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THURSDAY
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WESTLAND Observer

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Defendant in fireworks stabbing enters plea

Victim's mother calls sentence 'slap on wrist'

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

The mother of a 19-year-old woman who was attacked and stabbed at the Westland Summer Festival is furious that one of her daughter's attackers has received "a slap on the wrist."

Debbie Nagle, mother of stabbing victim Jennifer Nagle of Taylor, told the Observer on

Tuesday that she is "starting to lose faith" in the justice system.

Her remarks came as Joleen Krueger, 20, of Livonia faces sentencing Oct. 24 after pleading guilty to a reduced charge of attempted assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder).

Krueger will serve three months in jail and be placed on probation for three years, according to a

clerk for Wayne County Circuit Judge Craig Strong.

Krueger wasn't holding the knife used in the Fourth of July stabbing, but police said she fought with Nagle after Nagle accidentally bumped into her in a fireworks crowd.

Another defendant, 17-year-old Nicole Harrington of Westland, is accused of stabbing Nagle in the head, back and left hand just as the holiday fireworks show started in Central City Park. The incident happened near Westland City Hall.

Harrington still faces trial on charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder) and felonious assault. If convicted, she could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison.

Harrington's trial is scheduled to start on Oct. 25, the day after Krueger's sentencing, according to Strong's clerk.

On Tuesday, Debbie Nagle lashed out at prosecuting and defense attorneys for working out what she considers a lenient sentence for Krueger.

PLEASE SEE STABBING, A6



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pint-sized pumpkin pickin'

Skyler Blyshak, 3, of Westland, tries to pick up a large pumpkin during the annual Pumpkin Fest at Wilson Barn in Livonia. For more on the festival, which runs throughout October, see page A9.

Octagon House has 'friends' in UAW

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Even as they face thousands of job cuts, Ford Motor Co. workers haven't abandoned their spirit of giving in communities they call home, Westland historians said.

The latest proof: UAW Locals 845 and 900 have donated \$1,250 to help continue restoration efforts at the 1800s-era Octagon House in the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

"I think it's great what they do for the community," Westland historian Georgia Becker said.

Becker and historian Jo Johnson have turned the money over to Mayor Sandra Cicirelli. The city will use it to continue restoring one of the city's oldest buildings.

Historians hope that the eight-sided Octagon House, flanked by two additions, will one day be open for tours and special events, possibly even weddings.

With the city facing a budget crunch, officials have had to rely on help to continue sprucing up the historic house.

Students in the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's construction trades class have helped with labor, and now comes the \$1,250 donation from UAW workers.

Historians received the money from UAW Local 900 member Bill Johnson, plant chairman of the Wayne Assembly Plant, and from Ford retiree Roger Caldwell, former president of UAW 845, which represents the Sheldon Road plant in Plymouth.

Johnson and Caldwell raised the money while also promoting a recent "vaudeville show" organized by historians to benefit the Octagon House. The show raised \$611, Johnson said Wednesday.

Johnson and Caldwell made the donations in honor of Becker's late husband, Howard Becker, who had garnered a reputation for selling items ranging from coffee mugs to T-shirts to benefit the Octagon House.

In raising the money, Johnson and Caldwell wrote in a letter to historians that they took on the project "in memory of our friend and a friend of Westland's history - Howard Becker.

Anderson: State's economy needs to be more diversified

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

State Rep. Glenn Anderson sees stagnation in Michigan, not only in the economy, but in terms of public policy.

"We still have an issue in Michigan of not being as diversified as we need to be and we need to continue working toward that end," said Anderson, who said that was why he supported a 21st century jobs plan to create investment in new industries and attract more high-tech jobs.

The Westland Democrat, during an interview with the *Observer* staff, talked about his plans if elected to the 6th District Senate seat, which he is seeking to win over incumbent Laura Toy. The district covers Livonia, Westland, Redford and Garden City. Election day is Nov. 7.

The state still needs to protect and attract auto jobs, while using this jobs fund to help diversify. He credits the

PLEASE SEE ANDERSON, A4



ELECTION 2006

State Rep. Glenn Anderson and State Sen. Laura Toy are seeking the 6th District State Senate seat.

Toy: Lead with strengths to revive state economy

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Laura Toy believes Michigan must drive its economic recovery by using its strengths — research and development, agriculture and tourism.

"I really think we should be leading more with these strengths and pouring dollars as we budget them," said Toy, R-Livonia. "You're not going to want to reinvent the wheel. We don't have time to do that."

Toy, who is seeking re-election to the Senate seat Nov. 7, appeared before *Observer* staff for an interview. She is being challenged by Democratic state Rep. Glenn Anderson in a district that covers Livonia, Westland, Redford and Garden City.

"Part of this dilemma," she added, "is not only losing our jobs, but how do we retain what we already have? So that's



PLEASE SEE TOY, A4

2 men plead guilty to computer thefts

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Two Belleville men will be on probation for two years for stealing a city-owned car from the Westland public services yard, crashing it through a gate and escaping with computers stolen from two police vehicles.

Michael Dunstan, 19, and Scott Matthews, 24, also will remain for now on a tether after pleading guilty in Wayne County Circuit Court to their involvement in the July 18 incident.

Other than a short stint in

jail after their arrest, Dunstan and Matthews will avoid prison time unless they violate their probation, according to new information from the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The pair also will be subject to drug testing and counseling, and they will remain under orders not to leave Michigan unless they receive permission from authorities.

A third defendant, 18-year-old Rickey Hilton, is awaiting his sentencing, according to police, but he also is expected

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Volume 42
Number 40



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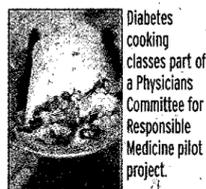
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INDEX

APARTMENTS	B5
BELIEFS & VALUES	A18
AUTOMOTIVE	C3
CLASSIFIED	B4-C6
CROSSWORD	B5
JOBS	B10
OBITUARIES	A18
OPINION	A10-11
REAL ESTATE	B4
SERVICE GUIDE	B9
SPORTS	B1

Coming Sunday in Health



Diabetes cooking classes part of a Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine pilot project.



ThreeOlBags host writer's workshop

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The call themselves the ThreeOlBags, three women who have made a name for themselves as writers. Sandra Campbell, Linda Sparkman and Sharon Hegwood, who take their moniker from the travel bags, have been collaborating on travel stories since 1998 when they decided to take a chance on being published authors. Now they're offering the tools they acquired along the way during a weekend Beginning Writers Workshop for Women, which will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-21.

"They've been thinking about doing one for a year, and they finally talked me into it, I was the one dragging the feet," Hegwood said. "Actually, we're doing it because people have asked us how we do it. It'll be just the basics."

The workshop will be held at Lynn's Bead and Breakfast in Harsens Island. The cost is \$50 and includes dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning. A \$10 non-refundable deposit is required.

Campbell, a Garden City resident, is the rough-draft writer and researcher of group. She will lead classes focusing on the tools of the trade, which will identify and explain what tools are essen-

tial to writers of any genre, "Bare Bones, where good writing begins," will look at finding niche and specialty markets.

Hegwood, also a Garden City resident, is the photographer of the trio, and her classes will deal with digital photography, choosing the right camera and working with photos for publication.

Sparkman, who is the "editor" of the ThreeOlBags — "because she tears everything we write apart and makes us redo it," Hegwood said — will explain the who, what, where, why and how of query letters and contacting editors and publishers.

"Our purpose is to encourage women to step out and do something they always wanted," Hegwood said. "Step out, be brave, try something new. Don't be afraid to follow your dreams."

"We'll give them enough knowledge to give them confidence to step outside their comfort zone," Campbell added. "In my case, I have two other OlBags to drag me along."

The women will draw from their experiences. They first got together as a small Bible study and prayer group. When Campbell signed up for a writing class that was canceled after three weeks, Sparkman, already a published writer, stepped in to teach her and Hegwood.



The ThreeOlBags — Sharon Hegwood, Linda Sparkman and Sandra Campbell — found a place they could relate to (the Old Bag Factory) while visiting Goshen, Ind.

They peddled their first article and photographs about Oscoda to the *Observer Newspapers*.

What they thought was a discussion with the editor about the article turned into a story about the trio and the publication of their first travel piece.

"Afterwards, we went out to the Coney Island and celebrated," Sparkman said. "Was it that easy all the time? No"

The story was so well-received, the trio heard from the owner of a flower shop in Oscoda that at least 30 people had come carrying the article. The ThreeOlBags have gone on to have 15-20 articles published and Campbell has branched out, getting her own work published.

"It gave me enough knowledge and courage to see what would happen," she said. "It's been wonderful, and they've been there to encourage me. They're my cheerleaders."

The women still meet on Tuesday evenings for their prayer group, they do it before any "Bag business," Campbell said they tease each other that their collaboration is their own personal therapy session.

What they have learned working together is what they hope to share with women at the workshop. They hope to have 15 participants.

For more information on the workshop, call Campbell at (734) 427-9585 or e-mail threeolbags@wowway.com.

Aspiring actors, filmmakers needed for 2-day challenge

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The creative team at Superhouse is at it again — filmmaking that is.

The Livonia-based independent film company working on a Halloween-timed re-creation of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* music video has embarked on yet another project this month. The group will participate in the National Film Challenge, part of the 48 Hour Film Project.

A national competition, the event offers 250 teams of filmmakers across the country one frenzied weekend to write, shoot and edit a short film.

SuperHouse — a creative team including Livonia residents Shane Sevo, Joe Wells and Dan Belleville and Plymouth resident Greg Morrison — has participated in the two-day challenge for the past two years. Each time, the group garnered a win in their genre.

"We are looking for interested parties to work on the project and participate with us," said Belleville.

Superhouse is seeking local filmmakers, actors, production assistants and professionals in the fields of audio, lighting, editing, and post audio and video production to work on the project.

The challenge will begin on Friday, Oct. 20, when the group receives its guidelines, which includes a specific character, prop, line of dialogue

Superhouse is seeking local filmmakers, actors, production assistants and professionals in the fields of audio, lighting, editing, and post audio and video production to work on the project.

and the genre required of the short film.

Then, the group goes right to work. The National Film Challenge requires teams to complete an eight-minute short film that incorporates all four challenge elements.

Shooting is scheduled to begin on Saturday, Oct. 21, with music, post production, CGI and editing all finished in time for the short to be submitted at the end of the weekend, Belleville said.

He calls it: "The most fun you can have in 48 hours."

The event kicks off at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, and ends with a dinner celebration at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 23, in Livonia.

Anyone with an interest in creating or acting in a short film may send e-mail to Greg@SuperHouseMedia.com or to Shane@SuperHouseMedia.com for more information.

