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SUNDAY  
July 23, 2006

# WESTLAND Observer

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## Going up District uses summertime to 'grow' schools

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

School may be out for the summer, but it doesn't mean there's nothing happening in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools. You need only look behind Wayne Memorial High School to see activity.

That's where construction workers are well into building a more than 12,000-square-foot addition.

"It's going to be cool, it's going to give the students additional opportunities," Supt. Greg Baracy said. "It's going to be top shelf and students will be proud to work out in a facility like that."

The \$4.3 million project, which got under way this spring, includes a 2,000-square-foot fitness room, an 8,700-square-foot basketball court and a second 2,000-square-foot room with a practice area for golf and batting cages.

The project also includes asbestos abatement work on the existing gymnasium and the installation of air conditioning and the replacement of its ventilators and bleachers that were taken out several years ago.

The focal point of the addition is an arched two-story entrance way with a concession stand that ties in with the wrought-iron gates that lead to the athletic fields. According to Baracy, the design is "unique and adds character to the additions."

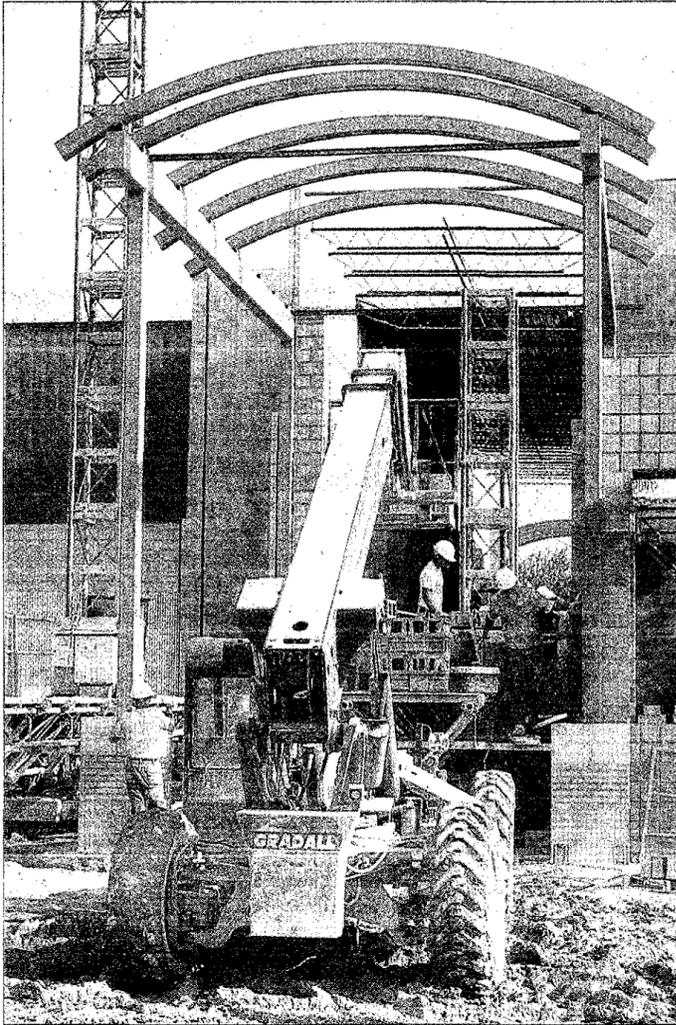
Jon Riebe, project manager with TMP Associates, said the design ties in with the high school's campus theme.

"It really becomes the gateway for athletics, which is a public gathering spot," he said. "The gymnasium really completes the master plan for athletics at Wayne High."

"It gives the school a collegiate effect," Baracy added. "People come from other districts and say it almost looks like a college."

The addition is expected to be completed in February, just ahead of groundbreaking for a similar addition at John Glenn High School. That addition will be attached to the south end of the building, by the existing gym, and will be about the same square footage as Wayne's new facility.

According to Riebe, the Glenn project will not include an arched entrance way.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Workers for Brazen and Greer Masonry of Livonia lay the block for the entrance way of a more than 12,000-square foot addition to the Alumni Arena at Wayne Memorial High School.

Instead, it will create a new front entrance in the back of the school.

"Glenn's front entrance is more symbolic; 80 percent of the people who come to the school come in off the back (parking) lot," Riebe said. "The theme will be the same at Glenn, but it will keep with the architecture of the school. Wayne High is the 1940s; Glenn is the '60s."

He added that the projects use simple designs, common materials and natural lighting.

The additions will accommodate the number of sports activities that come with having ninth grade at the high schools, as well as anticipated realign-

ment of the girls sports program.

"One of the things we want to eliminate totally is the need to practice on Sundays and practice late into the evening on weekdays and weekends," Baracy said. "By adding this, we hope space will be more freely available during the after school (hours), so our students get out earlier and get to their homework earlier."

At Hicks Elementary in Inkster, the district is spending more than \$350,000 to construct a two-story elevator to address the needs of handicapped students at the school.

PLEASE SEE WORK, A4

## 2 women face trial for attack at fireworks

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

After showing her stab wounds to a Westland judge, a 19-year-old woman described in court Thursday how she was attacked during an incident that marred the city's Fourth of July fireworks show.

Jennifer Nagle testified that, after being stabbed in the head, back and left hand, she struggled through a packed crowd of spectators to find the nearest police officer.

"I was bleeding really bad," she said during a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court. Nagle's testimony came on the same day that Judge C. Charles Bokus ordered Nicole Harrington, 17, of Westland and Joleen Krueger, 20, of Livonia to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The defendants could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison, if they're convicted of attacking Nagle after she accidentally bumped into them in a crowd of people that she described as "shoulder to shoulder."

Nagle, who spent four days in Garden City Hospital, testified that she and her boyfriend had gone to a fireworks show when the attack happened just after 10 p.m.

