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HOMETOWNLIFE - C1

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SUNDAY
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In addition to helping Micah Becker of Westland carve his Halloween pumpkins, Allen Coleman of Plymouth Township has helped the youngster improve his reading skills as part of his Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring.

'Big' chance to help out a 'Little'

Mentoring group lets couple make difference in a young child's life

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When Allen and Vickie Coleman moved to Plymouth Township from St. Louis, they wanted to become involved in their community.

Allen eventually worked his way onto the board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit (which he now chairs), then found it wasn't quite enough. He decided he wanted to actually be a "Big," but the group's bylaws didn't allow board members to mentor children.

So determined to help youngsters was he, Allen helped get the bylaws changed. Now three board members, including Coleman, are "Bigs."

"I wanted to give back to the community," said Allen Coleman, who is vice president at Strategic Staffing Solutions. "I had mentors in my life, and it seemed like the right thing to do."

One of those mentors was a man named Jim Coppinger, the father of one of Coleman's best friends. When Coleman was getting ready to graduate high school, his parents hadn't the means to send him to college.

DIRECTION IN LIFE

Coppinger took Coleman under his wing, helping him get college grants, setting his mind straight.

"Going to college didn't seem real," remembered Coleman, who eventually graduated from Southeast Missouri State with a degree in computer science. "(Coppinger) pulled me aside and said, 'You're going to college.' It changed my life."

Now the Colemans wanted to make a similar impact on a young life. They submitted themselves to the screening process, which includes reference checks, a check of driving records and the like. Big Brothers Big Sisters matches adult volunteers ("Bigs") with children in need of mentoring ("Littles").

Matches are made, as much as possible, by geographic location and spheres of interest. In July 2004, the group put the Colemans with a then-12-year-old

PLEASE SEE **BIG, A6**

BEING A 'BIG'

- What: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Detroit
- Where: Serves Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties
- Who: More than 100 boys on waiting list; also girls who need mentors
- How: Criteria includes being over 18, being able to drive, being a caring adult, being a friend to a child and willing to make a 12-month commitment. Enrollment process includes an application, face-to-face interview, personal references, series of background checks (including criminal and others), and a driving record check because you'd be transporting a child.
- Time: A couple of times per month face-to-face; about four hours a month
- Other ways: Can't be a mentor? The group also needs people to work events and activities, holiday parties, fund-raising, etc.
- Get involved: Call (248) 569-0600

'Bigs' needed for matches with 'Littles'



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurie Lindblom of Big Brothers Big Sisters and her son, 8-year-old Ross Lindblom outside their Farmington home.

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When Laurie Lindblom worked for Val-Pak, her boss would regale her with tales of the adventures he had as a Big Brother with his "Little," a boy named Max, proud of the difference he made in Max's life.

When Lindblom's husband, Ken, died some nine weeks after being diagnosed with cancer, she remembered those tales and decided she wanted that for her son, Ross.

Imagine her surprise, then, when she approached Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit and was told, however politely, they wouldn't be able to help her because there were already too many boys on the waiting list.

Undeterred, Lindblom kept at it.

"They said very kindly, 'No way,' but I felt my situation was unique," said Lindblom, 42, who lives with Ross in Farmington. "My son's dad wasn't in prison, he didn't just walk out. My son's father had died. He didn't have a choice in it."

PLEASE SEE **MATCHES, A7**

County blows whistle on underpass

Residents, businesses worry about project's financial impact

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Mark Engelhart listened to more disheartening news at Wednesday's informational meeting at the Plymouth Cultural Center on the two-year closing of Sheldon Road to construct an underpass at the CSX railroad tracks, which is slated to begin Dec. 12.

As the owner of the Burger King restaurant at Five Mile and Sheldon, Engelhart has seen his sales drop by double-digit percentage points because of the M-14 construction project, which began in March and most recently included the closing of the Sheldon Road ramps.

"It's going to be a total of 2½ years that we've had impact on our business, and it's got a large financial impact," Engelhart said. "We're down 20 percent in sales this month because of the closure of the ramps. And now, this (Sheldon Road) project is taking away our south trade area.



PLEASE SEE **UNDERPASS, A5**

12
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06

Task force finds drug use low in P-C schools

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

The task force recently created to study alcohol, tobacco and drug use among students didn't discover any sweeping trends among Canton and Plymouth teens.

"The data is in line with what we expected but we're being proactive," said Canton Township Deputy Police Chief Laura Golles. "We don't think there's a problem but we're going to meet each year to see what the information means in the scope of 5,800 kids."

That sounds like a plan to high school parent Cindi Fry.

"My family's been lucky but we know it's out there," she said. "You don't want to be blind to what's happening so anything the schools can do to keep an eye out is great."

The task force was organized in October and has representatives from the school district, Canton's public safety department and the Growth Works Youth Assistance program.

The group recently studied data that said less than 10 high school students for every 1,000 was involved in a drug, alcohol or tobacco incident last year. Those numbers dropped to one per 1,000 kids at the middle school level.

Golles said the task force will meet annually after the end of each school year.

"We're going to talk about what we know," she said. "We don't want there to be any question of what is or what isn't."

Fry, whose son is a high school senior, said the task force has more resources to study trends than parents.

"I think they're doing a good thing," she said.

Last academic year, there were 37 reports of drug possession, 31 cases of drug use, 20 incidents of alcohol abuse and 10 reports of tobacco possession at the high school level, according to the public safety department.

"Things have changed from when I was young so I'm glad their keeping an eye on this," said Denise Staffeld, who has a daughter at Salem High School. "As a parent, you're always thinking about this so I'm glad (the task force) isn't closing their eyes to a potential huge problem."

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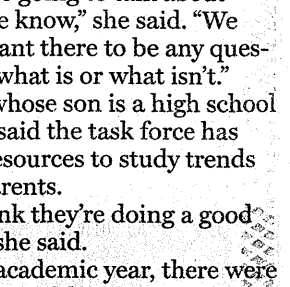
Coming Thursday in Filter



Hot Spots: Turn to the next issue of Filter for your guide on the bustling nightlife of downtown Birmingham.

Nominations sought for '07 Hall of Fame

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2007 Plyimouth Community Hall of Fame.

More than 100 community supporters attended the April 2006 banquet, where Robert DeMattia and Jim Vermeulen Sr., were inducted.

Deadline for nominations is Jan. 31.

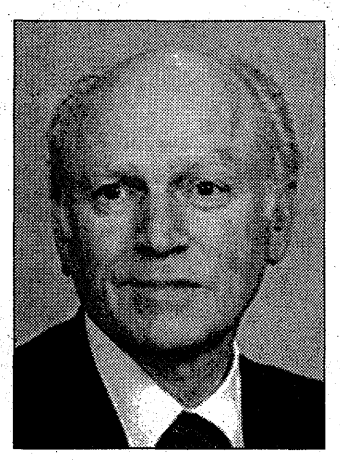
The program was first started in 1980. So far, 42 people have been inducted. To be inducted into the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame, sponsored by the chamber and the Plymouth Evening Kiwanis Club, a candidate must:

n Have been a resident of the Plymouth community for at least 10 years;

n Be at least 30 years of age; and

n Made a recognizable contribution to the community in terms of time and effort in the building or rebuilding of the well-being of the community.

The nomination process is being run by the steering committee, made up of former Plymouth police chief Bob Scoggins; Rebecca Armstrong of Plymouth Township;



James Vermeulen was a 2006 inductee into the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