To learn about the challenge and view last year's winning entries, visit www.filmchallenge.com.

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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

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Dunn: Clean water, shrink government

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

As a U.S. Taxpayers candidate who hopes to represent Westland in the state House, Harold Dunn wants to shrink state government, impose tariffs on imports, privatize education and remove fluoride from drinking water.

Dunn, 74, faces Democrat Richard LeBlanc and Republican Sam Durante in the Nov. 7 election. The winner will earn a two-year term, receive a \$79,650-a-year salary and replace term-limited state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland.

A retired automotive engineer, Dunn hopes to become the spoiler in a contest with the Democratic and GOP candidates.

"It seems like the Democrats and the Republicans only want power," Dunn told the *Observer*. "They want to run government and do whatever they want. They don't want to be guided by anything."

"It's really sad," he said. "We are going to lose the U.S. Constitution because these people don't want to obey it."

When asked to cite some of his top priorities, Dunn said he wants fluoride removed from the water supply.

"I'd like to stop poisoning our water system with fluoride," he said. "It's poison, and it builds up in your system. I would like to go one step further and have the state investigate the use of chlorine in water ... and get it out of the water."

Dunn also said he wants to reduce the size of state government by 30-40 percent, saying the system is bloated and costly.

Dunn has run for public office several times before as a Libertarian candidate but lost his earlier bids to become a U.S. representative.

To help create more jobs,



Dunn



Dunn suggested petitioning the federal government to impose tariffs on imports.

"Now with free trade, companies can't compete anymore, so all of our companies are going overseas," he said.

To replace nearly \$2 billion a year that will be lost when the state's single business tax expires next year, Dunn called for shrinking state government.

"It should start to shrink by double digits," he said.

Dunn opposes Proposal 5, which would increase funding for education by \$565 million and force annual rate-of-inflation increases.

"Money isn't the thing that education needs," he said. "Education needs more discipline. The federal government leaders don't want to teach people. They don't want people thinking for themselves. They want people following what they're told."

Dunn called for people who place their children in private schools to be exempt from paying school taxes.

On Proposal 2, Dunn said he supports a ban on affirmative action programs for public employment, education and contracting purposes.

"If you give a particular race or gender an advantage, then you're putting another people at a disadvantage," he said. "Is that really a fair way to do things?"

As a candidate, Dunn pledged he will not accept campaign contributions from anyone.

If elected, he said, "I will owe only the voters my loyalty."

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

District's annual report focuses on successes

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

People interested in finding out about the Wayne-Westland community can get the information they're looking for in the district's 2005-06 Annual Report.

The report is divided into two parts, one focusing on the district as a whole and the other on the each of Wayne-Westland's 24 schools, including its Tinkham Alternative High School.

"It's a celebration of our many successes," Sam Barresi said in presenting the report to the school board. "It addresses MEAP, mathematics and reflects the tests required by the No Child Left Behind act."

According to Barresi, assistant superintendent for instruction, the district is required to produce the annual report as part of No Child Left Behind.

The district report looks at such things as graduation and dropout rates. According to 2004-05 figures, the most current information available at the time the report was prepared, 93.32 percent of seniors graduated. The dropout rate for the same period was 3.99 percent.

The report also includes information on the district's adequate yearly progress, also required by the No Child Left Behind act; its MEAP scores; and district-level improvement and accreditation.



Photographs of students fill the covers and pages of Wayne-Westland's two-part annual report.

In presenting the reports to the school board, Barresi highlighted two items — school performance and scholarship money.

According to Barresi, the class of 2006

received more than \$2.5 million in scholarships from colleges and universities and in Michigan Merit Awards.

"It's an indication of our academic successes," he said.

Under school performance, the report acknowledges schools like Schweitzer, Elliott, Roosevelt-McGrath and Taft-Galloway elementaries, which have received the Golden Apple Award for improvement over a three-year period, the Encore Award for "continued significant improvement" and the Lighthouse Award given to Madison Elementary for "continued meritorious performance on the MEAP for several years."

The much thicker composite report covers the same information, but on a school-by-school basis.

The district uses the report as a marketing tool, making copies available to local real estate agents.

Barresi received kudos for the report, which Trustee Ed Turner described as "great."

"It has an excellent layout," Trustee Skip Monit said. "You want to get ahead of this report and read it. There's a lot of misinformation out there about MEAP scores and the information is correct right here in black and white."

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

DEATHS

- A**
Melissa Arquette (nee Stover)
Arquette, 42, died Oct. 3.
Audrey H. Ashley
Ashley, 69, of Redford Township, died Oct. 9.
- H**
Donald M. Hufford
Hufford, 74, died Oct. 9.
- L**
Robert J. Leiphart
Leiphart, 89, died Oct. 8.
- N**
John H. Nichol
Nichol, 80, formerly of Livonia, died Sept. 29.
- P**
Kimberly Pention
Pention, 35, of Westland, died Oct. 6.
- S**
Jeffrey Michael Stemberger
Stemberger, 43, of Plymouth, died Oct. 4.
- Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper, page A14.

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TOY

FROM PAGE A1
another big question for today's economy."

Asked about the effectiveness of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., she told of an incident where members wouldn't speak to a commerce committee over an ethanol production plant issue. She also questioned whether the Jeff Daniels commercials pushing Michigan shouldn't be running in other states.

Toy said there is some working together, across the aisle, but it's more prevalent in the Senate, where lawmakers have more experience. Term limits cut that experience and need to be longer, she said, suggesting 12 years.

"I can see where some reps and to some degree some senators have matured, including myself, along the way," she said.

There's a loss of female lawmakers in the wake of term limits, and she said, "I think you need that balance sometimes."

Toy credited the governor for trying to work with lawmakers, including becoming more sensitive on business issues in recent years as "she was getting her feet wet."

Toy, who co-owns Cardwell Florist on Plymouth, said small business owners are job creators, but are burdened by taxes. Besides the Single Business Tax, she listed paying personal property tax, workers' compensation, sales tax, payroll tax, Medicare, Social Security and unemployment tax. The SBT needed to be ended sooner to "put more of a welcome sign out for Michigan."

She believes that lost state revenue can be made up by combining overlapping departments. Communities also need to take "small steps" to collaborate and consolidate in the wake

of frozen state revenue sharing dollars. As for replacing lost SBT revenue, she said there's a lot of talk going on.

"We've got to do something to attract and retain business in this state. We're in a crisis situation," she said.

When it comes to education, lawmakers have been willing to spend over the years, Toy said, adding, "we have to put our dollars there" because we're competing with other states.

Toy was proud of sponsoring 20 bills that passed during her term in the Senate, though Gov. Jennifer Granholm twice vetoed legislation to create a regional oversight board for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. Among her other work, Toy cited bills to increase sentences of child sex predators and saving an appliance service program for Consumer's Energy to serve low-income consumers. dvarga@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2119

Laura Toy

Age: 54
Experience: senator, 2002-present; co-owner Cardwell Florist; former state representative, Livonia City treasurer, Livonia City Council, Schoolcraft Community College Board of Trustees.
Community: Livonia Youth Commission, Livonia Ecology Commission, Goodfellows volunteer, founder of Bentley Backers Committee, founder/chair Reps for Ramps; senior celebration day.

High-speed chase ends with crash, gunshots

A high-speed chase through several communities ended in Livonia late Tuesday with a crash, gunshots and an arrest at the Millennium Park shopping center.

An 18-year-old Dearborn Heights man was taken into custody and turned over to Detroit police for questioning in connection with a homicide investigation, Livonia police Lt. Greg Winn said.

Detroit police started the chase when a man driving a Ford Focus led police west on Ford Road and north on Middlebelt. The suspect was driving at speeds as high as 90 mph on rain-slickened Middlebelt through Garden City, Westland and into Livonia.

Livonia officers joined the chase at Joy Road. The Focus crashed into the side of the

road in front of the Costco store. Winn said Livonia officers used their vehicles in an attempt to pin the driver inside the car, but the driver escaped out of the passenger door and ran into the shopping center parking lot. The maneuvers damaged the Focus and one Livonia police car.

Officers, Winn said, ordered the man to stop, but he continued running. An officer pulled his gun and fired a few rounds toward the running man. None of the bullets struck the man, but the man stopped running and surrendered to police after he heard the gunfire, Winn said.

Winn added that Livonia police do not anticipate filing any charges against the man since the case originated in Detroit.

By Dan West

ANDERSON

FROM PAGE A1

Michigan Economic Development Corp. with keeping some jobs here, though there are limits on what the state can do. Officials need to fine-tune the MEDC to do even better in attracting high-tech and life sciences jobs, he said.

Eliminating the state's Single Business Tax was necessary, Anderson said. However, he added: "It was irresponsible what the Legislature did, as far as eliminating the SBT and creating an almost \$2 billion hole in the state budget without being honest with people and telling them what cuts were going to be necessary if this money is not replaced."

Anderson believes the state must find a way to replace this money. He urges a top-to-bottom look at revenues, rather than a Republican plan to not replace \$400 million in tax revenues or to shift to a sales tax.

Times are tough for people in southeast Michigan, with foreclosures and jobs losses, he said, and "to hit them with additional tax liability I think is just something unconscionable."

Anderson is proud of his legislation on protecting children from bullying in schools, which he believes will be passed.

Asked about the state sending fewer dollars in revenue sharing to the local communities, Anderson suggested leveling out the funding and urged more talk between the state and local officials to figure out

ways to change the state law to allow new local revenue.

"I think that you need to give locals some options that maybe they don't currently have," he said, noting he's not in favor of any new taxes. "The state needs to not be one to be obstructionist in letting them help themselves deal with those issues."

Early preschool education needs to be promoted at the state level. "Instead of having K through 12, we need to be looking at prior to K to deal with getting our kids prepared in those earliest years," he said. That would reduce educational costs in the long-term, though he admitted it would increase costs in the short-term.

Anderson said he fought a plan to take \$20 million of the school aid fund to spend on other projects around the state.

He also urges finding a better funding mechanism than the sales tax to pay for schools; finding a way to aligning the budget year for the state and

Glenn Anderson

Age: 52
Experience: State representative, 2000-present; 28-year Ford Motor Co. employee and licensed Realtor; former member of Westland City Council, Planning Commission and Civil Service Commission.
Community: Westland Goodfellows, Rouge Rescue volunteer, Westland Summer Festival volunteer and former member of Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Program board and Westland Jaycees.

school districts; and expanding districts' sinking fund usage to include buses and technology.

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THEFTS

FROM PAGE A1

to receive probation. Hilton - unlike Dunstan and Matthews - had no criminal history.