Nagle testified that she and Krueger tussled and fell to the ground following a heated exchange of words that escalated the situation.

"It turned into an altercation, and we began fighting," she said. When asked if she threw any punches at Krueger, Nagle replied, "Oh, I'm sure I did."

As the two women fought, Nagle said Harrington intervened and attacked her with what was described as a three-inch knife with a black handle. "The next thing I knew, I stood up and I was stabbed three times," Nagle said in court.

She testified that Harrington and Krueger then fled through the crowd, but police arrested them the next day at Harrington's mother's house in Westland. Nagle said she had never met the other women.

Harrington came to court a

PLEASE SEE ATTACK, A4

## Authorities review 200 CDs containing child pornography

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

With authorities planning to review hundreds of images of child pornography, a Westland judge Thursday delayed a court hearing for a 36-year-old man accused of downloading the pictures from his computer.

Danny Rudolph Schultz's preliminary hearing has been postponed until Aug. 3 on charges of child sexually abusive activity and possession of child pornography.

Earlier this month, authorities seized more than 200 CDs that contain child pornography from his residence on Barchester, police Sgt. Jeff Trzybinski has said. Police also confiscated three computers. In court Thursday, prosecuting attorney Jerry Dorsey IV sought a delay in Schultz's hearing so that authorities can review the materials.

"There are hundreds of CDs which we believe contain child pornography," Dorsey said.

Schultz was arrested after his girlfriend came forward and told authorities that she found Schultz in possession of child pornography, Trzybinski has said.

Some of the images allegedly show children involved in sexual acts, police have said. The girlfriend has since moved out of the residence she shared with Schultz.

On Thursday, Bokus refused to reduce a \$100,000 cash bond that has been set for Schultz.

If convicted, the defendant could face up to 20 years in prison for child sexually abusive activity and four years for being in possession of child pornography.

A not-guilty plea has been entered in his court file as he awaits his preliminary hearing. [dclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclem@hometownlife.com) | (734) 953-2110

## Weaver leads school board for 3rd year

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Last month, Frederick Weaver was honored by his colleagues for his service as president of the Wayne-Westland school board.

This month, they honored him again by electing him as school board president for a third consecutive year.

"I was privileged for the board to think that highly of me to give me a third chance," Weaver said. "Obviously, the board was pleased with my leadership."

The vote came just moments after Weaver was sworn into office for a second term. His daughter Chelsea administered the oath of office.

"I want to thank my daughter and my

son who thought his baseball game was more important than his dad tonight," Weaver said. "That's where my wife is."

Weaver is a Westland resident and pastor of the Abundant Life Church of God in Canton Township. He also has served as board secretary during his first term.

During his tenure as president, the school board staged the highly successful Project 180 Can Do! and Project 180 Tool programs designed to help parents and students in the district.

The board will continue along that path and will concentrate on "getting into the classrooms and being with the students and showing support for the teachers and administrators."

"I do want to divide up the district to make sure we have a board member

covering every event in the district," he said. "It's important to make sure the district is covered. I want the board to continue to go to the next level."

Replacing Cindy Schofield as vice president will be Terrance McClain, who was nominated by colleague Steve Becher. McClain had previously served as board treasurer.

The board also decided to keep Martha Pittsenbarger at board secretary, while Becher received the nod to serve as treasurer. He also will be the board's representative to the Wayne County Association of School Boards, while Trustee Skip Monit will be the board representative to the Michigan Association of School Boards.

[smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com) | (734) 953-2112

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Coming Thursday in Filter



Catch summer while you can

**INFORMATION CENTRAL**

Margaret Wolfe Hungerford is credited with saying, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." And when is this statement most often referenced than when viewing art?

Summertime in Michigan offers a great opportunity to experience art, crafts and everything beautiful. No matter which interstate you travel, local art and craft festivals line the streets.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland offers a wide array of materials for those interested in learning more about beauty in all of its glorious forms.

If your interest lies in developing a general understanding of art, why not start with Philip Yenawine's *How to Look at Modern Art*, or one of Sister Wendy Beckett's informative and entertaining books, *The Story of Painting* or *Sister Wendy's Grand Tour: Discovering Europe's Great Art?*

Interested in exploring a variety of media? Check out our books about sculpturing, painting, photography, graphic design, ceramics, or watercolors. The choices are nearly endless.

If crafting gets your creative juices flowing, the library is not in short supply of materials here either. Whether it's stenciling, mosaic tiling, stamping, knitting or soap making, the library has books for you. The beginner as well as the advanced crafter is sure to find a project worth tackling.

Videos also are available for those who prefer viewing great works of art. Walk the halls of the Louvre Museum in France or experience the twists and turns of tie-dyeing while relaxing in your favorite chair. Check out Graffiti verite and solve the age old question,

"is graffiti really art?" No need to rush, the library's videos can be checked out for two weeks.

No matter what your passion may be, the library has something for everyone. Just stop by or visit us on the Web. Call (734) 326-6123 or logo on to www.westland.lib.mi.us. The library's summer hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday.

**The Reptile Guy:** 7 p.m. July 24. Snakes, baby alligators, bearded dragons and more! See and touch these fabulous creatures with Michael Brophy, "The Reptile Guy," of R.E.P.T.I.L.E. Inc. Adults and teens are welcome to come and experience reptiles up close. No registration necessary.

**Microsoft Word for Beginners:** 7 p.m. July 25. Learn the basics of Microsoft Word, a word processing program that lets you create a variety of documents including letters and resumes. Learn how to set margins, change font size and size, check spelling and print.

**Internet 101:** 7 p.m. July 26, 7 p.m. For the very beginner. What the Internet is and how to get there. No registration or fee required.

**Teen Anime Movie Marathon:** 1-4 p.m. July 29.

No registration required. Feel free to bring pillows and blankets and friends... we'll supply the snacks!

