

2/23



Oscars contest

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# WESTLAND Observer

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## Extended 'family' feels McNamara loss

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

When former Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara died early Sunday morning from heart failure, he left behind a large family.

There is Lucille, his wife of 57 years, his five children and five grandchildren.

However, McNamara's "family" stretches well beyond, as will be visible by the more than 1,200 mourners expected to pay their final respects at his funeral Friday in Most Holy Trinity Church Catholic Church in Detroit.

Many who knew McNamara cherished his longtime, committed friendship. And, those who worked with McNamara as part of his Democratic political machine - many of whom were mentored into public service leadership positions of their own - feel the loss just as deeply.

McNamara's son, Kevin, of Canton said his father "had a knack for finding the best in people and making people feel important. He had a gift for glib, and liked to talk to anyone he could find. He always said he couldn't believe people thought he was important."

While the official cause of death is listed as heart failure, McNamara had been battling mantle cell lymphoma, a rare form of cancer, for several years.

"His bone marrow was gone because of the chemotherapy, and his heart was only working 20 percent," said Kevin McNamara. "His kidneys shut down about midnight."

"He gathered enough strength to say 'I love you' to the grandchildren," Kevin said. "A minute before he died, he got the biggest smile on his face and was looking at all the kids. We were all crying ... and smiling ... too."

McNamara's political career started early, when he ran as a protest candidate for the school board in Dearborn Township (now Dearborn Heights) because of a millage increase. He was elected to the Livonia City Council in 1962, and eventually served 17 years as mayor of Livonia before serving 16 years as Wayne County executive.

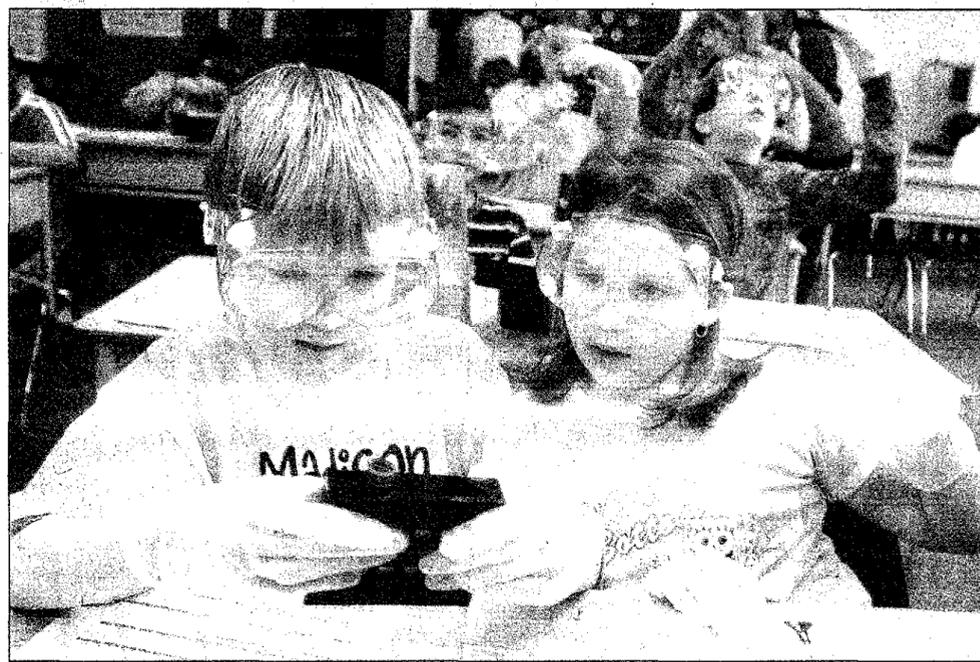
### FAMILY CAME FIRST

Kevin McNamara said despite his father's busy political life, "he was

PLEASE SEE McNAMARA, A2



Ed McNamara's political career started as a protest candidate for the school board in Dearborn Township (now Dearborn Heights) and ended when he retired after 16 years as Wayne County executive.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Madison Elementary third-graders Devin Gibson and Holly Sisko perform a PH test, one of the many activities offers during SPARK Day.

## Program sparks interest in science

The baker man may mix it, beat it and pop it in a pan, but students at Madison Elementary School learned there was more to baking than the content of a nursery rhyme.

That's because the science of baking was one of the many topics students had to choose from during the annual SPARK (Science Plus Activities Reaching Kids) Day.

The three-hour program held last Friday morning let students explore such things as wild weather and fitness while learning to build a watershed and become germ-free.

The popular Westland bakery of Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe handled the science of baking and joined the National Weather Service, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Friends of the Rouge River and Ronald McDonald as presenters this year.

Also there were students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center who demonstrated robotics for the students.

This is the 10th year that the school has hosted SPARK Day which featured 18 different science-based presentations and included a student T-shirt design contest won by first-grader Christiana Irvine. His design and slogan, "Magnify your future with science," appeared on SPARK Day T-shirts.

More than 30 parent volunteers also helped with the event, working with presenters in setting up and in moving students among presentations.



Kindergartner Prabhjot Cheema discovers the joy of kneading bread dough during the science of baking presentation.

The three-hour program held last Friday morning let students explore such things as wild weather and fitness while learning to build a watershed and become germ-free.

## Council gets choosy about development

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

With a once-dilapidated retail center now demolished on the near-southwest corner of Wayne and Ford roads, Westland city leaders sent a strong message Tuesday that they will be choosy in what replaces it.

A united Westland City Council rejected developer John Romano's plan to bring a NAPA Auto Parts store to a site where he plans to build two commercial strip malls.

The council refused to approve a special land use proposal for NAPA, saying the company - mostly a wholesaler - isn't right for the retail site.

NAPA officials had projected \$2.1 million in annual sales at the proposed business, despite its close proximity to two other auto parts stores.

City leaders pointed to an earlier study indicating that they should avoid bringing any more auto-related businesses to the area.

More important, they said, is the need to preserve the near-southwest corner of Wayne and Ford for retail stores.

"This is a prime retail corner of the city," Councilman James Godbout said.

Council President William Wild urged NAPA officials to consider locating in another area of Westland. The developer, however, said the NAPA store would have been appropriate for the Wayne-Ford site.

Said Romano: "On the financial end of it, we have to make money ... or that corner is going to stay the way it is."

City leaders, working with the Downtown Development Authority, want to move carefully as they bring any new businesses to the Wayne-Ford area.

"It's a core corner for the city's economic health," Planning Director Bruce Thompson said.

Romano had hoped to bring NAPA to a nearly 6,000-square-foot space next to Big Lots - the only business still located on a site that once included stores ranging from a Kroger to a video store to a carpet outlet.

On Tuesday, Councilman Richard LeBlanc said he believes the council made the right decision by blocking the NAPA store.

"When we look back, it will have been the right decision," he said. "There's going to be good things coming to that corner. Watch Wayne and Ford - it will happen." dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

## Museum gets 'groovy' for city's anniversary

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Get out those worn bell-bottoms, miniskirts, go-go boots and mood rings.

Tease that hair into the tallest bouffant in town, or grow that crew cut long enough to make any Beatle proud.

Spread that *Twister* game out, turn on Gothic soap opera *Dark Shadows* and tune in to CKLW-AM.

Local historians have a groovy idea for honoring the city's 40th birthday this year: They're going to

party like it's 1966 by transforming the Westland Historical Museum's 1800s decor.

And they need help - quickly. The Friends of the Westland Historical Museum want to finish their makeover before May, when the city will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Friends member David Carrick already has found a wind-up *Mr. Machine* robot toy, an old *Trouble* game and - gasp! iPod owners - some old vinyl records.