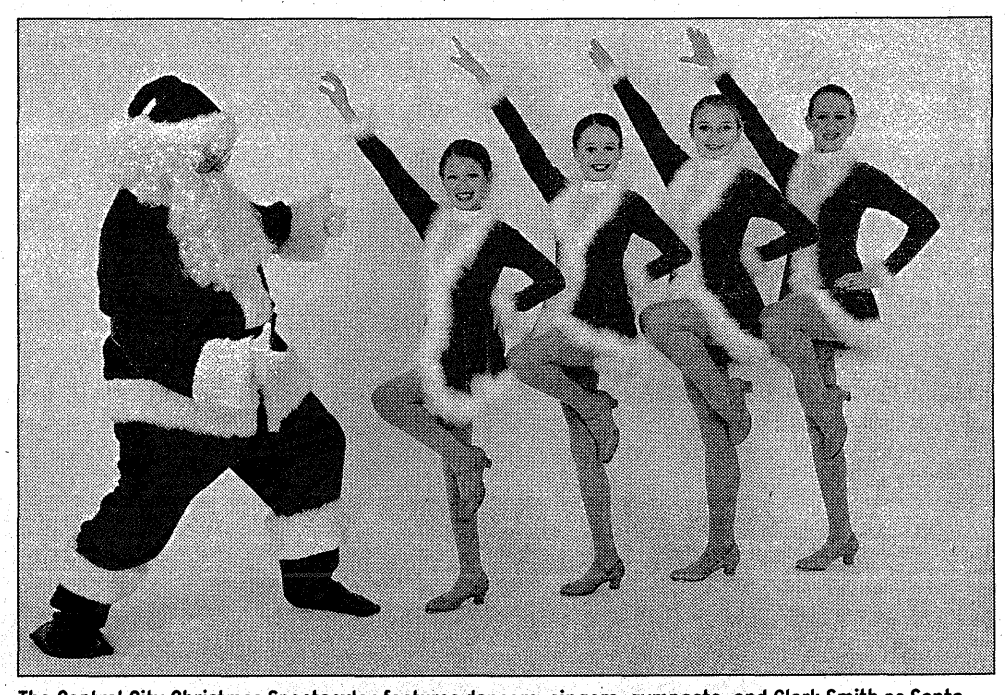
Plymouth District Library director Pat Thomas; Bill Miller and Don Kobeck of the Plymouth Kiwanis Clubs; Fran Toney and Michael Kolb of the chamber; and retired Judge James Garber, himself a Hall of Famer.

Background information to support a nomination is helpful, Toney said. Nominations are being accepted at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. They can be faxed to (734) 453-1724.

For more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-1540.

Giant cast to celebrate holidays in grand style at Village Theater

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER



The Central City Christmas Spectacular features dancers, singers, gymnasts, and Clark Smith as Santa.

A cast of more than 140 singers, dancers and gymnasts will perform in the third annual Central City Christmas Spectacular Dec. 14-17 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The two-hour show is being directed by Tim Smola and his wife Tamara Nastev-Smola, who own the Central City Dance studio in Canton. The majority of performers are dancers at the studio, but Smola said they held auditions and have brought in others from around the metro Detroit area. Performers range in age from 6 years old to adults

Smola is touting it as the largest holiday show around, and said this year's cast hopes to dazzle the audience with new sets, elaborate costumes, stage effects, and a glitzy new Broadway tap routine. He said it's a little different than your average holiday show, and is reminiscent to a Radio City Rockettes show.

"When I grew up dancing, I would perform the Nutcracker every year around the holidays," Smola said. "I always wished there was something that could incorporate other forms of dance like jazz and hip hop. So my wife and I decided to come up with a show that featured stronger elements than just ballet."

Similarly to the past two years, the show follows Santa as he travels around the world, delivering gifts to children. It ends when he stops at Central City Dance in Canton.

"He goes to Italy, the Middle East and other places, so you get a taste and performance from each place," Smola said. "We added a new scene this year where Santa takes his head elf into a comedy club in the Bronx. It adds a bit of humor to the show."

While the storyline has remained largely unchanged, Smola said he and his wife changed the dance routines for this show. He said performers will have rehearsed for 12 weeks by the time the show takes place. They have been practicing 5-10 hours a week. Plymouth resident Katie Hopman, 15, says as the show has drawn nearer, the rehearsals have been more and more exciting. She says she can't wait until the performance to show her friends and family what she's been working on since the beginning of October.

"After being a part of the show last year, I knew that I wanted to audition again this year. Being a part of the Christmas Spectacular is a lot of fun and I look forward to practice each week," she said. "The friends that I have made from other dance studios are great and I love getting to know them better. The dances are energetic and a lot of fun."

The show also features 13 singers, who perform many classic holiday songs, including "Silver Bells," "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "Jingle Bells."

In addition to the performers, there will be a large crew of more than 40 people working behind the scenes, who will be in charge of everything from lighting to making sure actors are in their right place and ready to go. One of those people is Dawn Shrader, who will be keeping track of more than 300 costumes.

"They are all numbered and assigned to the performers. Some of the performers have only 2-3 minutes to change into their next costumes, so you can imagine the mess that can be left behind," she said.

The Central City Christmas Spectacular will run at 6 p.m., Dec. 14-17 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. There will also be matinee performances Dec. 16-17. Tickets are $18 and may be purchased by contacting Central City Dance Center (8004 Sheldon Center Road in Canton) at (734) 459-0400, or Images Salon (15083 Sheldon Road in Plymouth) at (734) 455-6833.

Tickets are reserved seating and will not be sold the day of the show. For more ticket information visit www.centralcitydance.com

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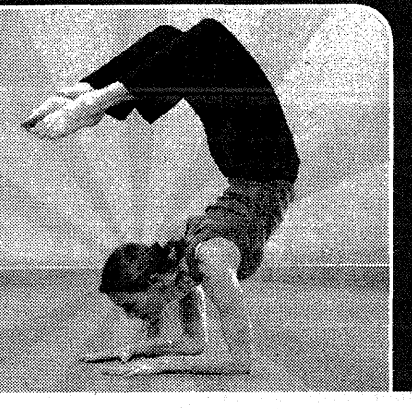

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Postal veteran puts stamp on 30-year career

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

To put the retirement of Gail Ryan into perspective, when she started working at the Carl Pursell Post Office on Penniman Avenue stamps cost 10 cents, and you had to lick them to make them stick.

Always with a friendly smile, Ryan's last day behind the counter was Thursday, with all of her 30-plus years spent greeting customers at the downtown Plymouth post office.

"I thought about retirement about a year ago," admitted Ryan, who lives in Canton Township. "My husband (Jim) plays golf with all his friends whenever he wants. I thought 'I want to do that.' The ability to do what I want, when I want."

However, in the next breath, Ryan admitted she'll miss the contact with her customers.

"I love my job, I love the public," said Ryan. "It's like a big family. You hear a lot of sad stories and a lot of happy stories, and I feel like I'm part of their family."

Ralph C. Gregory of Westland makes the trek to the downtown post office almost daily to pick up and drop off mail for his daughter's Plymouth-based business.

"I've been talking and kidding with her for about three years," said Gregory. "She's a wonderful person to talk with, and she goes out of her way to be nice to you. I don't even live in Plymouth and I'm going to miss her."

Ryan said the post office has come a long way since the 10-cent stamp.

"When I first started counter work, we had fan scales, no cash registers and we had pencil and paper to write down purchases and handwritten receipts," Ryan said. "I feel very fond of this building. It's traditional, like a home."

Co-worker Kent Puzzuoli of Canton said Ryan's smile and work ethic will be missed.

"Gail's last day was like her first as far as enthusiasm and integrity, and a friendliness to customers," Puzzuoli said.

Ryan said she'll take retirement easy for a short while, but there are other things for her on the horizon.

"December is my time to find out what retirement is about," Ryan said. "However, I do want to do something else – like volunteer – but I just don't want the commitment of 40 hours a week."

Ryan said she'll miss the familiar faces she's seen during her 30 years greeting customers.

"You get to know families, I've seen kids grow, and the business people who have come and gone," said Ryan. "I will miss them. They have made a difference in my life. Maybe I will be that one friendly person they'll remember, and encourage them to be friendly to window clerks and clerks in other businesses."

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gail Ryan, who can remember the 10-cent stamp, retired this week after 30 years working at the Carl Pursell Post Office on Penniman.

Plymouth could hold financial key to Canton's Joy Road plans

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Township plans to improve two Joy Road intersections could face the chopping block if Plymouth Township or Wayne County don't agree to help fund the projects.

"We can't spend money outside of Canton's borders so if they can't come up with any money, we'll move on to project B," said Township Trustee Karl Zarbo. "It's not an option to do half the job."

The two intersections — Joy at Canton Center and Joy at Haggerty — are among five that are slated to be revamped in 2007 through the township's Intersection Safety Improvement Program.

The reconstruction, which includes creating right-turn lanes and improving traffic signals, is expected to total $300,000 for the two Joy Road intersections.

Township Supervisor Tom Yack said although the improvements are needed they'll get scrapped without outside assistance.

"It has to be a multi-jurisdiction approach," he said, adding that the chances of Plymouth Township contributing are slim. "I wouldn't be a bit surprised if they said 'no' because their funds are not as flexible."

Richard Reaume, Plymouth Township supervisor, said Yack is probably right.

"I don't think we're looking to undertake any more road improvements," he said, referencing the upcoming construction of the Sheldon Road underpass. "But we would highly encourage the county to leverage any money available."

Since its inception in 2004, the seven-person Intersection Audit Committee has given Canton officials recommendations of what areas should be reconstructed.