**Information Central** is compiled by Marilyn Kwik, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Henry Ford Hospital RN Linda Johnson, a Livonia native, has numerous clients that come to her prior to traveling outside the United States to update their passport vaccination certificates - and she has the post cards to prove it.

**'Send me a picture'**

Travel clinic nurse doles out shots, collects snapshots of patient's overseas treks

BY JUDITH DONER BERNE  
CORRESPONDENT

Linda Johnson travels thousands of miles each day - vicariously.

As the face of the Travel Health Clinic at Henry Ford Medical Center in West Bloomfield, the registered nurse and Livonia resident spends her work day administering shots and handing out prescriptions and advice to metro-Detroit residents headed for foreign shores on business, as missionaries or students, and for fun and sport.

The self-described former hippy, who journeyed to 15 countries during the early '70s using a Eurailpass and staying in youth hostels, now papers the walls and doors of her office with postcards, photographs and souvenirs from clients.

"I want to go to every postcard in this room," Johnson says, waving her arms to denote her cramped office that she hopes will be expanded when the medical center opens as a full-fledged hospital in 2008.

"I tried to get the postcards to stick to the ceiling," says the irrepressible Johnson, who admits to "being born hyperactive. I came out of the womb this way."

That failed, so she began a

series of scrapbooks, designated by region, as well as a display case, which greets visitors as they get off the second floor elevator where the clinic is located.

"I've got T-shirts. I've got baseball caps. I've got jewelry and purses. Someone even brought me a two-piece outfit from India."

Her energy appears contagious, as the clinic has gone from part-time to full-time over her 12 years with new clients scheduled for hour-long visits that include a film on travel health and safety. They may take away a packet of materials and prescriptions tailored to their destination as well as a pricked arm.

Clinic director is Dr. Mark Selitsky, an internist at Henry Ford, who is on medical leave. Although the HFH travel clinic is listed on the Internet, Johnson says most patients are word of mouth. "I do one company guy, then I get the next 20. They say 'Go see Linda, she's a real character.'"

**TRAVELERS BREED**

"She's certainly an original individual," says Michael Faw, who has returned to receive his last Hepatitis A/B shot after traveling to Tanzania to be married.

"It was a Masai wedding," he tells Johnson. Together they

pore over the Africa scrapbook but fail to find a costume similar to what he wore to be married. "Send me a picture," Johnson implores.

"Which arm do you like?" she asks, as she welds the injection needle.

"Yours," responds Faw. "My travelers just give it back to me," Johnson crows.

"Travelers are fun and interesting people," she says in the moments she has between clients. "We have a lot to talk about."

Evelyn Powell has come from Dearborn Heights, also for a follow-up injection, after two weeks as a missionary in South Africa.

"She's lively," Powell says, when Johnson leaves the room for a moment. "If you have to get a shot, she's a nice person to get it from."

"Send me a picture," Johnson repeats her mantra to Powell, giving her a business card.

"I don't know if you want one of the AIDS clinic," Powell says.

"Yes, I have a missionary (scrap) book," Johnson assures her, opening it to some of the more compelling photographs she has received.

Insurance doesn't cover a travel clinic visit, even though the medicine and advice given are to prevent illness and disease. In this age of soaring medical costs, Johnson says, that's the way it has to be.

"There are so many real needs that we need insurance to cover. In general, if you can afford to travel you can pay for your shots," she says.

At the same time, she said, "I feel sorry for my missionaries. They have to raise the money to do what they do. I give them a discount on the visit, but I can't on the shots."

**LIKE A TRAVEL AGENT**

Her log of clients reads like a travel agency's offerings: a Black Heritage tour to Ghana, Zambia and Senegal; a grandma taking a grandchild to Kenya; hikers headed to the Inca Trail in Peru; missionaries going to the Congo; a student off to Yemen and Lebanon to train teachers; climbers tackling Mount Kilimanjaro; a mother reuniting with a daughter serving in the Peace Corps in Mozambique; hunters with their guns aimed at birds in Argentina; a couple traveling abroad to adopt a child.

A trend, says Johnson, is the greater number of families moving overseas as a result of the global economy. And "I do a lot of Internet lovers. Most of them bring them back."

Johnson raised her two sons, Jason and Jeff, in Livonia before she and her husband, Chris, opted for small town life in downtown Milford. "My husband says he married me not for love, but for fun," she says.

One son still lives in Livonia, the other in Canton. Both are married and she is a grandmother of four.

Henry Ford Hospital Travel Clinic is located at 6777 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For information, call (248) 661-7350.

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
August 7, 2006**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Mayor and Council will hold a Public Hearing on August 7, 2006, at 7:25 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to introduce the following salary ordinance for POAM (Police Officers Association of Michigan) Police Detective Unit.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE # A-07-001**

The City Council of the City of Garden City, in accordance with the City Charter and Labor Negotiations between it and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (Police Officers/Detectives Unit), hereby adopts and establishes the following salaries for its employees:

THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY HEREBY ORDAINS:

	7/1/08-6/30/09	7/1/09-6/30/10	7/1/10-6/30/11
<b>Detective Sergeant</b> (See note below)			
Detective Sgt.	\$64,326	\$67,542	\$70,919
<b>Patrol Officers</b>			
<b>After Probation Completion</b>			
1 year	\$53,754	\$56,441	\$59,263
2 years	\$55,536	\$58,312	\$61,228
3+ years	\$57,691	\$60,576	\$63,605
<b>Entry Level Patrol</b>			
<b>MCOLCS Certified Officers</b>			
<b>Experience</b>	<b>7/1/08-6/30/09</b>	<b>7/1/09-6/30/10</b>	<b>7/1/10-6/30/11</b>
0-1 year	\$37,848	\$38,741	\$41,728
1-3 years	\$39,742	\$41,730	\$43,816
3-5 years	\$41,729	\$43,816	\$46,006
Over 5 years	\$43,816	\$46,007	\$48,308
Comp. Probation	\$48,076	\$51,530	\$54,106
<b>Non-Certified Officers</b>			
<b>Experience</b>	<b>7/1/08-6/30/09</b>	<b>7/1/09-6/30/10</b>	<b>7/1/10-6/30/11</b>
Start	\$36,302	\$38,117	\$40,023
Begin Probation	\$37,848	\$39,741	\$41,728
Comp. Probation	\$44,665	\$46,898	\$49,243