But they're asking residents to

PLEASE SEE GROOVY, A3

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Coming Sunday  
in PINK

Go Beyond the Red Carpet at the Oscars with Linda Solomon This week in PINK



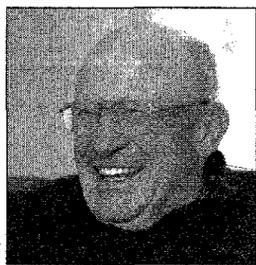
# McNamara funeral scheduled for Friday

Visitation continues today, Feb. 23, for former Wayne County Executive and Livonia Mayor Ed McNamara at Livonia's Neely-Trowski Funeral Home. Viewing will take place from 1-9 p.m. at the funeral home located on Five Mile west of Middlebelt.

He will also lie in state Friday for one hour at Detroit's Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church before the funeral, scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be at Livonia's Parkview Cemetery.

Mr. McNamara, 79, died early Sunday from heart failure at Detroit's Harper Hospital. He had been suffering from pneumonia in recent weeks, a complication of his treatments for cancer. He was diagnosed with lymphoma more than two years ago.

A Plymouth Township resident at the time of his death, McNamara spent 45 years of his life as an elected official. He was Wayne County Executive from 1987 until his retirement in 2002. Previously, he was Livonia's mayor from 1970-86, a Livonia councilman from 1962-70 and a school board member in Dearborn Township (now Dearborn Heights) from 1954-59. The Detroit native served



Ed McNamara

two years in the U.S. Navy and earned a political science degree from the University of Detroit. He worked 22 years for the Michigan Bell Telephone Co. until he was elected full-time mayor of Livonia in 1970.

Also in that year, he made an unsuccessful run for lieutenant governor. His running mate Sander Levin, now a Congressman, lost to William Milliken by 46,000 votes.

McNamara is survived by his wife of 57 years, Lucille, five children and five grandchildren.

Memorials in Mr. McNamara's honor can be made to the American Heart Association or the Edward H. McNamara Scholarship Fund for Most Holy Trinity School.

## MCNAMARA

FROM PAGE A1

always around and coached." But, even when the elder McNamara was working, he found a way to keep his children close.

"If he brought pop, chips and M&M's home, we knew he just volunteered us for something," Kevin McNamara said. "I think he did it to have us along with him."

McNamara's daughter, Colleen McNamara, said her father's death is tough for her because she talked with him every other day.

"Besides being my dad, he was my best friend," she said. "He used to build ice skating rinks for us in the back yard at our home at Six Mile and Inkster (in Livonia). And, considering how busy he was, he always made sure he was home for dinner."

As much as McNamara was a father to his children, he was also a father figure to those he helped mentor.

"He leaves a much more extended family behind than just the immediate family," said Gov. Jennifer Granholm. "I think we loved him as though he were a father to us."

Granholm was Wayne County corporation counsel when her name surfaced as a possible candidate for state attorney general, the position to which she was elected prior to becoming governor.

"I remember exactly where we were sitting (in his office), and he said to me, 'My advice to you is don't do it if it's about you, it's about changing the world,'" recalled Granholm, who visited McNamara twice before he died. "His first rule was that if you govern well, the politics will take care of themselves."

"He had the confidence and spotted something in me that I didn't even see, and it was so affirming," added Granholm. "He told it like it was, and was very straightforward with people. But, he was also very funny and astute, with an incredibly gentle side to him, an utterly sweetheart of a man."

Colleen Pobur of Plymouth said accepting a Wayne County position with McNamara was "the smartest thing I ever did."

## MENTOR TO MANY

"He assessed his people and figured out what they were best at, even if they didn't know," said Pobur, who was director of concessions and quality assurance during construction of the new McNamara terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. "We were a family, and when you think about how many lives he changed by being our boss ... building an organization that nurtured and developed people. I don't believe there will ever be another organization that did the kinds of things we did in his 16 years as county executive."

McNamara is credited with the \$1.6 billion expansion of Metro Airport, which bears his name. He also formed the Detroit-Wayne County Stadium Authority that built Comerica Park and Ford Field; plus led the construction of the Dickerson jail in Hamtramck, a new juvenile detention facility and medical examiner's office.

He took a county that was \$135 million in debt and balanced the budget for 16 consecutive years.

McNamara also inspired many of his employees to pursue careers in public service, including Granholm, former Wayne County Prosecutor and current Detroit Medical Center CEO Mike Duggan, and Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans.

Those he mentored remember the plaque in his office which read "We can do anything we want as long as nobody cares who gets the credit."

"Some people like being powerful public officials, but he understood what we needed to do to make life better for other people," said Evans. "Ed McNamara was a heavyweight, but he was a down-to-earth person."

Bob Osborn, 84, of Northville Township knew McNamara for 58 years, and often played golf with him at

Hilltop Golf Course in Plymouth Township, where McNamara moved after leaving political life.

"Until a few months ago, we'd meet with a couple of friends every Wednesday and play nine holes," said Osborn, who will be a pallbearer at tomorrow's funeral. "We'd (Osborn and his wife, Sharon) have lunch with Ed and Lucille once a week at Doyle's (Tavern in Plymouth). We could meet there and just be private. Ed was just an ordinary sort of guy when you got him away from politics."

Osborn and McNamara met while working at Michigan Bell after both were discharged from the Navy in 1946. In 1963, the two formed a partnership that created the Oasis domed golf complex in Northville.

## GOOD FRIEND

"He's helped so many people in his lifetime and never asked for anything back," said Osborn. "He was just interested in helping people develop to the best of their abilities."

As the most powerful Democrat in Michigan, McNamara led the state drives during Bill Clinton's two presidential campaigns.

"There was a time when President Clinton was getting off the plane at Willow Run Airport during a campaign visit," recalled Pobur, "and when he saw Mr. and Mrs. McNamara he opened his arms wide and yelled, 'It's the McNamaras.'"

The former president, who is out of the country, issued a statement with his condolences to the McNamara family.

One blemish on McNamara's record is the federal government's investigation into potential wrongdoing by his administration, contracts for Metro Airport and campaign contributions.

"It's like living a nightmare," said McNamara in a December 2002 talk to the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club. "I think we've tried very, very hard to run a good county."

No charges were ever filed against McNamara during the

course of the investigation.

Lucille McNamara said her husband would talk with her often about life at the office.

"He'd bring it home, and we'd discuss most everything that was going on," she said. "But, he had wonderful, talented people, so they were able to work out most things. Ed had a wonderful talent for realizing the potential of people."

"And, he was wonderful family man," she said. "He loved to play with his children, and he loved his grandchildren."

Children were a passion for McNamara. In 1989, McNamara established the McNamara Scholarship Fund, which has raised more than \$600,000 and provided assistance to 200 students. After leaving office in 2002, McNamara used that money to begin a scholarship fund for the preschool through sixth-grade Montessori school at Most Holy Trinity, where he often went to Mass and celebrated his Irish heritage.

"When Ed began emptying his political war chest after leaving office, he gave \$35,000 to establish the scholarship fund for the school," said the Rev. Russ Kohler, pastor of Most Holy Trinity. "The next year, because of Ed's donation, someone gave \$100,000. And, for the past few years, there has been a charity golf event at St. John's (golf course in Plymouth Township) that raises about \$80,000 a year for the school."

Friday's funeral will begin at 10:30 a.m. with tributes by the McNamara family, Granholm and Duggan, with the funeral Mass commencing at 11 a.m. featuring the Holy Trinity children's choir.

The church seats about 1,200 people, with the service to be broadcast for the overflow crowd inside a nearby union hall.

"I think Ed's real legacy is that people who worked for him ended up with careers and professions, when all they originally wanted was a job," said Kohler.