The men had been arrested in July amid accusations they broke into the public services yard on Marquette east of Newburgh, stole computer equipment from two police cars and fled in a 1994 Crown Victoria that belonged to a fire department official.

The case against the three men unfolded after police said Dunstan was caught trying to sell the stolen vehicle to an undercover officer in Washtenaw County. Police Lt. James Ridener had called the investigation "nice police work." According to a state correc-

tions Web site, Dunstan was recently sentenced after pleading guilty to charges of stealing the car and malicious destruction of fire and police property.

Similarly, Matthews pleaded guilty to stealing the car and breaking into a vehicle and stealing items worth \$1,000 to \$20,000.

According to police Sgt. Steve Borisch, Matthews drove Dunstan and Hilton to the public services yard, where the trio had planned to steal computer equipment out of police cars. While there, Dunstan drove off in the Crown Victoria.

Early on, authorities said Dunstan and Matthews could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison, while Hilton could have received a five-year term.

dclm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

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Do you hire extra help for the holidays? If so, consider running your employment ad in the **Observer & Eccentric's Holiday Employment Directory**. This special page will be running in Wayne and Oakland Counties every Sunday and Thursday, starting in October thru December - giving you plenty of time to prepare that new staff for the holiday rush!

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Please recycle this newspaper

Attention, shoppers

Westland Shopping Center and Macy's will sponsor a half-day "shopping extravaganza" starting at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the mall. The cost is \$25, and the event is open to the first 100 people who respond.

The event is being presented by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Guests will report to Macy's for a continental breakfast provided by Panera Bread and a holiday make-up presentation by Clinique.

The day will continue with shopping for holiday gifts at participating merchants. Every participant will receive discounts and giveaways at certain stores.

The day will end at 1 p.m. at Lakeshore Grill with lunch and door prize drawings.

To sign up or for more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Coffee hour

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has announced his next local coffee hour with constituents will be at 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at the Westland Big Boy restaurant at Wayne and Hunter roads.

Citizens are welcome to visit with Anderson to discuss issues or concerns.

'Walk for Kids'

The Village of Westland, 32001 Cherry Hill, is sponsoring a "Walk for the Kids" Friday, Oct. 13, to benefit the Penrickton Center for the Blind.

Participants will walk around the building, raising money for the center through pledges from sponsors or donations. Registration will be 9-10 a.m., with the walk running from 10 a.m. to noon. Pledges and donations will be collected at the time of registration.

Walkers will receive T-shirts and there will be a lunch of hot dogs, chips and pop following the event. Prizes also will be awarded.

For more information or to sign up, call Wellness Coordinator Tony Maino at (734) 762-8810.

Absentee ballots

Westland residents who want an application for an absentee ballot for the Nov. 7 election should call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3188 or (734) 467-3187. Voters who think they might not be able to make it to the polls are encouraged to request an absentee ballot.

Holiday helpers

Community Hospice is seeking volunteers to help with its Tree of Memories holiday fund-raiser. Activities include setting up Christmas trees at local businesses, assembling mail pieces, and collecting donations at the Westland Shopping Center exhibit.

No experience necessary; just a desire to help others facing terminal illness. Training will be provided.

For more information, call Vicki at (734) 522-4244.

Town hall meeting

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli will hold her quarterly Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Holliday Park Clubhouse at 34850 Fountain Blvd.

The Department of Public Service will be highlighted at the meeting and a certificate will be presented to Kenneth H. Reeves, president of the Southeast Homeowners Association. The presentation will be made in honor of Annapolis Park Week.

A special recognition also will be given to Josephine Brunet, the Senior Citizen of

the Quarter, and the mayor will receive a presentation from Department of Michigan Junior Ms. Poppy Chelsea Kovacs.

The meeting is open to the public and there is no charge. For more information, call Michael Brautigam at (734) 454-3495.

Low-cost exams

In commemoration of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Garden City Hospital will provide low-cost mammograms Tuesday-Wednesday, Oct. 17-18, at the hospital 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

The exams are targeted toward women who have no medical insurance or physician. The cost of the examination will be \$30, the interpretation fee will be waived.

The hospital will offer physician services in case a follow-up examination is necessary. Women interested in the low-cost service should bring a prior mammogram film, if possible.

To schedule and appointment, call the hospital scheduling at (734) 458-3471.

Book mark contest

Children ages 5-12 are invited to design an original bookmark depicting how the library is important to them and the Westland community to celebrate the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland 10th anniversary.

Entries will be judged on creativity and theme interpretation. One winning entry will be professionally reproduced and the artist will receive a \$30 gift certificate to Target. Runners-up will be selected, and prizes awarded, in three age groups - 5-6 years, 7-8 years, 9-10 years and 11-12 years. All bookmark designs become the property of

William P. Faust Public Library of Westland.

Contestants may pick up an entry form at any patron service desk. The form may also be downloaded from the library's Web site at www.westland.lib.mi.us. The deadline for all entries is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27.

Shopping Expo

Get your Christmas shopping done early at P.D. Graham Elementary School's third annual Shopping Expo 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24. There will be more than 10 vendors under one roof. Admission is \$2 per person and free child care is provided. The school is at 1255 S. John Hix, south of Cherry Hill, Westland. For more information, call Erin Arbour at (734) 968-1850.

Crafters wanted

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.

Crafters are being sought for a craft show 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland.

Registration is \$20 and must be paid Oct. 28 to hold a spot. The money will be applied to the \$20 table rental charge. Any remaining balance for additional tables must be paid at time of set up. For more information, call Marge at (734) 729-2578 or Jean at (734) 421-0733.

Crafters sought

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is seeking crafters

for an annual fall craft show that will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. The post is at 28945 Joy Road. Tables and chairs are available. Reservations are needed by Oct. 4. Call Dianna Welchman at (313) 278-3784.

Craft show

St. Theodore's Confraternity of Christian Women will hold its annual Craft Show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in the Parish Social, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. In addition to free parking and free admission, there will be free hourly prizes and a raffle for a choice of numerous baskets. Refreshments and baked goods will also be available.

Quilt Show

Christian Union Church at 1046 Wayne Road will hold its second annual juried Quilt

Show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21.

There will be quilts on display, quilting demonstrations, vendors, a bake sale, and hourly door prizes. A \$3 donation is requested for admission. For more information, call Mary Surbrook at (734) 721-6871.

Vegas Night

St. Bernardine Parish at 31463 Ann Arbor Trail at Merriman, Westland, is having a Las Vegas Party 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 20. No smoking rooms will be available and hot dogs, potato salad, snacks and pop are included in \$7 admission. Beer also will be available at \$1 a glass.

Games include Black Jack, Roulette and Beat the Dealer, and there also will be hourly 50/50 drawings and a raffle.

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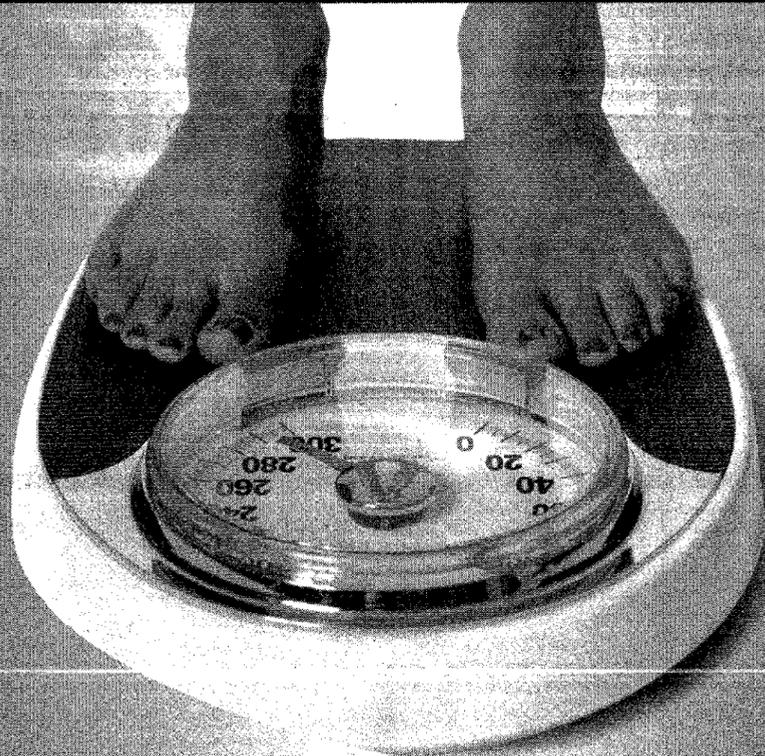
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Silver medal fund-raiser

Olympic Ice Dancers Ben Agosto and Tanith Belbin joined Starfish Family Services' CEO Dr. Ouida Cash at a Sept. 14 fund-raiser at the Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Course in Van Buren Township. The Olympic silver medalists, who train at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, were honorary chairs of the Starfish Family Services Golf Classic, which raised \$6,000 for at-risk children and families in western Wayne County. Inkster-based Starfish Family Services serves 7,000 children and families a year with prevention and early intervention services.

Flu vaccine available at clinics, pharmacies

Oakwood

Oakwood Healthcare System is hosting several flu vaccination clinics for adults from Monday-Saturday, Oct. 16-21. Local clinic dates, times and locations are as follows:

Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at Oakwood Healthcare Center - Canton, 7300 Canton Center Road, in Canton, in the main waiting room.

Oct. 18 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Oakwood Healthcare Center - Plymouth, 9398 Lilley, in Plymouth.

Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Oakwood Healthcare Center - Garden City, 29150 Ford Rd., in Garden City, in the exam room.

Oct. 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. at September Days, 46425 Tyler Road, in Belleville, by appointment only.

Oct. 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Columbia Court, 275 W. Columbia, in Belleville.

Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, 30043 Parkwood Street, in Inkster.

The vaccines are intended for adults 18 and older who want to be protected from the flu or pneumonia. The cost of the shot is \$25 and \$35 for the pneumonia vaccinations. Both are a covered benefit for those who have Medicare Part B and bring their card to the clinic. For more information on the OHS clinics, visit www.oakwood.org or call (313) 586-5492.

Westland Maple Drugs

Westland Maple Drugs also will be offering flu and pneumonia shots and sponsoring a Diabetes Day 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the store on Ford Road at Hunter. A second round of shots will be offered 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9.

The shots will be available on a walk-in basis and cost \$25 for the flu shot and \$40 for the pneumonia shot. For people with Medicare Part B, there will be no co-pay.

As part of Diabetes Day, the store will be giving out free

meters and free samples as well as providing education and answering questions about the disease.

For more information, call Chuck or Danielle at (734) 729-2200.