**NOTE:** Effective on July 1, 2008, a salary parity is established between Detective Sergeants and Patrol Sergeants. Detective Sergeant salary will be maintained at 111.53% over the most senior Patrol Officer in parity with Patrol Sergeant salary. Should the COAM negotiate a lower salary differential, the Detective Sergeant salary differential will be maintained at 111.53%. If the COAM negotiates a higher salary differential, the Detective Sergeant salary will maintain parity.

Public Hearing: August 7, 2006  
Introduced: July 17, 2006  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

Publish: July 23, 2006

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**Susan Rosiek**  
Executive Editor  
(734) 953-2100  
srosiek@hometownlife.com

**Frank Cibor**  
Retail Sales Manager  
(734) 953-2177  
fcibor@hometownlife.com

**Hugh Gallagher**  
Managing Editor  
(734) 953-2149  
hgallagher@hometownlife.com

**Cathy White**  
Retail Advertising Rep.  
(734) 953-2073  
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**Sue Mason**  
Community Editor  
(734) 953-2112  
smason@hometownlife.com

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# Waiting, hoping, praying ...

## Livonia man awaits family's return from war zone in Lebanon

BY DAN WEST  
STAFF WRITER

Hussein Ammar was enjoying a day off work at his Livonia home July 12 when he received an anxious telephone call from his brother.

He was told to turn on the television and watch news reports as Israeli military planes dropped bombs on targets in the Lebanese capital city of Beirut — dangerously close to where Ammar's wife and two sons were visiting relatives.

"I immediately grabbed the phone and called over there," Ammar said. "I wanted to talk to my wife. I wanted to talk to the boys."

"One of my sons said he heard one of the bombs hit something."

Within hours, Zeinab Ammar and her sons Hassan, 13, and Bellal, 10, packed their bags and headed 30 miles west of Beirut to take cover at a relative's summer home in the mountain town of Komatia. They took refuge there until they could find a way out of Lebanon and back to Livonia. From Komatia, they have been able to talk to their husband and father by telephone several times a day.

"They are staying in this

two-flat home with eight other families," Hussein, 40, said Thursday. "My wife said she just wants to get out of there."

### REUNION THWARTED

The trio had just left July 7 for a two-month trip to Beirut to visit Zeinab's mother and attend a family reunion that was attracting relatives from across the globe. For Zeinab, it was the first trip to her homeland in 10 years and her first travel experience without her husband since the couple were married in 1989.

"She was looking forward to this trip," Hussein Ammar recalled. "She was going to see a lot of people she hadn't seen for a long time."

For plenty of those relatives, this would be the first chance to see the boys: Hassan, who just completed seventh grade at Riley Middle School, and Bellal, 10, who just completed fourth grade at Adams Elementary School.

Hussein Ammar, who works as a food service coordinator at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, was scheduled to join his family in Lebanon for two weeks next month, "but I'm not going anymore," he said.

The country's civil war in 1983 motivated Ammar, then a teenager, to move the United

States and live with one of his brothers, Mike, who lived in Livonia. Ammar has called this town home ever since.

In a visit to his homeland in 1989, he met Zeinab, fell in love, convinced her to marry him and join him in Michigan.

### ANXIOUS EVENINGS

Ammar has not slept much in recent days. He works his shift at the hospital, catches a nap in the evening, then he begins his new overnight routine. He visits his mother, Sound Ammar, who lives Westland to give her updates on his family's situation. They are frequently joined by Ammar's older brother, Mike, who still lives in Livonia, and younger brother, Moe, who lives in Canton.

Then, Hussein Ammar returns home where he has two televisions, his computer and telephones stationed in one room. From there, he starts making phone calls at 10 p.m., when it is morning in Lebanon. While following developments on television news broadcasts and Internet Web sites, he's on the phone talking to his family, the U.S. State Department, travel agents and other relatives.

Travel agents couldn't do much for him since there are

tens of thousands of people from Europe, Canada and the United States who were trying to escape the violence in Lebanon as soon as possible.

The most frustrating part of this ordeal, Ammar said, was his contact with the State Department.

"Every time I called, I would get a different story about what to do," he said. "I'm trying to figure out how to get them out of there, but I couldn't develop plans because things kept changing."

He received a break this week when U.S. officials agreed to cover the tab for American citizens trying to leave Lebanon. Ammar said he was prepared to pay about \$10,000 to get his wife and sons back home.

"I'm not worried about the money," he said. "I'm worried about the safety of my wife and boys."

Zeinab, Hassan and Bellal were scheduled to be transported Friday to a port town north of Beirut, where they were to catch a cruise ship that would take them to the island nation of Cyprus. Ammar said the trio are to stay in Cyprus for several days and wait for an opening on a flight to the United States sometime later this week.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia resident Hussein Ammar is working on a way to transport his wife, Zeinab, and sons Hassan, 13, and Bellal, 10, back home from Lebanon.

Ammar said he was becoming less tense with plans in place for his family's return, but he said he will remain anxious until he's able to hug them and see them return home safely.

"I can't wait," he said. "I'm having a big party when they get back."

dwest@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2109

## McConnell to lead Rotary Club

The Westland Rotary Club, a community service organization, has announced its board of directors for the 2006-7 year.