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## League meeting looks at mass transit issues

"Lessons from the Super Bowl; Regional Mass Transit in Our Life Time" will be the topic of a public meeting hosted by The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

The featured speaker will be Vicki Kovari, the senior organizer of MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength), a faith-based community organization which works to improve the quality of life in local communities and to create a more just and human society.

Kovari will discuss the goals and objectives of MOSES to improve mass transit in the Detroit metropolitan area.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, but it does have positions on issues it has studied.

The league is an active supporter of public transportation and invites the public to join in the discussion at this meeting.

The library is located in the Livonia Civic Center at Farmington and Five Mile.

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# Franklin embraces world cultures

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Franklin High School students and their families found the "world at their fingertips" Wednesday evening as the school's language department hosted its annual International Night event under the same theme.

The event, now in its 11th year, is coordinated by world language teachers Julie Smith and Lynn Massucci. It drew a crowd of 300, including performers and organizers. Smith called it "a great opportunity to celebrate diversity."

"And to recognize differences," Massucci added. "It encourages students to participate in a foreign language class."

International Night began as a way to boost participation in Spanish, French and German classes, which are offered as electives at Franklin. About 40 percent of students at the school take a language course during their years at Franklin.

International Night offers "a great way for kids to demonstrate their skills and use it in a very dynamic way," according to Massucci. Participants came from all levels of experience with foreign languages, from first-year students to fifth-year students - like Amanda Mondella who takes Spanish at Schoolcraft College. She said she'll continue her language studies.

As will Laura Marshall, a Franklin junior who dressed like a yellow-feathered bird for her French-inspired stage performance on Wednesday. In her third year of French class, Marshall said the language comes easily to her and she enjoys having small classes. "It's more



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Making their way down the buffet during International Night at Franklin High School, Rosalie Viland and her daughters - 6-year-old Heidi, left, and 11-year-old Nicole - gather a wide sampling of food representing different regions of the world.

like a family," she said. "You get to be friends with (everyone). And it does help for college."

Smith and Massucci agreed learning a foreign language will boost a student's college application, making them more competitive, and more sensitive, in a global society.

Larry Naser, a Westland resident, came out to the event to support his daughter. "She takes Spanish," he said. "This is one of the best nights Livonia Public Schools has. (We) share so much culture and taste the food. Really, it's wonderful."

Franklin junior Jenn Harris agreed. She said the event encourages everyone to "learn more about different cultures and different kinds of food."

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## GROOVY

FROM PAGE A1

donate or loan such items as a '60s couch, end tables, lamps, dishes, console TV - even a vintage toaster.

Historians are on a scavenger hunt - some say treasure hunt - to collect the 1960s items by March 15, but they won't turn away those who miss the deadline.

"If everything works out as planned, it would be like walking into a time warp," Carrick said. "You would not just enter the Felton Farmhouse (the historical museum), but would enter the year 1966, as well."

Rod Serling of *Twilight Zone*

would be proud.

"The Friends of the Museum want this to be a community project," said Ruth Dale, who serves on the board of directors. "The '60s display will be something for all ages to enjoy."

To document fashions of the era, Dale hopes to find a Sears or Spiegel catalog that can be placed in the museum, located on Wayne Road north of Cherry Hill.

Historians hope to unveil the 1960s display on Saturday, May 6 - 10 days before the city's official birthday. It will likely remain in place the rest of the year.

"As the holiday season gets in full swing, look for changes to the exhibits, too," Carrick said.

"What was waiting for you under the tree that year?"

To donate items or for more information, call Carrick at (734) 728-7425 or Dale at (734) 425-1955.

"We're open to anything from the 1960s," Carrick said. "They don't have to donate the items. They can just loan them to us."

The museum is usually open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, but extended hours may coincide with the anniversary celebration.

Volunteers also are welcome to join Friends of the Museum - dedicated to preserving the museum collections and to working on displays inside the old farmhouse.

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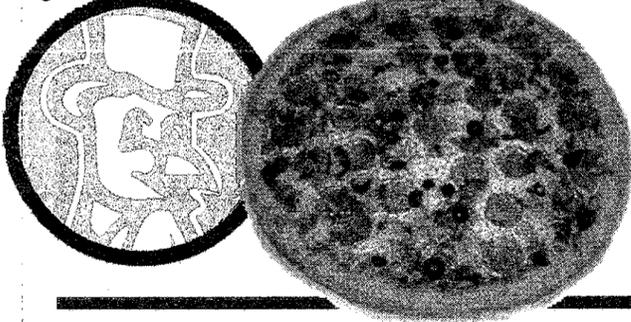
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We use only the best ingredients. Our dough is made fresh daily, never frozen. Our sauce has been known as New York's greatest by many. The sauce is our own recipe that has been used for many years. We use what is considered the finest cheese, "Grande" Mozzarella Cheese, made with low fat skim milk. Try this pizza; we're sure that you will find that this is one great tasting pizza that will give you an unforgettable New York experience.

Our pasta is made fresh by the order. Our sauce is made with fresh ingredients put together to make our grandmother's special recipe. This recipe has been handed down for years and now we feel the need to pass on the great taste to our customers.

Garden City Pizza, Pasta, & Chicken serves you chicken made with our unique recipe. We have freshly delivered chicken three times weekly. Our chicken is first marinated in our long-time family recipe, then breaded, and finally pressure cooked in 100% vegetable oil. We're sure that you'll agree that this is the finest chicken that your taste buds have ever encountered.

### Pasta Dinners

Spaghetti/Mostaccioli w/ Marinara Sauce.....	\$5.50
Spaghetti/Mostaccioli w/ Meat Sauce.....	\$5.99
Meatball Pasta.....	\$6.19
Sausage Pasta.....	\$6.19
Chicken Pasta.....	\$6.49
Baked Lasagna.....	\$6.50
Veggie Lasagna.....	\$6.50
<small>(broccoli, spinach, carrot; mushroom)</small>	
Meat/Cheese Ravioli.....	\$6.25
Gnocchi.....	\$6.49
Tortellini.....	\$6.49
Italian Sausage Cacciatore.....	\$6.49
Chicken Cacciatore.....	\$6.79
*Add Mozzarella on any dish.....	\$1.75

### Appetizers

Mozzarella Sticks.....	\$3.99
Onion Rings.....	\$2.99
Fried Mushroomms.....	\$3.29

### Salads

Tossed.....	\$2.99
Greek.....	\$6.50
Broasted Chicken Salad.....	\$6.99
Antipasto.....	\$6.99

### Specialty Breads

Bread Sticks.....	\$1.75
Cheesy Bread.....	\$3.75
Garlic Twists.....	\$2.75

### Hot Italian Subs

Chicken Parmigiana.....	\$5.25
Meatball Parmigiana.....	\$5.25
Sausage Pepper & Onions.....	\$5.25
Pizza Sub.....	\$5.25

All Prices Subject To Change Without Notice



### Broasted Chicken Dinner

2 piece (white & dark meat).....	\$4.20
3 piece (one breast).....	\$5.20
4 piece.....	\$5.99
8 piece.....	\$14.99
12 piece.....	\$17.99
16 piece.....	\$19.99
20 piece.....	\$23.99

(Dinners include Roll and Potato Wedges. 8, 12, 16, and 20 piece dinners also come with cole slaw)

### Chicken-By-The-Box

8 piece.....	\$9.99
12 piece.....	\$12.99
16 piece.....	\$15.99
20 piece.....	\$18.99

\*Substitute any chicken piece w/ Breast.....\$1.00 ea.