CVS Pharmacy

CVS Pharmacy will have flu vaccines available 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at the store at the Wayne and Hunter, (734) 729-9210, and 3-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the store at the Wayne and Palmer, (734) 721-3444.

The flu vaccines will be \$25, or \$23 with a CVS ExtraCare card. Pneumonia vaccines also may be available for \$40, or \$38 with a CVS ExtraCare card. There is no cost for those with Medicare Part B when the Medicare card is presented. The vaccines are given on a walk-in basis while supplies last.

For further information or for other locations, visit the CVS Web site at www.cvs.com or contact a CVS Pharmacy.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CC Rummage Sale
The Mom's Club of Catholic Central High School is hosting its annual Rummage & Bake Sale, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 14, at Catholic Central High School, 27225 Wixom Road, south of Grand River and west of Wixom Road in Novi. A \$1 bag sale will begin at 1 p.m. All proceeds benefit the school.

Western Wayne Genealogical Society
The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. Local historian/librarian Al Smitley will speak on "The Ditch That Built Northville: The Erie Canal." A tour of the library or genealogy video will be offered at 6:30 p.m. Guests welcome to the free meetings. Margie, (734) 522-4050 or visit www.rootsweb.com/~miwwcgs/.

Finding records
The Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan will present a program, "Finding Your Irish in the Canada/U.S. Border Crossing Records," at 1:30 p.m. Saturday Oct. 28, at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club, 2068 Michigan Ave., west of Tiger Stadium, in Detroit.

The speaker will be Jan Zaleski, the author of Guide to Records of Border Crossings between the United States and Canada 1895-1954. Zaleski is an accredited genealogist, a civilian employee of the Detroit Police Department and a volunteer at the Family History Center in Westland.

Crafters needed
Crafters are needed for the 18th annual juried arts and crafts show Saturday, Nov. 18, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church Hall, 750 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Virginia or Deb at (734) 522-9653 or (248) 348-6823.

Wedding workshop
The Meeting House grand ballroom in Plymouth is the site for a wedding workshop, "How to Plan Your Wedding in 90 Minutes," 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24. A panel of experts will answer questions ranging from tips on making a wedding run smoothly, avoiding the most common wedding mishaps, educating yourself to create a stress-free wedding and saving gas and time. Reservations in advance are complimentary; tickets at the door cost \$10. All couples attending will get a free engagement portrait. Light refresh-

ments and desserts will be served. The Meeting House is located at 499 S. Main in Plymouth. For reservations and more information, call (734) 416-5100.

Costume ball
The Livonia Elks host a Halloween costume ball 6:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at the VFW Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post 6695 in Plymouth. Costumes are optional, although there will be a prize for best costume. Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m.; advance tickets are \$20 and must be purchased by Oct. 15. To order tickets, mail a self-addressed stamped envelope and a money order or check to Linda DiVeto, P.O. Box 6273, Plymouth, MI 48170. If no envelope is included, tickets will be held at the door. The VFW Hall is located at 1426 Lilley in Plymouth. For more information, call Linda, (734) 507-9173 or Mary Ann, (734) 654-0115.

FOR SENIORS

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

Senior dinners
The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is \$8 donation for members of the league and \$10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010.

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

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

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

Exercise
Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 50. The program pro-

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

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

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

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters
The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

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

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

ing regular library hours at the library.

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

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

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

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

Pet-A-Pet
The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Marie Johnson, (734) 326-1200), and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

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

Franklin PTSA
The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia, MI 48150.

Tutorial program
A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Eating Disorders
Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 324-3089.

Advocacy group
The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

TOPS
TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Wednesday at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6:30-7:15 p.m., with the meeting 7:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299.

Menopause & More
A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

Support group
A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services.

There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

AIM
Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics in Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

Childbirth classes
Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

Childbirth Association
Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

Fibromyalgia
The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek
The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise
The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

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THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

Fall into Pumpkin Fest at barn

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Fall doesn't officially begin in Livonia until the grounds surrounding Wilson Barn fill with rows of orange pumpkins and the air is tinged with the scent of fresh apple cider.

October at the historic barn is marked by Pumpkin Fest, a month-long celebration of all things autumnal. It's a local must-see destination for families across Wayne County.

Sandra Snyder of Livonia makes a regular stop at the Wilson Barn with her 3-year-old niece Skyler Blyshak of Westland.

Whether they pop in for a weekend craft show or just a quick pony ride, Snyder said, "Kids look forward to it."

Chelsea Kubesh can attest to that.

It's her first year working the event and she's already introduced hundreds of children to the ponies, live animals and the giant pumpkin-shaped inflatable moonwalk.

Pumpkin Fest is more than a tradition to the Anasovich family of Livonia. For 6-year-old Julia Anasovich, it's a special birthday treat.

"We do come here every year on her birthday," said Diane



Birthday girl Julia Anasovich, of Livonia, gets a lift from Chelsea Kubesh so she can ride one of the ponies at Wilson Barn's Pumpkin Fest. The 6-year-old always visits the fall community event on her birthday.

Anasovich, Julia's mother. "She always does the pony rides and the hay ride."

Carrie Rossi brought her children, 3-year-old Kacie Daley and 18-month-old Cameren Daley, to Pumpkin Fest on Monday afternoon, just before naptime. Grandparents Frank and Linda Rossi of Redford joined them.

"It's a nice day," said Carrie Rossi, of Livonia. "We live in the neighborhood. We thought we'd

come get some pumpkins."

Visitors to the Friends of the Wilson Barn event have their pick of plenty of pumpkins, as well as gourds and cornstalks. Apple cider and doughnuts are for sale, as are pony and hay rides for children.

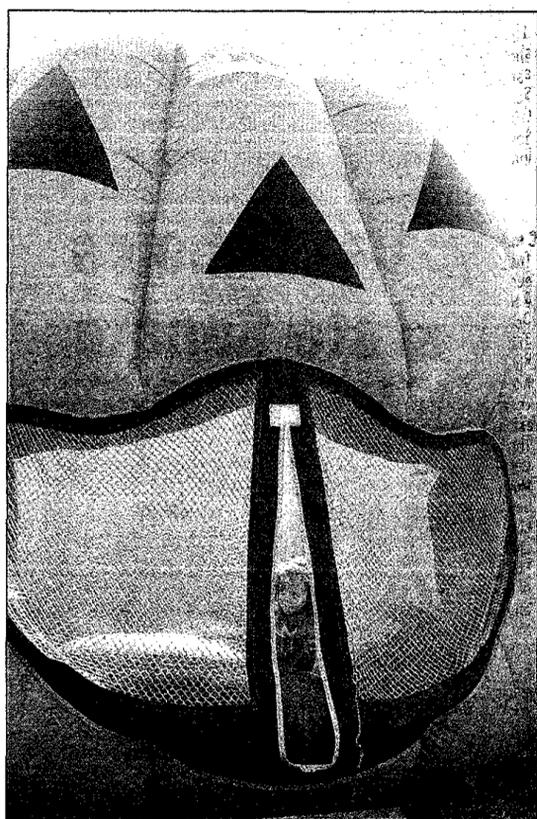
Pumpkin Fest lasts from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily now through Oct. 30 at Wilson Barn. It is located at the intersection of West Chicago and Middlebelt roads in Livonia.



Frank Rossi of Redford carries his grandson Cameren, 18 months, of Livonia, through a field of pumpkins at the Wilson Barn in Livonia.

The Pumpkin Fest Craft Show will be held at the same location Friday-Saturday, Oct. 14-15. A free Halloween-themed children's craft event is set for noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21. And the Haunted Barn, meant for ages 12 and under, will be open 5:30-8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Oct. 20-22, and Thursday-Monday, Oct. 26-30.

For information, call (734) 558-5506.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kacie Daley, 3, of Livonia, peeks out of the inflatable pumpkin while visiting the Pumpkin Fest.

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OUR VIEWS

Toy: Best choice for state Senate

In the Nov. 7 general election, two veteran lawmakers are squaring off in the 6th Senate District — incumbent Laura Toy of Livonia and state Rep. Glenn Anderson of Westland.

Anderson is a former city councilman and a three-term member of the House of Representatives. Toy has served on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees and Livonia City Council and as Livonia city treasurer and state representative before moving to the Senate.

Both candidates have strong government backgrounds and are qualified, but we believe Toy would be the better choice.

As a small business owner, she understands the need for service and that is what she provides to the residents of the 6th Senate District. Whether it is on the floor of the Senate or in the communities she represents, Toy is working on behalf of her constituents.

During her four years in the state Senate, Toy has had 20 pieces of legislation passed, notably the law that allows local governments to seek reimbursement from jail inmates for the cost of their incarceration, the establishment of school safety zones, prohibiting persons who must register under the Sex Offenders Registration Act from living, working or loitering within 1,000 feet of school property.

Only two of her bills have been vetoed. Both relate to her efforts to regionalize the Detroit water board. She is not put off by the governor's vetoes and plans to press on to revamp and bring a suburban voice to the water board.

When not in Lansing, Toy is in her district, meeting and listening to constituents. She worked with state Rep. Jim Plakas, D-Garden City, to engineer an \$800,000 increase in funding for the financially strapped Garden City Public Schools.

Just this past week, she was able to get legislation passed to help Majeske Machining of Livonia take advantage of an industrial tax credit program. The business will now be able to expand and create new jobs.

It is because of efforts like that, that we urge voters to re-elect **Laura Toy** to the 6th Senate District on Nov. 7. She is the best person to represent Livonia, Westland, Garden City and Redford in Lansing.

Stabenow deserves return to U.S. Senate

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard has campaigned hard to unseat incumbent U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who is running for her second, six-year term.

Bouchard has solid support from both the state and national Republican parties, has a long track record of being a "law and order" office holder and is a genuine and likable person.

Still, Bouchard has not proven he would do a better job in the Senate than Stabenow. His campaign has focused too heavily on the aforementioned "law and order" issues, and the outline of his economic policies sounds like it was copied from the national Republican Party's Web site.

For her part, Stabenow has been an advocate for constituent services, has teamed with fellow Democratic U.S. Sen. Carl Levin to stem the flow of trash from Canada into Michigan landfills and has worked hard to make prescription drugs more affordable to the state's seniors and low-income residents.

A top priority in Stabenow's next term should be to work tirelessly in securing sufficient federal dollars to protect the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure, and are vital to not only Michigan's future, but indeed the entire region. Stabenow needs to fight to keep invasive species from continuing to ravage the natural ecosystem and threatening a billion-dollar tourism industry.

Similarly, tough environmental protections must remain in place to keep industrial pollutants out of the waterways. Stabenow has done a good job of focusing on particular issues, gathering support for her positions and pushing through legislation. On many of the homeland security issues that have been the heart of Bouchard's campaign, Stabenow has taken positions that are more conservative than the Democratic leadership.