Mark McConnell, an attorney with City Attorney Angelo Plakas' law firm, has been named president. Jade Smith, a LaSalle Bank employee, has been selected president-elect and treasurer. Mary Gregosky of C&M Printing has been named secretary.

Other board members include Todd Blevins of

A.C.E. Collision; Margaret Harlow of Harlow Tire; Andrea Holmes of the Livonia YMCA; Mary McGaw of LaSalle Home Lending Center; Capt. Matt O'Neil of the Salvation Army Westland Corps; and Joseph Tseng, a dentist.

The terms are for one year. The club meets at 12:15 p.m. Thursdays at the VFW Hall at 28945 Joy Road in Westland. For more information, visit the club's Web site at [www.westlandrotary.org](http://www.westlandrotary.org).

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**WORK**

FROM PAGE A1

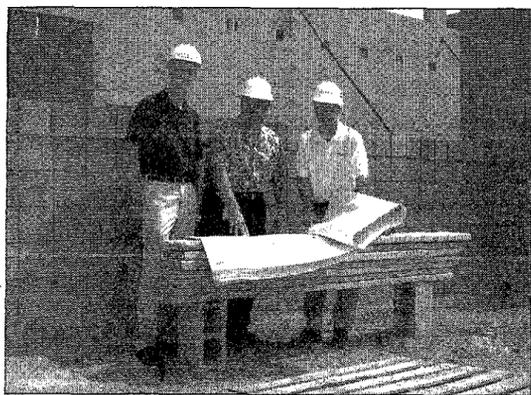
The school has two sections — one that is one story and the other two stories — and accommodating students in wheelchairs has meant moving classrooms.

"With the present setup, when the students go from grade level to grade level, every year we have to change teachers' locations to accommodate students," Baracy said. "With the elevator, we've solved all of those problems and given the students access to all parts of the building."

There was a design challenge — locating the elevator where the two sections of the school meet. The addition is almost 40 feet long and stands two stories high at the juncture of the two building segments.

"The real task was designing and building it over the first-floor corridor and have an egress into the second-floor corridor," Baracy said.

The district is using its sinking fund and some building and facilities money for the two projects. The Wayne High proj-



Jon Riebe of TMP Associates, Superintendent Greg Baracy and Bill McCarthy of McCarthy Smith Inc. look over blueprints for the addition at Wayne Memorial High School.

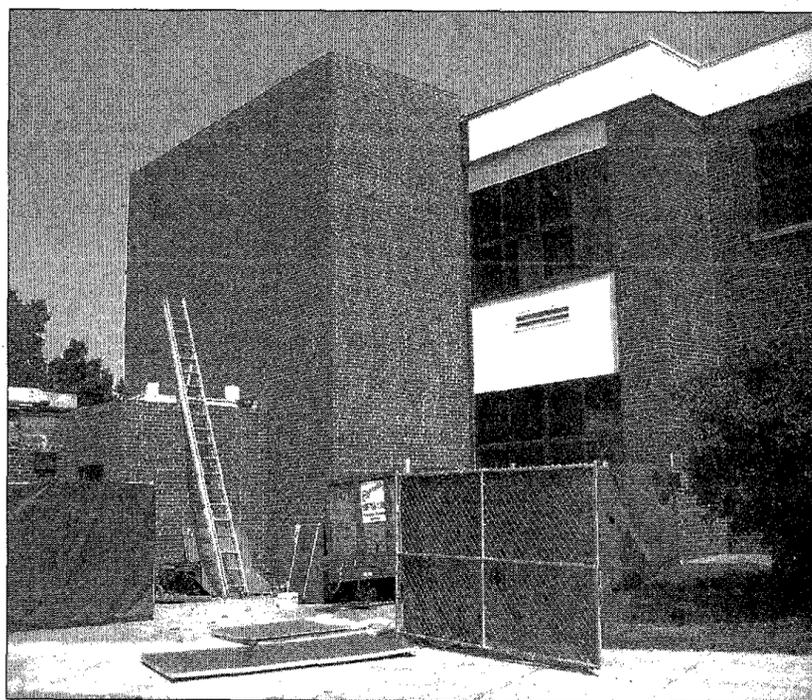
ect is the largest to come out of the sinking fund, which is paying more than half of the cost. The 1-mill tax was approved by voters in 2003.

While it benefited from a robust economy with the renovations undertaken with the 1998 bond issue, the district is facing higher costs for materials and energy and a shortage of skilled trades. The price of

steel is up 30 percent and businesses are passing on the increased costs of petroleum-based materials, which have doubled in price.

"We're still on time and still very close to budget," he added. "We price it to the best of our ability before we put it out for bids and have been very close to anticipated costs."

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The elevator shaft and connecting corridors are housed in the 40-foot, two-story addition at Hicks Elementary.

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**ATTACK**

FROM PAGE A1

free woman — for now, at least — after her family posted \$5,000 toward a \$50,000/10 percent bond. She actually waived her preliminary hearing and was ordered by Bokus to stand trial for assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder) and felonious assault.

Krueger chose not to waive her hearing — a decision that resulted in Nagle's testimony. After listening to the harrowing account of what happened, Bokus increased Krueger's bond to \$50,000 cash, meaning she would have to post the entire amount before being released from jail.

Bokus indicated he would have increased Harrington's bond, too, if she hadn't already waived her hearing before Nagle gave her testimony.

Bokus also refused a request by Krueger's attorney to reduce charges against her, even though she isn't accused of wielding the knife.

During her hearing, Krueger alternately cried and rocked back and forth in her chair. She also made facial expressions of disbelief about testimony against her, prompting Bokus to sternly warn her to stop.

Nagle was stabbed in a parking lot near the Bailey Recreation Center, near Westland City Hall, police Sgt. Steve Borisch has said. Witnesses came forward to

identify the defendants.

Krueger, mother of a 5-year-old daughter, has no prior criminal history, according to her attorney. She and her child live in Livonia with her parents.

