

**ENDORSEMENT RECAP**  
SEE OUR VIEWS, PAGE A12.  
**CIRCUIT COURT Q&A**  
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Look inside for  
**MONEY SAVING COUPONS!**

**NINE JOBS THAT AREN'T ENTRY LEVEL BUT DON'T REQUIRE A DEGREE**  
CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

**OV crawl**

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents the 14th annual Old Village Restaurant Crawl 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8.

This year, the Crawl features five eateries — Hermann's Olde Towne Grille, JoJo's Treats & Sweets, Liberty Street Brewing Co., Plymouth Fish & Seafood and Station 885. Since last year's event sold out, chamber officials are encouraging people to buy tickets now.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. They can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, in downtown Plymouth and participating businesses. Tickets can also be purchased over the phone by calling (734) 453-1540.

Call the chamber at (734) 453-1540 for more information.

**School supply golf**

The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township announced a promotion to support school supply collection efforts of the Plymouth Community United Way. From Aug. 5-11, patrons who donate a new backpack with at least four school supply items inside will be given a voucher for free golf to be used at a later date. Backpacks and supplies should be brought to the St. John's Pro Shop, where golf vouchers will be distributed.

**Cemetery walk**

The Plymouth Historical Museum is offering a walking tour of Plymouth's Shearer Cemetery 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18. Historian Darrin Silvester will guide participants through the cemetery, recounting stories of the lives of those buried in the cemetery.

Meet at the cemetery, which is just west of Plymouth at 45226 N. Territorial Road. Parking is available in the First United Methodist Church lot at 45201 N. Territorial.

For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

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**Clerks foresee primary turnout of 20-35 percent**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Not even a crowded field of candidates for local offices will bring voter participation much above 30 percent for Tuesday's primary election in Plymouth Township.

That's Clerk Joe Bridgman's prediction for voter participation in Tuesday's race, in which 20 candidates for township positions will appear on the ballot, along with hopefuls in races for the Michigan House of Representatives, the U.S. House of

Representative, the U.S. Senate and the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't do much for (turnout), believe it or not," Bridgman said of the township race, which — if election rhetoric and controversies over campaign signs and candidate forums are a measure — is hotly contested. "I'd like to see 80-percent turnout, like we get for the presidential."

Bridgman said he expects voter participation to be between 31 percent and 35 percent. There are about 22,100 township voters

eligible to vote in the election.

In the state primary two years ago, Bridgman said, some 32 percent of voters cast ballots, and in the 2008 primary, the last time there was a primary for township candidates, 31 percent participated.

As of around noon Friday, more than 2,400 absentee primary ballots had been returned of the nearly 3,900 that had been sent out by Bridgman's office.

On the ballot in the township election on the Republican side are Supervisor Richard Reaume, who is unopposed

in the primary but has a general election challenger; Treasurer Ron Edwards; Bridgman; and incumbent trustees Bob Doroshewitz, Kay Arnold and Mike Kelly. Challenging Edwards for treasurer is Edwin Schulz, challenging Bridgman for clerk is Nancy Conzelman, and running for trustee are Jennifer Mann, Christopher Hull, Andrew Justus, Paul Schulz, Art Butler, Jenai Stepp, Sandy Groth, former trustee Chuck Curmi, Don Schnetter and Mark Christenson.

Please see CLERKS, A2



Pam Diamantis lights the traditional flaming Kasserí cheese at Plymouth's new Greek Islands restaurant.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**New Greek Islands adds to downtown restaurant options**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

A new downtown Plymouth restaurant combines a grand historic building with a Mediterranean-themed interior and an expanded menu of Greek, American and Coney Island-style food.

Greek Islands opened late last month in a 99-year-old former bank building on Main Street at Penniman. The fourth Greek Islands location in a small local chain — the others are in Birmingham, West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills — the restaurant has been much anticipated since plans for it were announced last November.

"It's an awesome building," said Stefan Stefanakis, who owns the restaurant with his father George and a brother-in-law who lives in another state. The family carefully remodeled the building, he said, having the exterior clock fixed, uncovering and restoring gold ceiling accents and adding large new windows and awnings. The old bank vault, with extra-thick walls, is now the restaurant's freezer.

"It was a long run," but worth it, Stefanakis said. The restaurant, with an interior featuring a clay-tile-like motif over the kitchen area, a 29-foot ceiling with a painted sky and clouds and a whimsical painting of the Greek god

Zeus holding court with other gods and goddesses, "Last Supper"-style, was busy late Thursday morning.

Stefanakis said his aim is to provide Plymouth with another option for family-friendly dining, and that he hopes to create a reputation for Greek Islands as a good breakfast spot.

"Everything's going smoothly," he said. "I'm really happy with what's going on."

Greek Islands's menu includes some traditional Coney Island fare, such as Coney dogs, burgers, salads and chili, plus Greek dishes like moussaka, spinach pie,

Please see ISLANDS, A6

**Absentees receive special primary applications**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Regular absentee voters in Plymouth and Plymouth Township should have recently received absentee ballot applications for the Tuesday, Sept. 5, special primary in Michigan's 11th Congressional District.

It's a confusing situation, township Clerk Joe Bridgman said, that stems from last month's resignation of Thaddeus McCotter, who represented the district for nearly 10 years. The Plymouths are two of the many communities in the western Wayne County and Oakland County district.

A replacement for the last few weeks of McCotter's term will be chosen during the November general election, and with five Republicans in the field, a special primary is needed to pick a nominee. The primary will cost district communities an estimated \$650,000, including between \$20,000 and \$30,000 in the township and about \$10,000 in the city.

The Republican candidates are Nancy Cassis, Kerry Bentilovio, Kenneth Crider, Carolyn Kavanaugh and Steve King. There is only one Democrat, David Curson.

Plymouth Clerk Linda Langmesser said she included a letter explaining the situation with the absentee applications. But people nonetheless have been calling and stopping by to ask, she said.

"We're just explaining to them the reason for the application and the election," she said. "They're OK with it, but they're not OK with the cost of the election."

Meanwhile, voters this Tuesday will pick both a Republican and a Democrat to run for Congress in a new district, one that was said to be drawn for McCotter. With McCotter out of the running — he did not turn in enough petition signatures in May to qualify for the ballot, which precipitated events that led to his quitting the House — Bentilovio is the only Republican on that ballot, although Cassis is mounting a write-in campaign.

On the Democratic side, Syed Taj, a Canton Township trustee, and Bill Roberts are on the primary ballot.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

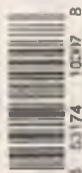
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Auto Home Life Retirement

### CLERKS

Continued from page A1

On the Democratic ballot are treasurer hopeful Rita White and trustee hopefuls Alanna Maguire and Joanne Lamar. With at least one vote, all three will make it through the primary.

#### Plymouth prediction

In Plymouth, Clerk Linda Langmesser forecast a voter participation rate of between 20 percent and 24 percent. Plymouth has no local issues or candidates on Tuesday's ballot.

Friday, Langmesser said her office had received 511 absentee ballots of the 764 it had issued.

"It's typical for this type of election," she said.

Plymouth has about 7,100 voters eligible to vote in the primary.

Absentee voters must get their ballots to the clerk's office in their community before 8 p.m. Tuesday for them to be counted. Voters who expect to be unable to make it to their polling places Tuesday can still apply for, and receive, an absentee ballot at the clerk's office, but the ballot cannot be taken from township hall, or city hall in the case of Plymouth voters, and must be voted and returned by 4 p.m. Monday.

On Tuesday, polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters who are in line by 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

Unlike a general election, voters in the primary have to pick either a Republican or a Democratic ballot; crossover voters will spoil their ballots.

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2405

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

#### CLASS REUNION

**Date/Time:** Friday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m. to midnight

**Location:** Laurel Manor, 3900 Schoolcraft, Livonia

**Details:** Combined 1982 Plymouth Canton/Plymouth Salem 30-year reunion. Deadline to order tickets is Aug. 1. Tickets can be ordered thru: <https://sites.google.com/site/cantonsalem1982>, or [www.facebook.com/groups/cantonsalem1982](http://www.facebook.com/groups/cantonsalem1982) or [cantonsalem1982@gmail.com](mailto:cantonsalem1982@gmail.com) for \$45 per person. Dinner, dancing, D.J. provided.

#### POM CLINIC

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Aug. 25, 9-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Canton High School North (Phase 3)

**Details:** The Canton Chieftettes host their pom pon clinic for potential cheerleaders ages 5-14. Students will learn pom pon techniques and a short dance routine. Parents will be treated to a performance at 11:30 a.m. Participants will also perform at the Canton High School varsity football game Aug. 30. Cost is \$45 for pre-registration, \$50 at the door.

**Contact:** Pre-register at [www.cantonchieftettes.com](http://www.cantonchieftettes.com); call (734) 397-1782 for more information.

#### GOOD GRIEF GOLF

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Sept. 8, shotgun start at 10 a.m.

**Location:** Tanglewood Golf Club in South Lyon

**Details:** New Hope Center for Grief Support hosts the 14th annual "Good Grief" golf outing will be held. The proceeds from this outing will benefit New Hope Center for Grief Support, a bereavement outreach center located in Northville. New Hope provides free grief support services and resources to men, women, teens, and children

### AROUND PLYMOUTH

throughout southeastern Michigan. The cost for this four-person scramble, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, dinner, contests, and prizes, is \$125. Dinner only is \$35 per person.

**Contact:** For information about sponsorship opportunities or registration information, contact Carol Spennachio at (248) 348-0115 and visit [www.newhopecenter.net](http://www.newhopecenter.net).

#### KIDZ KAMP

**Date/Time:** Aug. 16-17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Location:** Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold, Northville

**Details:** New Hope Center for Grief Support presents the third annual KIDZ KAMP, a safe place for a grieving child to come share his or her own unique story with other grieving children. Knowing they are not alone offers them hope. Sharing their story helps with their healing. Music, games, crafts, lunch—a time of healing and fun. The camp will have adult supervision with approximately one adult for every five children. Children ages 4-12 are invited to attend but 4-year-olds must be accompanied by an adult. The camp (including supplies and lunch) is free, but space is limited.

**Contact:** To register or get more information, contact New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115 or [www.newhopecenter.net](http://www.newhopecenter.net).

#### HOSPICE SUPPORT

**Date/Time:** Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

**Details:** Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journal writing as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

**Contact:** To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care

Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050, or email [achristensen@cchnet.net](mailto:achristensen@cchnet.net).

#### TINY TOTS

**Location:** The Salvation Army Plymouth, 9451 S. Main

**Details:** The Plymouth Salvation Army is taking registration for its Tiny Tots Preschool and Young 5s program. Classes range from 2-4 days a week, depending on the child's age. A four-day Young 5s program is new for 2012/13.

**Contact:** Sheila Johnson, preschool director, (734) 453-5464, Ext. 27, or email [sheila\\_johnson@usc.salvation-army.org](mailto:sheila_johnson@usc.salvation-army.org)

#### MOPS MEETINGS

**Date/Time:** First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth  
**Details:** The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

**Contact:** Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail [stekmops@gmail.com](mailto:stekmops@gmail.com), or visit [www.stekmops.org](http://www.stekmops.org).

#### DIABETES SUPPORT

**Date/Time:** 2nd Thursday of the month, 2-3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth

**Details:** The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies.

**Contact:** Call Fern Vining at (734) 454-0859.

### CORRECTION

A story on the front page of Thursday's *Plymouth Observer*, "Friends, fans cheer hometown hero to Olympic gold medal," incorrectly stated that swimmer Missy Franklin of the U.S. won a bronze medal in the women's 200-meter freestyle at the Olympics in London. The bronze was won by Australian Bronte Barratt; Franklin finished fourth.

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## Real BarBQ swaps dessert for school supplies

Many children look forward to arriving on the first day of school with new notebooks, backpacks, and writing supplies, but some residents know it's a different story for children whose fam-

ilies cannot afford these items. Real BarBQ of Canton wants to help raise awareness and help kids in the community who are in need, so they are offering an incentive

for the community to donate. From Monday, Aug. 6, through Friday, Aug. 17, Real BarBQ at 42452 Ford Road at Lilley in Canton is offering a complimentary dessert to

patrons who bring in school supplies valued at \$5 or more. Collected school supplies will then be given to the Salvation Army as part of their "Back to School Blitz" program.

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# Johnson Controls partners in environmental jobs program

Detroit-area teens are putting their green thumbs to work thanks to Johnson Controls, a global diversified technology and industry leader serving customers in more than 150 countries.

Eighty high school students participated in the Conservation Leadership Corps, a summer jobs program created and sponsored by Johnson Controls in collaboration with the Student Conservation Association and The Greening of Detroit. In its fifth year in Detroit, the CLC promotes environmental conservation and the development of professional leadership and job skills, while students complete fundamental environmental projects in local community parks.

"These high school students will have the unique opportunity to receive hands-on work experience," said Jennifer Mattes, director, global public affairs for Johnson Controls. "The Conservation Leadership Corps not only focuses on developing professional skills, but also shows the students the importance of environmental conservation."

Throughout the course of the program, students work with crew leaders and focus their efforts in Detroit's Rouge Park, Belle Isle Park, Eliza Howell Park, Brightmoor neighborhood, D-Town Farm and Singing Tree Farm. Student crews participated in a series of projects, including native planting, new trail development and maintenance, outdoor classroom construction, invasive plant



Detroit Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) — 80 Detroit high school students participating in a green summer jobs program created and sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc., in partnership with Student Conservation Association and The Greening of Detroit — held a Volunteer Greening Day on Wednesday, Aug. 1. Johnson Controls employees worked alongside the Detroit CLC teams at several Detroit-area locations for a shared environmental learning experience.

species removal, acreage expansion, and general operations and maintenance. They also will receive job-readiness skills instruction, including help with resume writing, interview skills and personal finance management.

The CLC participants were selected from more than 550 applicants based on their successful completion of a three-step, two-month tryout process. Student candidates were assessed on work ethic, leadership ability, civic engagement and commitment to the environment.

On Wednesday, Johnson Controls employees learned from the students as they volunteered to work in the field alongside the CLC teams at several Detroit-area locations for an environmental learning experience. Activities will include planting, developing and maintaining trails, and

removing invasive plant species.

On Aug. 10, the students will participate in a professional development day — hosted by Johnson Controls' Automotive Experience business in Plymouth — where they will learn the importance of sustainability, energy efficiency and renewable resources in the fields of automotive interior design and engineering, building efficiency and hybrid battery technology.

Career-focused information from each of Johnson Controls' businesses — Automotive Experience, Building Efficiency and Power Solutions — will be presented.

The program will culminate in a graduation ceremony Aug. 17 at Belle Isle Park, where the CLC students, crew leaders and community partners will acknowledge and present awards to the CLC teams.

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- 3 lbs. EMS's Homemade Fresh Sausage
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- 3 lbs. Amish Boneless Chicken Breasts
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- 2 lbs. New York Strip Steaks
- 3 lbs. Sirloin Tip or Rump Roast
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<sup>2</sup>Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 07/20/2012. See branch for details.

## Chinese educators tour W-W's career center

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

East met West Monday in the commons of Wayne-Westland's William D. Ford Career Technical Center, as school officials showed off the center's automotive programs to a group of visiting Chinese educators.

The group, automotive instructors at Xinjiang Communication Technical College in Urumqi in northwest China, were on a three-day trip to the Detroit area to see the American automotive manufacturing system and how students are prepared for automotive careers.

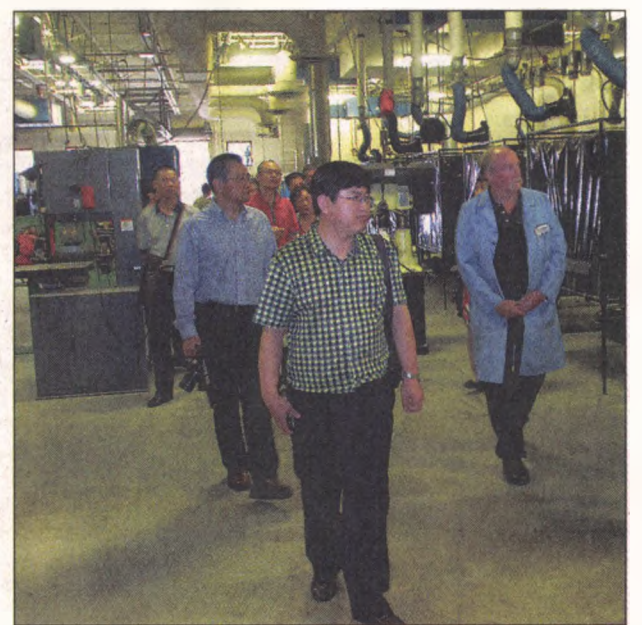
"Here, the lessons are very good, the equipment and the teachers are better," one Chinese educator said. "In China, the number of students is huge, the buildings are larger, but the lessons are not too good. In Chinese classrooms, teachers talk and students have less time to do things."

His comments came after a tour of the center's automotive and welding classrooms, led by Jim Schirmer, automotive technology instructor for the center's high school program. Schirmer was joined by Mark Batko, who teaches the adult program, center Assistant Principal Sue Wilk and Job Placement Coordinator Cindy Candella in hosting the visit, set up by Thomas Fisher of SPX Service Solutions.

"This is the second year we've done this," Fisher said. "It's a reward for the top instructors. It also allows them to



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Interpreter Oliver Zhang translates comments made by Sue Wilk, assistant principal at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, for 20 Chinese educators.



Automotive Technology instructor Jim Schirmer (right) shows Chinese educators who teach automotive technology at Xinjiang Communication Technical College in Urumqi, the welding classroom at the career technical center.