### Individual Chicken

Breast.....	\$2.09
Thigh.....	\$1.09
Leg.....	\$1.09
Wing.....	\$5.90

### Potato Wedges

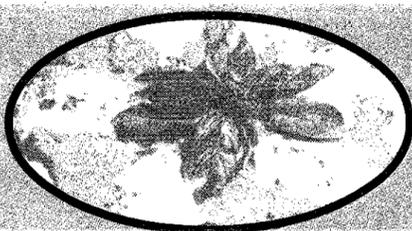
		Sm	Lg
Broasted Potatoes.....	\$1.99		\$3.50

### Beverages- Pepsi Products

20oz Pop.....	\$1.25
1 Liter Pop.....	\$1.75
2 Liter Pop.....	\$2.25

### Quantity Chicken Prices

40 pieces.....	\$36.00
50 pieces.....	\$45.00
60 pieces.....	\$54.00
70 pieces.....	\$63.00
80 pieces.....	\$72.00
90 pieces.....	\$81.00
100 pieces.....	\$90.00
110 pieces.....	\$99.00
120 pieces.....	\$108.00
130 pieces.....	\$117.00
140 pieces.....	\$126.00
150 pieces.....	\$135.00
160 pieces.....	\$144.00
170 pieces.....	\$153.00
180 pieces.....	\$162.00
190 pieces.....	\$171.50
200 pieces.....	\$180.00



### Pizza

	Sm12"	Med14"	Lg16"	XLg18"
Cheese.....	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$9.50	\$10.99
& 1 Item.....	\$7.99	\$9.99	\$10.99	\$12.49
& 2 Items.....	\$8.99	\$10.99	\$11.99	\$13.99
& 3 Items.....	\$9.99	\$11.99	\$12.99	\$15.49
& 4 Items.....	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$13.99	\$16.99
*Personal Pizza.....	\$4.75	...add any item...\$1.50		

### \*Your Topping choices:

Pepperoni, Sausage, Bacon, Ham, Pineapple, Anchovies, Onions, Tomatoes, Mushrooms, Green Peppers, Broccoli, Spinach, Green & Black Olives, Mild Peppers, Chicken, Hamburger Meat

### Deep Dish Chicago Style Pizza:

	Small	Large
Cheese.....	\$8.00	\$10.99
Cheese & 1 Item.....	\$8.99	\$11.99
Cheese & 2 Items.....	\$9.99	\$12.99
Cheese & 3 Items.....	\$10.99	\$13.99
Cheese & 4 Items.....	\$11.99	\$14.99

### Deep Dish Sicilian Style Pizza:

Cheese.....	\$9.99
Cheese & 1 Item.....	\$11.50
Cheese & 2 Items.....	\$12.50
Cheese & 3 Items.....	\$13.50
Cheese & 4 Items.....	\$14.50



### BBQ Ribs

Half Slab Dinner.....	\$9.99
<small>(includes broasted potatoes, &amp; dinner roll)</small>	
Whole Slab Dinner for 2.....	\$16.95
<small>(includes broasted potatoes, cole slaw, and 2 dinner rolls)</small>	
Super Combo.....	\$27.95
<small>(includes slab of ribs, 12 pieces of chicken, broasted potatoes, 1 pint of cole slaw, and 4 dinner rolls)</small>	

### Specialty Pies

	Sm	Med	Lg
GC House Pizza.....	\$13.99	\$14.99	\$18.99
Pizza Margherita.....	\$8.99	\$10.50	\$11.75
<small>(marinara sauce, fresh tomato, provolone, fresh garlic)</small>			
Pizza Bianca.....	\$7.99	\$8.99	\$9.99
<small>(ricotta, &amp; mozzarella cheese)</small>			
Veggie Pizza.....	\$9.50	\$10.99	\$11.99
<small>(peppers, onions, mushroom, broccoli, tomatoes, spinach, olives, mild peppers, &amp; mozzarella cheese)</small>			
Meat Lovers.....	\$11.99	\$13.50	\$14.99
<small>(pepperoni, sausage, bacon, ham, chicken, &amp; hamburger meat)</small>			

### Calzones

Cheese Calzone.....	\$4.99
Pepperoni Calzone.....	\$5.50
Sausage Calzone.....	\$5.50
Chicken Calzone.....	\$5.50
Spinach Calzone.....	\$5.50
Broccoli Calzone.....	\$5.50

\*All calzones have a blend of three cheeses; mozzarella, ricotta, and parmigiana

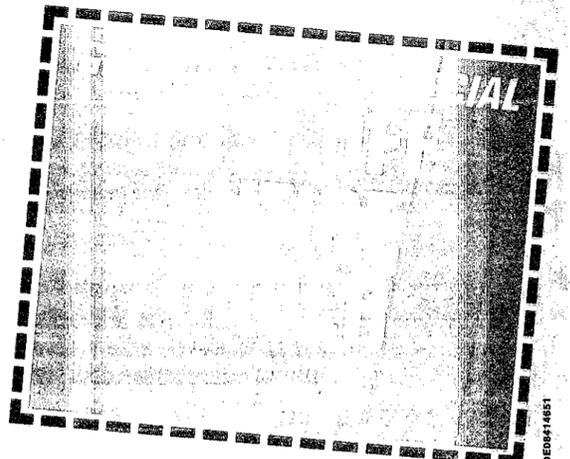
Please Give 48-Hour Notice For Parties

### Party Trays



	1/2 Tray	Full Tray
	Serves 8	Serves 18
Pasta.....	\$23.95	\$42.95
<small>(Choose any of our pastas with choice of sauce)</small>		
Lasagna.....	\$30.95	\$56.95
<small>(Our famous homemade lasagna layered with pasta, our own meat sauce, mozzarella, ricotta, &amp; parmigiana cheese)</small>		
Meatballs.....	\$36.95	\$72.95
<small>(Tasty Italian meatballs in meat sauce)</small>		
Ravioli.....	\$40.95	\$80.95
<small>(Pasta squares filled with meat or cheese filling topped with your choice of sauce)</small>		
Ravioli Florentine.....	\$45.95	\$90.95
<small>(Stuffed pasta squares with spinach and blend of cheeses)</small>		
Tossed Salad.....	\$19.95	\$39.95
<small>(Lettuce, tomato, cucumber, and red onions)</small>		
Greek Salad.....	\$31.95	\$59.95
<small>(Lettuce, beets, black olives, onions, feta cheese, tomatoes, and pepperonchini)</small>		
Antipasto Salad.....	\$31.95	\$59.95
<small>(Lettuce, tomatoes, red onions, black olives, pepperonchini, ham, salami, and provolone cheese)</small>		

\*For parties and special occasions, at least 48 hour notice in advance is recommended\*



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Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 22,500 miles.  
No security deposit required. Tax, title, license,  
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### 2006 BUICK RENDEZVOUS® CX

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FAMILY MEMBERS WITH A CURRENT GMAC LEASE:  
LOW MILEAGE LEASE

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FAMILY MEMBERS WITH A CURRENT GMAC LEASE:  
LOW MILEAGE LEASE

**\$249/** month **27** months  
**\$2,039** due at signing after all offers.\*\*

Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 22,500 miles.  
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\*A maximum of four (4) payments not yet due between the date the vehicle is returned and the scheduled end date of the contract will be waived. Must return vehicle and take delivery of an eligible new and unused 2005/2006 GM vehicle from dealer stock by 3/15/06. Excess mileage and wear charges apply. See dealer for details.