Bouchard has done a good job of focusing the debate on homeland security, the need to tighten the nation's borders and protecting our children from Internet predators. But Stabenow has broader experience and has demonstrated an ability to work with Republicans on several bipartisan issues, which will be critical in the next six years. We endorse **Debbie Stabenow** for U.S. Senate in the Nov. 7 general election.



Toy



10/12/06 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GEOFF BROOKS

Thanks for coverage

On behalf of the Westland Lions Club and Leader Dogs for the Blind, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your excellent print coverage of the benefit car show held on Aug. 9 at Culver's of Westland. As a result of your article, a huge number of cars came to this event.

With your help, we were able to raise \$2,700 to be donated to Leader Dogs for the Blind. This money will, in part, help a blind person regain his/her independence. The cost of raising, training and issuing a Leader Dog is currently \$35,000, but the blind person does not have to pay one cent. The cost is covered solely by donations. Thank you again for all of your help.

Debbie Dayton
Westland Lions Club

Homecoming a success

I am writing you to acknowledge all of the hard work and effort that was put forth into making Wayne Memorial High School's Hollywood Homecoming a complete success!

We had hundreds of parents, staff, students and businesses donate their time and products to help make this event so special! I would just like to thank the communities of Wayne and Westland for truly supporting our school. All of the volunteers helped to make Homecoming 2006 and unforgettable night for our students!!

Sandra Morante
assistant principal
Wayne Memorial High School

Innocent until proven guilty

I am writing in response to your article in the Sept. 28, 2006, paper about Jeremy Peer.

I am a little bothered by the remark about people e-mailing you about why he is allowed to go to college and get on with his life.

Why should he not go to college and play football? Isn't a person innocent until proven guilty? At least he is trying to better himself.

What gives people the right to judge somebody until they have walked in their shoes? I'm sure the people that have e-mailed you have not gone through what the Peer family has, so maybe they should mind their own business and tend to their own family like the Peer family is.

Trisha M. Speelman
Westland

Easier to do nothing

The non-existent logic found in Diana Fox's response (Aug. 31, "Comments are cruel") to the comments made by Anita Gillman, the daughter of the 82-year-old woman killed by a 90-year-old man, is typical of the laissez faire attitude prominent in aging baby boomers who refuse to get involved in the care of their parents.

When they have to choose between stepping in and taking the keys away from their parents or ignoring the signs and remaining self-absorbed, they'd rather have the public take their chances on the road with their impaired parents.

Anita Gillman has tragically earned the right to express her views on her mother's killer. I wonder if Ms. Fox's opinion would

LETTERS

be different had the older gentleman plowed into a group of schoolchildren waiting at a bus stop. Being old isn't a way to escape accountability.

Most seniors are driving impaired and that's the cold reality. Yes, it's not nice but neither was the end result in the Meijer parking lot. We hold drunk drivers accountable for the results of their impaired driving, what makes seniors an exception?

I'm appalled that Ms. Fox's only argument is that Ms. Gillman hurt the feelings of seniors. Getting over hurt feelings is a much easier thing to do than getting over the preventable death of a loved one. The Secretary of State should require all seniors to take annual driving tests.

I've had too many near collisions with senior drivers, who clearly should not be on the road, to care whether their feelings will be hurt. My main concern is for my safety and the safety of fellow motorists on the road. It's absurd that Ms. Fox believes the self-esteem of seniors supercedes human life.

My Baby Boomer parents will be seniors one day and I may have to take their keys away. It will be inconvenient and they will be mad, but it's the safe thing to do. Our legal system gives seniors a slap on the wrist solely based on their age. They are held to a different standard, thanks to people with Ms. Fox's attitude. She urges us to think of seniors' feelings but in the same breath, she callously states that not only should we ignore Ms. Gillman's feelings but Ms. Gillman has no right to express them in the first place.

Ms. Fox, in conclusion: It's so easy to do nothing.

Katie Martin
Farmington Hills

Stolen memories

Saturday night our daughter was very excited as she was getting ready for her Homecoming at John Glenn High School. All of her friends and their dates gathered at our home before the dance to capture the memories on film so they would be able to remember this day for years to come.

Little did my daughter know that she would lose these memories that night. As they all left, not once did it cross any of the parents' minds to tell our children to take their purses and cameras with them on the dance floor to prevent their belongings from being stolen. Her digital camera was stolen that night.

As a concerned parent, I went to the high school to speak with the principal regarding the situation. The secretary told me that she was in a meeting and wasn't sure how long she would be, so I asked to see the assistant principal.

As I stepped in her office, I introduced myself and was taken back by the fact that she did not introduce herself to welcome me in her office by a handshake or a warm smile. I explained the situation to her and asked how something like this could happen with all the chaperones and police that were there that night.

I did not receive the reassuring answer I was looking for, instead I received a look of unintelligence. I was hoping that she would reassure me by telling me that they were looking in to what had happened that night and what steps they are going to take

to prevent this from happening in the future.

We have raised five honest children who have all attended John Glenn and were all honor students. It saddens me that my hardworking child gets one night to forget about schoolwork and make memories and they were taken away from her. To my knowledge, the school has security cameras. Why weren't they looked at to find out who did this?

As I was walking out of the office, a staff member was walking in and asked to see the principal just after me being there for 10 minutes, and the principal was available to see him. So I then realized that I was being pushed aside and they allowed me to speak to the assistant principal so the principal wouldn't be bothered.

As a concerned parent and an adult, I was mistreated. I am frightened to think that if I was treated this way, how are they treating our children? How can they expect the parents' support throughout the school year when they pay us no respect?

Sharon Hensley
Westland

Hastert should resign

Dennis Hastert should resign now or be removed.

His inability to choose ethical action over party politics makes him as criminally culpable as Mr. Foley is. By turning a blind eye to Mr. Foley's egregious actions he has put party politics above all else, including here, morality and the protection of constituent children charged to his care while in Washington.

Now Mr. Hastert has further entrenched and polarized this position by party line wagon circling and paranoid statements of "they (the Democrats) are out to get me."

When a party in power has abused its trust as badly as Mr. Hastert and the Republicans have of late, the ONLY course of action is their removal. Mr. Hastert should, as one of the architects of the Clinton impeachment, know this all too well, and if he doesn't, he needs to be informed.

As a good Republican once said before "...You can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Tim Heller
Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"We learned how to use our equipment in different ways, such as using a hose to bring a firefighter out of a hole, say from a basement floor to the first floor."

- Scott Neal, Westland assistant chief of training and education, about training to improve firefighters' skills

WESTLAND
Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY



Sue Mason
Community Editor

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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.

American culture needs a boost in civic-mindedness

There is one import that's not stocked on the shelves at our local grocer or big box store that should be. Problem is, it's perishable. The good news is that, like a sourdough bread starter, it's renewable for a lifetime of good living.

That product is civic-mindedness. Its ingredients label would read: interest, caring, enthusiasm, involvement. The label also would list it as supplying 100 percent of the daily requirements for voting in elections.

Why would a nation founded on democratic principles want to import civic-mindedness? Because we neither grow nor manufacture it anymore. Certainly not like in Costa Rica.

A public TV program Sunday night featured that country in a travel segment, with the host arriving there on the day of national elections. Crowds lined the streets, with people supporting various candidates waving different, multi-colored flags. Vehicles crowded the streets, horns blaring.

There were smiles all around, as citizens got caught up in the excitement — and the fun. There also was a holiday atmosphere, clearly with the bulk of the nation getting involved, although there was no mention on the show of the percentage of those actually voting.

What a contrast with elections in the U.S., where politician is considered a dirty word. The only real hoopla comes during political conventions, which are largely staged. There is little interest in elections, with a low percentage turning out to vote, unless money is involved.

Those who do vote do so out of a sense of duty, not opportunity. Election day is greeted not with enthusiasm, but with

a dour "I gotta go vote" and a long face.

If there is one thing we do like to do in this country, it is lay blame — anywhere but on ourselves. Politicians are corrupt, we say, and our vote won't make a difference. Besides, it may not even be counted properly.

But who is responsible for all that? Ultimately, it is each one of us. Lack of interest and participation in the electoral process allows abuses to happen. Perhaps, it is a chicken-and-the-egg kind of thing.

And like with that sourdough starter, contaminants can kill it off. Without the starter, democracy becomes flat and boring, and the sour taste comes from being co-opted by those who would usurp our civil rights.

That doesn't have to happen. Feed the starter with the yeast of the first-person factor, and it begins to bubble and expand by putting the "I" in interest and involvement.

For years now, we've witnessed how perishable this commodity can be. We've left it up to someone else to watch and replenish the starter and, for many of us, it's no longer in the pantry. This is more than a shame, it is troubling, because civic-mindedness isn't something we can just scribble on the shopping list to pick up on our next trip to the store.

We can, however, procure the yeast to feed it and nurture our young through our schools and by our example in heading to the polls on election day, Nov. 7.

As it now stands, we're starving for optimism about the future.

Some sourdough starters have been known to last a hundred years. Let's hope that somehow, somewhere, we can find the ancestral starter that led to our great democratic experiment, and share it all around.

Sandra Armbruster is editor of the *Troy Eccentric*. She welcomes your comments by e-mail to sarmbruster@hometownlife.com.



Sandra Armbruster

Not senator material

I worked with Glenn Anderson at Ford for many years and he is a very nice person and he was a good council person as Cheryl Graunstadt stated.

As a state representative, he has done nothing. Look at his record in Lansing for six years. He is on the Committee for Car and Home Insurance and we are paying more than ever. He tried to stop gerrymandering, but when his own party and the Republicans got after him, he ran off and hid. We need a fighter! What has he ever done for seniors?

We don't need a nice guy. I disagree with Cheryl on Glenn's qualifications for senator. Don't vote for someone just because he or she is your friend. We will get more done if we vote bipartisan. What are Glenn's commitments and his platform?

Glenn, I hope we don't part over this, but I don't feel you are senator material.

Wayne Mirth
Westland

Trupiano is best choice

Just about every other day I read about a layoff or buyout in the domestic auto industry. People I've worked with and consider my friends are suffering.

A lot of this is the fault of the auto companies themselves, but the current government policies don't help, either. For example, Ford and GM have to struggle with a cost penalty of more than \$1,000 per car because of health care and retirement costs, compared to the transplants or imports, and this is not being addressed.

I get the idea that George Bush's American auto industry consists of the transplants in Kentucky, Alabama or other places that voted Republican, the same transplants that enjoy that cost advantage. Meanwhile, Bush ignores the CEOs of GM, Ford and DCX.