Six intersections, including Cherry Hill at Sheldon, have been improved and the three other projects on tap for next year are: Saltz at Canton Center, Palmer at Haggerty and Cherry Hill at Beck.

The total costs will be about $1.1 million.

The projects are funded through a .36-mill assessment that was formerly earmarked for the fire and police departments.

Zarbo, an IAC member, said redirecting millage dollars is a "fairly unusual practice" but believes it made sense in this situation.

"Traffic congestion is knit and tied together with public safety," he said. "They are the ones trying to get through these intersections at crazy times."

The IAC, which includes residents and government officials, will identify at least 20 more intersections that need to be improved over the next eight years.

"The (reconstruction) adds more of a challenge to your life but once it's complete you can really see the benefits," Yack said.

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Reporter joins Observer staff

Reporter Tiffany L. Parks has joined the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* editorial staff. Her primary beat will be covering Canton Township for the *Canton Observer*.

Parks comes to the Observer after spending the last three years working for the *Flint Journal*, where she covered a number of communities, including Grand Blanc Township and Linden. She has also written for the *Detroit News* and the *Topeka Capital* in Kansas.



Parks

Parks, who lives in Pontiac with her husband Alan, said she is excited about the opportunity to become part of the community.

Parks grew up in Flint. In addition to her love of community journalism, she enjoys scrapbooking, doing home improvements, R&B oldies and shopping.

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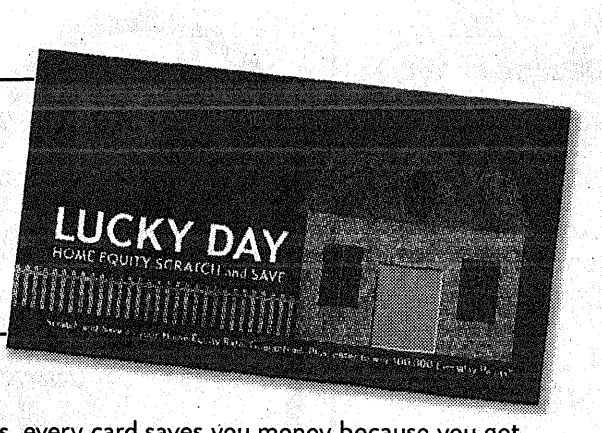

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Gift of Reading

The Plymouth District Library is again an official drop-off location for the Gift of Reading program.

New, unwrapped books are distributed to Michigan children, toddlers through second graders, who otherwise might not have a new book of their own. Please bring your donations to the Library gift box located near the staircase by Dec. 13.

Chorale concert

The BeckRidge Chorale in its 34th season will be performing the Christmas concert "'Tis The Season," featuring seasonal standards and new selections sure to lift your spirits. With songs like *Silent Night, Go Tell It on the Mountain, Christmas on Broadway*, and *The Little Drummer Boy*, the concert is sure to contain at least a few of everyone's favorites.

Performances of "'Tis The Season will held Saturday," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Both performances are at Northville High School Auditorium, 45700 Six Mile between Sheldon and Beck in Northville Township.

Christmas Concerts have a tendency to sell-out quickly, so chorale officials are urging early purchase of tickets.

Tickets are $12 and $15, assigned seating. Use your credit card to purchase tickets by phone at (866) 924-4276, or visit the Chorale's Web site for a ticket order form at www.plycommunitychorus.org.

Sit with Santa

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is inviting children of all ages to sit with Santa in his house in downtown Plymouth. Pictures are available.

Santa will be in his house weekends through Dec. 23. Santa is there 5-8 p.m. Fridays and noon-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

On Friday, Dec. 22 from 6-8 p.m., owners can get their pets pictures taken with Santa for $6. Proceeds from the pet photos are donated to the Michigan Humane Society.

For more information, call (734) 453-1540.

Sounds of the Season

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Choirs will present their annual holiday concert "Sounds of the Season" 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19 in the Salem High School Auditorium located at 46181 Joy in Canton.

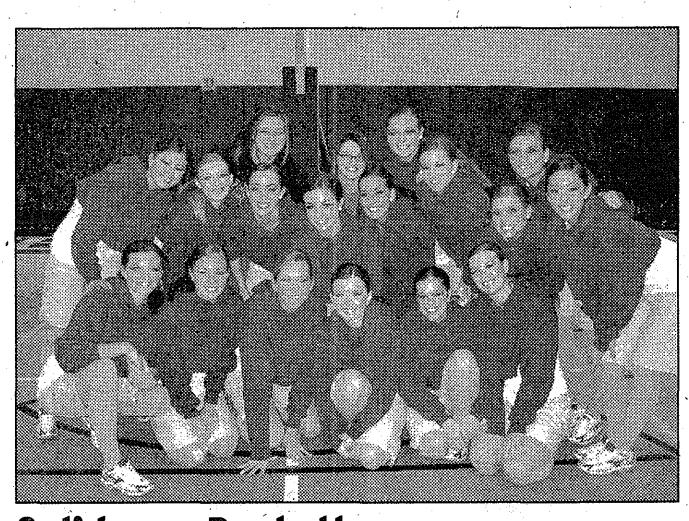
Tickets ($4 pre-sale and $5 at the door) are currently on sale and may be purchased in the PCEP Choir Office (Room 1603 at Salem High School) during school hours. For more information visit the choir Web site at www.pcepchoirs.org or call (734) 416-7800.

"Sounds of the Season" will feature over 200 students who are members of the award-winning PCEP Choirs under the direction of Jennifer L. Kopp. Students are in grades 9-12 and attend either Plymouth, Canton or Salem High Schools. The PCEP Choirs will be performing a wide variety of Christmas and Hanukkah favorites including music from the film *The Polar Express*.

Toy drive

Mel Bobcean, owner of Mel's Golden Razor in downtown Plymouth, starts his 28th year collecting toys for children and families he helps during the Christmas holidays.

Bobcean's effort also includes collecting money for food boxes for needy families. The collection runs Nov. 24-Dec. 19.



Solid as a Rockette

The Salem High School Rockettes varsity dance team recently competed in the Universal Dance Association Great Lakes Invitational. The team placed first in the hip hop competition and second in jazz. In February, the girls will be competing at a national level event in Orlando, Fla. The day after the invitational, the team competed in the Mid-American Pom Pon Competition, placing first in jazz and second in hip hop. The varsity Rockettes are coached by Aileen Balatico and Laura Thorp.

Mel's Golden Razor is located at 595 Forest. For more information, call (734) 455-9057.

Chiefette fund-raiser

Tony's Coney will host a fund-raiser for the award-winning Canton Chiefettes Pom Pon Squads on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

A portion of the profits from that day will be donated to the Chiefettes to offset competition-related expenses. Tony's Coney is located at 41810 Ford Road, in front of the Bombay Company and PetSmart.

For directions, call (734) 844-6545.

Elephant Man

Barefoot Productions presents the second production of its premiere season when "The Elephant Man," a play by Bernard Pomerance, hits the stage at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth, Dec. 8-10.

Performances are 8 p.m. Dec. 8-9, with a 2 p.m. matinee Dec. 10. Tickets are $15 general admission, $10 senior/student and will be available at the door 30 minutes prior to each performance. Advance tickets can be bought at The Book Cellar & Café, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

For more information, visit the Barefoot Productions Web site at www.justgobarefoot.com

Orchestra concert

The Plymouth Canton Community Schools orchestras present their annual Orchestra Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, in the Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School, 46181 Joy in Canton

Tickets ($3 for adults, $2 for students, $5 family pass) are available at the door, with all proceeds going to support the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Orchestras. The concert of holiday favorites will feature performances by the P-CCS Middle School Strings, the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Concert String Orchestra and the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Symphony.

For more information, e-mail Mary Marben at marbenm@pccs.k12.mi.us or call (734) 416-3297.

'True Light' service

The choirs of First United Methodist Church present "True Light," a collage of music, readings and visual images celebrating the birth of Christ and our hope for salvation, 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

Adult, high school and children's choirs, handbells, orchestra, organ and other instruments will offer music in a wide variety of styles, from Baroque to Gospel. These services will offer perspectives on the core message of Christmas and the promises it holds for those who believe.

First United Methodist Church is located at 45201 North Territorial Road, a mile east of Beck Road, and offers ample parking and barrier-free entrance. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

For more information, e-mail Marcia Van Oyen at marcia@pfumc.org or call (734) 453-5280.

Trinity Christmas story

Experience a modern-day interpretation of the well-known Christmas story as Trinity Church presents "Word on the Street," a dinner theatre, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8-9.