\*\*Payments are for a 2006 Buick Lucerne CX with an MSRP of \$25,990, 27 monthly payments total \$8,073, a 2006 Buick LaCrosse CX with aluminum wheels and an MSRP of \$22,840, 27 monthly payments total \$5,373, a 2006 Buick Rendezvous CX with an MSRP of \$24,990, 27 monthly payments total \$5,103, and a 2006 Buick Rainier CXL with Sun, Sound and Entertainment Package and an MSRP of \$32,155, 27 monthly payments total \$6,723. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GMAC must approve lease. Take delivery on Lucerne by 3/31/06 and 3/15/06 on LaCrosse, Rendezvous and Rainier. Lessee pays for excess wear. Not available with some other offers. Residency restrictions apply. Must show proof of current GMAC lease on Rendezvous and Rainier.

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1225 North Dixie Highway, Monroe • Parlor Room A
- 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 7 • WILLIAM P. FAUST PUBLIC LIBRARY  
6123 Central City Parkway, Westland • Meeting Room B
- 6 p.m., Thursday, March 30 • CASINO WINDSOR  
377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor • Promenade A
- 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 11 • HENRY FORD WYANDOTTE HOSPITAL  
2333 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte • Multipurpose Room A
- 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 26 • CENTER FOR HEALTH SERVICES  
23000 West Road, Brownstown Twp. (between I-75 and Telegraph Rd.)

Call (734) 285-7420 today with any questions or to make reservations for a seminar.

Meet Dr. Steven Hendrick and his staff of the Bariatric Surgery Center at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

We're Henry Ford We Can

## Teams work on details of Legacy

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Change is constant within Livonia Public Schools. With school principals in place for the coming school year, the district is working through teacher and staff assignments under the Legacy Initiative plan.

Supt. Randy Liepa said he anticipates a majority of staff members, 75 to 90 percent, will receive their assignments by the end of this month. That includes primarily tenured teachers.

"We want to have teachers go with kids," said Liepa.

As school communities merge, so will staff members. Staff will have a month to request a transfer, which is the same protocol in years passed.

In April, Liepa said, the district will announce the final staff placements in school

buildings. Layoffs are a possibility, he said, depending on dropping enrollment.

"We certainly feel there's a possibility of that happening," he said.

With Livonia Education Association and other contracts to be settled, the district is still facing unknown factors that will impact budget projections and the eagerly anticipated school start times. The scheduled start and end times are part of the teacher's negotiated contracts. Currently the district is considering a three-tiered schedule which closely mirrors the current school times.

Liepa said the start and end times at upper and lower elementary schools are yet to be worked out. He said those times could be the same, or possibly staggered by 15 minutes to allow parents with children at both levels to drive

those students to and from school.

Schedule times are currently being mulled over by the District Transition Team, and should be determined during the group's March 1 meeting, officials say.

Liepa said parents and students are also eager to find out which students will travel together to a new classroom in a new building.

Class placements, start times and news on the upper elementary specials classes are hot topics, according to district administrators. News will be forthcoming on these issues and more. All facets of the Legacy changes are being considered by the District Transition Team, which includes more than 60 people who represent both staff and parents from each school.

scasola@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

### AROUND WESTLAND

#### Extended hours

Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz has extended office hours for - 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 - for walk-in tax payments of delinquent taxes.

As a result of Michigan Public Act 123 of 1999, delinquent property taxes for the year ending 2003 must be paid prior to March 1, 2006, or the property may be foreclosed by order of the Wayne County Circuit Court.

In an effort to accommodate the affected citizens, the Wayne County Treasurer's office is offering the weekend hours. This is the fourth consecutive year Wojtowicz has done that.

Delinquent tax information is available 24 hours a day by accessing the Wayne County Treasurer's Web site at [www.treasurer.waynecounty.com](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com). Online payments are available for properties that have not been foreclosed.

#### Spaghetti Dinner

The Dyer Senior Center, 36745 Marquette, invites

Westland residents to the best spaghetti dinner in town. Dinner will be served 4-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at the center. Cost is \$6 for spaghetti, salad, dessert, entertainment and dancing. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

#### Happy New Year

Celebrate the New Year - the Chinese New Year - at Chinese buffet hosted by the Grange and Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 5-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24.

This is the first of five monthly ethnic meals. There will be a St. Pat's Day dinner on March 17, Good Friday fish fry on April 14, German/Polish night on May 19 and Hawaiian luau on June 16.

The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 5-12 years old, youngsters age 4 and under free.

Take-out orders are available for an additional 50 cents. The post is at 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale.

#### Scrapbook workshop

Ss. Simon and Jude Parish will have a scrapbooking work-

shop 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the church, 32500 Palmer east of Venoy, Westland.

The cost is \$35 for the full day and \$25 for a half day. For more information, contact Karen Kopcak at (734) 634-3934 or by e-mail at [khollenbeck@twm1.rr.com](mailto:khollenbeck@twm1.rr.com).

#### Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Men's Club is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Friday, Feb. 24, at the church, southwest corner Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland. Snacks and soft drinks are included in the \$5 charge. Games start at 7:30 p.m.

#### Pancake Breakfast

The Westland Senior Resources Department will have an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, March 9, at the senior Friendship Center on Newburgh Road south of Ford.

The cost will be \$4 for buttermilk pancakes, multi-grain pancakes, bacon, sausage and beverage. The public is invited to attend.

Please recycle this newspaper

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Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara and golf legend Jack Nicklaus at McNamara's annual golf outing at Hawthorne Valley Golf Course in Dearborn Heights.



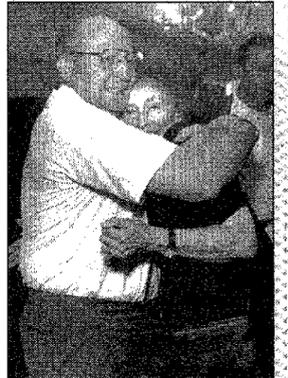
Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara and U.S. Rep. John Dingell talk during a fund-raiser for President Bill Clinton. At right is Bryan Amann, a former county commissioner who is currently an attorney living in Canton Township.



Ed McNamara and Gov. John Engler attended the opening of the Schoolcraft College McDowell Center in 1994.



Ed and Lucille McNamara were married June 26, 1948. Lucille was at his side throughout his long and storied political career.



McNamara gives his sister, Mona Sikora, a big hug during an election party.



McNamara, beams as he hears the results of exit polling in his 1986 primary election for Wayne County executive. He coasted to victory in November.

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\* Gas Card offer valid 2/10/06 through 3/10/06. \*\* Excludes Chassis Cab. See your participating Ford dealer for qualifications and complete details.

<p><b>VARSITY</b> 3480 Jackson Rd. 1-800-875-FORD ANN ARBOR</p>	<p><b>ATCHINSON</b> 9800 Belleville Rd. 734-697-9161 BELLEVILLE</p>	<p><b>GENE BUTMAN</b> 2105 Washtenaw 734-482-8581 YPSILANTI</p>
<p><b>BRIARWOOD</b> 7070 Michigan Ave. 734-429-5478 SALINE</p>	<p><b>HINES PARK</b> I-96 at Milford Rd. 248-437-6700 LYON TWP.</p>	<p><b>FRIENDLY</b> 2800 N. Telegraph, 734-243-6000 MONROE</p>

**OPEN SATURDAYS**

OUR VIEWS

## Letters provide readers a voice

Letters to the editor are an important part of these editorial pages. We view our letters columns as the "public square" of our community and we encourage folks to share their viewpoints.

Whether it's a decision made in the White House or in Westland's City Council chambers or a new law or a bill like state Sen. Laura Toy's proposal to regionalize the Detroit Water and Sewerage Board, there are plenty of issues to sink your teeth into.

But it's not just the controversial stuff to which we'd like you to respond. There're a lot of good things going on, too. It might not be Torino, but Westland will host the Senior Olympics. And if you haven't seen it in Washington D.C., the replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be in the city during the annual summer festival.