Harrington, who attends Westland John Glenn High School, has been involved in previous fights, including one in which she wielded a baseball bat, Borisch has said in court.

Before the Fourth of July attack, Nagle had been spending time with her boyfriend at The Landings apartment complex in Westland, but she has since told authorities that she is staying with her mother in Taylor.

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# We're there!

Christmas in July

The Westland Community Foundation is hosting its 12th Annual Christmas in July event Thursday, July 27, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, in Westland.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with holiday decorations, Santa Claus and the Salvation Army Band welcoming guests as they arrive. At 7 p.m., there will be a brief awards presentation for this year's scholarship and donor recipients, followed by the Westland Idol competition at 8 p.m. Eight finalists will be judged by the audience to determine this year's Idol winner.

The cost is \$50 per person and includes food stations, dessert, beer, wine and soda. Dress is business casual. Guests are asked to bring food items to be placed under the Christmas tree for the Westland Salvation Army food pantry.

For more information, call (734) 595-7727.

Adoption event

The Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven is hosting an adoption event to raise funds and awareness for pet rescue and help find local, homeless Samoyeds a new home for life at the Petco, 35725 Warren Road, Westland, on Saturdays throughout July and August.

The event will take place from noon to 4 p.m. July 30, Aug. 5, 12 and 19, as well as Sept. 9, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4.

In addition to the available pets, WSSH will also sell Purina Pro Plan Rally to Rescue collar and wristband sets as a part of the Rally to Rescue campaign. The pet wears the collar, the owner wears the wristband, and together they show their support for pet rescue. All proceeds from the sale of the collars and wristbands will benefit Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven.

The Petco Foundation also is helping Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven with their summer Rescue Round Up fund-raising program by asking shoppers to round up their bill to raise money for the organization.

For more information about Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven, visit its Web site at www.wssh.org. People can also call Director Sarah Lichtenfelt

at (989) 239-8612 or Assistant Director Cari Stebbins at (734) 421-8691 or e-mail the organization at main@wssh.org.

For more information about Rally to Rescue, go to www.rallytorescue.org Web site.

Flea Market

Vendors are needed for a flea market 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Space is available at \$20 per space. Applications are available by calling Ray or Jackie Gagnon at (734) 722-7225.

Craft show tables

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women Craft Show on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail No. 10) to reserve a table.

Table rental also is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women craft show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) to reserve a table.

Enrollment offered

St. Damian Catholic School is

accepting enrollment for fall. It offers preschool for children ages 3 and 4, kindergarten either three full days or five full days, and classes for students in grades one through eight. The school is located at 29891 Joy Road in Westland. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information call (734) 421-6130.

Antiques appraisals

The Westland senior Friendship Center will host its fifth annual Newburgh Road Show, an antiques appraisal, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, July 28.

Admission will be \$1. Col. Thomas Moody of Blue Willow Antiques will be doing the appraisals. He specializes in glass, pottery, furniture, radios, kitchenware, war memorabilia, quilts, dolls and toys.

There will be a charge of \$3 per item appraised, with a limit of three appraisals. Refreshments will be available for a small donation.

The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, Westland. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford.

The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available.

Eclectic Crafters

Ever thought of trying a craft but were afraid of investing too much before you knew if you were going to like it? Ever wanted a quiet place to do your scrapbooking? Ever wonder if there are others as crazy about art and crafts as you are?

The answer to those questions could be the Eclectic Crafters which meet 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the second and third Monday of every month and 5:30-8:30 p.m. the first Monday from at the Bailey Center in the Westland Civic Center Complex on Ford Road west of Carlson.

The program is offered in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department. For \$3, participants can try out different crafts, art materials and tools or bring their own project to work on. There will be inexpensive make-and-takes available.

Call (734) 620-3938.

Senior volleyball

The Westland senior citizen Friendship Center hopes to start a co-ed volleyball team to compete in Wayne County's 2006 Senior Olympics.

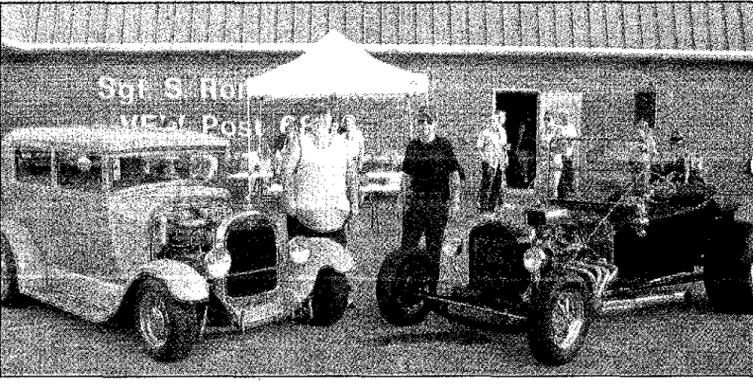
Call Mel Tockstein at (734) 722-0159.

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**Cruisers of the Week**

The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week for July 19 goes to Don E. McCormick with his black 1923 Ford Model T bucket roadster. The car is powered by a 350-cubic inch Chevy engine with 350 horsepower. McCormick said he feels like he's 16 when he's behind the wheel of his car. Member of the Week is Rick and Jackie Nelson with their 1929 Ford sedan street rod. The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's show is 5 p.m. to dusk Wednesdays at the Romanowski VFW Post on Joy Road east of Middlebelt in Westland.

**Michigan democrats will work together, keep state 'blue'**

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Democratic Party's Coordinated Campaign opened its Livonia office Friday, drawing crowds of supporters and volunteers all working toward the same goal - to keep Michigan a blue state.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano urged those in attendance at 13740 Merriman Road to vote for their Democratic candidates. He said if Democrats don't manage to get out the vote in November and re-elect Gov. Jennifer Granholm, "you're going to see the Capitol move from Lansing to Grand Rapids."