Enjoy a pasta buffet while listening to favorite songs of the season. Then, members of the Trinity drama and music teams will present the tale of two people who were charged with an amazing responsibility — to be the parents of a very special baby who would come to change the world.

Tickets are $7 and can be reserved by calling the church, (734) 459-9550, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Trinity is located at 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd (corner of Ann Arbor Rd. and Gotfredson).

Book signing

Author Carol McCloud will sign copies of her book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*, noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Book Cellar & Café on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

McCloud began teaching the concept of bucket filling when she teamed up with Merrill Lundgren, "The Bucket Man" in 2005. He had been giving presentations since 1979 to 9,000 children and 15,000 adults throughout Michigan. McCloud is the co-founder and Vice President of Bucketfillers.com, Inc. She lives in Brighton, Michigan.

Her book has been the top seller in the store, outselling even books on *The New York Times* best- seller list and Oprah's picks, according to her publisher, Nelson Publishing of Northville, which printed 10,000 copies for the June delivery date and will reprint in January.

Breakfast with Santa

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce sponsors Breakfast with Santa 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. Dec. 16, at E.G. Nicks in downtown Plymouth.

Tickets are $12.95 for adults and $7.95 for children (includes tax and tip). They can be purchased at E.G. Nicks on Forest or the chamber office (850 W. Ann Arbor Trail). Credit card orders are accepted.

For credit card orders or more information, call (734) 453-1540.

Isbister vendor show

Isbister Elementary School hosts its second Isbister Vendor Show open to the public 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, in the Isbister gymnasium, 9300 Canton Center Road between Ann Arbor Road and Joy in Plymouth Township.

Holiday crafts, jewelry, purses, athletic wear, housewares, tools, books and more will be available for purchase. There is no admission fee and free baby-sitting will be provided. Proceeds will benefit Isbister's Parent-Teacher Organization.

For more information, call (734) 459-2622.

Senior party

The Plymouth A.M. Rotary Club sponsors its annual Seniors Christmas Party Dec. 17 at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Doors open at 4 p.m., and dinner and entertainment start at 5 p.m. Tickets are free, but they are required and can be picked up at Tonquish Creek Manor, 1160 Sheridan in Plymouth, between Nov. 27-Dec. 8. The party is open to seniors 60 and older.

For more information, call Tonquish Creek, (734) 455-3670.

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UNDERPASS

FROM PAGE A1

"It would have been nice if they would have given us a breather to make some money again," he said.

Nearly 200 people showed up to listen to Wayne County, CSX, Plymouth and Plymouth Township officials explain what will be occurring over the next two years, as well as answer questions for those who will be affected by the closure.

The project will shut down Sheldon Road from just north of Farmer Street to just south of M-14.

Linda Roushkolb, who lives at Cassady Place condominiums along North Territorial near Sheldon in Plymouth Township, said heavier traffic volumes from Beck Road to North Territorial have been evident since the construction began on M-14. She's not looking forward to another two years of difficulties getting in and out of her complex.

"I was hoping the project was dead," Roushkolb said. "I work out at Curves (at Five Mile and Sheldon) every morning and I'll have to leave earlier to go there ... all the way down to Beck and then to Five Mile. I work in Novi, and I'll have to find an alternate way to work and leave earlier. I'm not real happy."

A big part of the project will be moving a water main. County engineers will be installing two temporary connections which will be tested for three days at the start of the project to make certain they work when the main water source is shut down for three weeks in April.

"We will make every effort to make sure they are adequate and they will be in operation," said Assistant County Executive Alan Helmkamp. "I will tell you the system is very old, and with that in mind we don't anticipate any problems. But, the antiquated nature of the system does cause us concern."

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said during the shutoff period, Plymouth Township will be supplying water to the city through the temporary system.

"The computer models don't indicate we will have any problems ... but if we need to have a boil water alert you will be notified through e-mail, the city's Web site and the news media," Sincock said.

Angelo Boni, who lives on Gloucester, has already gone through a major water main break in his New England Village area, which lasted several days. Boni said he'll be prepared, just in case.

"I'm already starting to buy water, just in case something happens, so I can have my coffee in the morning," Boni said. "It's going to be a headache to get in and out of our sub. But, I think in the long run it will be well worth it."

Sincock said every effort will be made to keep the big rigs that generally travel Sheldon from weaving through Plymouth neighborhoods on Junction, Farmer, Penniman and Ann Arbor Trail as their alternate routes.

"The City of Plymouth is working with the Traffic Safety Association on how to deal with the increased traffic on local streets," Sincock said. "You will see increased law enforcement to deal with those issues."

Helmkamp said contractors will work during the winter months for about nine hours a day, However, during the more daylight spring and summer months construction crews will most likely start at dawn (6:15 a.m.) and work until dusk, which he estimates to be 9-10 p.m. They won't work on Sundays.

Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer said the construction project is a chance for Plymouth to take advantage of all the publicity.

"Please shop Plymouth, whether it's the township or the city, there are a lot of people this is going to impact," Dwyer said. "Those, most likely, are your neighbors who own a lot of those businesses. Keep Plymouth vibrant through this."

Julie Sinnott of Plymouth Township said after recently waiting 22 minutes at the CSX crossing for a freight train to pass, she's ready for construction to begin.

"I'm for the project, but it's going to be a pain in the butt," Sinnott said. "It will cut off the flow of traffic from Plymouth and Canton and Northville, and take a long time to get to work, but it will be worth it in the long run because we are tired of getting stuck by those trains."

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ASKED AND ANSWERED

Some frequently asked questions about the Sheldon Road underpass project:

Q. When will Sheldon be closed?

A. Based on current information, closing date is Dec. 12.

Q. How long will it be closed?

A. Starting in December, it is projected to take some 23 months to complete.

Q. Why does Sheldon have to be closed completely?

A. Due to the extensive nature of the work required, including moving a water main and building the underpass for the CSX train tracks. There is no room for a temporary road.

Q. How will the closure affect emergency vehicles?

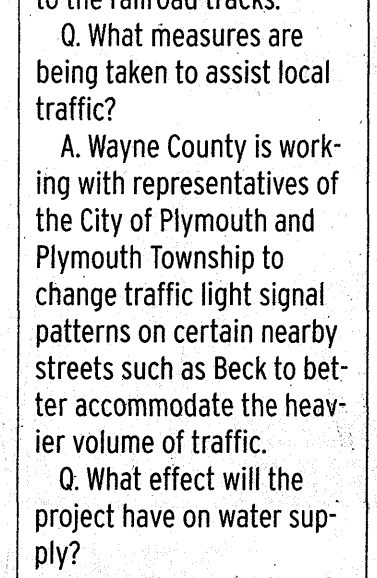
A. Emergency vehicles will have access at approved points to both the north and south areas of the construction zone up to the railroad tracks.

Q. What measures are being taken to assist local traffic?

A. Wayne County is working with representatives of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township to change traffic light signal patterns on certain nearby streets such as Beck to better accommodate the heavier volume of traffic.

Q. What effect will the project have on water supply?

A. Near the beginning of the project, two temporary water main connections will be installed in anticipation of later closing and moving the water main. The temporary connections will be tested for three days to make sure they'll be adequate.



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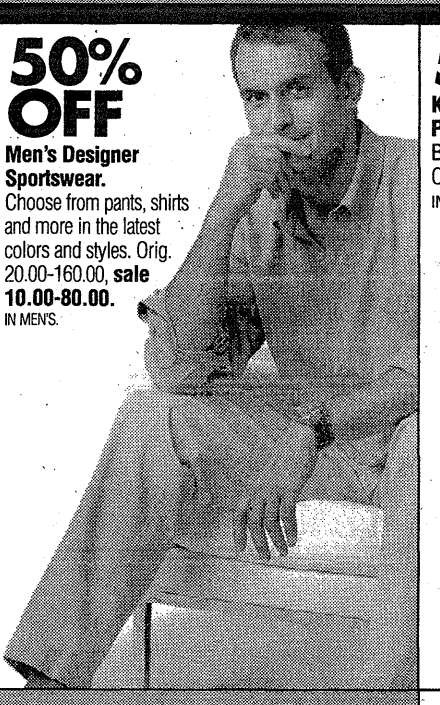