With all of the interesting things — good and controversial — going on, we'd expect to have our local letters column filled with Westland voices and viewpoints a lot more often.

Our policy on running letters really hasn't changed, but it's worth reminding readers and writers that letters must have a name, address and phone number. We only publish name and town of residence, but we do use the phone number and address to try to verify that letter-writers are really who they say they are.

Letters shouldn't be more than 400 words and they can't be libelous. Otherwise, we do try to run most letters we receive. There are times when submitted letters don't run, but generally that's because the issue being written about has changed, because the author couldn't be verified, because the same writer had recently sent in a letter that was published on the same or similar topic, or there was a concern about libel or fairness. Those last two items, libel or fairness, require judgments by the editor.

In any case, we encourage readers to keep those letters coming, and we'll keep running them.

## McNamara touched lives, made county a better place

Whoever said "ours is a government of laws, not of men" didn't know much about government. The best constitution, charter, laws and ordinances are no good unless leaders of wisdom and character administer them.

That's what the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* editorial page in 1982 said in our endorsement of Livonia Mayor Edward H. McNamara in the Democratic primary for Wayne County executive.

McNamara went on to the lose that race. Fortunately for Wayne County and southeastern Michigan, he came back four years later and the rest is political history.

McNamara, 79, died last Sunday in Harper Hospital surrounded by family.

Although McNamara will be remembered for the terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport which bears his name, the McNamara legacy is larger than a single building and a single office.

As county executive, he will be remembered for the two new sports stadiums in downtown Detroit. He was in part a reason baseball's All-Star Game in 2005 and more recently Super Bowl XL chose Detroit. The new youth home, the new county morgue and the massive cleanup of the Rouge River are all examples of his leadership.

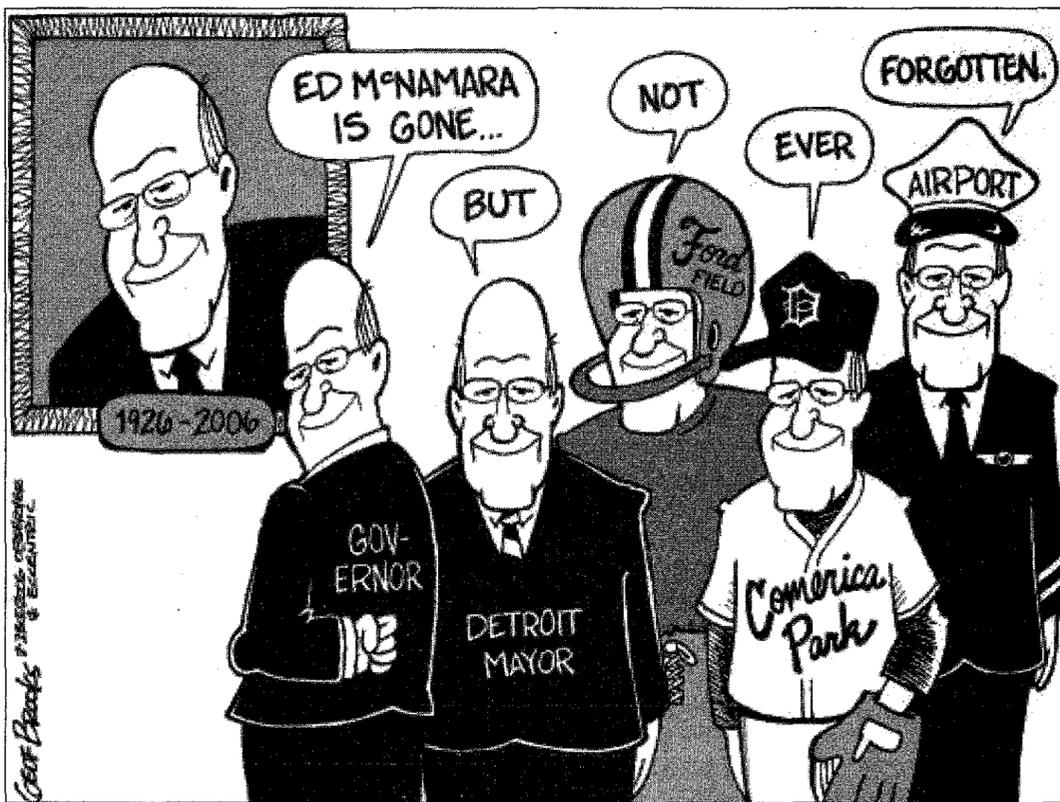
Closer to home, McNamara will be remembered as mayor and champion of Livonia, one of the state's largest and most prosperous communities. After three terms on the Livonia City Council, McNamara challenged an entrenched incumbent and became the first Livonia city councilman to be elected mayor.

A proven administrator and one who ran a tight fiscal ship, McNamara displayed the skill and tenacity that would propel him onto the county scene in the late 1980s.

McNamara was good for Livonia and Livonia was good for McNamara. He had a vision for developing the city. Along with other elected leaders and advisers he liked to call his "kitchen cabinet," McNamara set out to make Livonia one of the state's largest, most prosperous and livable cities.

Ed McNamara leaves a legacy rich in accomplishment. Yet friends inside and out of the political arena will remember him for his genuine kindness and quick wit. Over the years as he honed his political skills, the lessons and values of his early life — the importance of family and friends — were just as high on his list of accomplishments.

Ed McNamara touched thousands of lives and made them better. He will be missed.



LETTERS

### Circumventing the charter?

This letter is in regard to articles published by the *Westland Observer* alluding to the fiscal condition of the city of Westland, "City builds surplus in tough times" (Feb. 5, 2006) and the editorial "Good fiscal sense helps bottom line" (Feb. 9, 2006).

Both articles gave Mayor Cicirelli and the city council credit for amassing a fund balance of \$2.3 million for the 2004-05 fiscal year. If this surplus is truly the result of conservative economics as outlined in the Feb. 5 article, then I also wish to congratulate the executive and legislative branches of the city on a job well done.

If, however, the surplus is due to the transfer of \$2 million from the water and sewer fund to the general fund, then the praise given by the *Observer* is premature and undeserved.

The city of Detroit is proposing to raise the price of water that it sells to the suburbs by approximately 5 percent. I would hope that the council would return the \$2 million borrowed from the water and sewer fund before voting to raise the rates that the citizens of Westland pay for water. The \$2 million transferred from the water and sewer fund could be used to offset the proposed rate increase from Detroit.

The water and sewer fund was never intended to be a supplemental source of revenue for the general fund. The water and sewer fund should be used to maintain and improve the integrity of the water infrastructure. To continue transferring money from the water and sewer fund to the general fund, then voting to raise the water rates, amounts to a tax on the citizens imposed by the city council without the consent of the citizens of Westland.

The city charter specifies the amount that can be assessed as an operating mileage. Transferring of funds from water and sewer is a convenient way to circumvent the intent of the city charter.

William T. Ziemia  
Westland

### 'Thankless jobs'

In a rational society, there are no "thankless" jobs. People hire others to perform real jobs for real money, so both parties to the contract keep and/or gain a value, survive and plan for the future.

In a semi-rational society like ours, "thankless" — i.e., deserve no thanks or gratitude — jobs exist in government directly or indirectly as a result of our government's forced redistribution of wealth schemes and pseudo-businesses — i.e., schools, post offices, FAA, Social Security, FCC, SEC, etc. — operated and financed by coercion. Our taxes are used to keep afloat these political business schemes which our politicians use as a reason to get elected or re-elected.

Politicians will keep making promises to keep all their money-losing schemes in operation with your money and your children's money as long as you keep electing them to office, hold them accountable or the national debt explodes. (The national debt is now \$8,212,896,892,705.22 of which each cit-

izen's share — i.e., man, woman and child — is \$27,513.01 as of Feb. 13, 2006.)