Anyone who works for the Detroit auto companies, or sells parts to them, or makes machines that they use should consider, while voting, that George Bush is costing us our jobs. We cannot vote against Bush any more, but we can take congressional votes away from his policies.

For example, my congressman in the 11th District, Thaddeus McCotter, votes with Bush about 90 percent plus of the time. Our best interest will be served by the Democrat, and for me, that's Tony Trupiano.

John Stampyak
Westland

McCotter's tough on terrorists

When it comes to winning the war on terror, the Republican Party is head-and-shoulders above the Democratic Party. Locally, our congressman, Thaddeus McCotter, has been to Iraq twice in the past year (four times since being elected to Congress almost four years ago) and has met with our troops as well as elected representatives from Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has introduced legislation to provide more funding for body armor for our troops; legislation that prohibits lobbyists from being employed by governments sponsoring terrorists; legislation that creates a select committee to investigate the money spent in Iraq and Afghanistan; and legislation that funds our first responders.

Congressman McCotter's motto has always been "I work for you." I, for one, believe him.

Michael Brackney
Canton

Granholtz is out of touch

LETTERS

It is very interesting how Gov. Jennifer Granholm blames our economic woes in Michigan on President Bush and his policies. While I am conservative, I am honest enough to admit that these problems were not created by Bush or Granholm.

However, I have a major problem with the way Granholm has reacted to these problems and being virtually nonsupportive of legislation and other actions that could help businesses in this state. As Frank Beckmann stated on his radio program on WJR-AM (760), "If Granholm blames Michigan's economic problems on Bush's policies, then she should credit these same policies for creating economic growth in the 49 other states in the country."

We are in a single-state recession. This woman is out of touch, out of time, and hopefully, out of office in November. We need a leader, not a blamer.

Richard Bezorko
Farmington Hills

Listen to the people

The talk of an imminent attack against Iran has me outraged. This president should not be allowed to make the decision to attack Iran or any other country for that matter without Congressional approval. This insane idea that we can resolve international disputes only by pre-emptive military means must be countered by rational thought.

President Bush is not the only elected person to decide the fate of this nation and others; he is in office because of the people — and he must begin to listen to them.

Dorothy Trosko
Farmington

Support Proposal 2

Your Sept. 21 editorial entitled "Rights proposal is cynical, divisive" urges a "no" vote on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (Proposal 2) because, you say, the proposal is "misguided and cynical." Proposal 2, if passed, will amend the Michigan Constitution to prohibit state and local governments from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the areas of public employment, public contracting, and public education. Why is this "misguided and cynical?" Other than engaging in some additional name-calling, your editorial does not provide a clue.

In fact, if anything is "misguided and cynical," it is the present system of preference-based affirmative action, which Balkanizes this country by separating people into racial groups. This categorization, of course, is becoming increasingly hard to implement as interracial marriages increase. To make sure that we get it right, do you suggest that we adopt the South African apartheid definitions of races? Or perhaps, you would suggest that we look to Hitler's Nuremberg Laws for guidance?

Far from being "misguided and cynical," Proposal 2 will change a system of affirmative action that has morphed from a highly desirable one of ensuring fair consideration of everyone, into a system that gives preferences based, not on merit, but on the basis of a person's appearance. The present system has become protected by a wall of political correctness, and anyone who questions the system, as do the backers of Proposal 2, is attacked as being "misguided and cynical" or worse.

I believe that, in November, Michigan voters will be guided by their conscience and not by name-calling editorials; will decide that people should be judged by who they are, not what they are; and will overwhelmingly pass Proposal 2.

Scott T. Fenstermaker
West Bloomfield

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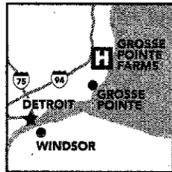
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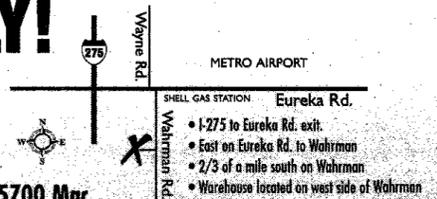
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Tigers leave fans cheering Cox: Efforts to help consumers warrant another term

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Lifetime Detroit Tigers fan Jim Rembacki of Livonia has been waiting for a successful local team. Rembacki, a banker with Charter One, attended the Friday and Saturday games against the New York Yankees with his daughter, Elizabeth, an Aquinas College junior.

"It was electric," he said. "The crowd was enthusiastic, well-behaved, and the stadium actually physically shook in the seventh inning of the Friday game."

He's been waiting years for his team to be strong again. "It makes you proud to be a Tigers fan that they fought through adversity, they worked hard," Rembacki said.

Like many fans, Rembacki doesn't want to get ahead of himself with the league championship series with the Oakland A's under way, but he knows a World Series victory isn't an impossibility with the team's strong pitching.

"They have a chance to win every game they play," he said.

On Tuesday, the Tigers got off to a good start in the ALCS with a 5-1 victory over the A's.

Fan Mary Buist was at work Tuesday morning at the Fan Zone at Westland Shopping Center, where Tigers merchandise was flying off the shelves. "The jerseys are selling very well and the jackets," the saleswoman said. "Of course, everything we've got is selling. Everybody's so up and ready for them. It's been 19 years since anything like



Comerica Park was rocking this past weekend as the Detroit Tigers defeated the New York Yankees for a chance to play in the American League Championship Series.

this happened."

The store has a TV and Saturday night's game against the Yankees was watched by many and was "great," Westland resident Buist said. "If they don't win, they had a great season," she added, echoing the words of many fans.

Fan Howard Behr of Westland, a Ford Motor retiree, was at the Friday and Saturday games against the Yankees. "I've been to a lot of baseball games in my life," he said. "It was thrilling to watch. The pitching was just staggering."

Behr cited the Tigers coming out to greet fans after Saturday's victory as impressive. He's a lifetime fan who's been cheering for the Tigers since the early 1950s.

"I love to see it," said Behr, who has attended games in recent years with much smaller crowds. "The crowds are just staggering."

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

When Mike Cox looks back on his first term as Michigan's attorney general, he said he hopes state residents will remember his consumer protection efforts.

"In the past, it was believed that Republicans are not supposed to care much about consumer protection, but I think we've proved that wrong," Cox said.

He said he's expanded the role of the attorney general's office, with fewer staffers and a smaller budget. The Livonia Republican said his office collected \$38.8 million in consumer refunds and state settlements. These efforts include penalties against Wal-Mart for not placing price tags on enough products, cell phone companies for slamming and cramming complaints, and casinos for not paying out advertised prizes.

"We collected about two-and-a-half times in revenue compared to the Granholm term — and we still haven't completed a full term yet," Cox said. Gov. Jennifer Granholm served as attorney general from 1998-2002.

The former assistant Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney is looking for a second four-year term in next month's election against Grosse Pointe Democrat Amos Williams and Grand Rapids Libertarian Bill Hall.

In addition to his consumer protection initiatives, Cox boasts his office has motivated

MIKE COX

Job: Michigan attorney general
Age: 44
Home-town: Livonia
Personal: Married, four children



more child support payments. By working with credit reporting agencies and Friend of the Court officials, he said the number of Michigan children not receiving any child support payments had dropped to 606,000 this year from 651,000 in 2002.

"If they had a favorable credit rating, they were able to get loans and that's how we were able to make sure more dead-beat parents made payments,"

Cox said. "The drop is not huge, but we're moving in the right direction."

The attorney general's office is directing part of a \$52.5 million health care fraud settlement with Livonia-based Specialized Pharmacy Services and its parent company Omnicare Inc. toward a state Web site (www.michigandrugprices.com) that enables Michigan consumers to compare prices for prescription drugs.

"We have 1.1 million people in this state without prescription drug coverage and this will enable them to shop for the best deal and save money," Cox said.

He admits some lessons he learned over the past four years. He acknowledges he needs to be more patient and diplomatic.

"I've learned that a frontal assault isn't always the best method," Cox said.

He survived a high-profile controversy last fall when he

hastily called a press conference to admit an extramarital affair. Cox said the admission stemmed from an investigation into alleged illegal campaign finance activities by attorney Geoffrey Fieger, who was never charged with a crime and called on Cox to resign.

The situation provided a media firestorm for about two months, but the issue subsided from public light last winter.

If elected to a second term, Cox wants to continue his focus on consumer protection, child support and senior citizen issues, but he also wants to intensify his efforts on Internet crime investigations and public education.

"I want to help parents monitor their children's computer habits so they don't fall victim to an adult predator," Cox said. "We've taken up fights that no one else will take up, and we've done it without costing the taxpayers extra money."

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Libertarian, U.S. Taxpayers candidates offer alternatives

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

With unhappiness in the two major political parties near an all time high, 11th District congressional candidates John Tatar and Charles Tackett believe they offer voters an alternative.

Tatar, a Livonia Stevenson High School government teacher from Livonia, is the Libertarian candidate. He has run for state representative three times, but this is his first run for Congress.

Tackett, a Belleville businessman, is the U.S. Taxpayers/Constitution Party candidate.

They are running against Republican incumbent Thaddeus McCotter and Democratic challenger Tony Trupiano.

JOHN TATAR

Tatar says being a Libertarian is about taking back control from the government.

"My interest is that the government controls everything that goes on around us and we need to take it all back," he said. "We are sovereign citizens and government has that all backwards."

He said the Democrats limit freedom by controlling financing and spending and

Republicans limit freedom with socially restrictive laws. "My attitude is they shouldn't be controlling us in either way," he said. "We are more intelligent than they are in terms of spending our money and deciding what we should do in our lives."

Tatar said he doesn't think voters should have to choose between "the lesser of two evils" and that he offers a legitimate third choice. He is especially concerned about government spending and the mounting national deficit and debt.

"The deficit is the biggest problem we have. I remember Reagan running and saying if we get to a trillion dollars (in public debt), do you realize how much that is and we are way past that. The deficit means inflation," he said.

As a Libertarian, Tatar believes that government needs to provide the basics outlined in the Constitution, but needs to stop wasteful spending on pork barrel projects and a costly war in Iraq.

"A basic function of government is to secure our liberty. If we have a war on terror, go get the terrorists in Afghanistan and what the heck are we doing in Iraq? It has been proven that there are no weapons of mass destruction," he said.

As a former military man,

MEET THE CANDIDATE

Name: John Tatar, 57, Libertarian Party



Occupation: Livonia Stevenson High School government teacher.
Political experience: Candidate for state House

2000, 1998 and 1996

Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees Wayne State University.

