and private sector emergency response providers on all matters pertaining to combating terrorism ..."

In reality, these grants have nothing to do with protecting us from terrorists. What they really represent is a new form of federal revenue sharing to help small, cash-starved communities finance their fire operations, which historically has been done through locally approved millages.

I am quite sure that the AuGres-Sims, Hurontown, Michigamme, Hastings and Unadilla fire departments sorely needed their DHS grants. But let's be honest about where the money is coming from, and what it is being used for.

Joe Bauman is managing editor for the *Eccentric Newspapers*. He welcomes feedback at jbauman@oe.homecomm.net or (248) 901-2563.



Joe Bauman

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Public comment sought on Help America Vote Act

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land is encouraging public comment on the revised State Plan drafted in compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

The public comment deadline is 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27. The plan, required under HAVA and developed with input from an advisory committee appointed by Land, sets a course of action for enhancing Michigan's election process.

The federal funding available under HAVA allows Michigan to replace

outdated voting equipment, ensure access for voters with disabilities and conduct voter education programs.

"This is an important step in our ongoing initiative to bring greater uniformity, accessibility and inclusiveness to Michigan's elections," said Land, the state's chief election officer. "I invite all who are interested to review and comment on this revised plan. Remember that your vote is your voice. Please join us as we work together to make sure that every voice is heard."

The plan is being modified to reflect the current costs of programs and initiatives outlined in the original version. Updating the document also lets the state take advantage of technologies and programs that have become available since the original plan's release.

The Secretary of State's State Plan Advisory Committee met Tuesday to review the revisions. The plan is being posted for 30 days on the Department of State Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

A printed copy also will be forwarded to Michigan's 83 county clerks.

When responding, residents are asked to clearly identify the sections on which they are commenting by page number.

Comments may be e-mailed to the department at elections@michigan.gov. Comments sent by U.S. mail should be addressed to the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Attn: HAVA Plan, P.O.

Box 20126, Lansing, MI 48901-0726.

Anyone with questions may call the Bureau of Elections at (517) 373-2540.

After the public comment period, the plan will be revised as necessary and submitted to Washington, D.C., for publication in the Federal Register for 30 days.

For more information about HAVA and other Department of State programs and initiatives, visit www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Schoolcraft enrollment hits new high

Fall 2005 enrollment has hit a record high at Schoolcraft College, with more than 10,000 students signing up for credit classes for the third year in a row.

Enrollment reached 10,816 as of Sept. 29, marking a 3.04 percent increase over the fall 2004 figure. The number of credit hours rose 4.19 percent to 97,535.

"This is huge," said Cheryl Wright, dean of student services. "Schoolcraft always has been a wise choice for students, offering quality in the classrooms, outstanding service, up-to-date career and transfer programs, and a beautiful, safe campus."

"There has been a lot of media attention given to the significant tuition increases at four-year colleges and universities, as well as the state of the economy in Michigan. An increasing number of students are realizing that Schoolcraft provides an exceptional value."

Wright said the increased student population means classroom space is at capacity at certain times of the day. However, she said the growth of distance learning has alleviated the pressure for more space. "With distance learning, students can take a heavier credit-hour load, and take some of those classes online," she said.

According to Monica Sullivan, associate dean of sciences who oversees the distance learning program, the number of students taking at least one class online has grown by 61 percent during the past two years.

Schoolcraft has continued to expand its campus resources and curricular offerings. In October, the newly renovated Bradner Library will open. The \$3.5 million project will broaden electronic resources by 400 percent and enable students to access the collections from 160 area libraries.

On Sept. 28, the Board of Trustees selected the firm of DSA Architects, LLC from Berkeley to design and monitor the construction of a new \$10.4 million classroom building on the northeast side of the Livonia campus.

This fall, the first cohort of massage therapy students began the one-year program at Radcliff Center. The initial class proved so successful, a second cohort will be added in the winter 2006 term.

The music department added a sequence of classes in synthesizer ensemble performance, with the group playing original music and transcribed pieces from the standard music literature.

In January, area law enforcement personnel will have the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from either Concordia University or Ferris State University through new programs located in the Radcliff Center in Garden City.

In its efforts to make bachelor's degrees more affordable and accessible to its students, the college has continued to develop articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

These agreements enable students to attend Schoolcraft for two or three years, then easily transfer to a four-year to complete their bachelor's degrees, thereby lowering tuition costs.

The latest articulation agreements involve the programs in criminal justice with Concordia University and Ferris State University and with Oakland Schools in technical programs.



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