Our government gained control of our economic system by subverting the principle of every man's unalienable rights that signified the birth of our country in 1776. The government used the democratic process to justify that it is moral for all citizens to vote to have our government take one another's wealth — i.e., money and/or property — to satisfy the limitless needs of everyone and supply "thankless" jobs.

No need now to wonder anymore how violence gets into political businesses creating dangerous conditions and operational and financial nightmares. They're part of government, whose nature is coercion. The initiation of force by government in any society begets and unleashes force that permeates through the society.

Most all of these problems come from socialist thinkers who believe you should learn to be an altruist, sacrifice and develop a thick skin to deal with the thick-heads 'til they learn to function themselves in 80 or 90 years.

In a rational society, the only thing citizens vote for is who do they believe would be the best to deliberate upon the enforcement of the principle of every man's unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and all that logically follows from that principle. No man votes on another's wallet and the initiation of force by anyone and government is banned. Rational people trade or go their separate ways.

Paul L. Gruchala  
Westland

### Keeping streets safe

I'm writing to the *Observer* as well as other papers about a problem in my community that I fear is getting out of control. It's happening every day almost every five seconds, right in front of our eyes.

The issue is lead-footed, out-of-control, could care less about running someone over as long as I get there on time drivers. It is making me nuts. I'm so completely fed up that I will start a campaign to do something about it. So I'm writing to get some people on my team. I have talked with the Wayne mayor; hopefully he'll be on board when it kicks off.

Summer is creeping up on us, and the only other thing I dread more than the Michigan humidity is crazy drivers. It's about time people stop and take a look at what might happen (God forbid), but it seems to be the only alternative to getting these people to slow down. Take some responsibility in your actions and get your foot off the gas. After all, it's known as a speed limit for a reason.

How can we expect our kids to follow rules and laws if we don't? It seems that it isn't only pedestrian drivers in their own vehicles either, you guessed it. The bus drivers fly by my house daily to get to their depot at Michigan Avenue and Howe Road. Not only have I witnessed it from them, but also the city workers and law enforcement. It seems to me that if you work for the city, the laws of the road

do not include you.

Think about how you would feel (if you're a lead footer) if you hit someone's child or parent or grandparent. No one is a perfect driver and accidents do happen even going the speed limit, however, the lower the limit, the less likely a mortality will occur. Some people just feel they are above the laws. That will hopefully change soon.

Anyone interested in helping to make these streets safer for our kids can reach me at safestreetsformykids@groups.msn.com.

Jennifer Cunningham  
Wayne

### Hillary said what?

I guess I should be used to the Clintons lying, but some of things that are coming out of Hillary's mouth lately are just plain outrageous. For her (or anyone else connected with her husband's administration) to call the Bush administration the "worst and most corrupt in American history" is insane and asinine.

This coming from a woman who tried to destroy other women who told the truth about her husband, who obstructed a murder investigation of one of her close friends by "sanitizing" his office before the police got there, who tried to use the FBI against Billy Dale, and the list goes on and on!

Then you have names like Dan Rostenkowski, Jim Wright, Tony Coelho, Barney Frank and Sen. "Splash" Kennedy, along with the check kiting and house bank scandals, the fund-raising scandal involving the communist Chinese and Buddhist monks, not to mention the dishonesty involved in the "discharge petition" that Democrats used to thwart legislation covertly, and these people are calling Republicans corrupt? Please!

I would like to know why there hasn't been one single media outlet that has brought any of this up while "gleefully" reporting about what dishonest people like Hillary are saying about the other party? Any ideas?

Jeffrey Scott  
Troy

### 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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Letters to the editor  
Westland Observer  
36251 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:  
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:  
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"Every child in Michigan deserves to learn in a safe environment that's free from threats and violence, including from their fellow students."

— State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, about proposed legislation to address the problem of bullying in schools

WESTLAND  
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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.

## McNamara led his band and state is better because of it

I wasn't surprised at the news that Ed McNamara had passed away. After all, he was 79 years old, had undergone a quadruple bypass and suffered from lymphoma. But I felt a real sense of hurt, because Mac was one of the giants of Michigan politics and somebody I've known for more than 40 years.

Ed McNamara was already on the Livonia City Council when I started my newspaper career back in 1965. I wrote the editorial in the *Livonia Observer* in 1970 that endorsed him in his upset victory against incumbent Livonia Mayor Harvey Moelke. Mac once said, "There's no greater honor than to be mayor of your hometown."



He was right, and during his 16 years as mayor, he took Livonia from a struggling suburb whose most notable feature was a race track to one of the most thriving cities in Michigan.

When he won the race for Wayne County executive in 1986, I couldn't have been more pleased. Most people don't remember — or don't want to remember — what Wayne County was like back in the 1980s. Broke. Disorganized. Badly managed. Largely corrupt. An embarrassment to the entire state.

McNamara put Michigan's biggest county back on track. He fixed the budget mess, balancing the books for 13 straight years. He led the effort to save the Rouge River, once indistinguishable from a sewer, and he drove the negotiations that led to the building of Comerica Park and Ford Field in downtown Detroit.

And he was the prime mover in building the gleaming new McNamara terminal that has made Detroit Metropolitan Airport one of the very best in the country.

Great achievements, all.

But as I reflect on Mac's career, I'm drawn to less obvious parts of his legacy that are, in fact, more important.

First, people. Possibly because they tend to think mostly about themselves, most political powers never develop a farm team. Ed McNamara recognized and promoted a group of able men and women who will serve Michigan for many years to come.

He launched the careers of Jennifer Granholm, once Wayne County corporation counsel, then Michigan attorney general and now governor; Mike Duggan, former Wayne County prosecutor and now CEO of Detroit Medical Center; Saul Green, former U. S. attorney; and Freman Hendrix, the former deputy mayor for Dennis Archer who was

defeated last November by another McNamara protégé, Kwame Kilpatrick.

Some might call McNamara a kingmaker. I prefer to think of him as a very rare politician who recognized that one of the primary obligations of a good political boss is to find, recruit, motivate and protect a cadre of able people who can continue his work.

McNamara had a good eye for talent, and what was most unusual for a traditional and proudly Irish politician of his generation, his team was diverse: men and women, white and black, urban and suburban. His style was down to earth and unassuming. He was never one to read, let alone believe, in his own press releases.

His first question was always, "How do we get this done?" and he then went after his goals with energy and creativity and passion. He had a quick temper, and his quarrels — repeatedly and memorably with the UAW and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young — were legendary.

In that context, I've always felt the Detroit newspapers were unfair to McNamara, constantly criticizing him for money-raising improprieties that eventually led to trouble with the law. He was never shy about raising money, in large part because he recognized the only way you got things done in rough-and-tumble Wayne County politics was to have a stash bigger than anybody else's.

I remember calling him at home at 3 p.m. one summer afternoon in 1970 from Grand Rapids, where gubernatorial candidate Sander Levin was trying to decide who to pick as his running mate.

"If you want to be the nominee for lieutenant governor, you'd better get up here as quickly as you can," I told him. "Don't know if I want to do that," he answered. "I want to talk to Lucille (his wife). I'll call you back."

Within 10 minutes he called back and was in Grand Rapids in two hours. John O'Meara, now a federal judge, and I spent two hours grilling him in a stuffy room in the old Pantlind Hotel. He passed — and brought his own Irish wit to a narrowly losing campaign.

Along with Gov. John Engler, Ed McNamara was Michigan's most capable and powerful politician in recent memory. He created a machine, but the machine got done what needed to be done. He was a kingmaker, but his people have turned out to be able and far-seeing. He was personally down-to-earth, but his vision was far-reaching.