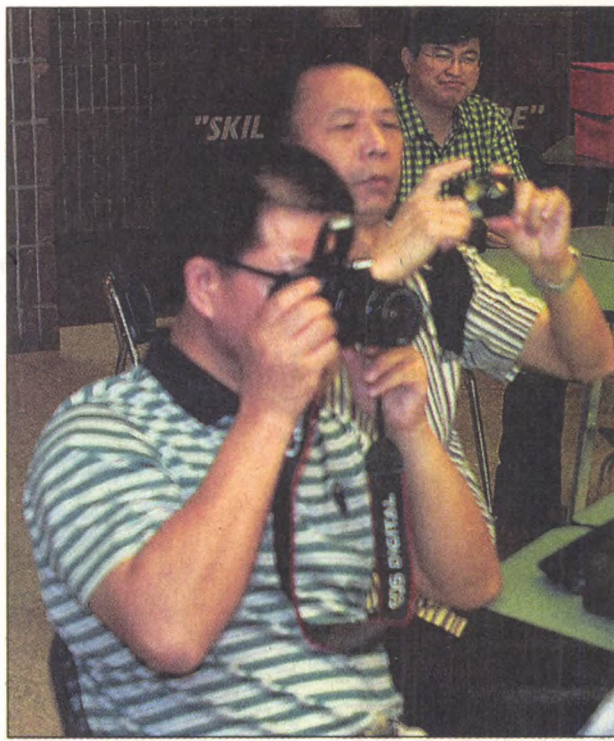
benchmark how their training is being done."

The group arrived Sunday in Detroit for a three-day visit that included the Rouge Factory tour, a self-guided tour of The Henry Ford and a stop at the career technical center. SPX partners with the Automotive Youth Educational Systems and works with the center and "the folks in China," Fisher said.

The career technical center draws students from several school districts, including Redford Union, South Redford, Van Buren and Inkster, providing training in 19 different fields. The programs are hands-on learning.

"Our day is structured like a day on the job," Schirmer told the group. "The students start off by punching in on a time clock. They do a little of everything."

Class work is a small



Huang Zhi Yuan (left) and Diayu Hang take pictures of the staff at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

part of what the students do. Most learning

is done working on vehicles people bring in to be repaired. Some learn-

ing is computer-based or through videos and, according to Schirmer, some lessons are being transformed into web-based instruction.

"You used to have to be a master of everything, but now it's just in time learning," Schirmer said.

He told the teachers that the most important thing is to have a teacher who can connect with students and make them want to learn.

"There's not a lot of difference between our students and yours," he said. "Not all of our students go to college, but because they go into the trades, they shouldn't feel bad because they're doing something others can't do."

The Chinese educators were impressed with the program, taking photographs of everything they saw and everyone they met. But the most popular activity was posing for photographs

in Schirmer's blue lab coat with its eye-catching shoulder patch, proclaiming him as a certified master technician through the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence. That's one of two certifications students can get. The other is through the state of Michigan.

"This is very good, I like it," said one educator who posed with Schirmer wearing the blue coat.

The visit is a prelude to the start of school when, for the first time in three years, the enrollment will be more than 1,100 students.

"Expanding our programs has been a big draw for a lot of districts," Wilk said. "These classes are expensive for each district to do alone. We have a proven track record and a good reputation in the community."

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# Food pantry aided by Arctic Edge festival

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Arctic Edge Ice Arena employees estimated that nearly 600 people attended a Family Fun Fest that helped raise money for Canton-based Open Door Ministry, a local food pantry that feeds 460 area families every week and helps them find jobs.

Brook Boggs, arena marketing specialist, said the three-hour event last weekend drew more than twice the number of visitors organizers had expected.

"We thought we might get 300 people," she said. "We were very pleased with the turnout."

Families and particularly children enjoyed free activities, such as open skating, face-painting, balloon sculpting and ice cream, though the event had a serious component for aiding Open Door Ministry.

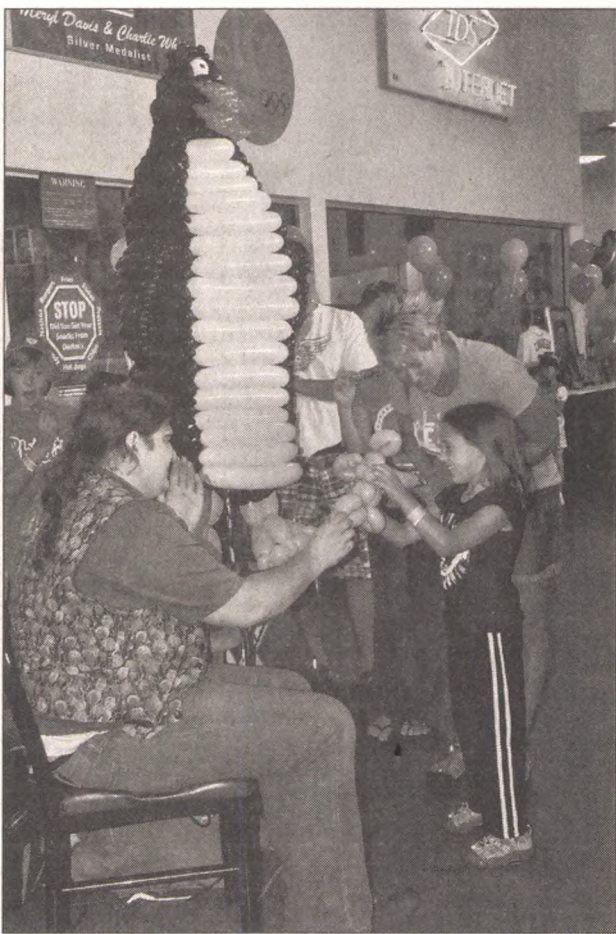
Early tabulations indicated a strong response to the effort.

"Our raffle proceeds and a portion of a sports memorabilia silent auction helped us earn \$1,600 to donate to the Open Door Ministry," Jonathan Castine, Arctic Edge marketing and design specialist, said Tuesday.

As more money rolled in, the amount had climbed to \$1,718 by Thursday.

Raffle prizes included an academic evaluation by Huntington Learning Center, a Summit on the Park birthday party package and a one-night stay in a jacuzzi suite at Canton's Holiday Inn Express, among numerous other gifts.

Children also had an opportunity to meet Arctic Edge's new mascot, Artie Edge, who took to the ice with youngsters.



PHOTOS BY JOHN CASTINE | HOCKEY WEEKLY

Tim Thurmond, balloon sculptor, created balloon animals for over three hours and spent five hours earlier in the day on the large penguin to his left. Lindsay Allen, 6, of Canton gets an elephant balloon as her mom Lisa looks on.

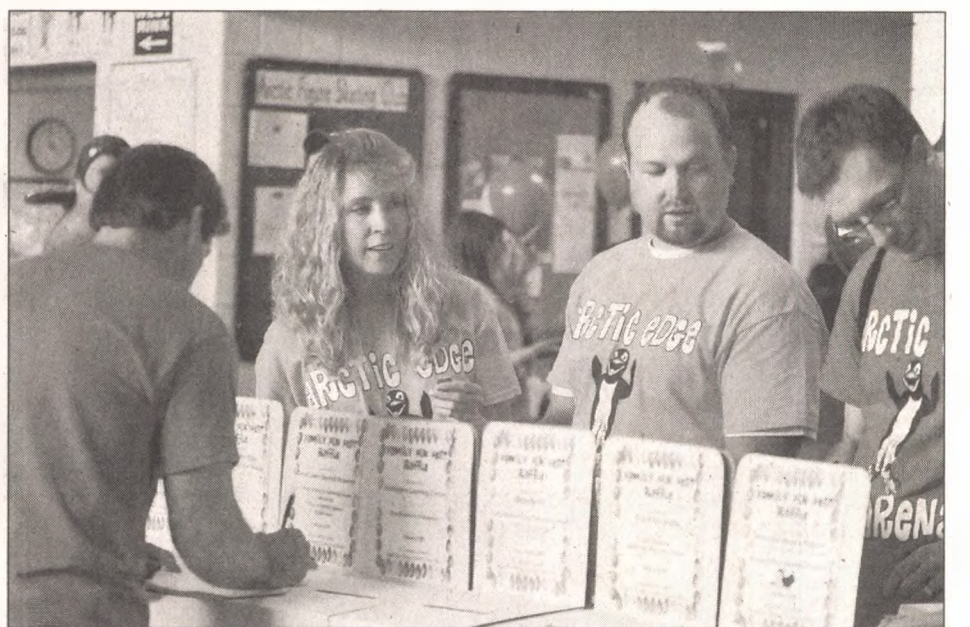


Open Door Ministry food pantry volunteers Michele Yoder (from left), who runs the jobs program, and ministry co-Directors Jackie and Steve Darr at the Family Fun Fest.

They also were wowed by acclaimed balloon sculptor Tim Thurmond, who brought a 6-foot-tall pen-



Sophie Wegryn, right, of Ypsilanti gets flower art on her hand by one of five face painters at the Fun Fest.



Arctic Edge marketing employees Brook Boggs and Jonathan Castine (middle) pull winning tickets for the event raffle.

guin made of balloons.

Open Door Ministry Director Steve Darr had called it "fantastic" that Arctic Edge helped out the food pantry, which has seen demand for help

increase.

One of Open Door's biggest projects has become raising money to buy the vast warehouse, on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue, that it had leased

since 2003.

For more on the ministry, go to [www.opendoor-foodministry.org](http://www.opendoor-foodministry.org).

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## ISLANDS

Continued from page A1

gyros, chicken lemon rice soup and Greek salad. There are plenty of sides, too, plus desserts (baklava and rice pudding among them) and a children's menu.

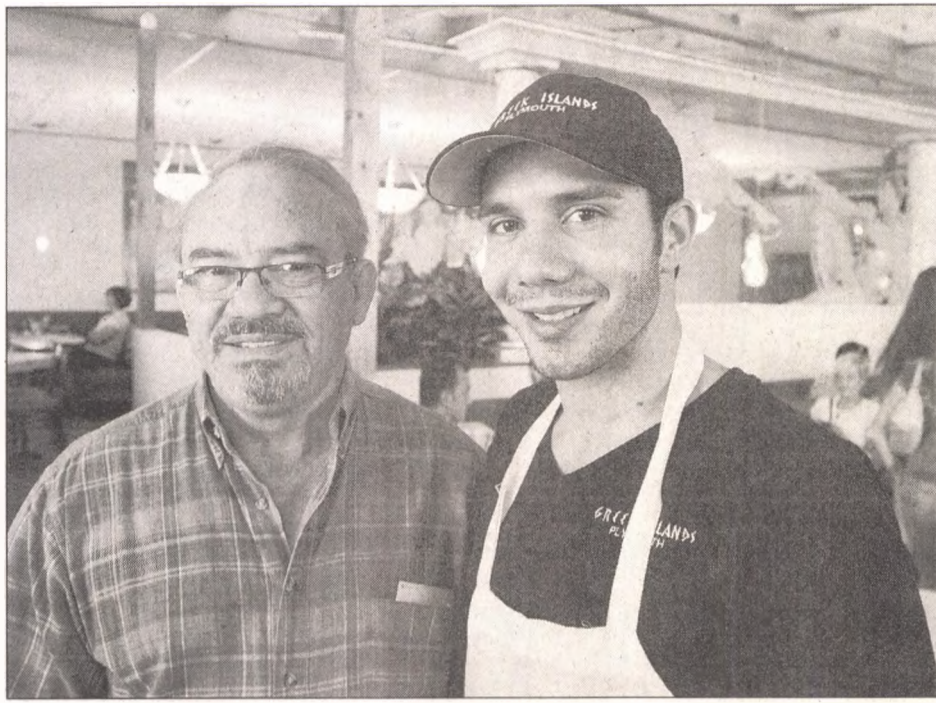
There are also a lot of breakfast items — eggs, meats, pancakes and omelettes — and breakfast is served anytime. Stefanakis said a number of breakfast offerings, such as Michigan pancakes (with walnuts and cherries), the three breakfast skillet (meat, veggie and gyros) and the Monte Cristo French toast (with ham, bacon, Swiss cheese and scrambled eggs) aren't found on other Greek Islands menu, and that he hopes they will help his place break into the downtown breakfast market.

Stefanakis's mother, Terrie Stefanakis, said everything is made fresh at the restaurant.

"I think that's one of the reasons we've been very successful, is that people get that homemade taste," she said.

Plymouth's Greek Islands is the only location that's family-owned; the three others are owned by George Stefanakis and non-family business partners, his son said.

Tony Bruscato, operations director of Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority, said the restaurant's opening



George Stefanakis and son Stefan Stefanakis opened Greek Islands at the corner of Main and Penniman streets.

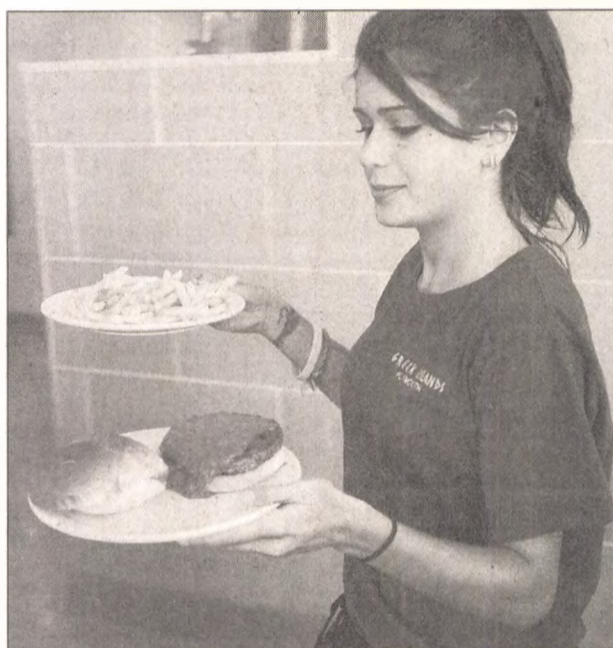
on such a central corner is an important development in downtown's continued success.

"I don't think that bank building had been repurposed into something that was really useful until now," Bruscato said.

Greek Islands seats about 160 people and has a 40-seat banquet room that can be used for private gatherings, such as office parties or birthday parties.

The hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
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Marissa Debenedet serves a chili burger and fries.

## Canton plans party to honor golden girl, Allison Schmitt

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

After earning four Olympic medals — two of them gold — Canton High School graduate and consummate swim star Allison Schmitt is certain to face an adoring fan base after she returns from London.

"We're hoping to have a big celebration in the community to welcome home our Olympic star," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Friday.

The details hadn't been worked out Friday, but Canton hopes to honor Schmitt for talents that have catapulted her to fame and made her medal-accepting smiles known around the world.

"We're planning on a big deal," LaJoy said.

Schmitt earned her second gold medal in as many days Wednesday and catapulted the United States in front in the anchor leg to clench the women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay in the London Summer Olympic games.

Schmitt also is likely to be honored at some

point by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, though nothing had been scheduled Friday as the star athlete and her family remained in London.

The school district posted a congratulatory message on its website, lauding Schmitt for her accomplishments.

At Canton's Summit on the Park, which has an aquatics center, Schmitt's Olympic wins have stirred conversation.

Jon LaFever, Canton Leisure Services recreation coordinator, said employees jokingly have said they would like to swim against Schmitt in a Summit pool.

"Everybody's really proud that she's from Canton and here we are again in the national spotlight with one of our own," LaFever said.

He said lifeguards and other Summit employees have been keeping up with Schmitt's medals.

"We're all watching," he said.

Schmitt was on Canton High School's swim team for four years.

dclcm@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2238



Canton High grad Allison Schmitt flashes a smile after winning the 200-meter freestyle to capture her first gold medal at the London Summer Olympic Games.

## P-C band boosters hold bottle drive

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band is seeking donations of returnable pop cans or plastic bottles on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Supporters who wish to donate can drop off returnables 7:30-9 a.m. at Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road in Canton.

The returnable can fundraiser was organized to raise money for the

marching band to travel to the Grand National Band Championships in Indianapolis in November.

People who would like to donate, can bring returnable cans or plastic bottles in a plastic bag to Plymouth High School, near the yellow trailer. Parent and student volunteers will be present to assist. No glass containers can be accepted.

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# Trustee candidate faces drunken driving charge

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Paul Schulz, a candidate for the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, faces trial later this month on a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Schulz is one of 13 Republicans in Tuesday's primary who are competing for four trustee spots on the November general election ballot.

Reached Friday, Schulz referred questions to attorney Rick Convertino, who said he and Schulz plan a strong defense and suggested that reporting on the arrest was politically motivated.

"We're contesting the alle-

gations vigorously, going to present a defense at trial, and I expect that Paul will be fully vindicated," Convertino said. He said he would not comment on specifics of the case.

Schulz was arrested about 4 a.m. March 18 at his home on Corinne south of Ann Arbor Road after township police responded to a report that a car had crashed into a mailbox up the street, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

Officers found a Ford Focus registered to Schulz in a ditch, and a witness, awakened by the noise, told them he had seen a man wearing a red shirt and black pants step from the driver's seat and walk south on

Corinne, the report said.

Schulz, the report said, was wearing a red shirt and black pants when he answered the door at his house. He admitted to having "a few beers," but said he was a passenger and that a woman was driving, the report said.

He suggested to police that the driver had gone back to the bar, and when an officer pointed out the bar had closed, he said that she may have gone to buy some beer, the report said.

Schulz, who smelled of alcohol and had slurred speech, refused sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test for alcohol, the report said.

At the police station, Schulz agreed to take a Breathalyzer,

but then changed his mind, police said. A warrant for blood testing was signed by 35th District Court Judge James Plakas, and blood was drawn at an Oakwood Hospital clinic in Canton Township, police said.

Police confirmed the test showed a blood-alcohol content of 0.26, more than three times the level, 0.08, at which a person is considered to have had too much alcohol to drive.

Police said the Focus had gone over two mailboxes before coming to rest in the ditch.

The case is before Judge Michael Gerou in district court where, a spokeswoman said, a Tuesday, Aug. 28, trial is scheduled. Last month, Gerou sus-

ended Schulz's license, pending the outcome of the case, for refusing a Breathalyzer.

Convertino, a former federal prosecutor who is running for a spot on the Wayne County Commission, suggested the case is being publicized by Schulz's political opponents.

"Somebody's trying to promote this case and put it out publicly," he said. "This may impact voters, and I don't think it's a fair story to run" because the allegations haven't been tested in court.

A first-time driving under the influence conviction carries a sentence of up to three months in jail.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

# Local Muslims reach out to community with event

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

After hosting events such as a 9/11 observance and a clothing drive to help the needy, the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs is again reaching out to the larger community by offering a free program and dinner,

or Iftaar, that refers to an evening meal when Muslims break their fast during the month of Ramadan.