Granholm assured those gathered at the party's new Livonia headquarters that she has a \$6 billion plan to save and create jobs for Michigan workers, "and to invest in all of our citizens."

"We have set in motion the most aggressive economic plan of any state in the country," Granholm said. She said she is working for job creation in areas that will not be out-sourced - including advanced manufacturing, life sciences, homeland security and alternative energy sources.

In addition to No Child Left Behind legislation, Granholm said our state and country



Gov. Jennifer Granholm

**'We have set in motion the most aggressive economic plan of any state in the country.'**

Jennifer Granholm  
Michigan governor

needs No Worker Left Behind laws. She told her constituents not to worry that they haven't seen her political ads on television as often as those of her Republican opponent Dick DeVos.

Yet, Granholm did ask for

support. "We do need your voices and your feet on the ground," she said.

Granholm noted that the party is stronger when Democrats work together.

"We have got to keep Michigan blue," she said. "Not just for the 11th, not just for the state of Michigan, but for the nation."

Tony Trupiano, the 11th District's Democratic Congressional candidate, said the time is now to "stand up for what is right." He said he believes the Michigan Democratic Party has the momentum it needs to succeed come Nov. 8.

"I've been knocking on doors in Livonia, Garden City, Plymouth and Canton," said Trupiano. "This is no longer about Republican or Democrat. It's about right and wrong."

Jason Moon, spokesman for the Michigan Democratic Party, noted that the Livonia office was specifically chosen as local headquarters for the 11th congressional district. He said the city of Livonia is "important for Democrats up and down the ticket, from state to local (elections)."

"Western Wayne County has always been a key area for Democrats to get out the vote," said Moon.

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# The Rouge River would be clean if we had saved some wetlands

I had one of those days last week that us fishermen long for every time we pick up the ol' fishing pole.

While fishing in a local river, I landed within an hour's time three northern pike in the 24- to 28-inch range, all of which thrashed around and fought with the tenacity the species is so well known for. They were the kind of encounters that get the blood boiling, and that we anglers hope for every time we cast our line. I also caught a fair number of rock bass and smallmouth bass.

Believe it or not, this local river is the Middle Rouge River in Hines Park.

I've actually had decent luck there over the years, and have seen the fishing continuously improve. In my opinion, it is a testament to how far the restoration of the Rouge River has come. In fact, this year is a huge milestone in that effort. Last month, Rouge Rescue, the annual cleanup of the Rouge River, celebrated its 20th anniversary.

All indications are that the Rouge is becoming healthy again. Dissolved oxygen levels are up and dangerous e-coli bacteria have diminished. Aquatic insects, which are very sensitive to pollution, are coming back to many parts of the river where they haven't been seen in years. And, as my little excursion last week proves, the fish are also starting to thrive.

The Rouge's revival is a model for other communities trying to restore polluted rivers. As such, it has attracted national attention. Brian Williams of NBC was recently in town to shoot a segment about the Rouge. So, yes, there is much to be proud of.

Of course, all that changes every time it rains. It is then we see how urbanization of this watershed has and continues to impair the river. Our stormwater system — the sewers connected to our roads and parking lots — sends a rush of water directly into the river every time it rains. Along with massive erosion comes pollutants like motor oil, paint, anti-freeze and whatever else gets into the storm drains.

While I waded through the river the other day, every place in the river where any sand and sediment had collected, every mucky step brought up a terrible stew of pungent smells. It was almost as if someone had buried motor oil or some other form of industrial waste under the river bottom. Not exactly healthy. More like nasty. At least that is the word that came to my mind.

Each time that smell hit my nostrils, I thought about the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision concerning two Michigan cases involving the development of wetlands. The court sent the two cases, in which state and federal regulators enforced Clean Water Act protections against two developers who filled wetlands, back to lower courts. In so doing, the court re-opened the debate about what kinds of wetlands should be protected.

Growing public awareness and concern for

controlling water pollution led to enactment of the Clean Water Act in the 1970s. The Rouge River could have been the poster child for why a law protecting the chemical, physical and biological integrity of all the nation's waters was desperately needed.

Of course, developers complain that the law is too stringent, depriving them of their full property rights. One of their arguments is that the only wetlands that should be protected are the ones that are directly adjacent to navigable waterways, which is what Justices Antonin Scalia and John Roberts ruled. Fortunately, they were in the minority. At least this time.

Wetlands are really the lifeblood of any river system. To destroy a watershed's wetlands is akin to cutting off the roots of a tree. It doesn't matter how far it is from the main body of water. All those "ditches" and "drains" that some developers say shouldn't be protected are the headwaters that feed larger waterways downstream.

In the Rouge watershed, where most of the wetlands have been covered over with roads, subdivisions and shopping malls, the headwaters are really the stormwater drains. Instead of wetlands that filter and slow down rain water, we have sewer lines that send a rush of polluted water directly into the Rouge and its tributaries.

Frankly, I think we need more wetland protections, not less. We are still losing wetlands at an alarming rate, even still here in the Rouge watershed. Urban sprawl is particularly acute here in southeast Michigan, where development is occurring at at least twice the growth rate of the actual population.

Let's look at Canton, for example. Currently there are about 1,200 single-family homes and condos for sale in the township. Many sellers are growing increasingly desperate to sell their homes. Some are selling for far less than what they thought their homes were worth. The situation is one of the main reasons Loren Bennett, a longtime Canton politician, is running for Wayne County Commission this year.

Yet despite this grim housing market, developers, including Pulte Homes, have decided to build another 1,400 homes on Canton's southwest side, which means more vacant land will be carved up. More impervious surfaces will be constructed. And more water will be flushed into the Rouge River and its tributaries every time it rains. Not to mention it will be that much tougher for current sellers to unload their homes.