Military: Retired U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel, U.S. Army Reserve. Served in Desert Storm

Family: wife, Zhanna; three children. Lives in Livonia.

with 31 years in the Army rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel, Tatar said the United States should have learned from Britain and stayed out of the Middle East.

"I blame the Congress. It's really not Bush's fault, it's Congress' fault. Congress rubberstamped Bush's programs," he said.

He said the No Child Left Behind program is a "joke."

"It's not the teachers' prob-

MEET THE CANDIDATE

Name: Charles Tackett, 58, U.S. Taxpayers/Constitution Party



Occupation: President/owner Consolidated Capital Corp., Old Kentucky Homes Inc., Padha Inc.

Political experience: Belleville Planning Commission for five years.

Education: Attended Eastern Michigan University, Russel School of Real Estate.

Military: Served in the Army during Vietnam War.

Family: wife, Kimberly. One son. Lives in Belleville.

lem. The teachers work hard every day, I do. I don't think No Child Left Behind is a logical or a reasonable plan," he said.

CHARLES TACKETT

Tackett said he felt "called" to run for office. He said religion is a big part of his life and of the conservative party that he is representing in the election.

"That's a conservative party.

First and foremost, they believe Jesus Christ is God and creator," he said. "They're very founded in the Constitution of the United States and, as a result, they don't believe in an evolving Constitution, which doesn't mean they don't believe in the ability to amend. But they feel we should walk the guidelines that our founders set forward for us."

Tackett said the party believes that government has gotten too big and that the middle class is being hurt by recent legislation.

Tackett knows he's a dark horse in the race, but he believes he has a chance to win.

He said he's voted for McCotter.

"McCotter has disappointed me," he said. "He went down there and acted like he checked his brain at the door."

A veteran of the war in Vietnam, Tackett said he learned from the United States' involvement there that in a civil war "you can't prevail." He said the same situation exists in Iraq.

"We're naive to think that a democratic republic will ever prevail there," he said.

"Democracy doesn't just mean you have a vote and the major-

ity vote wins. That doesn't mean it will be a good democracy. Realistically, they'll never know the democracy that we have."

He said the war is draining our resources. He said he supports maintaining artillery, the Air Force and special forces in Iraq and pulling out the regular Army.

Tackett said he supports maintaining tax cuts for those earning less than \$100,000. But he said the "real rich" understand that "the money could be used better in another rung of society" and are less bothered by taxes than some believe.

He said Republicans used "terrorist tactics" by trying to protect the estate tax by tying it to an increase in the minimum wage. The bill was defeated.

"Bill Clinton is the best Republican we've had," Tackett joked. "Nobody argues about it. Our economy went well for eight years. He was smart. He and (former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan) Greenspan were in sync."

Tackett said he is sick of hearing about how other nations hate us. He said a moratorium on aid might change their views.

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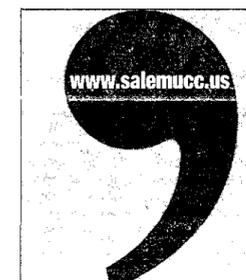
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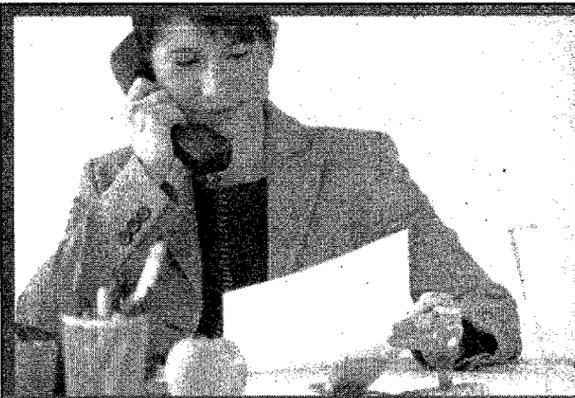
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Area shopping malls offer new stores, discounts

Livonia's Laurel Park Place recently welcomed its newest addition - a store dedicated to travelers and adventurers.

The mall's new Samsonite store offers something for everyone who's literally on-the-go. Whether customers travel frequently for business or are planning a jet-set vacation, the retail shop offers an array of luggage, business and briefcases, casual carry bags, and travel accessories.

Smart shoppers can check out Samsonite's grand opening deals on luggage and travel goods. Discounts of 20 to 25

WHAT'S IN STORE

percent off of regular prices may be applied to some luggage brands and travel organizers.

The Samsonite store is located at 37700 W. Six Mile Road, between Six Mile and Newburgh roads in Livonia. Visit www.laurelparkplace.com for hours and additional information.

SHOP IN STYLE

Westland Chamber of Commerce officials are again

hosting a Shopping Extravaganza. The half-day event will bring crowds of fashionistas into Westland Shopping Center beginning at 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 17.

Early-bird holiday shoppers can start the day at the mall's new Macy's store, nosh on a continental breakfast by Panera Bread and catch a holiday make-up presentation by Clinique.

Then, a day of discounts and giveaways will commence. Participants can sign up for a free holiday eye makeover compliments of Clinique. The

event ends after 1 p.m. with lunch at Lakeshore Grill.

Tickets to this special shopping event cost \$25 and are limited to the first 100 people who respond. Call (734) 326-7222 for more information.

EVERYDAY CELEBRATIONS

Novi's Twelve Oaks welcomes customer's to its one-of-a-kind new shop, All the Hoopla. Centered on home entertaining, the store offers a mix of merchandise, including name brands like Department 56, Lenox, Dansk and Gorham.

Choose from charming home decor, festive table settings and gifts with a personal touch.

"Hoopla has been our vision for sometime," said Joel Anderson, president of Consumer Direct-Lenox. "We wanted to develop a store that is exciting, has a sense of personal expression and flair, and offers many ways to celebrate life's special moments."

"This new store concept accomplishes that and more." Shop for any event, including holidays, religious or family occasions, and entertaining anytime.

All the Hoopla can be found on the upper level, near Macy's. Twelve Oaks is located at I-96 and Novi Road in Novi. The shopping center features 180 stores and services. Shopping hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.allthehoopla.com.

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

Maya Angelou to speak at Matrix 100th anniversary gala

Matrix Human Services will celebrate its 100th anniversary Friday with a gala and strolling supper followed by a "An Inspirational Evening with Dr. Maya Angelou."

Matrix serves the Detroit metro community through several services divisions: Barat Child and Family Services, Casa Maria Family Services, Head Start Family Service

Center, Off the Streets, Project Transition Housing, Vistas Nuevas Head Start, Walter and Mary Reuther Senior Services and Youth Assistance Program.

The League of Catholic Women began the mission of Matrix Human Services in 1906. The League assisted immigrants with English classes and addressed the needs of the poor, homeless and unemployed.

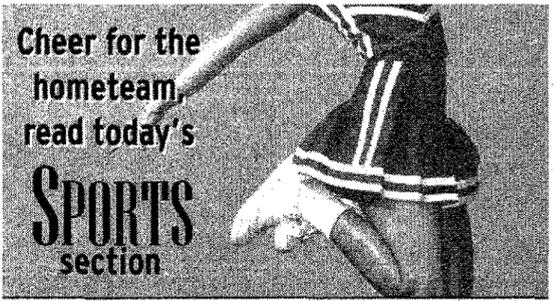
The gala will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a strolling supper at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Maya Angelou will speak at 8 p.m. The Mosaic Singers will perform.

The evening will feature an opportunity to win a 2007 Cadillac Escalade. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$100

each. A winner will be drawn at the Gala.

Angelou is an acclaimed poet and the author of the memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. She has also been an actress, screenwriter and film producer.

To purchase tickets, call (248) 645-6666 or visit www.matrixhumanservices.org.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in accordance with Public Act 331 (1966), as amended. Schoolcraft College announces that the financial audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, has been completed by Plante & Moran, LLP, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. It has been presented to the College Board of Trustees and has been accepted by them.

Notice is hereby given that the audit is available for public inspection in the Office of the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in the McDowell Center at the College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan, on weekdays, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Jill F. O'Sullivan
Vice President and CFO

Publish: October 12, 2006

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pink lady

A lady with heart

Ministrelli donates time and money to women's health

By Wendy Von Buskirk

Florine Ministrelli and her husband, J. Peter, helped establish the Ministrelli Women's Heart Center with a portion of a \$20 million donation they made to William Beaumont Hospital. The Heart Center is the first cardiac facility in Michigan devoted exclusively to women, and focuses on prevention, detection and treatment of heart disease. The Center also provides educational programs and services to help women identify their risk for heart disease and teach them how to make healthy lifestyle changes. The Ministrellis continue to raise funds for the center, and this weekend they hope to raise \$275,000 at Heart to Heart d'Art at Park West Gallery. More than 350 guests are expected to join the festivities, including the Ministrellis themselves. Florine caught up fashionable Florine as she prepared for the party.

How did you get your name?

Florine Mark was born just before me, and she and my mother were friends. My mother liked her name, and I guess if you're born in the Jewish religion if someone in your family had the initial "F," you keep that tradition.

Heart to Heart d'Art

When: 6:30-10 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 14
Where: Park West Gallery, 29469 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield
What: A creative gala featuring visual and performing art, a strolling dinner, live auction and classic cars from J. Peter Ministrelli's private collection.
Why: To benefit the Ministrelli Women's Heart Center.
Goal: To raise \$275,000.
Tickets: \$275 per person.
Call the Beaumont Foundation at (248) 551-9951.



Florine Ministrelli

You and your husband recently made a donation valued at \$20 million, tell me about that.

We have the Ministrelli Heart Center, dedicated to women's health, and Empure, which is neurology. We donated both, including all the research and medical equipment.

We've done a lot in these areas to help people.

This is money that we've raised over years of involvement. We bought the equipment for the heart, including the 64 CT scanner, which takes photos of the heart 64 different ways. That is more apt to help people who don't know what's wrong with them and are trying to find out what's wrong with their heart.

What is your focus?

Being a woman I'm more involved in the Ministrelli Heart Center for women. We're trying to help poor people. The money will go into a fund so we can't turn people away who don't have insurance and need care.

How did you get involved with the cause?

I got involved six or seven years ago. It's been wonderful — the attention has been overwhelming — so it's there for people to go to. You're never too young to have a heart check-up, especially if it's in the family.

Has heart disease touched your life?

I've had two relatives who are

women that have died of heart attacks. At that time I didn't know that women had heart attacks.

All these years later, we were approached by Beaumont to do a women's heart center. I think cancer, heart disease and diabetes, those three are the biggest health battles we face today, and of course all that goes along with high blood pressure and obesity.

What about your upcoming event?

We try to raise money in a fun way where women can get involved. It's going so good right now that we don't have to push like we used to. Women are coming out of the woodwork and taking charge of themselves and their health. Finally all we've done is paying off.