The MCWS Outreach Committee has scheduled the breakfast-at-sunset gathering for 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, at the Canton Mosque, 40440 Palmer Road at Lotz. The

meal is set for 8:34 p.m.

The event is billed as an evening of "conversation and great food" in a flyer the MCWS is distributing to welcome the community.

The invitation and ways to sign up can be found at [www.breakfastatsunset.eventbrite.com](http://www.breakfastatsunset.eventbrite.com). More information also is avail-

able by sending an e-mail to [mcwsoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:mcwsoutreach@gmail.com).

It's not the first time MCWS has reached out to the larger Canton community in an effort to promote understanding and to build bridges within the community.

The Canton Mosque also hosted an obser-

vance on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks by assembling diverse religious groups at the mosque. Local Muslims also have collected coats and other clothing items to help needy families.

Last April, the MCWS was one of several religious groups to partici-

pate in a health fair hosted at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. The event was free and was intended to help people who lacked the health insurance they needed to pay for basic health screenings.

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- Polish American Congress
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- Michigan Court Officers

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# Taj supported by many physicians, far outspends Roberts

By Ken Abramczyk  
STAFF WRITER

Syed Taj has far outspent his opponent in the Democratic primary race in the 11th Congressional District, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Federal

Election Commission. Taj received \$278,723 in net contributions and



Taj

spent \$231,322 for the election cycle, the most of all of the candidates. He carried over a balance of \$78,448. Roberts has a balance of \$3,273, collecting \$11,804 and spending



Roberts

said Taj lent himself the money because he never anticipated he would have a primary.

\$7,925. Taj lent \$59,697 to his campaign.

Natalie Mosher, Taj's campaign manager,

"That really changed the whole budget issue," Mosher said. "He had to make sure he had enough money for that election. It isn't that unusual for a non-incumbent, and it's his first time out."

Taj, a Canton trustee, and William Roberts of Redford, a Lyndon LaRouche supporter, will be on the ballot in the primary election Tuesday

with the winner facing the Republican winner in the general election Nov. 6. That winner will serve a two-year term in the new 11th District.

This election is a separate one from the special primary election held on Sept. 5 to fill the vacancy in the current 11th District created by Thaddeus McCotter's resignation July 6.

Roberts wasn't concerned about how much Taj spent.

"We're focusing our campaign to get voters to help shape policy in Congress," Roberts said. Roberts is encouraging voters to call on Congress to stay in session until it passes HR 1489, the Glass Steagall Act, and wants President Barack Obama impeached.

A strong majority of Taj's campaign contributions are coming from physicians or others in the medical field.

"Doctors don't normally get involved in supporting political candidates, but they are excited that they have one of their own," Mosher said. "He understands the Affordable Health Care Act, he's practiced in Great Britain, India and the United States and who better to understand the background of health care."

Taj has received \$999 from West Oakland Democrats and \$250 from Plymouth Democratic Club. Among his expenses are \$3,745 for yard signs and \$486 for T-shirts from Events 2000 in Wayne. He also has spent money to rent office space in Novi for his campaign headquarters and to DTE for electrical service there.

Mosher said Taj knew the race would be expensive.

"He's not concerned," Mosher said. "We need to get through the primary. There's people who are waiting on the sideline, but now with these latest endorsements (AFL-CIO and NOW) that you will see some significant movement that will be ongoing."


Roberts has collected \$8,992 from individuals through this election cycle. He reported \$577 spent on yard signs from Sawicki & Sons, \$221 in banners and \$369 in printing from Detroit Print Shop. He also spent another \$600 in signs from Buildasign.com in Austin, Texas.

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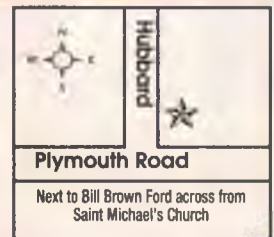
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FRI/SAT LS 11:20

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Ⓞ STEP UP REVOLUTION (PG-13)  
11:15, 4:45

Ⓞ THE WATCH (R)  
12:20, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45  
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

Ⓞ THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG-13)  
11:25, 11:40, 2:45, 3:00, 6:05, 6:20, 9:20, 9:35  
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT (PG)  
11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

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# Campaign costs exceed \$500,000

## Cassis fronts herself funds for campaign; Bentivolio gets boost from Super PAC

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

Candidates in the 11th Congressional District race and others spent over \$500,000 with what the candidates hope will carry them to a win in Tuesday's primary election.

One of them, Kerry Bentivolio, received a significant boost from Super Political Action Committee money, to the tune of \$146,007, between July 23 and 29 alone, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Elections Commission.

A Super PAC is an organization that can spend an unlimited amount of money for or against a political candidate, Super PACs are a mechanism that organizations can legally bypass contributing directly to a candidate, who is limited to \$2,500 from individuals for each election. Federal election laws prohibit super PACs from spending money "in concert or cooperation with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, the candidate's campaign or a political party."

Democrat Syed Taj lent \$59,697 to his campaign. Write-in candidate Drexel Morton did not file a report. Morton said he is relying on "word of mouth and social media" to get out his campaign message.

Dindoffer said Bentivolio lent himself the money because he is running against someone "who is spending four or five times what he is."

"If someone is going to spend \$200,000 plus of their own money and spend it on



Cassis



Bentivolio

offer said he believed the other line items of contributions and expenditures were accurate.

Bentivolio had reported \$91,183 cash on hand for his campaign as of June 30. With contributions and expenses figured from that number without the loan repayment, it would have equalled \$72,337.

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"If someone is going to spend \$200,000 plus of their own money and spend it on

the FEC software or the numbers that were entered on the forms, according to Dindoffer.

Dindoffer said he has spoken to the FEC and expected the problem would be corrected. Dindoffer said he believed the other line items of contributions and expenditures were accurate.

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"If someone is going to spend \$200,000 plus of their own money and spend it on

negative attacks, he has to do something," Bentivolio said.

### Cassis quickly raises funds

Cassis has spent \$141,252 and received \$88,675 during the election cycle since she declared herself a write-in candidate in early June. During the reporting period from July 1-18, Cassis collected \$26,925 from individuals and \$8,000 from political committees, among them the American Medical Association PAC, \$2,000; Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, \$1,500, and Automobile Club of Michigan PAC, \$1,000.

Among her expenses from July 1-18, Cassis spent \$17,831 in postage with Allegra Print and Imaging of Plymouth, \$6,582 in signs and \$27,154 in advertising.

Campaign manager David Mroz said Cassis has fronted herself the money because "she feels the voters of the 11th District deserve a proven conservative."

"She believes strongly enough in that to pull her life savings to run," Mroz said.

Mroz said she is drawing support from the local GOP leaders because "they know her record as a state legislator."

"She's a woman of principle," Mroz said. "She's worked hard and for her to get that individual support,

and she takes it very seriously."

Bentivolio reported that he had received \$8,570 in contributions July 1-18. In his quarterly report filed for the April 1-June 30 period, Bentivolio received \$45,205 in contributions and spent \$19,021.

Contributions ranged from \$20 and \$25 to \$5,000 from a contributor in Cali-

fornia. Bentivolio received \$5,250 from Young Americans for Liberty PAC.

Bentivolio spent \$6,351 on printing, \$6,000 for ads with Fox News Network, and another \$26,000 to Sunshine Communications of Ft. Meyers, Fla. for ads. Bentivolio also owes \$21,130 to Strategic National in Grand Rapids for Facebook ads, promotional

advertising, logo, email services and an absentee voter mailing.

Dindoffer said that Bentivolio's money from individuals showed the "clear divide" between the candidates between grass roots supporters and the Republican establishment.

The candidates' reports can be viewed at FEC's website at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).

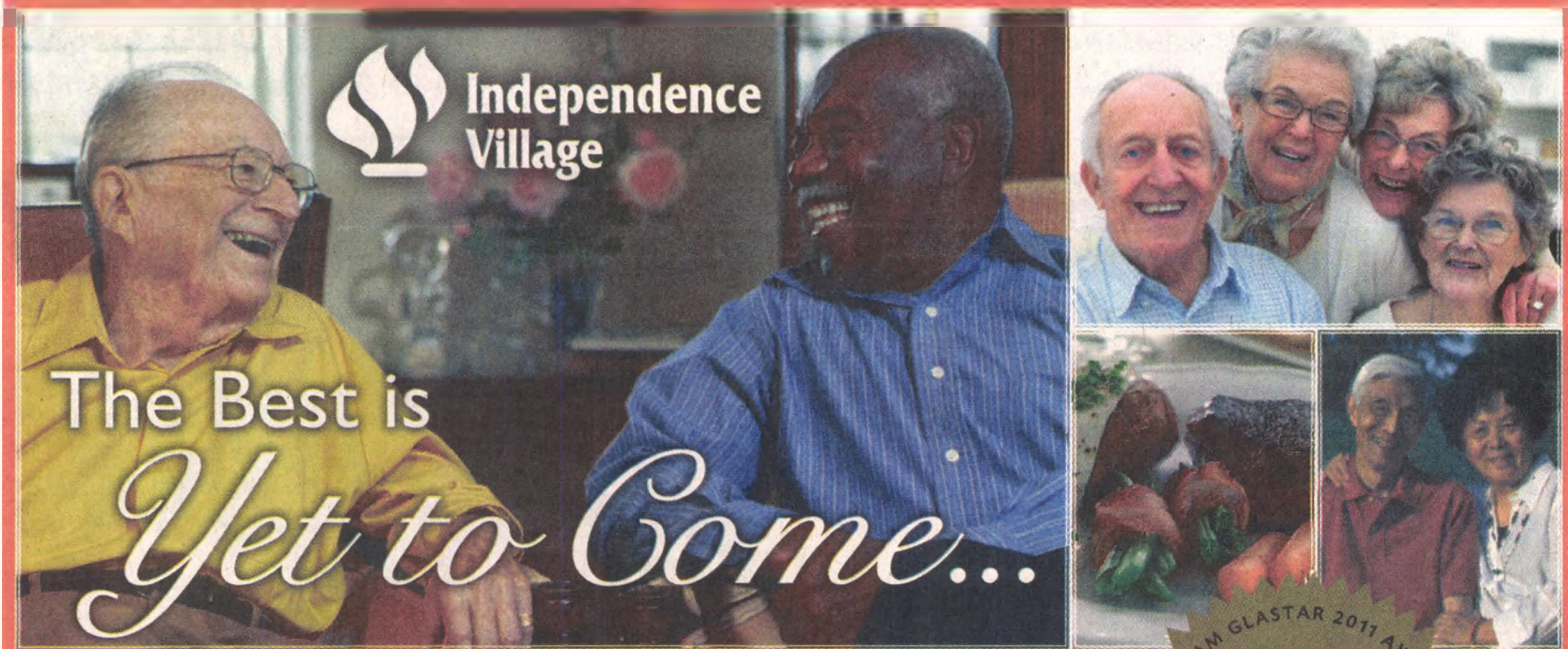
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# Don't pay off student loan with 401 (k) disbursement

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: My husband and I have decided that it would make sense for me to quit my job and become a stay-at-home mother. At work I have a 401(k) plan which is approximately \$75,000. My husband thinks that I should have my 401(k) plan rolled over into an IRA. I, however, still have a student loan and would like to take the money from the 401(k) plan to pay off my student loan. I owe approximately \$50,000. Do you think that is a good idea? My husband says that with his income we should have no problem continuing to make the debt payments. I figured it would be better to just pay the debt off. Currently, the interest rate on my student loan is 4 percent.

A: In reviewing your situation, it doesn't make sense to pay off your student loan. I recommend that you transfer the money from your 401(k) plan into an IRA.

My reason is based upon a number of things. The first deals



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

with retirement. I cannot stress how important it is to put whatever you can away for your retirement. As I've said many times in the past, retirement is a brand new concept in the history of mankind and it's going to cost you more than you think. It is possible that you and your husband will live longer in retirement than you worked. I believe that by investing the money in a well-balanced and diversified growth portfolio, you will (in the long run) earn more than you are paying in interest. Of course, that doesn't mean that every year you will earn more, because there will be some years when the market is down. However, over the long run, you will do much better by letting your

401(k) money grow tax-deferred in an IRA.

I also based my conclusion on if you do withdraw money from your 401(k), it is subject to tax, both from the federal government and the state of Michigan. It will also be subject to a 10-percent penalty. Therefore, you will lose about 40 percent of your money between taxes and penalty.

#### Tax-deductible

Another factor is, more likely than not, your student loan interest will be tax-deductible. According to the IRS, you can deduct up to \$2,500 in student loan interest every year. The one caveat is the fact that the deduction phases out if your modified adjusted gross income for a married couple is more than \$120,000. If your income is more than \$150,000, then the deduction is not available. For most people, modified adjusted gross income is the same as adjusted gross

income. And you can deduct your student loan interest even if you do not itemize deductions. This is one of the few deductions that you can take even though you may not itemize. IRS Publication 970 spells out the tax rules for deducting student interest and deals with all the tax benefits available for education.

On the whole, I am a fan of reducing debt. I generally like as little debt as possible. However, there are exceptions to the rule. The major exception is home mortgages. Particularly with the low interest rates we now have, the after-tax cost of mortgages is very low, therefore, in many situations it does not make sense to pay down those debts early. Student loans are also another potential exception. In this situation, because of the tax ramifications associated with withdrawing money from a retirement account, it generally does not make sense to use those

resources to pay down your student loan.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for everyone to allocate as many resources as they can for their retirement. We all know that eventually there will be changes in Social Security and they won't be for our benefit. Pensions are generally a thing of the past. It is up to us to save for our retirement.

The key to making sure that you can have a long and happy retirement, from a financial standpoint, is to save as soon as possible and invest wisely. That means making sure you have a well-balanced and diversified portfolio geared for long-term growth.

Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his website at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).



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CHERRY HILL

# Contamination site has Brookfield resident concerned

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

As the grand reopening of Central City Park nears, a similar pollution remediation project is under way on a parcel that will soon be available for recreational use.

Located south of Ford and west of Hix, the approximately 28 acres of the 180-acre parcel known as the National Airport property is now owned by the City of Westland.

Most of that 28-acre parcel was used as a general and industrial landfill from 1958-65 and remnants of drums were removed in 1994. There is concern about direct contact exposure to lead and arsenic in the soil and methane gas needs to be monitored.

Like Central City Park, this property has a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality-approved plan for remediation that includes removing existing trees, regrading, installation of geotextile barrier which will be covered with top soil and grass, along with methane gas monitoring.

"The same folks at the MDEQ who were involved in Central City Park are involved in this," said City Attorney James Fausone. "There is no problem with the metals on the site moving."

Patricia Fenech, who lives in the Brookfield Village subdivision south of the property, is upset that she wasn't notified about the contamination when she bought her home in 2007.

"My concern is me and it's a concern for other residents. No one told us about the contamination," said Fenech. "The mayor (William Wild) said people knew about it. The developer knew about it."

Having the contaminated property nearby has affected her home's value,

## NATIONAL AIRPORT AT A GLANCE

The National Airport property, where landfill pollution is being remediated and the property restored for possible recreational use, was used as a private airport prior to 1949. This airport became known as National Airport in approximately 1967 and operated until about 1980. The airport occupied a portion of a 180-acre parcel that extended from Ford Road south to Cherry Hill and from John Hix Road west to Lotz Road. The 180-acre parcel was located in both the City of Westland and in Canton Township.

An approximately 26.9-acre portion of the 180-acre parcel was used as a municipal and industrial landfill. That includes 8.5 acres that later was part of the Imagine Theater property. The site was closed in 1965, the year before Nankin Township became the City of Westland. When the airport closed in 1980, a development company purchased the property. In 1992, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources designated an approximately 26.9-acre portion of the property as the former landfill, which allows unrestricted development of the remaining approximately 155 acres of the original 180-acre parcel.

The Consortium of Ford Motor Company and 3M has been involved since 1994 when a consultant removed and disposed of drum remnants that were discovered on the site.

The site has been extensively studied. Some direct contact exposure risk to lead and arsenic was found and needs to be controlled. Methane gas that needs to be monitored. The consortium plans on obtaining a DEQ approval of a final remediation plan that will allow eventual use of the site for recreational purposes.

said Fenech, adding she would be legally required to disclose the nearby contamination, if she were to sell her home.

"The developer told us it (the property) was a wetlands," she said. "My concern is that the city should have put up signs saying 'don't enter - it's contaminated' like they did at Cooper School."

Citing a letter from the MDEQ, Fenech said no one is supposed to be in contact with the soil on the property.

"Kids play there, swim in the creek - I've seen them. There is a lot of sexual activity at night," Fenech said.

The former landfill was located at the northern part of the parcel while

the subdivision is located south of the parcel.

"There is no migration of the contamination, there was no requirement to give notice," said Fausone, noting the landfill had been closed since 1965. "The site has been studied extensively. It's at the north side of the site and not near the residents."

Methane gas occurs naturally as landfilled materials break down, he said, so methane levels will be monitored.

As part of the agreement that transferred ownership of the property to the city, a consortium of Ford and 3M, both identified as liable parties along with the city as successor to Nankin Township, agreed to complete the remediation.



In the 2002 U.S. Geological Survey aerial photo, the site of the former National Airport was largely covered by several commercial buildings. However, it appears that a section of runway pavement from the former east/west runway still remained intact (at the center of the photo), as well as some of an unpaved northwest/southeast runway.

tion. Additionally, a deed restriction requires the property be used for recreation and \$390,000 was provided for the city-wide

recreational improvements. Plans call for work to be done on the property during the summer of 2012

with seeding in the spring or fall of 2013.

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- **June, 2012** - **Over \$50,000 of your tax dollars** have been spent so far by the Board to defend the **unlawful vote** by those 4 Board Members, who want to keep **you** from voting on **your** Fire protection and your EMS service.
- **June, 2012** - EMS arrives **too late** from station #3 to Bradbury Coop to save a grandmother who drowns in the pool.
- **August 7, 2012** - Vote for **new Trustees** who will **restore Fire protection and EMS service** to our township!