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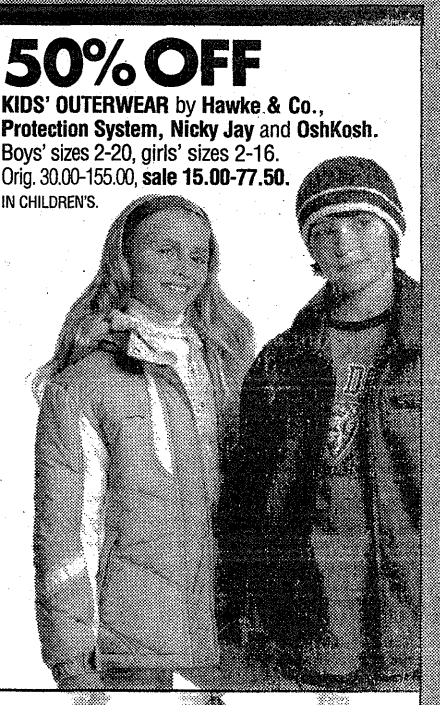



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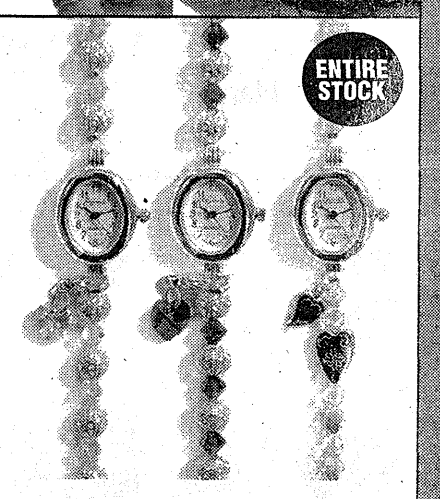

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BIG

FROM PAGE A1

Westland boy, Micah Becker.

"Micah was on the waiting list for a 'Big,' and he lives in Westland, so it's convenient," Allen Coleman said.

Big Brothers asks mentors to have at least two face-to-face meetings per month, and the average time "Bigs" are asked to spend with "Littles" averages about four hours per month.

For Micah and the Colemans, the relationship has evolved to the point where Micah frequently spends weekends at the Coleman home in Plymouth Township.

While Micah and the Colemans are very close now, it wasn't always that way.

"It was slow," Coleman admitted. "It takes a long time. It was pleasant enough, but we weren't really close. All of a sudden, we became close."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The turning point was a simple enough weekend, Coleman said. Micah hung out at their house, playing games, and then it was time for bed.

"We sent him to bed, tucked him in, gave him a hug," Coleman recalled. "It was more of an intimate weekend."

The relationship has grown since then. Earlier this year, as Micah prepared to start high school Coleman felt they weren't working hard enough on reading skills, which had troubled Micah earlier in his academic life. As Allen and Micah prepared to play a game of back yard basketball, Micah, who at 14 stands 5-10 and wears a size 14 shoe, suggested he get to pick the pizza for dinner if he won.

"He basically told me, 'You're not going to win,'" Coleman recalled, smiling. "I said, 'But if I do, what do I get.'"

The decision was if Coleman won, Micah had to read an extra chapter in the book they were reading. Coleman won the game. The extra time reading helped Coleman as much as Micah, because Coleman felt he needed to step up his mentoring.

"It was just a few months ago I decided I wasn't doing what I needed to do as a Big Brother," Coleman said. "So we took it to the next level, and that's when we got into the reading. I'm starting to get more involved in that aspect of his life."

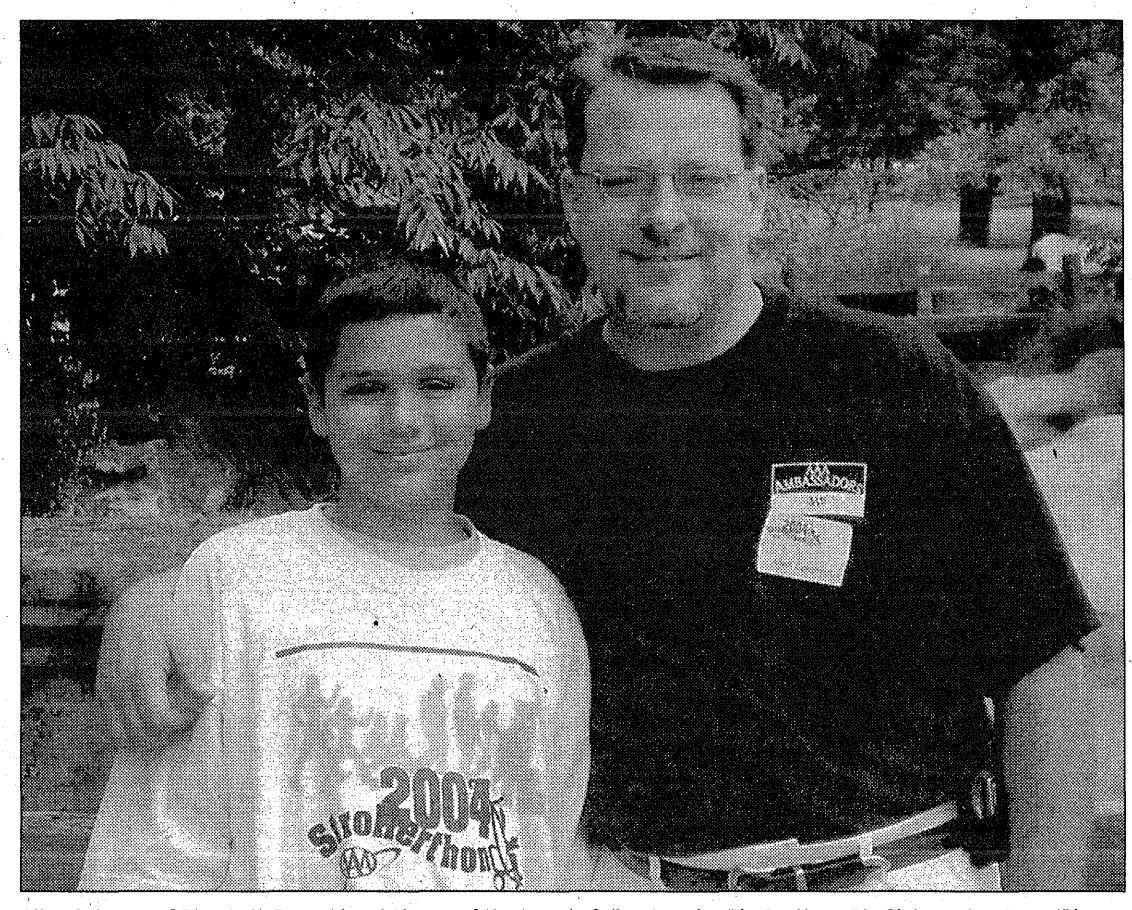


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joanne Becker of Westland felt her son, Micah, needed a male role model and contacted Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit.

That's OK with Micah's mom, Joanne Becker, who has been a single mother all of Micah's life. Micah's father, serving in the U.S. Army, chose to walk away from his son's life. Like many single mothers, Joanne Becker felt her son needed a male role model.

"Micah was at that age where you just knew he needed a male role model, so I decided to see if (Big Brothers) could help put some influence in his life," said Becker, who works at Complete Infusion in Livonia. "There's only so much a mom can give to her son. Allen has helped him deal with some emotions. Allen can reflect on some things when he was a child, and Micah knows it's OK for him to feel some things."



Allen Coleman of Plymouth Township, chairman of the board of directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters, has been 'Big Brother' to Micah Becker of Westland since 2004.

SOMEONE TO EMULATE

Joanne Becker figured the male role model would come in handy as Micah moved into his teen years, a time when boys can become rebellious.

"Even now, I call Allen, because Micah will listen to Allen," Becker said. "As a boy they think, 'That's just my mom.' With Allen, (Micah) listens because he's the role model. Sometimes boys think mom's are pushovers. But Allen has gone way above and beyond the call of duty."

The Colemans decided to do the mentoring thing as a couple, something Big Brothers and Big Sisters is promoting more and more. At first, the couple looked for a brother/sister combination to mentor, but none were available.

"We both wanted to be involved," Vickie Coleman said. "We want to help children, and this is something we can do as a couple to help us grow, help us enhance our relationship."

At first, Joanne Becker resisted, figuring Micah didn't need a mother. But the Colemans, who have been married 20 years, pressed on, figuring it would do Micah good "to see our relationship as a couple," Allen said.

Eventually, the couple won over Micah's mom, and now Joanne Becker is completely comfortable with all aspects of the relationship.

"I was kind of hesitant because I never had to share my son with anyone," Becker said. "Then I found out they go to my church, they share the same values. Allen and Vickie are absolutely wonderful people. I couldn't ask for two better people to be in his life. From the first year, they started doing things with Micah, and you could see having that male role model was helping a lot."

