

**SUNDAY SPECIAL: THE CROSS BURNING 10 YEARS LATER**

# GOOD FROM BAD

## Incident breathes life into Livingston 2001

By Christopher Nagy  
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**I**t is the good that came from the bad. It is a weapon of unity and triumph that was forged in the fires of hatred.

More significant than the decade-old cross burning in Livingston County is the upcoming 10th anniversary of the birth of Livingston 2001.

For the past 10 years, Livingston 2001 has been solely dedicated to the promotion, preservation and celebration of diversity and tolerance in Livingston County, but the true roots of the organization stretch back farther than 1988.

The roots of Livingston 2001 can be traced all the way back to the 1970s. And the nutrients from which these roots originally fed from was Citizens Insurance in Howell.

Roy Westran knows about these roots. Not only was Westran president of Citizen's Insurance at the



File photo by SCOTT PIPER

**September 1988: Detective Al Perry of the Livingston County Sheriff's Department examines the cross burned on the lawn of a black family in Genoa Township.**

time of the cross burning, but he also played an essential role in the formation of Livingston 2001.

Having been a county resident since 1965, Westran has seen both the best and worst Liv-

ingston County has had to offer. For Westran, one of the darker times in the county for came following the cross burning.

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