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Classroom 10

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[stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org)

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## OUR VIEWS

### CLERK

## Bridgman in GOP primary

Based on his job performance in his first four years in office, voters should give **Joe Bridgman** a second term as **Plymouth Township clerk** in the Aug. 7 Republican primary. Challenger **Nancy Conzelman**, an attorney, is intelligent and certainly capable of learning the job. However, Bridgman is already doing the job and there is no reason to replace him.



Bridgman

Benefitting from the time he spent as deputy to former Clerk **Marilyn Massengill**, Bridgman has learned well to perform the duties required in the clerk's office. Bridgman has managed the highest-profile of those duties — running elections — capably and efficiently. There have been no signs of problems, and no complaints have sprung from his management of the election process.

We recommend **Joe Bridgman** in the GOP primary Tuesday.

### TREASURER

## Edwards the right choice

**Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards** speaks his mind and is not shy about discussing issues with those who agree or disagree with him, which makes him a polarizing figure in local politics.



Edwards

But he is also smart, does his homework, is always looking for ways to make local government more efficient and never backs away from a spirited debate.

Edwards has done a solid job as Plymouth Township treasurer and deserves support in the Aug. 7 Republican primary.

His involvement in negotiations with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department resulted in lower rates for township customers, and his assistance with the budget actually helped add money to the township's fund balance last year.

Edwards is responsible for origination of the Good Old Fashion Picnic and for bringing the Fourth of July fireworks display to the township, an event even Edwards' most ardent critics admit is outstanding. He also works behind the scenes, with no fanfare, to help charitable organizations such as the Plymouth Salvation Army.

Based on a solid track record of serving taxpayers — his job performance, his accomplishments and his absolute desire to do what's best for Plymouth Township — **Ron Edwards** is the right choice in the Aug. 7 Republican primary.

## Cassis, Taj our 11th choices

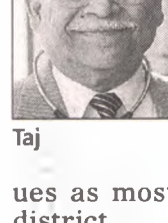
Voters in the 11th Congressional District will nominate a Republican and a Democrat in the Aug. 7 primary election to move on to the general election in November for the position's full term. A special election will be held Sept. 5 to fill the remainder of the term of **Thad McCotter**, who stepped down July 6.



Cassis

We recommend **Nancy Cassis** of Novi as the Republican nominee. Her name won't be on the ballot — voters will have to write her name in and fill in the circle next to it. Opponent **Kerry Bentivolio** is the only Republican name on the ballot.

**Cassis** has a proven track record as a state senator, state representative and Novi City Council member. **Cassis** is knowledgeable about the issues and holds the same conservative values as most mainstream Republicans in the district.



Taj

**Syed Taj** gets our nod as the Democratic nominee. A medical doctor and a member of the Canton Township Board of Trustees, **Taj** is a good listener who would be able to compromise and work across the aisle. **Taj** supports increased border patrols to stop illegal immigration, but wants to improve the immigration process so that foreigners who want to work professionally in this country can get here, just like he did.

We recommend Republican **Nancy Cassis** and Democrat **Syed Taj** Aug. 7.

## In GOP race for township trustee

We believe the township will be best served by choosing from a group including incumbents **Bob Doroshewitz** and **Kay Arnold**, former Trustee **Charles Curmi** and newcomers **Sandra Groth** and **Janai Stepp**.

**Doroshewitz**, seeking his third term, has been a voice of reason.

**Arnold** is the longest-serving member of the board, and has also served as its liaison to the planning commission since 1996. **Arnold** has demonstrated an ability to consider issues on their own merits, rather than getting pulled into



Doroshewitz



Arnold



Curmi



Groth



Stepp

controversial discussions.

**Curmi**, who left the board in 2008, is the best of the 2012 challengers. His experience and knowledge in matters such as the new township hall, contract negotiations and other township issues gives him a corporate knowledge that could be valuable, and his four years away from the fray

gave him a chance to view things from an outsider's perspective.

We also support **Groth** and **Stepp**.

**Groth's** tenure in the clerk's office gives her a strong knowledge of township issues. That's a quality any board could use.

**Stepp** is intelligent, energetic and brings a fresh perspective to many

issues. **Stepp** holds a master's degree in international finance from Wayne State and would bring a new sense of energy to the local board.

While there are many competent and qualified candidates, we believe **Bob Doroshewitz**, **Kay Arnold**, **Charles Curmi**, **Sandra Groth** and **Janai Stepp** merit support in Tuesday's primary.

## Price, Amar for 10th county seat

One thing is abundantly clear among the four men running in the Aug. 7 primary for the newly drawn Wayne County Commission 10th District: they all want Wayne County Executive **Robert Ficano** out.

But the performance of the county executive isn't the only problem facing the commission, and we believe Republican **Shannon Price** and Democrat **James Amar** display a better sense of the issues.

**Price** wants a thorough audit of county finances, an online county "checkbook" open for viewing by the public and a charter amendment that would give the Board of Commissioners the power to impeach the coun-



Price



Amar

ty executive.

**Amar**, a retired labor mediation supervisor from Plymouth Township, gets our nod in the Democratic primary. **Amar** thinks Wayne County must take "difficult steps" to correct its finances while investing in programs and incentives to spur development and job creation.

He has several ideas he says could improve the economy: a drive to increase tourism; incentives for the movie industry; and the further promotion of the Aerotropolis business park.

We recommend Republican **Shannon Price** and Democrat **James Amar** in the Aug. 7 primary for the Wayne County Commission 10th District seat.

## Yes on DIA tax and jail millage votes

The Detroit Institute of Arts is one of the top six comprehensive fine arts museums in the United States and attracts visitors and potential future residents from around the world.

Residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties will vote Aug. 7 on a proposed property tax of 0.2 mills for 10 years to help fund the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The proposal would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home about \$15 annually over the next decade.

Without the tax, the DIA may be forced to close selected galleries on weekdays, and eliminate school tours and community outreach programs. The DIA receives no state, county or city funding. It has been relying on the private sector to make up the

shortfall in its \$25 million operating budget, something it can't do long term.

Residents in the counties that approve the tax would receive free general admission to the museum. Admission is \$24 for two adults and two children, so the tax would be a savings for families that visit the DIA just once a year.

Voters in at least two of the three counties must approve the ballot proposal or the DIA will have to start severely cutting programs and services.

### Jail millage

Voters will be asked for a 10-year renewal of 0.9381 mills to support the Wayne County Jail system Tuesday, Aug. 7.

The millage is used to operate the jail and fund other

programs such as juvenile detention programs and facilities, work release programs, home detention and youth drug counseling. While there is a lot of grumbling about how Wayne County manages tax dollars, most suburban leaders (of both parties) and all law enforcement officials admit this is a necessary renewal. The issue is how to make sure suburban communities are receiving their fair share of services.

Retaining the millage means keeping more than 2,000 accused felons off the streets. The jail millage renewal is estimated to generate approximately \$39 million in property tax revenue in 2012.

Vote **yes** on the DIA and the Wayne County jail proposals Aug. 7.

### LETTERS

#### Supports Price

On Aug. 7, residents have the opportunity to vote for **Shannon Price** for Wayne County commissioner.

As a real estate agent, I recognize that we need to maintain the quality services that our community offers. **Mr. Price**, who is currently bringing up two children in Canton, realizes the importance of taking care of our roads and parks to take care of current residents and attract new families to the area.

As county commissioner in the 10th District, **Mr. Price** promises to fight for accountability of the dollars we send to the county, support responsible spending policies and restore integrity to the Wayne County Commission.

**Erin Williams**  
Canton

#### Amar right choice

Voters will have the opportunity to elect a Wayne County

commissioner for the new 10th District beginning with the Aug. 7 primary. **Jim Amar**, a Democrat who is running for that seat, has excellent credentials and is someone the electorate should send to downtown Detroit to represent the residents of Canton Township.

As a labor mediation supervisor, coupled with a depth of managerial experience that included writing and developing budgets for the Michigan Employment Relations Commission, **Mr. Amar** clearly understands the framework of financial responsibility that is demanded to oversee the administration of public funds for a government entity.

**Jim Amar** is widely regarded and highly regarded in professional circles for his integrity and reputation for bringing people together and forging positive relationships. Some candidates are informing the public of

what they will do if elected. **Jim Amar** recognizes that regardless of the sincerity behind a candidate's promise to do something, a commissioner has to get a majority of the other 14 members of the Wayne County Commission to agree with him or her on achieving certain goals for the residents of the 10th District.

This task will take a bridge builder and **Amar** has a solid record of successfully applying his mediation and facilitation skills in solving problems between organizations with diverse interests.

His emphasis on economic growth and development for the county is the correct avenue to travel that will ultimately benefit the residents of Canton Township, the city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

**Anne Pluff**  
Westland

# 103: 'It doesn't feel that old'

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Ruth Malak cannot lie about her age. After all, it's one worth noting. She turned 103 on Saturday.

When she turned 102 last year, Malak admitted that she never thought she'd live that long. This year she kind of enjoys it.

"It doesn't feel that old," said Malak, a resident of the American House on Joy Road in Westland.

Malak was born Aug. 4, 1909, in her grandmother's house in a small mining town in the Upper Peninsula where her mother had gone to give birth. She grew up in the Detroit area, went to the Detroit Teachers College and taught school in Detroit for 37 years.

She described herself as the homeroom teacher and maintained control of her students by calling them by name. Misbehaving was good for having to stay after school "but not for very long."

"It was an hour or so, but I never kept them that long," she said. "I felt they had to have fun and play."

Those who know her describe Malak as a gifted organist. Her sisters

have said she can play by ear. She hears a melody and can play it. Her mother taught her "a little bit" and she took about two years of lessons. Then she used her teaching skills to share her love of music with youngsters in the neighborhood.

She has an organ in her room. When she plays, she sings along. According to Flora Khaimov, American House executive director, she has new "students."

"We're all her students in her music school," she said.

Malak recalls working at a bank and at the J.L. Hudson store part-time while going to college. Her favorite past time was roller skating, which she said she did quite a bit at a rink in Detroit.

"I went to the roller rink because there were boys and girls there skating, it was very nice," she said. "And it had organ music, it was beautiful. I loved the organ and when I got old enough, I played it."

At 103, her memory is cloudy. She has two younger sisters, Catherine Shay and Jean Airol, and a brother Merville who is deceased. She was

married to Steve Malak, whom she said she met roller skating, and they lived in Detroit for 55 years.

"We had no children, I married late in life because I taught school," she said. "I taught the three R's - reading, writing and arithmetic."

When her husband died in 1997, she lived in with her sister, but ended up moving to American House that same year. She's hasn't lived at the assisted living facility the longest, another resident has been there 25 years, but she is the oldest resident.

"She's a joy to be around, she's a wonderful person," said Khaimov. "She's doing great, and we just love her."

smason@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-6751



Ruth Malak said that 103 doesn't feel that old. The Westland resident reached that milestone Saturday, Aug. 4.

## Friends, families say good-bye to slain teens

Family and friends gathered Friday to remember one of two Westland teens found murdered in Detroit.



Kudla



Bobbish

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia.

A Livonia Churchill

High School senior, Bobbish and Kudla, a Churchill grad who was attending Schoolcraft College, didn't return from a July 22 visit to Kudla's uncle on the east side of Detroit.

Kudla's car was located outside an apartment building on Detroit's west side with the stereo equipment missing. Two men were arrested and have been charged with stealing from the car, which they were cleaning with bleach.

The teens' families mounted efforts to locate the pair and held a candlelight vigil in Churchill's parking lot.

The boys were found fatally shot in a debris-filled field near Detroit City Airport about five miles from where they were last seen.



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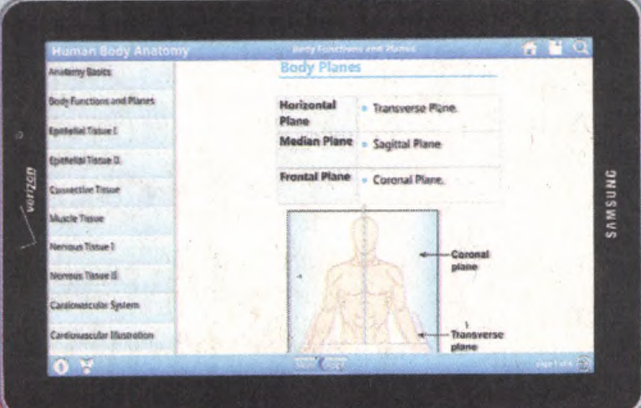
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# Saving Zeus

## Westland woman raises funds to treat dog's rare disorder



Melissa Crowley has started a fund-raising drive to benefit her six-year-old Rottweiler, Zeus, who has a rare disorder, Immune-Mediated Polyarthritis.

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Melissa Crowley is putting social media to the test in getting the word out about her dog Zeus. She has a blog, a Facebook page and even a Saving Zeus website, all aimed at helping her 6-year-old Rottweiler.

A part of her "family" since he was seven weeks

old, Zeus is in need of medical testing and treatment of a rare genetic disorder that is causing him severe pain and difficulty walking.

"He is the most loving, caring, gentle giant in the world. He truly loves everyone," the Westland resident said. "He is my utmost favorite dog of all the dogs that have been in my life over the last many years. The thought of losing him makes my heart break and causes me physical pain."

Zeus was diagnosed with immune-mediated polyarthritis in May. According to Crowley, an allergic reaction to antibiotics has caused his immune system to attack his joints, leaving permanent damage in its wake.

Zeus has allergies and Crowley estimates she and her husband have spent upward of \$20,000 on allergy treatments and skin and ear infections over the years.

He had been on an antibiotic for a skin infection for 14 days. It hadn't cleared up, so a second round was ordered. Eight days into the second round, Crowley came home to find that Zeus wouldn't get up for anyone, including her neighbor that he "loves." He couldn't put weight on his front legs, he had difficulty sitting and standing.

She stopped giving him the antibiotics and within 24 hours he was back to normal, but shortly after that he had several accidents in the house, something he never does.

"The doctor wanted to do an urinalysis for a bladder infection and used a different antibiotic that had to be made especially for him. A 10-day supply cost \$300," Crowley said. "Within three days, Zeus couldn't walk. The vet said he was having a reaction to the antibiotic. This time he didn't get better."

Zeus was put on two different types of pain medications, but those didn't provide relief. Now doctors are using high doses of the drug prednisone to depress his immune system so that it stops attacking his joints. Each time they lower the dosage to a safer level, though, he has a relapse.

The prednisone is keeping Zeus comfortable, but it isn't a long-term solution. Prednisone can cause diabetes and Cushing's disease. The doctor at the Michigan Veterinary Specialists in Southfield wants to do digital X-rays and

joint taps to see what else is going on in Zeus's joints. The tests alone cost \$2,000, and Crowley estimates she needs \$5,000 for the test and the treatment.

The Catch-22 is he needs the tests before he can get the treatment.

"We don't have the funds and the only other option is to wait until it gets worse and we have to have him put down," Crowley said. "We've spent so much on this dog over those six years, but this time we don't have \$2,000. My husband calls him the million-dollar dog."

Crowley has launched an online fund-raising site, [www.giveforward.com/SavingZeus](http://www.giveforward.com/SavingZeus), where people can log on and make a donation, and a Saving Zeus Facebook page — [www.facebook.com/#!/SavingZeus](http://www.facebook.com/#!/SavingZeus). She also is blogging about her beloved pet at [www.savingzeus.wordpress.com](http://www.savingzeus.wordpress.com).

So far she has gathered \$1,205 in donations.

She's also doing a fundraiser — Putt for a Cause ... and Save These Paws — planned for Sunday, Aug. 26, at the Putting Edge, 44225 W. 12 Mile, Novi. The event will be 1-4 p.m. and include 18 holes of miniature golf, arcade games, pizza and pop, prizes for the most holes in one and best game score and a 50/50 raffle. Advance tickets are \$20 and \$25 the day of the event. Tickets are available by calling Crowley at (248) 755-0550 or at [melissacrowley666@att.ent](mailto:melissacrowley666@att.ent).

Admitting that it saddens her to see her dog in so much pain and unable to do the things he loves to do, she hopes she'll be able to raise the money needed to save him before it is too late. If Zeus's condition worsens and he passes away before the fund-raising efforts are complete, or if they don't raise enough money for his tests and treatment, proceeds will be donated to his veterinarian, Dr. Steven Mantay, owner of Healthy Paws Veterinary Medical Center in Westland, to help another animal in desperate need of medical attention, Crowley said.

"I just can't bear to sit back and wait until the day comes to put him down without doing everything I can to try to help and save him," Crowley said. "I will be completely heartbroken, if we lose him."