What about Heart to Heart d'Art?

We had our first Heart to Heart d'Art at Mercedes-Benz, and this one will be at Park West. We are so looking forward to this one. It's going to be so great.

We have fabulous prizes, wonderful auction items, great music, delicious food. I don't know what more anyone would want — and me, I'll be there!

What are you wearing?

I can't tell you that. It's a surprise. What I can tell you is that it's a custom suit made up for the affair.

The Pink Fund

Local survivor auctions bust for new cause

Everyone deals with the diagnosis and treatment of a disease differently. One local breast cancer patient decided to create an everlasting memory of her body pre-surgery and is now using it to launch a new organization to help cancer patients and their families.

Breast cancer survivor Molly MacDonald of Birmingham put a bust of both breasts up for auction on eBay Oct. 1. Her goal was to raise awareness of the way the disease affects entire families. The bust was painted and adorned by artist Nance Aitchison of Grosse Pointe.

MacDonald first thought of creating the plaster cast after receiving her diagnosis. She and her husband saw it as a way to deal with their anxiety. With friends in attendance, she cast her fate in alginate, water, plaster and bandages from collarbone to waist.

MacDonald's subsequent treatment led to a partial mastectomy followed by six weeks of radiation. She learned from her surgeon that it might be possible she would lose her entire breast if the cancer proved to be wider spread. She is currently cancer free.

The auction is designed to generate



Birmingham breast cancer survivor Molly MacDonald with a cast of her former self, currently up for sale on eBay.

monies to fund MacDonald's new organization, The Pink Fund. Unlike many other breast cancer organizations, The Pink Fund does not raise monies for research of the disease. Instead it is conceived to help survivors deal with the financial issues associated with treatment, and help prevent them from losing their residence, transportation or basic health insurance.

According to the American Cancer Society, 211,000 American women will receive a breast cancer diagnosis this year. One in eight women will receive the diagnosis in her lifetime. Thankfully, survival rates are hovering around 88 percent after five years, but the cost of treatment, which usually lasts for six months, are rarely

anticipated and a family can quickly experience financial stresses as daunting as the illness itself.

"My breast cancer diagnosis took my career on a six month detour, during which time our family had only my husband's income, which was not enough to support us," MacDonald said. "There were times I was afraid we would lose our home, our medical insurance or both."

The Pink Fund has three goals: to educate the public about the financial impact of the disease, to steer women toward financial assistance, and to provide job placement support.

"Women in treatment often have to leave their jobs, take a leave of absence or lose their jobs over breast cancer," MacDonald said. "Medicaid only provides insurance. There is not a single program to my knowledge that helps women make a house, rent or car payment."

The bust is currently on display at Lisa's Gift Wrappers, 22834 Woodward Ave. in Royal Oak. Owner Lisa Gleeson will donate the cost of wrapping and shipping the bust to the winning bidder.

For more information on The Pink Fund, visit www.ThePinkFund.org. To bid on the bust through Oct. 31, search for it on www.ebay.com.

Rosy Cheeks!

How PINK gals stay healthy

We asked some local PINK Ladies to share their secrets to stress relief and good health. Here's a snapshot of what they said:

No TV dinners

I use a business in Canton called Dinner Thyme. You pay \$225 to prepare 12 main entrees. They give you the ingredients, containers to put your prepared food in and cooking instructions. You literally come home, put it all in your freezer, then take out one dish a day to make for your family. With soccer practices, Girl Scouts and other after school activities, it's so important to have a quality meal and spend time connecting at the end of

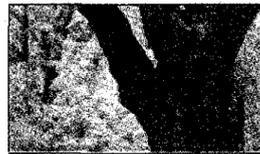
the day. For fitness, it's going outside with the family!

Whether you have kids or not, go for a bike ride, a walk, throw a ball around. One of our favorites is a competitive game of 4-Square after dinner in the driveway. Shut off the TV and get outside!

Jill Engel,
Canton

Earth mothering

I work in a job that is extremely stressful at this time of the year. The evenings have been getting a little cooler and there is nothing I enjoy better than to go out in my gardens and start to put them to sleep. Being One With the



Earth' is a definite stress-reliever for me! At this time of the year, I am starting to put my garden art away and cutting back some perennials. It is also a good time to start moving plants around and envisioning what it can look like next year.

Mary Beth Conger,
Livonia

Healthy habits

I am trying to find my waist, and getting results with twice-weekly Pilates class. Cara Vanderbeek at World Gym, Rochester is the trainer and she is fabulous. I had a wake-up call this summer and had to have a heart catheterization,

but everything was fine. I maintain my daily regime of a baby aspirin a day and real oatmeal cooked in the microwave with skim milk and half a sliced banana.

Elaine Ohno,
Rochester

Active lunch breaks

I've lost 28 pounds and a boatload of inches since this past December. I use my lunch breaks to the best of my ability. I receive an hour and I work out for 45 minutes, then shower and get dressed with the remaining 15. I also wake up early in the morning and have a workout before work — this way I do not have to worry about working out at night unless I want to. I keep my fitness life creative by enjoying different classes at Lifetime Fitness and using my work gym at Valassis.

Tara Michener,
Novi

pink picks

Wear It!

'Feel Your Boobies' cap sleeve tee



Kick It!

essie pink ribbon polish on your toes

Tote It!

Susan G. Komen Foundation Polka Dot Pink Ribbon Tote



Eat It!

Pink Ribbon Bagels at Panera Bread

Use It!

Tweezerman Slant Tweezers



Read It!

Better Homes & Gardens Pink Plaid Cookbook



Experience It!

Barbara Ann Karmanos Heroes of Breast Cancer Awards on Oct. 17

Face It!

Stila BCA It Gloss Trio



Buy It!

3M pink ribbon lint brushes at Costco

Indulge It!

Aveda Hand Relief



Do It!

A breast self-exam

pink list

Sweetest Day Indulgence

Sweetest Day is Oct. 21, but you can celebrate all month long at Euphoria and Co. The Southfield spa is offering special chocolate-infused treatments for happy lovebirds throughout October. Pamper with indulgent manicures and pedicures, or go all out with a couples massage followed by chocolate covered fruit and mimosas. Packages range from \$65-\$200. Mention PINK for \$5 off services through Oct. 31. Euphoria & Co. is located in the North Park Towers in Southfield. Call (248) 559-5414.

Hot Topics in Women's Health

Henry Ford Medical Center-West Bloomfield continues its popular series "Hot Topics in Women's Health" with "Who's Looking Out for You?" 6-7:30 p.m. tonight at the Jewish Community Center, Handelman Hall, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Henry Ford experts and physicians will discuss the role of the family physician at this free seminar, which includes valet parking and refreshments. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. and the seminar is 6-7:30 p.m. Call 1-800-HENRYFORD.

Real Big Hair Ball

Get ready for the annual hair show that's as eccentric as its name. Salons across Metro Detroit are gathering once again to present the latest and wildest hair, makeup, choreography and style during performance art skits at this popular event Sunday, Oct. 15. Doors open at the Royal Oak Music Theatre at 7 p.m., and the show starts promptly at 8 p.m. Tickets, \$15, are available at participating salons (including 6 Salon in Royal Oak, Macy's Premier Salon at Oakland Mall and Urban Roots in Plymouth) or for \$25 at the door, and benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. For more information visit www.HairBallShow.com.

What Girl's CRAVE

Paper work, laundry, cleaning, cooking, crying kids, testy bosses ... run away from it all at CRAVE's "French Market" getaway. Grab a coffee and browse racks of boutique wares and chic jewelry as the Inn at St. John's of Plymouth is transformed into a crave-worthy shopping and spa party 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14. Tickets, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, include a Parisian-style breakfast, live beauty makeovers, fashion shows, great deals and a goody bag stuffed with a subscription to Spa Magazine. Spa services can be purchased a la carte. Visit www.craveparty.com or call (734) 277-7785.

Brighton's Power of Pink

Support Breast Cancer Awareness month by purchasing a Power of Pink charm bracelet at participating Brighton retailers. For every \$50 bracelet purchased through Oct. 31, Brighton will donate \$5 to the cause. Visit www.brighton.com for information and locations.

Clinique Bonus Time

Receive your special Clinique bonus gift with any Clinique purchase of \$21.50 or more Oct. 18-Nov. 5 at Von Maur Laurel Park Place, 37500 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 432-6949.

Macy's Bridal Trunk Shows

If you've got a date with the aisle, be sure to do some dress shopping at the Macy's Bridal Salon at Somerset. On Oct. 13-15, the salon will host a Vera Wang Trunk Show featuring elegantly modern gowns by the designer who revolutionized the genre. From Oct. 27-29, the salon will feature a trunk show of bridal couture by Ines Di Santo, who has said: "A wedding gown is an expression of the bride's personality. Her dress should complement her figure, her mannerisms, and mirror her personal style and aura." Appointment recommended. Call (248) 816-4270.

Sephora Fragrance Event

Layer up for fall ... fragrances that is! Join Sephora Somerset's fragrance experts noon-5 p.m. Oct. 14 to learn the key to help your fragrances stay on longer and smell sweeter as cool weather approaches. Call (248) 458-0100.

Vera Wang Evening Wear

Find the perfect cocktail dress or evening gown for the season's soirees at Von Maur Laurel Park Place hosts a Vera Wang Trunk Show 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14. Refreshments included. Call (734) 432-6949.

Liz Claiborne Work Style

Need help with your work wardrobe? Join Liz Claiborne and Glamour for a Wear to Work Style Event. Enjoy a fashion presentation, personal shopping and a complimentary gift bag, starting at 1 p.m. Oct. 14 at Macy's, Twelve Oaks.

Fall Bridal Show

If you're looking for a venue for your wedding, check out Twin Lakes Golf Course and Swim Club during its Fall Bridal Show on Sunday, Oct. 15. Have all your wedding day questions answered by Tara Cody and Julie Metz of Twin Lakes, and get special deals at this Matt Prentice site. Book Oct. 15-20 and get a free chocolate fountain table, valued at \$8 per guest. Find out more about 15-20 percent off food and beverages for weddings booked at select times through June, 2007. Call (248) 646-0370.

Lladro Signing Event

Maria José Lladro will introduce Lladro's new Utopia Collection during a special event to benefit Operation Smile set for 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15 at the Lladro Boutique, Somerset. The Utopia Collection consists of 18 handcrafted sculptures that reflect the unique style of the classic Spanish porcelain designers. Lladro will sign pieces purchased that day, and will donate 10 percent of proceeds to Operation Smile, which raises funds and awareness to provide free reconstructive facial surgery to children in developing countries worldwide. For information, visit www.lladro.com.