For their part, the Colemans feel the same way. Although Big Brothers only asks for an average of some four hours a month, the Colemans spend more time than that with Micah. While the time commitment is something that seems to scare many potential volunteers away, Coleman said the opposite is actually the case.

"People wonder how much time it takes," Coleman said. "But once you develop the relationship, you actually find yourself thinking, 'I really miss him when I can't see him.'"

Micah and the Colemans see each other frequently, with Micah spending some nights and some weekends at the Coleman home. When they aren't seeing each other, they talk on the phone a couple of times a week.

Coleman said only geography will ever separate them.

"We'll be together for life," Allen Coleman said. "Even if we're somehow separated, we'll be friends forever. That's how it works. Sometimes, a match ends. I can't imagine our relationship ending."

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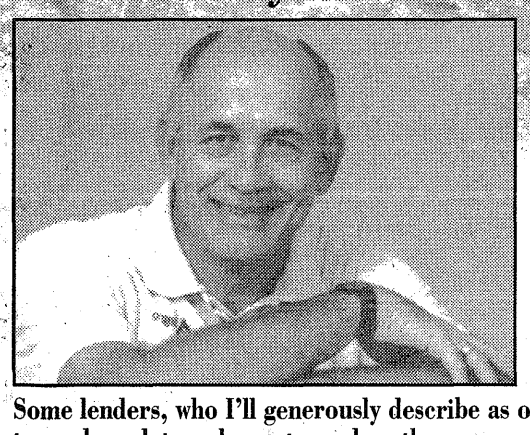
Savitskie says....



Mortgage Tip #21:

"Desperate times call for moderate measures."

"As pressures from the struggling economy, sluggish housing market and declining job market create a confluence not unlike the "perfect storm" here in Michigan, many people—and mortgage companies—have begun to feel and act a little desperate.

The best tip that I can offer in this situation, and perhaps the most materially useful tip I've offered so far, is to keep a cool head.

Some lenders, who I'll generously describe as opportunist but who might more accurately be termed predatory, have stepped up the pressure on would-be borrowers, promising them almost anything to get their business. After all, many mortgage companies are feeling the pressures of a slowed economy themselves, and they are becoming increasingly aggressive in their pitches and less ethical in their business practices.

No matter what kinds of financial pressures you might be feeling right now, slow down, take a deep breath and consider your options. Above all, don't do anything desperate."

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MATCHES

FROM PAGE A1

REACHING OUT

But here was the problem, and it's a big one for an organization which served some 1,200 kids last year alone: The waiting list is traditionally more than 100 names long. So Lindblom did what organization officials wish more people would do: She volunteered to help.

Lindblom now recruits mentors and handles fundraising events for Big Brother Big Sisters. As a single mom, Lindblom doesn't have time to be a "Big," but she helps in other ways. It's not enough; the group, established in 1974 to help children in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, is still in need of more mentors, particularly men, to help the growing list of kids who need it.

"We served 1,200 children last year, and we're pacing at about 1,300 this year," said Raquel Thueme, president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit. "We have a lot of volunteers, so we're fortunate that way. But we can't keep up with the demand. Sometimes we can't match up the supply and demand."

Thueme said the demand is generally concentrated in urban areas like Detroit and Pontiac, but there is a need in all three counties served by Big Brother Big Sisters. More boys than girls are on the list, though there are plenty of both. The kids for whom the organization provides mentors hail from all different backgrounds and circumstances, Thueme said.

A FEW GOOD MEN

The group's waiting list for boys is longer, she pointed out, because traditionally more women than men volunteer, creating a gap. Big Brother Big Sister doesn't match cross-gender volunteers; in its community-based mentoring, the program most commonly associated with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the group matches male "Bigs" with male "Littles," and women with female "Littles."

"Some of it is just family demographics," Thueme explained. "A lot of the 'Littles' are growing up in single-parent households. Many single-parent households are run by women, so if they're raising sons, they want to have a consistent male presence."

There really isn't much to being a "Big." The organization asks volunteers to be over 18, be able to drive, be a caring adult and be willing to be a friend to a child. They ask for a 12-month commitment, during which volunteers are asked to consistently meet their "Littles" a couple times a month face-to-face.

Part of the problem is potential volunteers often think there's more to it than that.

"They don't need to be social workers, they don't need to be child development experts," Thueme said of mentors. "They just need to be a friend."

The enrollment process includes an application, face-to-face interview, personal references, series of background checks (including criminal and others) and a driving record check "because you'd be transporting a child," Thueme said.

"We look at all of those things when we assess a volunteer's suitability to be a mentor," she explained. "We do it to ensure the child's safety, and so we can understand a volunteer's interests, then use that information to match them with a child so they have a good chance of having a good solid relationship.

"You're bringing two strangers together, often from very different backgrounds. That information is helpful in determining who might work well together."

COUPLES HELP

A relatively new phenomenon for Big Brothers Big Sisters is couple's mentoring, where a husband/wife team agree to mentor a little. Laurie Lindblom's son, Ross, is mentored by a Farmington couple, Chris and Melissa Smith.

"It's working out fabulously," Lindblom said. "Sometimes Chris just goes out in the yard with Ross and plays catch. They took him to his very first hockey game. They sat in the ninth or 10th row, and Ross thought it was awesome."

Alan and Vickie Coleman of Plymouth Township mentor a 14-year-old Westland boy, Micah Becker. When Big Brothers Big Sisters first approached Micah's mom, Joanne, about such an arrangement, Joanne hesitated, feeling a bit threatened and pointing out Micah didn't need a mother.

"That was tough at first," said Alan Coleman, who serves on the Board of Directors. "(But) I think it's helpful (for Micah) to see our relationship as a couple. And Vickie absolutely loves Micah."

Lindblom has noticed benefits to her 8-year-old son, and she remembers listening to her boss talk about his relationship with his "Little," Max. Her boss got matched with Max when Max was 7 or 8, and recently helped him fill out college applications.

It's the kind of life-changing relationship Lindblom, who recruits for Big Brothers Big Sisters now, believes "Bigs" can have with their "Littles." She also said if more people could feel that feeling, recruiting would be much easier.

"(Potential mentors) don't realize how truly rewarding it is and, more importantly, they don't realize how easy it is," Lindblom said. "They match you geographically as well as by interests, so it's like signing up for a best friend who lives right next door.

"They don't realize the impact they can have on kids' lives," she added. "It changes your life, it changes their lives and it affects their future. (Mentors) will change the course of a young person's life, and for the better."

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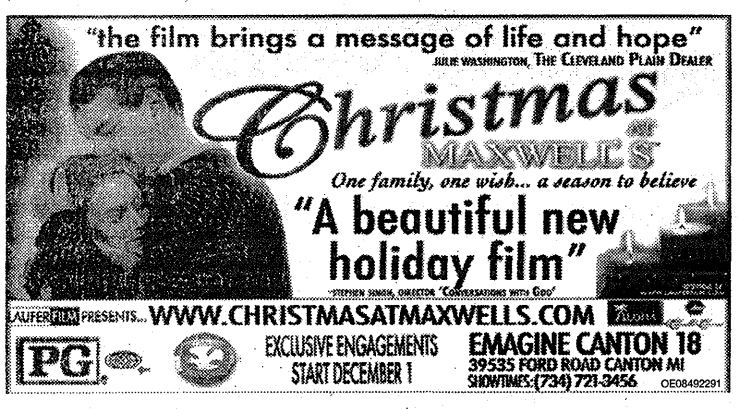



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Group honors retired Plymouth doctor

Edward A. Loniewski, a retired osteopathic orthopedic surgeon from Plymouth, recently received a distinguished service certificate during the 2006 American Osteopathic Association Convention and Scientific Seminar in Las Vegas.

The AOA awarded Loniewski the certificate for his outstanding accomplishments in the advancement of osteopathic medical education and the profession

"My involvement in the osteopathic medical profession has been a true labor of love," Loniewski said. "I've seen this profession grow in leaps and bounds – especially in the last two to three decades – becoming a very important player in the future development of health care in America. Receiving this award is the highlight of my career."

Loniewski practiced at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington for over 30 years and is a chairman emeritus of the hospital's Department of Orthopedic Surgery. He is a 1957 graduate of the Kansas City (Mo.) College of Osteopathic Medicine, which is known today as the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Loniewski was the AOA's president from 1992-93 during which he launched the "Share the Care" program designed to encourage D.O.s to provide free medical care to the medically underserved in their communities.