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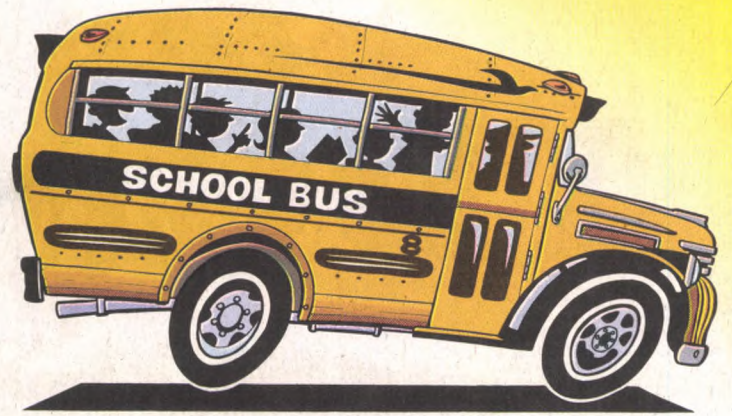
The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

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Plymouth District Library  
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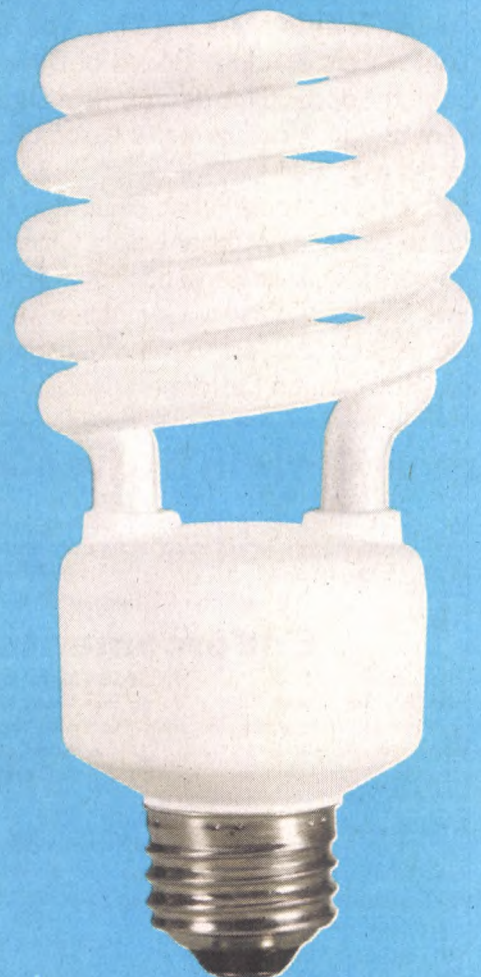
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- Central Park Homeowner's Association Board Member
- 35th District Court Public Defender 1996-2008
- Parish Council Member - Holy Cross
- Canton Township Recreational Advisory Committee
- Golf Course Advisory Committee
- Attorney for 24 years with offices in Canton
- 24 Year Canton Resident

[www.CantonTrusteeGreg.com](http://www.CantonTrusteeGreg.com)

"A lawyer by trade, Demopoulos has provided another analytical mind as he has transitioned into the seat."  
 - Canton Observer, 7-19-2012

**Endorsements**

Canton Township Supervisor - Phil LaJoy  
 Canton Township Clerk - Terry Bennett  
 Canton Township Treasurer - Melissa McLaughlin  
 Canton Township Trustee - Pat Williams  
 Canton Township Trustee - John Anthony  
 State Senator - Patrick Colbeck  
 Former State Senator & Representative - Bruce Patterson  
 Former State Senator & Representative - Loren Bennett  
 Former Canton Township Supervisor & Trustee Candidate - Tom Yack  
 Endorsed by the Canton Observer on July 19, 2012

"The thing to like about Demopoulos is the road he took to get there. Demopoulos has served on the township's Zoning Board of Appeals, the Merit Commission and the Planning Commission. That's a municipal background few trustees ever get."  
 - Canton Observer, 7-19-2012

**For Greg Demopoulos' Platform visit [www.CantonTrusteeGreg.com](http://www.CantonTrusteeGreg.com)**



Pictured: The Demopoulos Family

"The Canton Township Board has been operating smoothly and efficiently. Pat Williams, John Anthony and Greg Demopoulos have been part of that, and Tom Yack's previous experience would make him a natural fit. We recommend those names to voters casting ballots in the Aug. 7 primary."  
 - Canton Observer, 7-19-2012

**Phil LaJoy:** "Greg is part of a team that is balancing our budget, cutting costs, maintaining fund balance reserves, reducing water and sewer rates and maintaining Canton's quality of life."



Pictured: Trustee Demopoulos

**Trustee Anthony:** "Trustee Demopoulos has been an effective force on the Board, makes positive suggestions and works as a team member to keep Canton a model community."

**Trustee Williams:** "Greg has made significant contributions to the Board of Trustees. He brought his legal experience and knowledge of Canton to the Board and needed no learning curve."



Pictured: Trustee Demopoulos & Supervisor LaJoy

**Trustee Demopoulos:** "I have brought much to the table since my appointment to the Board of Trustees 10 months ago. I want to continue pushing for state and federal dollars to alleviate traffic congestion at Ford Road and I-275 and a water tower which can reduce water rates up to \$3 million per year for our Township."



Pictured: Trustees Anthony, Demopoulos & Williams

**Melissa McLaughlin:** "Communities thrive because people like Greg work for all of us. Greg has 20 years plus of making Canton a priority."

**Terry Bennett:** "Greg knows Canton, as a soccer club director, a volunteer, planning commissioner, prosecutor and now as Canton's newest Trustee. Greg is good for Canton."



Pictured: Treasurer McLaughlin, Trustee Demopoulos & Clerk Bennett





Members of the Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity football team learn blocking technique on the sled Thursday afternoon. A heightened emphasis on safety is stressed for all drills. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT



Garden City Youth Athletics Association football commissioner Scott Murray holds an older, replaced helmet with one of the program's new helmets. The new helmets are lighter and the interior padding better helps absorb collisions.

## Clinic targets injury issues

Canton-based Dynamic Athlete Performance will team up with Henry Ford Health System to offer a free-of-charge Lower Extremity/ACL Prevention Clinic on Monday, Aug. 20, from 6-8 p.m. at Dynamic Athlete Performance, which is located at 46615 Michigan Avenue.

The clinic will feature a presentation on lower-extremity anatomy, ACL injury-prevention tips and specific strength-training exercises for athletes who compete in sports such as soccer, basketball and volleyball.

Among the presenters will be Henry Ford Health System sports medicine physician Brett Martin, former world-class decathlete Chad Smith and athletic trainer Nicole Schreiber.

To register for the clinic, call (734) 961-3271 or send an e-mail to info@d-a-p-t.com.

## YOUTH FOOTBALL'S 'SAFETY' BLITZ

Junior gridiron programs place high emphasis on players' health

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

In an era when concussion-related scrutiny continues to pile on the National Football League, junior gridiron gladiators have never been safer.

That is the overwhelming consensus of several Observer-land-area youth football coaches and administrators, who say a recent all-out "safety" blitz has made the sport's athletes as safe as ever.

In addition to significant equipment improvements — particularly pertaining to helmets — coaches are much better educated when it comes to concussion recognition and post-concussion treatment.

"From what I've seen, player safety is a lot better now,

even compared to four or five years ago," said Jake Wieloch, the varsity head coach of the Canton Lions. "There's been a jump in quality in the design of the equipment and our coaches have a much greater awareness of what's going on out on the field as far as recognizing concussions.

"Just like with everything, parents need to weigh the risks against the benefits. Football is a contact sport, so there are risks involved, but thanks to the upgrade in equipment and education, the risks aren't as great as they were several years ago. Also, the benefits of playing a team sport like this are numerous: Learning life lessons like getting up after you get knocked

Please see SAFETY, B3



Livonia Falcons player Sean Miastdowski displays proper shoulder-first tackling technique during Thursday's practice.

## Combs ESPN All-American

Livonia Ladywood pitcher Briana Combs was recently named to the Gatorade/ESPN All American second team for the 2012 season.

Combs, was also named 2012 Miss Softball by the Michigan Interscholastic Softball Coaches Association and 2012 Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year.

Combs, who will attend Cleveland State University in the fall on a softball scholarship, boosted a career record of 149-11 with 1,400 strikeouts and an earned run average of 0.21.

She went 38-1 her senior year with 378 strikeouts and an 0.21 ERA while batting .528 as the Blazers captured the MHSAA Division 2 state championship in June.

## 2012 LONDON SUMMER OLYMPICS

## Schmitt's gold rush continues

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Allison Schmitt did it again and did it in the clutch.

The Canton High grad earned her second gold medal in as many days pushing the United States in front in the anchor leg to capture the women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay Wednesday night at the London Summer Olympic games.

The 22-year-old, coming off a gold medal performance Tuesday in the 200 freestyle, provided the anchor leg as the Americans clocked an Olympic-record 7 minutes, 42.92 seconds. The time was only 0.84 second off the world record.

"The best thing is to bring home gold for the U.S.," Schmitt said. "It's my first Olympic gold medal in the relay."

Joining Schmitt on the podium for the gold medal



Canton's Allison Schmitt (far left) proudly flashes her 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay gold medal along with teammates (from left) Shannon Freeland, Dana Vollmer and Missy Franklin.

ceremony were relay teammates Missy Franklin, Dana Vollmer and Shannon Freeland.

"The first three ladies had an amazing swim and I just wanted to bring it home for them," Schmitt said.

Australia led by over a

half-second entering the final leg, but had to settle for silver in 7:44.41.

Schmitt swam the final leg in 1:54.09, just half second off her 200 freestyle first-place finish and the second

Please see SCHMITT, B2

## Bachrouche PR's in 800 freestyle

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

North Farmington grad Katya Bachrouche, representing Lebanon, posted a personal best time of 8 minutes, 35.88 in the women's 800-meter freestyle Thursday at the London Summer Olympic Games.

The 22-year-old University of Virginia All-American finished second in Heat 2 behind Julia Hassler of Liechtenstein, who was clocked in 8:35.18.

Bachrouche, however, did not make it to the Friday's finals.

American Katie Ledecky, only 15, won the gold medal in an American record time of 8 minutes, 14.63 seconds. Spain's Mirela Belmonte Garcia took the silver in 8:18.76, while Great Britain's Rebecca Adlington grabbed the bronze in 8:20.32.

Bachrouche's time ranked 18th overall among the 35 preliminary heat participants. She bested her previous 800 freestyle time

Please see OLYMPICS, B2

## Redford Jr. grid practice

The Redford Catholic junior football program will kick off Monday with condition practices from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Loretto in Redford.

Players between the ages of 8 and 14 who are interested in playing football are encouraged to sign up on Monday. The program is especially in need of freshmen players.

For more information, contact Pat Wagner at (313) 690-0117.

The team kicks off its 2012 season on Aug. 25.



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KIRBY LEE | USA TODAY

Canton's Allison Schmitt is all smiles after anchoring the U.S. to a gold medal in the women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay Wednesday at the London Summer Olympic Games.

## SCHMITT

Continued from page B1

fastest split ever in the world on Tuesday.

"I knew it was close, I saw it was neck-and-neck all race and I just wanted to swim my own race like in the 200 last night," Schmitt said. "I just wanted to feed off that energy and bring home the gold tonight for the relay."

France touched third in 7:47.49 to earn the bronze while Canada was a distant fourth in 7:50.65.

"I knew Allison was going to pull off something amazing and the rest of us had to at least be even with everyone else," Vollmer said, "knowing that I fought as hard as I could that last 50 to either get ahead or at least stay even with the field so every person diving in would have the best chance they could."

Earlier in the day, Australia clocked a 7:49.44 in Heat 1 to earn the top qualifying time. The Americans, winner of Heat 2, were seeded second going into the finals after posting a time of 7:50.75.

Schmitt, who took a year off from the University of Georgia to train for the Olympics under coach Bob Bowman at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, has earned a total of four medals during the London Games including two gold, a silver in the 400 freestyle and a bronze in the 4 x 100 freestyle relay.



KIRBY LEE | USA TODAY

Canton's Allison Schmitt (far left) flashes her gold medal after winning a gold medal Tuesday in the 200-meter freestyle at the London Summer Olympic Games.

The 2008 Canton grad also earned a bronze medal in the 800 freestyle relay at the Beijing Olympics.

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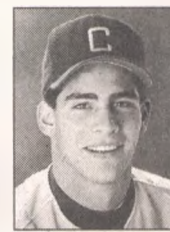
# Area athletes to be inducted in CMU Hall

The late Kevin Young (Farmington High) and Allison Campbell (Livonia Stevenson) are among six former Central Michigan University greats who will be inducted this fall into Marcy Weston Athletics Hall of Fame.

Receiving the highest honor bestowed by the department are soccer player Allison Campbell (2000-01), baseball player Young (1992-94), cross country/track coach Craig Fuller (1982-86, 1990-2008), wrestler Carleton Kinkade (1984-88), softball player Hope Robertson (1998-2001), and basketball player David Webber (1999-2002).

The newest class will be enshrined on Friday, Oct. 26, in a ceremony at the CMU Events Center. The free event is open to the public and begins at 7 p.m. The group will also be recognized at halftime of the 3:30 p.m. football game against Akron on Saturday, Oct. 27.

"This is another class of inductees that has continued the proud tradition and championship culture of CMU Athletics," CMU Director of Athletics Dave Heeke said. "Our induction ceremony is the highlight of the year as we look forward to reuniting with our former student-athletes and celebrating alongside the many people who have helped them succeed."



Kevin Young



Allison Campbell

The late Young was a key member as a third baseman of the 1994 baseball team which captured the Mid-American Conference tournament title and appeared in the NCAA tournament, along with the 1993 team that won the MAC regular season championship.

He earned first-team All-America honors and was the MAC Player of the Year in the 2004 season, during which he batted .415 with 17 home runs and a then CMU-record tying 63 RBI.

Young was selected in the 1994 Major League

Baseball Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers and reached double-A in 1997 before retiring from pro baseball after four seasons.

A native of Farmington Hills, Young passed away unexpectedly in 2008 at the age of 36. His wife, Michelle, and children Hanna and Liam survive him.

Campbell was a two-year standout on the women's soccer team after transferring to CMU from the University of Tennessee.

She was named first-team All-Mid-American Conference in 2001 and second-team in 2000. Her name frequently appears in the CMU soccer record book, with single-season records for goals (14), assists (8) and points (33).

Campbell also set a single-match record with three goals in a game against Buffalo in 2001.

She has earned two master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts and is currently a merchandising representative for a leading sales and marketing services company in Livonia.

## OLYMPICS

Continued from page B1

of 8:44.5 by over nine seconds.

The top three prelim times were posted by Adlington (8:21.78), Denmark's Lotte Friis (8:21.89) and Ledecy (8:23.84).

Bachrouche, who was able to walk through the

London Summer Games' opening ceremonies, was only one of two swimmers to represent the Lebanon team. She holds dual citizenship through her father, who was born and raised in Lebanon.

Bachrouche, who turns 23 on Aug. 18, finished seventh last summer in 400 freestyle at the World University Games in China. Last December, Bach-

rouche captured four gold medals in the 200, 400 and 800 freestyles, along with the 200 IM, at the Pan-Arab Games held in Doha, Qatar.

In February, Bachrouche moved to Los Angeles to train with the Trojan Swim Club, a post grad team at USC.

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# Michigan Jaguars bounce back to capture U.S. championship

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

The Michigan Jaguars '96 Green took last year's US Youth Soccer National Championship loss to heart by earning the Under-16 title on enemy turf with a 2-0 victory over Carolina Elite in Sunday's final at the Manchester Meadows Complex in Rock Hill, S.C.

The national U-15 runner-up from a year ago, the Jaguars captured the coveted title thanks to first-half goal Bloomfield Hills' Nathan McLean (Novi Detroit Catholic Central High), who pounced knock down off his team's long throw in. That was followed by the match clincher during the 79th minute as Saline's Jason Carmack (Ann Arbor Huron) connected off a counter attack.

Jaguars center-defender Zachary Bock (Novi CC) was named MVP of the tournament, while goalkeeper James Hague (Walled Lake) captured the Golden Glove Award.

The Jaguars, the only Michigan squad to win a national title, kept their team virtually intact after losing 3-1 to the Chicago Fire Academy Juniors in the 2011 championship final.

"Actually we carried the same team and added two new players," Jaguars coach Barry Scott said. "I think the difference was knowing the disappointment of not winning it last year. It really made them determined and focused to go back win it this year."

"That was the driving force knowing they were so close last year - it was the determination and focus to go back and do one better."

On July 25, Berkley's



Members of the U-16 Michigan Jaguars '96 Green hoist the US Youth Soccer National Championship trophy after posting a win over Carolina Elite Sunday in Rock Hill, S.C.

Iain Mason (Birmingham Groves) scored a pair of goals, while McLean and Travis Hamers (South Lyon East) added one tally apiece as the Jaguars opened first-round play with a wild 4-3 win over Arsenal FC Lucey, the California-South Region VI champion.

A day later, Carmack tallied the lone goal in the 43rd minute to give the Jaguars a 1-0 victory over Lehigh (Pa.) Valley '95 United.

That set up a semifinal match Friday against the Scottsdale (Ariz.) Blackhaws with Carmack, Luai Fakhoury (Farmington Harrison) and Hamers scoring goals in a 3-2 triumph.

"We're a great team due to the fact that we have a lot of depth," Scott said. "Normally we have three, four or five different scorers. In this tournament we had five or six players that scored at least one goal. So having that depth and being able to have multiple players score from all positions was huge."

The US Youth Soccer

National Championship series began last fall with 10,000 teams competing in state regional and national qualifying tournaments. The field was pared down to the top 60 teams, ages 14-19, with the Jaguars capturing the Midwest Region League, Michigan State Cup and US Region II titles.

Rounding out the Jaguars' 19-member squad includes: center-midfielder Ken Krolicki, midfielder-forward Griffin Parks and Matheo Plate, all of Canton High; midfielder Nicholas Oakley and fullback Matthew Kiura, both of Novi H.S.; defender Philip Ritchie, Novi CC; midfielder Joseph VanHouten, Northville H.S.; midfielder Vikram Mathias, West Bloomfield H.S.; goalkeeper K. Scott Michael, South Lyon H.S.; midfielder Michael Winters, Ypsilanti Lincoln H.S.; fullback Antonio Risto, Dexter H.S.; and defender-midfielder Reid Tennant, Ann Arbor Skyline H.S.

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## Hail to the Chiefs

The 10-and-under Motor City Chiefs closed their 2012 season with 10 straight wins and back-to-back tournament championships at the Wolves Open World Series at Founder's Sports Park in Farmington Hills (July 20-22) and Frankenmuth Summer Heat Tournament (July 27-29). Team members include (top row, from left) coaches Ken Gaffney, Tom Rorabacher, Tom D'Ono, Dan Sheahan, Dan Behen; (middle row, from left) Gabe Mitchell, Kyle Gaffney, Will Ressler, Thomas D'Ono, Cory Littlefield, Kyle Littlefield; (bottom row, from left) Matt Behen, Kai St. Germaine, Greg Wiecek, Colin Sheahan, Ryan Strojny; (front) Brandon Rorabacher.



## Softball impact

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Impact, the first-ever 10-and-under team in the history of the Western Wayne County League, finished 11-2 to capture the Silver North Division crown of the WWCL. They also finished runner-up, July 21-22, in the Black River Rumble Tournament in Port Huron. Team members include (front row, from left): Kacey Noseworthy, Sarah Cassidy, Hannah Kramer, Sydney Gordon, Nicole Roggow, Kelly McCullough; (second row, from left) Lyndsey Bruce, Kara Erickson, Isabel Randel, Sarah Williams, Jordyn Kravitz, Jenna Frommer; (back row, from left) coach Deb Lapin, coach Grant Kravitz, Molly Simpson, Kelly Simpson, manager Jeff Simpson and coach Larry Frommer.