I don't mean to be picking on Canton, because the town is certainly not alone. And frankly, there is nothing a municipality can do to stop developers, except make them abide by zoning laws.

So, no, I don't think we've done enough to protect our waterways. And if you don't take my word for it, go head down to Hines Park and wade through the Rouge River. Make sure you plug your nose.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the Canton Observer. He can be reached via e-mail at [kkuban@hometownlife.com](mailto:kkuban@hometownlife.com) or by phone at (734) 459-2700.



Kurt Kuban

# Lawmakers strike out on state budget priorities for 2006-07

This week, lawmakers in Lansing will pat themselves on the back as they wrap up the fiscal year 2006-07 budget and send it to the governor, who will gladly sign the negotiated bill. They claim that the budget reflects priorities of Michigan residents. Unfortunately, if you are a resident who wants to live in a safe, well-functioning community, which can attract and retain local jobs, your priorities were left behind.

This budget marks the sixth year in a row of massive cuts in funding to local communities across the state. This funding, known as revenue sharing, is what local communities use to pay for police officers, firefighters, road repairs, trash removal, sidewalk repair and many other services that make our communities the types of places where people want to live and businesses want to locate.

The impact of these cuts on local community services cannot be underestimated. Michigan has nearly 1,500 fewer police officers on the street today than it did before the cuts started coming from Lansing. Those cuts now total more than \$2 billion.

Our governor and Legislature have failed to recognize the critical connection between economic development in Michigan and essential services in local communities. Who

wants to live or work in a community with crumbling infrastructure or a reduced police force? We must be able to offer business and residents quality communities in which to locate or we will never succeed in the race to attract jobs.

A recent survey conducted by CEOs for Cities showed that two-thirds of college educated 25- to 34-year-olds make a decision of where they want to live first, then look for a job within that area. Making all of our communities safe and attractive places to live and work must be a priority if Michigan is going to prosper in the new economy.

As Michigan seeks to move forward toward better economic days, lawmakers must take into consideration the financial health of our communities. Just like economic incentives, revenue sharing must be thought of as an investment, an investment in local communities that helps to attract and retain jobs by providing services that create a high quality of life.

So when legislators come back to their local communities this summer and boast about balancing the state's budget, you should ask them on whose backs did they balance it? If you would say public safety, infrastructure and quality of life in your hometown are priorities ... the answer is — yours.

Daniel P. Gilmartin is executive director of the Michigan Municipal League.



Daniel Gilmartin

## LETTERS

### Fraud was committed

Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind that signatures were collected in a fraudulent manner in the petition drive regarding the affirmative action ballot proposal. As a member of the Board of Canvassers, there was nothing I could do but vote to put the issue on the ballot.

Because I knew there was fraud, I passed on the first vote and wrote a letter to the Legislature for review. The courts and the Michigan constitution are clear detailing the responsibility of the board of canvassers. If the language and signatures have been approved by the Secretary of State's office and affirmed by the courts, the board must vote to put it on the ballot.

Since the Legislature refused to consider the issue of fraud, and even though I disapprove of the process and the ballot proposal, I had to do my duty to vote to put MCRI on the

ballot. The two Democrats who fought to the bitter end are no longer on the Board of Canvassers.

There is an assumption on the part of Michigan voters that if the board of canvassers votes to put a ballot proposal on the ballot, that it has passed all the requirements and has not been tainted by fraud. This is not so. There is no process to deal with fraud when the Secretary of State's office and the courts mandate that a proposal be placed on the ballot. Only the Legislature can change that.

Ballot proposals have become big business. Campaign companies are paid millions of dollars to hire signature gatherers and run the campaigns. We are becoming more like California, where ballots are like books.

The Legislature should review this process on behalf of Michigan residents.

Lyn Bankes  
Livonia

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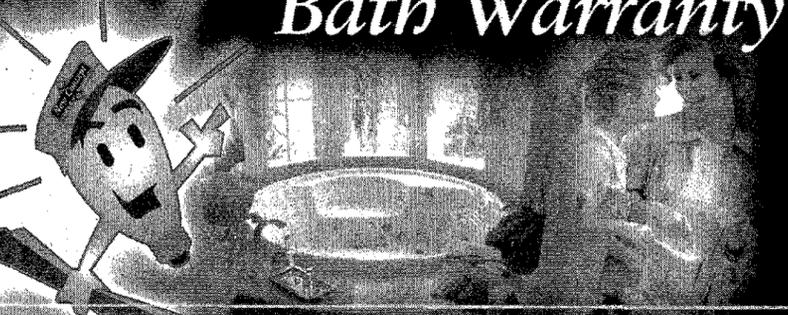
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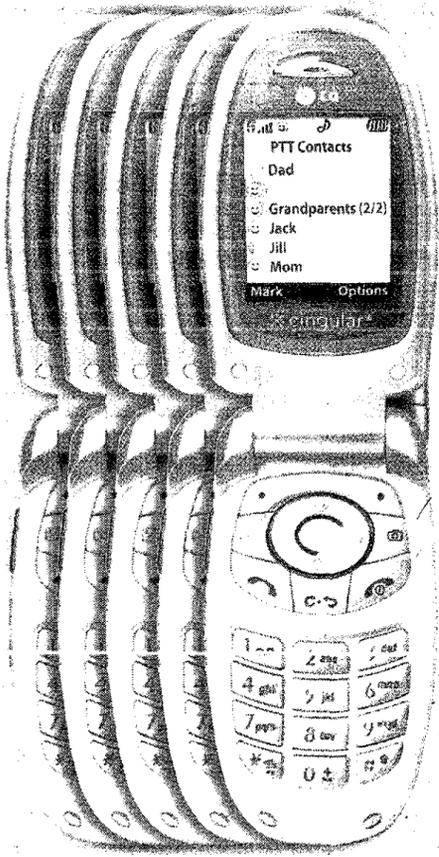
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