Outside of the AOA, Loniewski has served as president for several other associations including the Wayne County Osteopathic Association; Michigan Osteopathic Association; Michigan Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons; Michigan Osteopathic Foundation; American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics; and the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

The American Osteopathic Association proudly represents its professional family of 59,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s); promotes public health; encourages scientific research; serves as the primary certifying body for D.O.s; is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical colleges; and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. More information on D.O.s/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

Underwriter honor


Nemier

Karen Nemier of Plymouth, agency owner for Nationwide Insurance in Plymouth, has earned the Financial Services Specialist professional designation.

The Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow is conferred only upon those individuals who meet or exceed the exacting qualification standards determined by the two organizations that jointly sponsor the designation, the American College and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

The designation marks an agent's long-term commitment to professionalism on behalf of clients, establishes the agent's competence and business experience, marks a commitment to the American College's and NAIFA's Code of Ethics and fosters additional professional development.

Nemier is a member of Washtenaw Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. She is the owner of Karen Nemier Agency with locations in Plymouth, Hartland and Burton. The agency specializes in life insurance, financial services and property and casualty insurance.

A cum laude graduate with a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in 1985, Nemier has been in the insurance industry for 20 years.

Play proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Before 9-year-old Andrew Holmlund lost his battle with cancer, the Make-A-Wish Foundation fulfilled his dream of vacationing at Disney World.

"He had such an awesome time," said Robin Holmlund, Andrew's mother. "I can't even describe the joy he had on that trip."

Canton residents Heather Spillane and Robin Fraser are trying to pass along that feeling to other families with terminally ill children. That's why they're donating proceeds from the 2nd annual Christmas on the Farm play to the Arizona-based foundation.

"I can't imagine all the stuff Andrew had to go through but he did it with a smile on his face," Spillane said. "He never got down and he just lived."

Andrew, who went on the Florida trip in 2005, died in March.

"We were able to go before he was in too much pain and he loved it," Holmlund said. "(The foundation) did so much for our family."

Spillane and Fraser, both 20, created the play a year ago and donated proceeds to Hurricane Katrina survivors.

The 15-minute production tells the story of the first Christmas and features a dozen actors and several animals. Show times are at 7 p.m. Dec. 8; 6 p.m. Dec. 9 and 5 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Real Life Farm on Geddes Road.

Tickets are $3 for children ages 10 and under and $5 for adults. Grandparents and children under age 2 are free.

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Parade shows us something for which we can be thankful



Greg Kowalski

Actually, I don't love a parade. That is, until I went to the Detroit Thanksgiving Day parade downtown. It was the first time in 25 years I had seen the parade in person. The last time I saw it, I was in it. I worked for Blue Cross at the time and I walked with our team, taking pictures for the company magazine.

It was cold, gray and miserable, which is pretty much what I expected for a November day in Michigan. And that particular parade was dismally small and dreary.

This Thanksgiving Day parade could not have been more different. The weather was superb, chilly but not at all uncomfortable. But it wasn't the weather that warmed my heart as I sat alongside Woodward Avenue. It was the hundreds of thousands of people who sat next to me.

There were people everywhere. The sidewalks were crowded, the parking structure by Second City was filled with people at all levels overlooking the street. The whole area was jammed.

The parade itself was delightful. There was an assortment of creative floats and I was pleased to see the familiar maroon uniforms of the Seaholm Dance Team, which took part in the parade for the first time this year.

Looking down Woodward toward downtown, the floats, balloons, crowds and even the street itself drifted into a mist of fine haze and glowing sunlight that enveloped the cityscape. It was an almost surrealistic scene.

It is something I will never forget in what's left of my life. (I just had another birthday.)

That morning, all of downtown was brimming with life.

Much has been written about the need to revitalize downtown Detroit. In fact, much already has been done to accomplish that. New developments are going up all around the downtown area. In some cases, neighborhoods are changing from week to week as decayed buildings are torn down and new developments go up.

I've had occasion to spend a fair amount of time in the downtown area in the past year for some projects I have been working on. Surely, there are a lot of rough edges there, but I have come to see that Detroit really isn't dying, as I once thought it was.

And so many people still do.

Living south of Eight Mile myself, I constantly encounter the perception that (1) I must be crazy to live there; (2) I am certainly going to be robbed and murdered; and (3) the town is filled with (horrors!) black people.

Yes, my friends, people have said exactly that to me. Well, not exactly. They generally don't say "black people."

I might be crazy, but I don't think that has anything to do with where I live. I'll take my chances on the robbery and murder part and I am glad to share my neighborhood with black people as well as anyone else who cares about their community.

What I saw at the Thanksgiving Day parade was something to be genuinely thankful for: All kinds of people of many sizes, ages, shapes and colors were having fun together.

They saw past the perception that so many of us have of Detroit.

A few weeks ago, we welcomed to our offices in Birmingham representatives of a new group called One D: Transforming Regional Detroit, a consortium of high-level organizations including New Detroit and Detroit Renaissance, among others, which has been formed to address the city's many problems from a regional perspective.

Following that meeting, I sent a rather long e-mail to one of the people in the group outlining a perspective of what they are facing from someone who deals with urban issues on a daily basis.

My point is that the answers to Detroit's problems can only be found on the streets of Detroit. Realistic resolutions will not be generated in corporate board rooms or news rooms in Birmingham.

But from what I saw from ground level on Woodward Thanksgiving Day, I would say One D has a fighting chance to accomplish something good.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*. He can be reached at (2480 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.



Choose hope in the face of hardship to aid our great state



Rabbi Tamara Kolton

Jennifer Granholm will be the governor of the state of Michigan for four more years. The race was close. But in the end, Michigan voters blamed the failed economy on Washington and not on Lansing. If the Big Three are failing and Michigan's economy is the worst in the nation, it is part of a larger problem tied to the economy of the entire nation.

I, for one, am very relieved that Gov. Granholm was re-elected. But I am not naive. Gov. Granholm has a tremendous amount of work to do.

Recently, I had lunch with the governor. Along with about 20 other women, we gathered together to speak to her about what we felt were the top priority issues on the minds of women voters. In the last two weeks of what was turning out to be a close election, the governor was interested in hearing what was on the minds of women leaders in the community. I was honored and excited to speak and listen to key issues facing Michigan.

Gov. Granholm sat informally, poised on the hearth of a fireplace, listening to women speak. One woman spoke about the need to support women who head their households. These women must work and take care of their children often with little or no support. Another discussed the need to increase elder care. Yet another brought up the concern of trans-fat poisoning our children's food. The issues swarmed the room. Gov. Granholm assured us that they were all on her agenda. From health care to environmental care, she would tend to them all.

It was almost my turn to address her. What did I want to say? What would be my unique contribution to this conversation? I wanted my words to have impact. I did indeed have many concerns. I was concerned about poverty and the many families that will be facing hunger this year. I was concerned about drug use and child molestation, both of which Michigan rates amongst the highest in the nation. I was there as a rabbi. I decided to talk about healing.

As Jews, we believe that we are born into a broken world and that it is our responsibility to heal the world. We call this Tikkun Olam. Certainly Michigan is in a state of brokenness. It used to be that the country saw the city of Detroit as broken, but now the nation sees the entire state of Michigan as broken. Michigan now has a national reputation of a wounded animal. The problem is that no one wants to go near, let alone relocate their family near, a wounded animal.

The most important thing that we need to do as a state is to begin to behave as a healthy and strong animal. We are not victims. We are a strong and beautiful state.

As Jews, we believe that we are born into a broken world and that it is our responsibility to heal the world. We call this Tikkun Olam. Certainly Michigan is in a state of brokenness. It used to be that the country saw the city of Detroit as broken, but now the nation sees the entire state of Michigan as broken.

Above all, we have this incredible natural resource of fresh water and we can be givers. What we need is one big idea to create a momentum of healing, to give the giant boulder the first big shove in the right direction. Let us pair with a country in the world that needs water. Let us donate money and expertise to nurture a village in need of a water project. In many places in the world, girls under the age of 13 spend most of the day fetching fresh water for their families. They walk long distances with the greatest threat to them being not heat or disease, but rape.

Michigan can rebuild its image and help these villages at the same time. Let us be "The Fresh Water State Bringing Water to the World." I know it is not in our state budget. Maybe a donor would step forward? It is a great project for a great philanthropist or cooperative who cares deeply about our state and the state of our world.

Let us behave as a strong and healthy animal. Not the broken one. Not the victim. Not the wounded animal. But the beautiful and great state of Michigan.