# Bullish on baseball

## Ex-NFL player leads LCBL team to stellar season

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Frank Gallagher played seven seasons in the NFL, but the 69-year-old manager of the Michigan Bulls would rather talk baseball any day.

His 22-and-under Bulls, the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League champion with a 27-8 record, have earned another trip to the 16-team National Amateur Baseball Federation World Series, Aug. 9-14, in Toledo, Ohio.

It's the Bulls fifth straight trip to the NABF World Series.

Gallagher's 2005 team captured the NABF title in 2005 and were runners-up in 2004. Last year the Bulls reached the semifinals.

Gallagher, who played offensive guard for the Detroit Lions from 1967-72, including two trips to the Pro Bowl, has been at the helm of the Bulls since 2001. He is also the owner of the Bullpen Baseball Academy in Novi.

The Bulls had to hold off the hard-charging Michigan Knights (26-9) to win the LBCL title on July 22 with a 5-2 victory in the first game of a double-header as right-hander David Fredericks, who will play next season for Wayne State, got the victory.

"We played extremely well for a long period of time, then we had a bad streak at the end of the year where we lost six out of seven games," Gallagher said. "But the last three games we played extremely well. We were 21-3 at one point. I thought our league was a lot better this year, so we had competition within our league."

Fredericks, who played for Grand Rapids Community College last spring, is joined on a quality starting staff that also includes Josh Vandemark (Madonna University/Hicks-ville, Ohio), Mark Heard (Northwood University/Farmington Harrison) and Riley Smith (Siena Heights/Farmington High).

The team's closer has been Ethan Vasilaiskas (Wayne State).

The LCBL is a wood bat league where low scoring games are the norm as pitching and defense rule.

"We have good pitchers in a good league," Gallagher said of the LCBL. "I shouldn't say this, but Smith probably throws about 70 MPH, but he has had an amazing season. He threw a one-hitter for us against the (Michigan) Rams."

The Bulls' top hitter this season has been outfielder Nick Regnier (Novi), a starter at Central Michigan University, who is batting over .400 to go along with 30-plus stolen bases.

Regnier is joined in the outfield by Steve Pelletier (Madonna/Harrison) and Kevin Conway (Wake Forest/Detroit Country Day).

Shortstop Pat Mackenzie (CMU/Birmingham Brother Rice), first baseman Brad Lineberry (Madonna/Plymouth) and third baseman Theo Piccirilli (Western Michigan/Orchard Lake St. Mary) are all hitting over .300, while Ryan Horvath (Owens CC/Madison Heights Lamphere) provides solid play at second base.

Tyler Huntey (Morley Stanwood), a red shirt freshman from CMU, and back-up Jacob Rhodes (Western Kentucky/Belleville), both handle the catching duties.

The Bulls open pool play Aug. 9 at Bowman Park in Toledo. The two top teams from each of the four pools advance to the single-elimination semifinals, which will be played at Lourdes (Ohio) University's all-turf field.

"When it came down to winning three of our last four games, we did so," said Gallagher, a native of Chester, Pa., who played his college football at North Carolina. "This team is very good, one of the better teams I've had."

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## Thunder visits Cooperstown

The 12-and-under Livonia City Thunder, AA travel baseball team recently wrapped up a 31-12 season, including 5-2 record in the week-long National Cooperstown (N.Y.) Tournament of Champions at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The Thunder was fifth seeded team going into the playoffs and placed third overall in a team fielding competition. Jake Beaune led the way with three homers, including one over the park's "Green Monster." Other homers came from Connor Beck, Jack Bushart, Connor Jakacki and Craig Jakacki. The Thunder also captured the Shawnee Shootout and Memorial Day NIT tournaments, while earning a runner-up finish in the Pinckney Pirates Classic. Members of the Thunder, sponsored by Buffalo Wild Wings and Baskin Robbins, include: (back row, from left): coach Dennis Bushart, Jake Beaune, Spencer Weber, Zack Chopps, coach Dave Kubeshesky, Michael Harding, Connor Beck, Parker Graham and coach Joe Jakacki; (front row, from left) Cole Bushart, Jack Bushart, George Ferguson, Carl Clapp, Craig Jakacki, Joe Kubeshesky and Connor Jakacki. (Not pictured is coach Joe Chops).

## Local netters shine in Schoolcraft Classic

Unseeded Aimee Moccia of Livonia won all three matches to capture the Girls 18 singles title, July 27-29, at the U.S. Tennis Association Schoolcraft College Junior Classic.

Moccia, who will be a junior at Stevenson High, defeated top seed Allison Motea of Oakland Township, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 10-6 (super breaker) for the championship after disposing Kelsi Black of Monroe in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-3, and second seed Abigail Haugie of

Brighton in the quarterfinals, 6-0, 6-0.

In the Girls 16 finals, Emma Worley (Northville) defeated Madeline Szuba (Plymouth), 6-2, 6-4. Both were unseeded.

Michiko Ota (Ann Arbor) topped Sydney Phipps (Fenton) for the Girls 14 title, 6-2, 6-1, while top seed Madeline Stone-Wheatley (Ann Arbor) downed Neha Chava (Northville) in the Girls 12 championship.

In the Boys 16 final, top seeded Akihiro Ota (Ann Arbor) downed Jordan

Jacobsen, 7-5, 6-1, while top seed Jordan Lu (Canton) took Boys 14 crown with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Patrick Reed (Monroe).

In the Boys 12s, fourth seed Joseph Croskey (Grosse Pointe Shores) defeated second seeded Sidharth Amarnath (Novi), 6-2, 6-0, while second seed Aditya Suryakumar (Canton) took the Boys 10s singles title with a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Kenny Prather (Grosse Pointe Farms).

## LionTown

### Livonia artist's work will roar into Birmingham this month

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

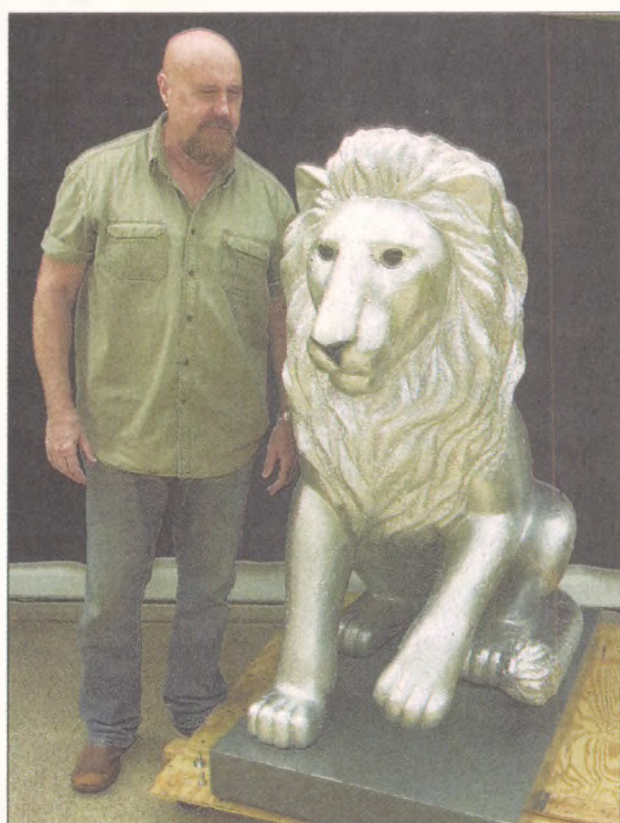
Alan Casadei is surprised he doesn't have carpal tunnel syndrome.

His painting technique, you see, is all in the wrist. No matter if he's slathering layer after layer of paint onto canvass or carefully applying a sculpting gel to a fiberglass lion, Casadei wields a palette knife instead of a brush to create texture in his creations.

"I've done so much texturing. The way you use your wrist ... it is a wonder I don't have carpal tunnel," said Casadei, 61, with a laugh during an interview Thursday at his Livonia home. "The whole thing with me is to do something different. I try not to do something that everyone else is doing."

When he was selected to paint one of 50 lion sculptures for an upcoming charity fundraiser, Casadei began his project at the same starting line as other participating artists. Each received an identical 58-inch-tall, 4-foot-long jungle cat, primed and ready to become a work of art.

Casadei broke ranks with traditional brush painters to painstakingly apply a texture medium with his palette knife, roughening the lion's smooth fiberglass surface and giving its mane

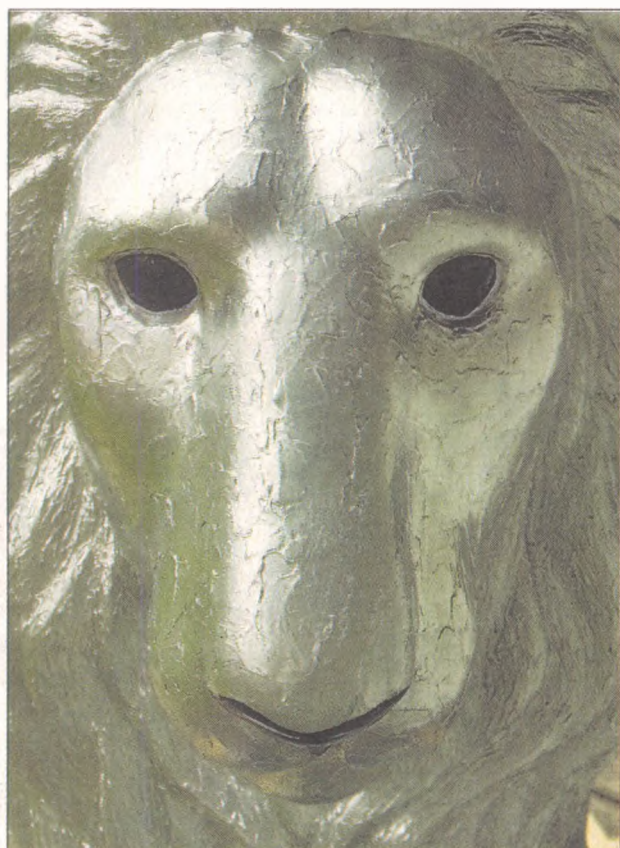


Alan Casadei and the lion he painted for LionTown, a fundraiser for the Children's Charities Coalition. His work will be on display starting Aug. 20 in Shain Park in downtown Birmingham.

and coat a coarse appearance. He topped the textured medium — which took 40 hours to apply — with silver-hued aluminum industrial paint and colored the animal's eyes and nose black with enamel car paint. He contemplated adding a clear, protective coat to the piece, which weighs

approximately 40 pounds and sat atop a wheeled platform in his driveway last week.

"This took a really long time to do. Every little line is as if I were doing dots," Casadei explained. "That's the kind of work I do, even on my paintings. Each line is done with a palette knife."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Every inch of the lion shows texture applied by artist Alan Casadei.



Paintings from years of Alan Casadei's work, hang from the floor joists in his basement studio.

#### Art for charity

The silver lion, dubbed "Top Cat" after a cartoon Casadei remembers watching as a child, will go on public display Aug. 20 in Shain Park in downtown Birmingham. It's part of the LionTown

fundraiser that will benefit The Children's Charity Coalition and the Detroit Lions Foundation outreach programs. All of the decorated lions will be auctioned at a gala event Oct. 16 at Ford Field in Detroit.

#### LIONTOWN

**What:** A fundraiser for The Children's Charities Coalition and the Detroit Lions charities includes a display of than 50 lion sculptures — decorated by local artists — an auction of the works and a gala.

**When:** Lions will go on display Aug. 20 and will be auctioned at the LionTown Gala and Auction on Oct. 16.

**Where:** Lions will be on display throughout Metro Detroit including Allen Park, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Dearborn, Detroit, Farmington Hills, Rochester, Royal Oak, Warren and Southfield. See Alan Casadei's Lion in Shain Park, in downtown Birmingham.

**Gala:** Tickets range from \$250-\$100 for the event, which will start at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at Ford Field in Detroit. The event will include games and fun on the field, tailgate-themed dinner and cocktails, an opportunity to meet Detroit Lions team members and management, and a silent and a live auction.

**Contact:** Get tickets by calling (248) 258-5511. Visit [www.liontown2012.com](http://www.liontown2012.com).

Casadei said the texture technique was an easy choice for his LionTown project. That's the way he creates all of his paintings.

"I have my own technique. I use almost anything I can just to see what kind of texture it will make."

That includes materi-

Please see LIONTOWN, B7

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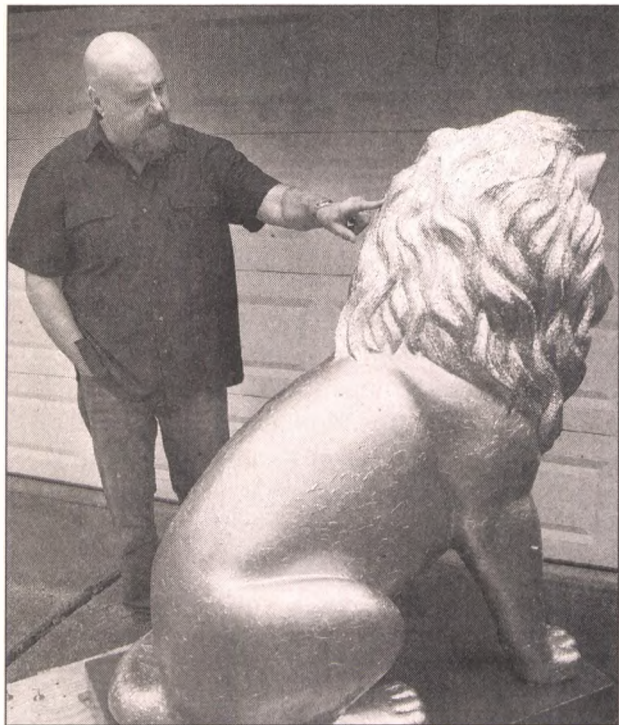
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Alan Casadei spent many hours working texture into the surface of the lion.

## LIONTOWN

Continued from page B5

als such as Styrofoam and sawdust that he layers on canvass with acrylic paint, using his palette knife.

Casadei, who is married and has a grown daughter, began experimenting in abstract paintings a few years before his retirement in 2007. He spent 35 years in the maintenance department at General Motors, but also took art classes at Madonna University, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, the College for Creative Studies and Wayne County Community College, where he earned an associates degree in fine arts.

After retirement he picked up the pace of his painting, spending hours in front of the easel in his makeshift basement studio.

"I always had it in my mind that when I retired that's when I would really start painting. I've been painting and painting and painting. The whole thing with me is I've got to get my stuff out there."

Casadei sold some of his works at a few art fairs and exhibited paintings at a store in Laurel Park mall for about a year. He has a few paintings at a gallery in Peoria, Ill., and at Starring "The Gallery" in Northville, as well as Northville Art House. Occasionally he exhibits at Detroit Artists Market in Detroit. But most of his works hang from the ceiling and on the walls

in the basement, sharing space with laundry, stored Christmas decorations, weight equipment and appliances.

### Subterranean gallery

He cautions visitors to watch their heads as they walk beneath the suspended canvasses. He figures 50-60 paintings are displayed in the room.

"You guys know any galleries that need some paintings?" he quipped. "You can't even move around in here there is so much stuff on hanging on the walls. What I really want to do is go to New York or Chicago, some place where they are really buying."

Casadei has offset the cost of canvass and paint by working as a movie extra. He has appeared in 15 Michigan-made films, including *Stone*, starring Robert De Niro and Edward Norton, (look for him in the visiting room scene) *Real Steel*, and *Red Dawn*. He turned down a three-week stint for the movie, *Oz: The Great and Powerful*, last summer, but recently spent a day on the set of a film about tornadoes.

"It's cool just watching the way movies are made," he said, adding that he'd never trade art for film.

"This is my passion, the painting. The extra work is just a way to get a few dollars for paints and canvass. If I wanted to get serious about it, I'd take acting classes."

## Walk for cancer services, animals

### In Livonia

Registration is underway for St. Mary Mercy Hospital's 6th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Cancer, an event that celebrates the lives of cancer survivors, patients and honors the memory of loved ones.

The event will start at 9 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 9 at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, in Livonia. Runners and walkers will be routed through residential streets on the course, which is certified by USA Track & Field.

Proceeds support Cancer Services at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, including transportation for patients traveling to and from the hospital for treatments and necessary products and services from the Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center. Last year, the 5K raised nearly \$24,000.

Cost to participate is \$22 for runners and walkers who pre-register on or before Aug. 31. The fee includes a race T-shirt.

Pre-registrations after Aug. 31 are \$27 and include shirts while supplies last.

Race day registration for all runners and walkers will be from 7-8:30 a.m.

Awards will be given to the first, second and third place overall male and female winners of each age division of the 5K Run. All runners and walkers are automatically entered into a post-race drawing for prizes.

Register at [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org). Questions? Call (734) 655-1590.

### Walk expands

The Michigan Humane Society will hold several kickoff events this month for its annual Mega March for Animals, which will offer two walk



sites this year.

In addition to its Hart Plaza home in Detroit, the largest walk for animals in Michigan also will be held at Kensington Metropark in Milford. Both Mega March walks are scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 7.

The kickoff events will give walkers and team captains information about the two locations, as well as fundraising efforts. Online registration will be available at each kickoff event.

Attendees will receive a free gift and anyone who registers for the 2012 Mega March at a kickoff event will be entered into a drawing to win three months of free pet food. All Mega March registrants who sign up online also will receive a free collapsible pet bowl.

Local kickoff events are:

- 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the Berman Center for Animal Care, 900 N. Newburgh, Westland.
- 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14 at Canine College, 23717 Research Drive in Farmington Hills.

Registration also is available at [www.michiganhumane.org/MEGA](http://www.michiganhumane.org/MEGA). For more information call (866) MHUMANE.

## Golf outing benefits veterans

American Legion Post 32 in Livonia is accepting registration for its 12th annual golf outing.

The event is planned for Sept. 8 at Hilltop Golf Course, 47000 Powell, Plymouth. A shotgun start will kick off the action at 9 a.m.

Cost is \$80 per person or \$320 per team. The price includes a continental breakfast, dinner and prizes.