I'm sorry he's gone. We sure need people like him today.

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](mailto:ppower@hcnnet.com).

## Domestic eavesdropping could be case of history repeating

The U.S. Congress finally got around to holding its hearings on the matter of eavesdropping on Americans.

When President George W. Bush made the statement that a court order was not necessary in order to wiretap the telephones of American citizens, it raised a few eyebrows. However, I don't doubt that a select few in Washington knew about this before it broke in the press.

Personally, when I heard that eavesdropping on telephone conversations was taking place, my reaction was just simply, "it's been done before." What I don't understand is the



Bobbie Jones

number of people I talk to who act like this has never gone on in America before.

Well, it has. When history repeats, we seem to be left scrambling to find the precedent. What did our forefathers do when they faced this issue? Did they suffer any consequences for their actions? Or did they escape punishment from

their misdeeds? In the 1950s, television journalist Edward R. Murrow went head-to-head with and exposed Sen. Joseph McCarthy and his non-stellar tactics used against Americans.

During the time that McCarthyism was in place, many careers and reputations were ruined when American citizens were accused of being communist and/or having an association with the Communist Party.

Americans were spied on and followed and harassed and threatened and traumatized during the McCarthy era.

McCarthy was a man who clearly misused his power and authority, all under the cloak of ridding America of communists.

Eventually, he was exposed for his misdeeds and soon ended his terror on Americans. But by then, the damage was done.

J. Edgar Hoover became the head of the FBI in 1924 and during his tenure brought eavesdropping to an art form. Hoover conducted undercover surveillance on numerous Americans and distrusted many around him.

During the 1960s, Hoover's wiretapping list included notable Americans such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, both John

and Robert Kennedy and even Eleanor Roosevelt, whom he despised for her much-too-liberal views. And that was just the short list.

The 1970s brought more of the same with America's all-time favorite self-proclaimed non-crook: President Richard M. Nixon. It was not that long ago when our television screens were plastered with images of hotel break-ins and high-level cover-ups and I remember the press being outraged.

And when the press was outraged, it prompted the American people to be the same. It was unthinkable that an American president could conduct himself in such a manner.

The oval office was Nixon's personal playground for taping without people's permission or even their knowledge. The White House tapes quickly became his undoing and left Nixon a broken and shamed man.

History has given us many examples and we Americans have to be aware that no matter what the disguise, whether it be war, or the so-called threat of communist or unforeseen invaders of our land, our rights need to be protected.

If our rights are not protected we run the risk of not having any rights at all. When that happens, we will no longer be able to call ourselves Americans.

I once heard it said that "Those who do not learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat the mistakes of history." I hope we have learned our lessons, this time.

Bobbie Jones is a Belleville resident. She can be reached via e-mail at [workhard36@aol.com](mailto:workhard36@aol.com).



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# Patterson: Public 'rage' over zoo vote may lead to a deal

BY ALEX LUNDBERG AND JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITERS

The Detroit City Council may have rejected a plan to turn operations of the Detroit Zoo over to its own zoological society but the resulting public outrage at the zoo's possible closure may give the institution another shot.

The Detroit City Council voted 7-2 Saturday night to reject a plan proposed by Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick to allow the Detroit Zoological Society to take over management of the zoo in Royal Oak. The council vote came just a bill authorizing \$4 million in state aid expired Saturday. The aid was contingent on council approving the plan to turn operations over to the society.

As of press time, the council was reconsidering its decision with a re-vote expected sometime early next week.

The zoo could close as early as May if an agreement isn't reached.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said the Detroit Zoo is a beloved regional asset (second only to Mackinac Island) and it would be a shame to see it close.

But, solutions out of the county complex in Pontiac for anything in the Detroit City Council's sphere of influence are never going to be well-received.

"If Oakland County gets involved and comes up with a plan it'll be DOA," Patterson said. "There's an animus on the council to anything involved with Oakland County."

He called the plan to turn the zoo's operations over to the Detroit Zoological Society a "win-win" for everyone involved; Detroit retains ownership, the zoo's budget shortfalls are picked up and the taxpayers don't take a hit. But, because of the antipathy he described, the council would rather risk closing the venue than cede any control.

Which is why, he said, there may be good news on the horizon. "The council underestimated the public's reaction," Patterson said. "Rarely have I seen such an outpouring of rage from taxpayers."

All of this, he said, is just brinkmanship and short-lived at that. When Mayor Kwame

Kilpatrick comes back from his trip to Africa — and the full extent of resident feeling about the zoo is understood by the city council — Patterson said he's confident there will be a deal put together.

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, thinks the society taking over operations is sound. "I'm hopeful we'll continue to have that in the southeast Michigan area," Anderson said of the zoo.

He was in committee Tuesday morning and hadn't heard a lot of zoo-related com-

ments in the state House, but anticipated a flood of e-mails from concerned residents.

(Monday was the Presidents Day holiday.) Anderson believes the Detroit City Council will reassess its actions.

"Reality sometimes forces you to do other things." He understands the council's reluctance to hand over zoo operations, but believes the zoological society has the zoo's best interests at heart and will be good caretakers.

"I don't know that I would say there is" a racial element to

the council decision, Anderson said. "They've got a huge deficit I know to deal with." The state's funds are limited as well, he added.

"I'm certainly hopeful things will be worked out," Anderson said. "I think things will be worked out, that the zoo will be saved."

Don and Elaine Bain of Plymouth Township, members of the Detroit Zoological Society, were upset by the council's decision. Don Bain described it as a "giant political mess." He suggested a regional

millage to support the facility.

Elaine Bain, who teaches eighth-grade English at East Middle School in the Plymouth-Canton district, shares her husband's concerns. "You can't come back if you close yourself down," she said of Detroit.

"I don't think the City Council acted responsibly. They chose to care more about themselves."

Her students had thoughts on possible zoo closing:

■ Brendan Zarem, 13, of Canton: "I think it's very disturbing. There are a lot of kids

who will be missing out on the experience."

■ Ashley Hoener, 14, of Canton: "I think it's unfair that Mayor Kilpatrick spent money on fixing Detroit for the Super Bowl," but not on zoo animals. She enjoys visiting the zoo, usually with her mom.

■ Cassie Hardin, 13, of Canton: "I was very surprised. I have so many memories there." She has learned a lot at the zoo, and goes with her dad to see the gorillas. She's learned about reptiles and how to treat animals.

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## SBT effort extended

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

Vowing to give his repeal of the Single Business Tax ballot drive the most time possible to get off the ground, County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is extending the deadline for monetary pledges through next week.

The new deadline for pledges, the last deadline, is Feb. 28.

At a press conference in the county offices Tuesday, Patterson said the original 12-day deadline announced at his State of the County address would not work.

"If we had to live with the first projection, the drive would be over today," Patterson said. "We've raised \$350,000 in pledges. There are others but they're not solid. We're going to continue to beat the bushes through next Tuesday."

At the State of the County address, Patterson announced he would spearhead a drive to end the SBT by ballot initiative if residents and resident businesses would pledge the \$800,000 needed to hire a public relations and law firm to put the initiative on the November ballot.

## PAYING TAXES

Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz has extended office hours for the fourth consecutive year to address delinquent taxes.

Delinquent property taxes for year ending 2003 must be paid prior to March 1 or the property may be foreclosed by order of Wayne County Circuit Court.

The Wayne County Treasurer's office will be open 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, for walk-in tax payments.

Delinquent tax information is available 24 hours a day by accessing the Wayne County Treasurer's Web site at [www.treasurer.waynecounty.com](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com).