All proceeds benefit programs for veterans. To register or for more information call Tony Brinza at (734) 721-2615.

## Program aims to help seniors live happy lives

Botsford Commons Senior Community will offer its "Living the Fullness of Life" program at three locations this fall.

The program includes informal presentations by Botsford Commons' experts and their affiliates.

The first presentation is set for 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13 at the McDonnell Towers, 24350 Civic Center Dr., Southfield. Call (248) 426-6908 to register.

The second presentation will be held 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28 at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443 for payment and registration information.

The final presentation will run from 11 a.m.-1

p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the William Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Register at (248) 473-1830.

With useful, timely information, "seniors can live full, happy lives" stated Margaret K. Lightner, president of Botsford Commons Senior Community.

Presenters will include Richard Young, Ph.D., of Wayne State University on aging and fitness, geriatrician Dr. Annette Carron on healthy aging, Diane Zide on brain fitness and Dawn Doyle with a talk titled "Getting Your Documents in Order; Community Resources."

Space is limited for all dates. Advanced reservations are recommended, but not required.

## Spay/neuter program targets Redford pets

Livonia-based Tail Wag-ger's 1990 is offering a new program to help Redford Township residents spay or neuter their pets at low cost.

Pet owners are required to contribute toward the cost of the surgery, but the amount is based on their income levels. A complimentary rabies vaccine is included with the service as well as a heartworm test

for dogs.

Tail Wagger's 1990 received a grant from PetSmart Charities, enabling it to provide the service, which is available only to Redford Township residents.

To make an appointment, call (734) 560-4660. Visit the Tail Waggers 1990 website at [www.tailwaggers1990.org](http://www.tailwaggers1990.org).

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## THE REACH OF ARTHRITIS

Physicians know that the reach of arthritis goes beyond bones and joints. For example: people with rheumatoid arthritis may have shortness of breath and difficulty climbing stairs because of rheumatoid associated lung disease. How the arthritis injures cells lining the lungs is unknown, but early treatment of the arthritis lessens the chance of developing lung disease.

Another area where arthritis enters unexpectedly is in the heart. Investigations over the last two years have uncovered a relation between rheumatoid arthritis and coronary artery disease. A person with rheumatoid arthritis is more than two times as likely to experience a heart attack as someone who does not have rheumatoid arthritis.

This increased risk occurs because rheumatoid and similar arthritic conditions, bring on a concomitant inflammation. The inflammation is not confined to the joints but reaches throughout the body with a predilection for the coronary vessels. In turn, blood vessel inflammation causes a loss in the smooth lining of the vessel. Platelets and cholesterol accumulate at the defect, causing occlusion of the artery and an acute heart attack.

Another area where arthritis, in this case rheumatoid arthritis, makes its presence known is in the spleen. The arthritis causes the spleen to enlarge, this change crowds and damages the blood cells and platelets that stream through the spleen. In time the damage is sufficient to cause the cells and platelets to fall apart leaving the person with anemia and a platelet count too low to prevent bleeding.

Physicians are aware of the far reaching effects of arthritis and are prepared to find and treat them.

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- Janne Potter Redford
- Stephanie Lusi Royal Oak
- Louie Kwok Novi
- William Stadler Westland

# Wayne County Circuit Court candidates face primary race



ELECTION 2012

Eleven candidates are vying for three open positions on the Wayne County Circuit Court bench. Six candidates will advance to the November election. The term is six years. Judges are paid \$139,919 annually. Candidates Rohn Mitchell and David Whitaker did not respond to the *Observer* questionnaire. Readers seeking more information leading up to Tuesday's primary can also read questionnaires and resumes submitted to the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. Go to [www.detroitlawyer.org/judicialcandidateevaluationcommittee.html](http://www.detroitlawyer.org/judicialcandidateevaluationcommittee.html). Featured today are responses from candidates **Brian L. Morrow**, **Kelly Ann Ramsey**, **Mark Somers** and **John Joseph Sullivan**. Candidates Karen Braxton, Kevin Cox, Jane Ellen Gillis, Adel Harb and Dana Margaret Hathaway were published in print editions of the *Observer* on Aug. 2. All candidates appear online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com). Judges will appear on the nonpartisan portion of the ballot.

## Brian L. Morrow

Brian L. Morrow, 55, lives in Northville. He holds a bachelor's degree from



Morrow

Michigan State University and a juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School.

Morrow is married and the father of two adult children. In 2010 Morrow and his wife, Mary, established the Brian and Mary Morrow Community Service Scholarship to reward the initiative of graduating Detroit Public Schools students who have been actively involved in community service projects, and who desire to continue their education at the college or university level.

**State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)**

I am currently the Deputy Chief of the Juvenile Division of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, where my job involves prosecuting juvenile delinquency cases within the county. These cases range anywhere on the spectrum of offenses from home and school truancy on the low end, to the most serious offenses, such as armed robbery, criminal sexual conduct, carjacking and homicide, at the high end of the spectrum.

**Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?**

As deputy chief, I work with the Juvenile Court's administration to maximize efficient use of the Court's limited resources. I developed an award-winning juvenile diversion program called "Teen Court" that is having a positive effect on reducing recidivism among first-time juvenile offenders. I have the judicial temperament, compassion and reasonableness to be a highly effective jurist.

**Describe your trial experience.**

For the first 14 years of my legal career, in which I practiced as an environmental attorney, I was heavily involved in the civil litigation aspects of trial work. Since 1999, I have spent much of that time litigating criminal and juvenile delinquency cases on a nearly daily basis. I have tried hundreds of bench and jury trials at the district court and circuit court level, including homicide jury trials.

**Describe your judicial philosophy.**

Adhere to the "Rule of Law." My job as judge will be to determine what the law is, not what I think it should be. I will separate my personal, social, and political views from the process of judicial decision-making and interpret the law as it is written without bias based on my personal beliefs.

**Pick two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.**

Although I have been endorsed by all the major labor unions, the UAW, AFL-CIO, AFSCME, the Teamsters, etc., I am particularly proud to be endorsed by GCC/IBT District Council 3, Local 13-N, the newspaper pressman's union. It was my deceased father's local, where he served as a union board member until his retirement in 1988.

I am also proud of my

strong endorsement by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy, who embodies the traits that I will endeavor to exemplify as a judge, which are integrity, drive and a desire to do what is just, regardless of popular opinion.

**How can you make a difference on the court?**

If elected, I would seek to maximize the court's limited resources by working to develop specialty courts, such as Veterans Court. Veterans Courts recognize that our veterans frequently return home from war profoundly, and negatively, changed by their experience and may commit crimes as a result. Rather than criminalize and incarcerate these veterans, the Court mandates a hybrid of drug and/or mental health treatment services, all of which is funded by the U.S. Veteran's Administration. Aside from being cost-effective, I believe that our veterans deserve the special consideration Veterans Courts offer them as a result of their sacrifice and service.

**What expertise - in business or law - gives you an edge over your opponents?**

My breadth of experience sets me apart from the other candidates in my race. I have nearly 26 years of experience as an attorney, with approximately 12 of those years being spent as the supervisor of other lawyers. I have personally handled hundreds of criminal and juvenile matters. As Deputy Chief, I have experience working with the court's administration to maximize efficient use of the court's limited resources. I also have experience developing specialty courts.

## Kelly Ann Ramsey

Kelly Ann Ramsey, 56, of Livonia holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and a



Ramsey

juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School. A Detroit native,

Ramsey is the daughter of a Detroit Police Officer and department of social services caseworker. She is mother to Alexis Delphine Ramsey, a UNIS - United Nations International School, Hanoi - teacher. A lifelong resident of Wayne County, Ramsey serves on the boards of Vista Maria, Child's Hope, Save Our Children Coalition and Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation. She supports the Innocence Lost National Initiative and is a visionary of the "For The Seventh Generation" program.

**State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)**

For over 20 years, I have served as a referee in the Family Division - Juvenile Section - of the Circuit Court for Wayne County, Michigan. This court has jurisdiction over delinquency, abuse/neglect and adoption cases. During my tenure, I have handled all three such matters. I have adjudicated thousands of cases.

**Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?**

So that I may continue to serve our community and address a broader

range of issues that face us all. I have more than 20 years of judicial experience as a referee, and more than five years as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Wayne County.

**Describe your trial experience.**

For almost six years, I served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Wayne County. I routinely handled felony jury trials and bench trials. For approximately three of those years, I was a special assignment prosecutor in the child abuse unit. I performed vertical prosecutions of major offenses against children. I was routinely involved in the investigation of violent acts where children were victims of neglect, physical/sexual abuse, or murder. While in this position, I handled numerous high profile cases involving novel questions of law and unusual facts.

**Describe your judicial philosophy.**

Judges must make hard decisions for the right reasons. We must take the time to know all of the facts, as well as the history of the parties and offenders before us. I've heard it said from people who have appeared in my courtroom that I "come with a warning label" - and I do: I expect parties to come prepared, and if found responsible I expect a permanent change in the offender's behavior.

**As judges we must always follow the law.**

**Pick two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.**

I'm grateful to the many Detroit pastors who have invited me to their churches to speak to their congregations about the issues facing our city, and for encouraging their members to vote for me.

In addition, I'm grateful to those who once faced charges in my courtroom who have come forward and demanded to work on this campaign. I am grateful to Kris, who worked with my mother over 30 years ago, who wrote to encourage me to keep up the good work: "... those of us at Social Services sure know how it is needed."

**How can you make a difference on the court?**

As demonstrated for over 25 years, I understand and respect the responsibility I have to the people who appear before me and to the community that I serve. I care deeply about - and have the best interest of - the community foremost on my mind. Being elected would allow me to continue this work, but on a larger scale. I will continue to put in a full day on the bench and do the homework and legwork needed to get the job done.

**What expertise - in business or law - gives you an edge over your opponents?**

Between my job as a prosecutor and my time on the bench, I have seen it all. I know the issues that plague our community. I have been a tireless advocate for children and understand that the decisions we make today will have an impact far beyond the current generation. I am deeply concerned, and I operate from that compassion even when making the very hardest decisions and rendering the most difficult judgments.

## Mark Somers

Mark Somers, 54, of Dearborn holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and Asian studies from Michigan State University and a juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School. His professional affiliations include Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals, Wayne County District Court Judge's Association - First Vice President 2011-2012. He is a member (by appointment of Michigan Supreme Court) of the Limited English Proficiency Steering Committee.



Somers

Somers is married and the father of two adult children. His community activities include: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee - Advisory Board member BRIDGES participant (Building Respect in Diverse Groups to Enhance Sensitivity), First United Methodist Church of Dearborn - Board of Trustees, Friends of the Dearborn Symphony and Kiwanis Club of Dearborn Outer Drive.

**State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)**

I am and have been a District Court Judge for over 9 1/2 years. Elected to the 19th District Court, Dearborn in 2002; re-elected in 2008 and currently serving the six-year term commencing Jan. 1, 2009.

Appointed Chief Judge of the 19th District Court by the Michigan Supreme Court for three consecutive two-year terms - 2006-2007, 2008-2009 and 2010-2011.

As judge of the 19th District Court, I preside over an annual case-load averaging over 2,500 criminal misdemeanor cases and over 150 criminal felony preliminary examinations together with juvenile misdemeanors and thousands of civil cases.

Presiding judge of the 19th District Court Drug Treatment Court from 2005 to the present.

**Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?**

I would like to take my years of experience to the next level in order to serve a broader constituency. My particular qualifications are 19 years of private practice and 9 1/2 years of judicial experience. Before taking the bench in 2003 I had over 19 years of general private practice handling criminal, family and civil cases in over 40 state and federal courts and administrative tribunals.

**Describe your trial experience.**

As a practicing attorney I tried both civil and criminal cases in the District and Circuit courts. As a judge, I have presided over hundreds of bench and jury trials.

**Describe your judicial philosophy.**

Determine the plain meaning of the law that is to be applied in the case and to apply that law fairly to the circumstances of the case and the parties. I believe that judges are most effective when they take a "problem solving" approach that seeks practical solutions.

**Pick two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are**

meaningful.

I am honored to have the endorsements of the Police Officers Association of Michigan and the Honorable Virginia A. Sobotka (retired).

The men and women who protect and serve our community have had the opportunity to evaluate my performance on a daily basis for nearly 10 years. From the courtroom to late night and week-end review of search warrant requests they know that I am always accessible. Judge Sobotka's endorsement is likewise a great honor for me. She was Dearborn's longest serving District Court Judge and the founder of the Dearborn Drug Court.

**How can you make a difference on the court?**

I can make a difference on the Circuit Court bench by bringing my 29 years of legal experience and the same determination, hard work and judicial philosophy that I have exercised as a District Court Judge.

**What expertise - in business or law - gives you an edge over your opponents?**

I have a lot to offer in experience and service to the bench and community and will leave the comparisons for the voters.

## John Joseph Sullivan

John J. Sullivan, 42, lives in Northville. He holds a bachelor's degree and a juris doctor from the University of Michigan. His is a member of the Michigan Bar Association, Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, Michigan Association for Justice and Wayne County Probate Bar Association. Sullivan is married and the father of three children (college, high school and middle school). He has practiced law for 16 years and has been running his own law practice in Wayne County for the past 14 years.



Sullivan

**State the nature of your current practice (member of a firm, independent, etc.)**

I currently run my own private law practice in Wayne County. My current practice includes probate work including guardianships, Guardian Ad Litem assignments and mental docket work. I have experience in personal injury, contracts, family law, criminal law, real estate and general consumer law.

**Why are you running for circuit court? What are your particular qualifications for this job?**

I have a deep desire to help serve and protect my community and to help people.

I have spent a great deal of time serving Wayne County in many capacities and I have served on numerous boards and agencies including both the Michigan Association of Counties and Wayne County's Judiciary and Public Safety Committees. I have experience as an elected law maker in Wayne County and serving as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Michigan.

**Describe your trial experience.**

I have a great deal of trial experience and work regularly in the Wayne County courts.

I also have experience as an Administrative Law Judge where I have conducted approximately 1,000 arraignments and 100 trials.

**Describe your judicial philosophy.**

My judicial philosophy is to treat people fairly and to look at every case individually. That means that I will take the time to look at all of the facts and circumstances surrounding each case individually. I will treat people in my courtroom with dignity and respect with an understanding that being in court is a very traumatic experience for most people. I will take the time to hear all of the facts of each case and to consider all relevant information. I will act in a moral and ethical manner at all times and make timely decisions that are in the best interest of the parties and our community.

**Pick two endorsements that you are most proud of in this race and tell us why they are meaningful.**

I am not a strong believer in endorsements because it is the voters that really matter. I believe that most voters are smart enough to make their own decisions on who to vote for without being influenced by endorsements. However, I am very proud of my endorsements from the Michigan Association of Police Organizations and from Wayne County Chief Probate Judge Milton L. Mack, Jr. because these endorsements show that a well-respected judge that I regularly practice in front of believes I will make a great judge and that our law enforcement community understands that I will work hard to protect and serve our community.

**How can you make a difference on the court?**

I am a hard worker that will put in the hours to move my court docket timely. I have a reputation for being very patient and having a great judicial temperament. I will make smart decisions that will be beneficial to the parties in court and to our community.

As a judge I will have the opportunity to not only serve our community but to protect our community from criminals and to help people turn their lives around. I will fully utilize all opportunities to help those that need drug and/or mental health treatment to get the assistance that they need so that they do not end up back in our judicial system over and over again.

**What expertise - in business or law - gives you an edge over your opponents?**

I have been a small business owner for over 14 years. I was elected to four terms as a Wayne County legislator. I have served as a member of the Michigan Parole Board and as an Administrative Law Judge. I have very strong moral and ethical values and have always made being a good husband and father my top priority. I have worked very hard for many years to make myself the best and most well prepared candidate for this job.



# Milestones

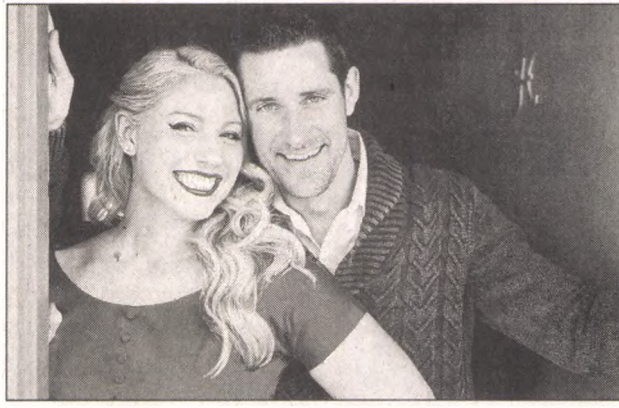
### Zuzow-Russell

Rebecca Nicole Zuzow and Gregory Page Russell announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Denise A. Zuzow of Redford and Vincent J. Zuzow of Taylor, graduated in 1998 from Lee M. Thurston High School. She received a bachelor of arts degree in corporate communications and public relations from the University of Michigan and a master of business administration degree with a marketing specialty from Madonna University. She works as a director of interactive advertising in the greater Los Angeles area.

Her fiancé, son of Jonathan Russell of Greenfield, Mass., and the late Gail Judith Page, earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a masters of electrical engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is the co-founder and owner of Mavice LLC, a software development company in Santa Monica, Calif.

An August 2012 wedding is planned at Villa Sancti Di Bella Vista in Malibu, Calif.



Rebecca Nicole Zuzow and Gregory Page Russell announce their engagement.

### 65th anniversary

Edwin and Rita (Zacharias) Felczak celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary July 5 with their family and friends at St. Damien's Roman Catholic Church. Their dear friend, the Rev. Larry Zurawski officiated the anniversary mass.

The couple married in 1947 at St. Ladislaus Roman Catholic Church in Hamtramck. Their reception was held at Plewa Hall.

Rita was born in Hamtramck and attended St. Ladislaus School. She worked at Vincent's, a local grocery store, and was employed at Hydro-matic GM in Detroit for several years. She enjoyed being a homemaker and was a supporter of their children's activities.

Edwin was born in Detroit. He went to Queen of Apostles School and graduated from Hamtramck High School in 1944. A veteran of WWII (1944-1946) he served with the Army Infantry in the Pacific. He was with the 41st



Rita and Edwin Felczak of Westland



Rita and Edwin Felczak on their wedding day

Inf. Div. Co. A. 163 Regiment. He worked at Dodge Main in Hamtramck and then at Fish-

er Body for 40 years until his retirement in 1989.

The Felczaks lived in Hamtramck from 1947-1955 and then moved to Nankin Township — now Westland — where they currently live.

Their children are Edwin Jr. (Jeannine Hauck) of Fort Worth, Texas; Michael (Shirley Padlo) of Livonia; Marcia (Paul Kopacz) of Lawrenceville, Ga.; and Ritaanne (Brady Otto) of Livonia.

They are the proud grandparents of three granddaughters, six grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

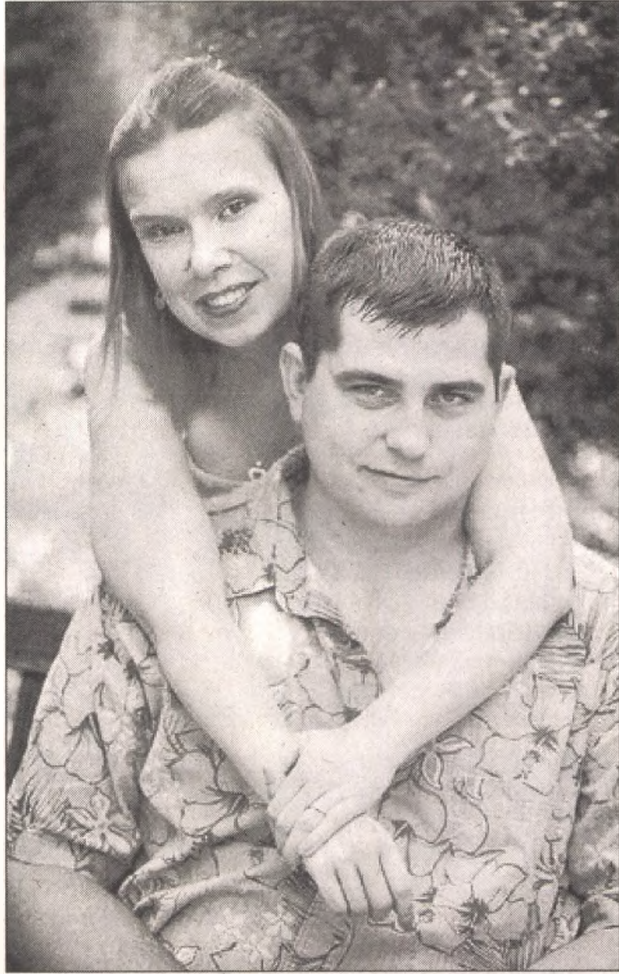
### Weise-Haroney

Devanie Weise and Nicolas Haroney plan to wed in June 2013

The bride-to-be, daughter of Donald Weise Jr. and Vickie and Paul Pavloff, all of Canton, graduated in 1998 from Salem High School and has worked for both Farmer Jacks and Kroger stores. She plans to be a stay-at-home wife.

Her fiancé, son of Jennifer and Nicolas Haroney, Sr., graduated in 1999 from Chelsea High School. He works for Orchid Macdee in Chelsea as a lead programmer making orthopedic parts. The couple met online and visited the Toledo Zoo for their first date. They were engaged July 15, 2011.

Their ceremony will be held at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plymouth, with a reception to follow at The Meeting House Grand Ball Room, also in Plymouth.



### Beasley-Thomas

Sarah Beasley and Joel Thomas announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of David and Judi Beasley of Sarnia, Ont. Her fiancé's parents are Willene Thomas of Canton and the late Curry Thomas.

A November 2012 wedding is planned at Huron Baptist Church, in Sarnia, Ont.



# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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### CROTEAU, MICHELLE MARIE

Age 53 of West Branch, passed away Sunday, July 29, 2012 at her home. Michelle had lived in West Branch since 1998, formerly of Livonia. She enjoyed her computer, the food network, music and chat rooms. Michelle is survived by her daughter, Faye Croteau of Chicago, her son Eden Croteau of Livonia, her father John P. Young of Livonia and West Branch, her mother Shirley Janisse of Cheboygan, her sisters, Vicki (Dan) Estes of Biloxi MS, Cheryl (David) Wallman of Livonia and Amy Young of Spring Hill, FL and her brothers, David Young of Redford and Michael Young of Indiana and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother John A. Young. Per her wishes, cremation has taken place. Arrangements by Steuermol & McLaren Funeral Home, West Branch, Michigan.



### HAUK, JANITA O.

Conductor Emeritus of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, passed peacefully surrounded by her family at her Lake Suzy, Florida home on Sunday, July 29, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 79. After college Mrs. Hauk taught elementary music and vocals in the Wyandotte and Wayne school districts in Michigan, and played in the Detroit Women's Symphony, the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, and the Dearborn Symphony. Her first conducting assignment was with the Livonia (Michigan) Youth Orchestra. Mrs. Hauk and her late husband Marvin Hauk relocated from Michigan to Charlotte County in 1987. She leaves a son, Todd Hauk, of Westland, Michigan; a daughter, Alca Hauk DeNeau of Seattle, WA; a brother, Jan Riedel, of Tiffin, OH; two sisters, Karen Riedel of New York, NY, and DaLee Miller of Pittsburgh, PA; David Bewernitz of Wesley Chapel, whom she raised with her husband as a son; and three grandchildren, Amber Hauk, Natasha Bewernitz, and Jeremy Bewernitz. Visitation hours are on Wednesday, Aug. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Kays-Ponger Funeral Home, 635 East Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 2, at the funeral home. Burial will be in Royal Palm Memorial Gardens, 27200 Jones Loop Road, Punta Gorda. In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Mrs. Hauk's memory to the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 510476, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0476; Visiting Angels Home Care Services, 25166 Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950; or Tidewell Hospice, 917 N. Arcadia Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266



### FOREMAN, VIRGINIA ELIZABETH

Age 83 of Bloomfield Township, passed away July 29, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Robert W. Foreman (2003). Loving mother of Carol V. (David) Goldfarb and Robert A. (Lisa) Foreman. Proud grandmother of Curtis (Rhonda) Foreman, Derek (Vonne) Foreman, Aaron (Nicole) Goldfarb, Sarah Goldfarb, Edward Foreman, and Conrad Foreman. Dear great grandmother of Natalie and Travis. Mrs. Foreman was an active volunteer at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac for over 35 years. The family will have a private ceremony in her honor at a later date. Share your memories at www.sawyerfuller.com

### GAMBLE, MARTHA MELINDA

Age 49, died Friday July 27, 2012 at Peachtree Hospice in Duluth, Georgia. She was a resident of Alpharetta, Georgia. Martha grew up in Birmingham, Michigan. She was an alumna of Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and a graduate of Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts in 1986. She worked as a coordinator for moving van lines, starting in Michigan with Frisbee and Corrigan, and in Georgia with Suddath. She had recently joined the Village Club in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, her mother's long time club. Martha had a great love for Georgia, animals, flowers, shopping, Sweet Tea and giggles with her girlfriends. She loved golf and attended The Masters many times. She believed in living life in the moment and had the biggest heart and the strongest will to live life. Her favorite quote was by Charlie Chaplin: "A day without laughter is a day wasted." Martha was preceded in death by her parents, Lois K. Gamble and E. James Gamble, her maternal grandparents, Hazel W. and W. Murray Kennedy, and her paternal grandparents, Edward J. and Modesta R. Gamble. She is survived by her brothers John Gamble (Chicago, Illinois) and Paul Gamble (Birmingham, Michigan), her aunt, Susan K. Sismondo, her beloved cat Simba and many other relatives and wonderful friends. A Memorial Service will be held on August 9th at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Atlanta Humane Society and Pet Rescue, www.atlantahumane.org or the Michigan Humane Society, www.michiganhumane.org. Arrangements by SouthCare Cremation & Funeral Society in Alpharetta, GA (678) 735-5500.



### GEDDES, LORETTA J.

Age 83, July 29, 2012. Dear wife of the late Jim. Loving mother of Dan (Cindy), Bill (Jeannine), Tim (Terry) and Mary (Tom) Landroche. Proud grandmother of Dan, Luke, Elizabeth, Lauren, Tommy, Jimmy, Kenny, Amanda, Katie, Tabitha and Josephine. Loving sister of Gee (Jim) Meloche and Marilyn (Al) Smith. Also loved by nieces, nephews, extended relatives and friends. A generation of neighborhood children in Garden City and 35 years of St. Raphael catechism students felt her love. She touched lives in remarkable ways. Please no flowers. Make donations to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, www.ccfaf.org. Services were held Tuesday. Arrangements by Santeiu & Son Funeral Home. Share memories at www.santeiufuneralhome.com

### NOVOTNY, MICHAEL JOSEPH

Age 61, of Lewiston MI., formerly of Garden City, MI. Passed away August 2, 2012, after a year long battle with pancreatic cancer. Loving husband of Connie (Spence) and father of Joe (Rosemary) and Steve. Grandfather of Deanna and Joey. Brother of Alice Tenace and Jeannette Johns. Son of the late Stephen and Irene Novotny also many nieces, nephews and other family members and many friends. Visitation on Tuesday August 7, 2012 at Husband Funeral Home, 2401 S. Wayne Rd., Westland MI. 1-8 pm and funeral service Wednesday at noon, burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens, Westland, MI.

### SCHWAB, PATRICIA D.

Age 72, August 2, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Jerome 'Rusty'. Loving mother of Timothy (Nicola) and Teresa (Joe) McKeon. Loving grandmother of Sean. Dear sister of Jenny Ryan, Raymond (Jeannie) Ryan, William (Kathy) Ryan and Mary (George Geran) Ryan. Beloved aunt of many loving nieces and nephews. She was deeply loved and will be dearly missed. Visitation Sunday 2-8pm with a 7pm Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (Between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). In state Monday 10:30am until the 11am Mass at St. Mel Catholic Church, 7506 Inkster (just north of Warren). In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to St. Mel Church. www.santeiufuneralhome.com



### VATCA, SAM

Age 86, suddenly, July 29, 2012. Beloved husband of Connie. Loving father of Dawn (Todd) Tillman, Shelly (Dan) Buszka, Cindy (Don) Murphy and the late Kimberly Ahola. Dear grandfather of Ashley, Jordan & Mackenzie, Preston & Parker and Cade & Connor. Dear great-grandfather of Angelina. Brother of Helen (John) Gasperetto. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Livonia. A Funeral Mass for Sam was August 2, 2012 at St. Colette Catholic Church, Livonia. Memorials may be directed to the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America. Please share a memory at www.rgharris.com

### WIK, TERRY I.

Age 70, of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away July 27, 2012. Arrangements: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

## In Memory Of



### IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM C. FERMAN, OD

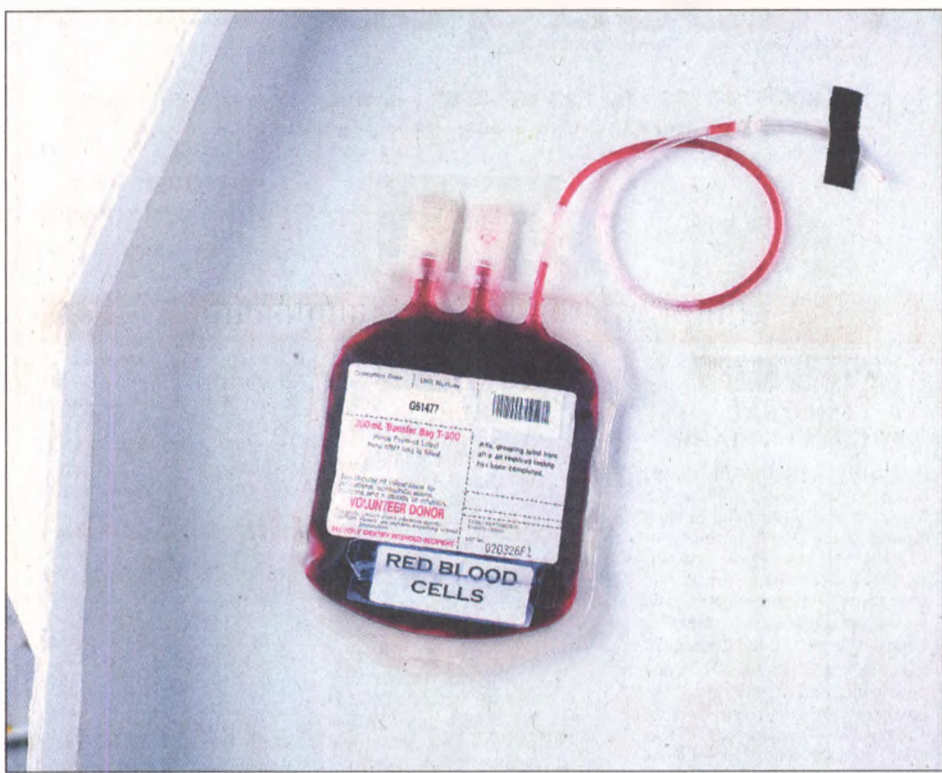
November 29, 1928 - August 31, 2007 of Clermont, Florida, formerly of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away from complication of Parkinson's disease. He was born November 29, 1928 in Detroit. He was a member of the Air Force Reserve attaining the rank of Captain; member of and past president of Wayne County Society of Optometrists, Metropolitan Detroit Optometrists Society and Michigan Optometric Association. He was president of the Plymouth Rotary and past master of the Masons. Dr. Ferman Maintained optometric offices in Detroit and Plymouth for 43 years. Surviving is his wife, college sweetheart and the love of his life for 57 years, Ora Lee Ferman; children Gregory Ferman and wife Christine of Plymouth, MI, Susan Gordon, Westland, MI, and Ted Ferman and wife Debra, Canton, MI as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. "You are loved beyond forever."

## In Memory Of



### BRIAN HINZMAN 3/16/81 ~ 7/27/07

We love & miss you very much!  
Love,  
Your family



## Blood drive offers prize, friendly contest

Blood donors will get a chance to win a \$500 gas card for participating in the annual "Battle of the Badges" blood drive, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16 at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Participants also may cast a vote for their favorite team in the Battle of the Badges, a friendly competition between the Farmington Hills Police and Fire departments.

"It's a great cause. It's open to the public, too," said Farmington Hills Fire Chief Chuck Nebus, adding that the police-fire contest is designed to stir interest in the blood drive and encourage participation. "We promote it in

the department."

All blood types are needed during the Battle of the Badges blood drive. Type O is especially in high demand because it can be transfused to patients in other blood groups and is used in most emergency trauma cases when a patient's blood type isn't known.

Hospitals in southeastern Michigan need more than 900 units of blood each day. Thousands of patients in nearly 70 Michigan hospitals are dependent on blood for the treatment of cancer and other diseases, for surgeries and organ transplants, and for emergency and trauma care.

Blood donations decrease while the need for blood increases during the summer. August is traditionally the most difficult month to collect donations and local inventories often fall to critically low levels.

To make an appointment to donate on Aug. 16, go to [www.redcross-blood.org](http://www.redcross-blood.org). Enter the sponsor code costick-center and follow the instructions to set up an appointment time for the blood drive.

Giving blood takes approximately one hour. Donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be 17 years of age or older.

For more information, call (800) GIVE-LIFE.

## Lyme group looks at disability support

Attorney Gary Bimberg will talk about social security disability payments at the next meeting of the East Oakland-Northern Wayne Lyme Support Group, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

Bimberg is a frequent lecturer, author and instructor on "Social Security Disability Claims from an Advocate's Point of View." He has been a shareholder and director at Levine Benjamin since 2000, and along with Joseph Houle, heads the Social Security Division at the firm.

The program is open to anyone with a disability or who cares about someone with a disability.

The East Oakland-Northern Wayne Lyme Support Group is sponsored by the Michigan Lyme Disease Association. For more information visit [www.mlda.org](http://www.mlda.org) or call (888) 784-LYME.

## Tool helps parents determine sleep quality

A new app based on University of Michigan Health System research is designed to help parents identify sleep and breathing problems in their children.

The app, called Sleep Champ, features a series of yes-or-no questions about a child's behavior and characteristics that can help parents figure out if their child is getting quality sleep.

The app is based on the Sleep Related Breathing Disorders Scale, a questionnaire developed by Dr. Ronald D. Chervin, the Michael S. Aldrich Collegiate Professor of Sleep Medicine and the director of the University of Michigan Sleep Disorders Center. The scale is designed to assess sleep quality, specifically identifying symptoms of sleep-related breathing disorders.

U-M licensed the scale for use in the app, which was developed by health information technology company, Zansors, LLC. The app is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

"Appropriate identification and treatment of childhood sleep disorders can make a huge difference, for years to come, in the lives of children and their families," Chervin said. "I very much hope that, at minimum, the Sleep Champ app will create better awareness about sleep and breathing problems that children can have, and about the potential

consequences."

App users will be asked about their child's behaviors, including questions about snoring, breathing and other related characteristics, such as poor attention, hyperactive behavior, impulsiveness and sleepiness that can be signs of poor sleep quality.

"Many parents have unanswered questions or concerns about their children's sleep, and for good reason," Chervin said. "Parents realize, even sometimes when doctors don't, that how a child sleeps could have a lot to do with how they're going to behave the next day. And that can have a lot of influence on the quality of the day for the whole family."

Parents receive a score after answering the app questions. Depending on the score, they may be advised to take their child to a pediatrician or sleep medicine specialist for more information.

"If you're a parent and you fill this questionnaire out and you think your child has some of these symptoms, it might raise the possibility that your child would really benefit from going to a pediatrician and discussing with them to see whether a sleep disorder might be diagnosed," Chervin said.

For more information about the University of Michigan Sleep Disorders Center, visit <http://www.med.umich.edu/neuro/sleeplab/>

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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• EMT-S Bridge Class	9/9/12	Sundays	Taylor
• EMT Day Class	9/17/12	M-W	Taylor
• EMT Day Class	10/8/12	M-W	Southfield
• Paramedic Evening Class	10/9/12	T-Th	Taylor
• EMS I/C Evening Class	10/16/12	T-Th	Southfield

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