In Judaism, we believe that no matter how bad you have it, you have to give Tzedaka. Even if you take Tzedaka, you have to give Tzedaka. Through the process of giving back, you affirm your dignity.

Jennifer Granholm has another four years. Let us stand behind her and our great state of Michigan. We are not victims. We are not wounded animals. We are living in a beautiful state with many opportunities.

Optimism is a choice. Choosing to affirm hope does not mean that you are naive or Pollyanna. It can mean that you are a realist. No one wants to board a sinking ship. If everyone in the nation believes that Michigan is going down, no one will climb aboard. We need a major image overhaul. We are not dying in hard times out here in the Midwest. We are living through hard times. There is light at the end of the tunnel. It is the light of good leadership, human ingenuity and citizens who choose hope.

Rabbi Tamara Kolton is the rabbi at The Birmingham Temple, located in Farmington Hills.

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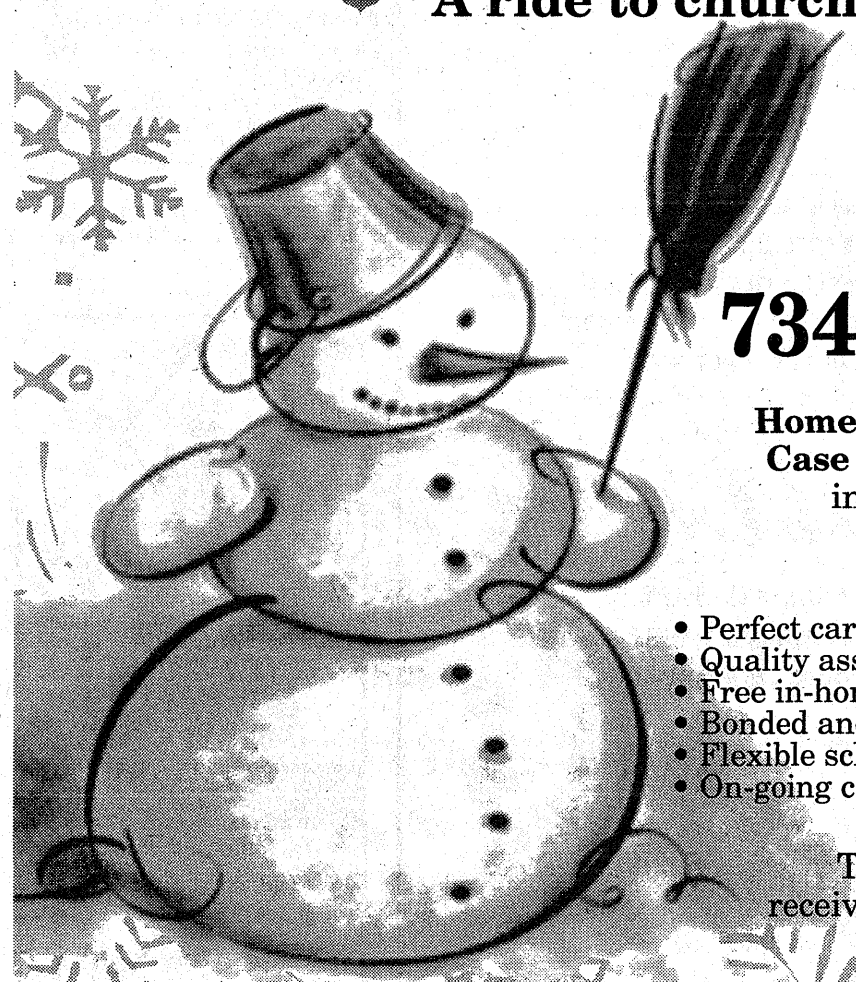

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Governor calls new tax plan a win-win for state

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Because voters wanted to revamp the way the state taxes business, the governor's office has announced a new plan which will change the dynamics of the tax structure while providing the same level of funding for state programs.

The Michigan Business Tax is Gov. Jennifer Granholm's replacement for the Single Business Tax set to sunset in the autumn of 2007.

The MBT, if approved, will generate revenue by a tax gross receipts, assets which will be taxed at 0.125 percent and business income which will be taxed at 1.85 percent. Gov. Granholm said the new tax fills the bill.

The bill also changes the apportionment formula. Under the Granholm proposal, the MBT will be based 100 percent on a firm's percentage of Michigan sales, compared to the SBT which is based 92.5 percent on sales and 3.75 percent on payroll and property. The governor's office estimates that Michigan businesses will receive a $150 million tax cut.

Industrial and commercial businesses will receive a 46 percent personal property tax cut.

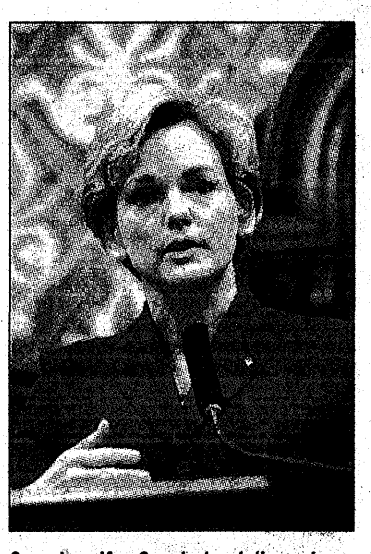
The new tax would eliminate the tax on payroll, benefits and health care.

Businesses with less than $350,000 in gross receipts are not subject to taxation. The MBT would be phased in for businesses earning between $350,000 and $750,000.

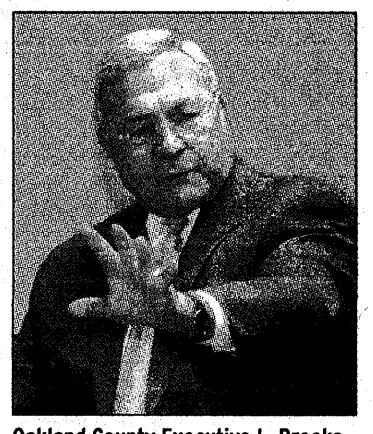
Technology companies would receive a $125 million tax cut.

Some businesses will see tax increases. Taxes would increase for insurance companies, banks and investment firms. Insurers will pay a tax of 1.25 percent instead of the current 1.07 percent and credits would be eliminated.

"The Michigan Business Tax is win-win," she said in a press release. "It's a competitive, pro-growth tax that will benefit more than three-fourths of businesses while protecting funding for critical programs."



Gov. Jennifer Granholm delivers her State of State address to the Legislature.



Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

The SBT was unpopular with business owners because it essentially created a kind of value added tax. The SBT was originally considered to be groundbreaking when first launched in the '70s but almost everyone agrees it had outlived its usefulness.

While Gov. Granholm and others in state government were amenable to seeing the tax changed, she was concerned that the revenues it generated, nearly $2 billion, were replaced.

The SBT's annual revenues represented about 22 percent of the state's revenues, or the equivalent of everything the state spent on higher education or corrections.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson agitated for a repeal of the SBT in his 2006 State of the County Address and spearheaded a successful ballot initiative to get rid of it before its scheduled sunset in 2009. He said the tax represented a disincentive for businesses to locate or expand in Michigan.

Patterson didn't specify what should be done to replace the revenues. He didn't even specify that all of the revenues should be replaced in a new tax structure. He said less than the full amount, by several hundred million dollars, could be replaced and the rest of the funds could be raised by attracting new businesses to the state. He called the difference in funds "room to grow."

He said while parts of the Granholm proposal are good ideas, there's a poison pill in the mix.

"The asset tax would rival the SBT as a disincentive to do business in Michigan," Patterson said. "The financial sector in Oakland County is one of our fastest growing areas and this would kill that business. There's $34 billion in assets that would be taxable."

Based on that, he said the new tax is dead on arrival if it retains the asset tax provisions. He said it would change.

"I think the legislation will take parts of the plan and some suggestion from some chambers of commerce and craft a better plan," Patterson said. "But it's not going to fly the way it is."

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Since 1939, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has honored our nonprofit commitment to the people of Michigan by providing unparalleled access to health services, working in partnership with physicians and hospitals to improve health care quality and supporting initiatives to expand access for people in need.

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Daniel J. Loepp
President & CEO
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Jeanne Carlson
President & CEO
Blue Care Network

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Schoolcraft College board acts to fill vacancy

The Schoolcraft College Trustee Kevin McNamara has resigned his position on the board effective Dec. 31. In January McNamara will become assume his position as on the Wayne County Commission.

The Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees is now taking applications to fill McNamara's position. The deadline for filing is 4 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11. Applications are available from the Office of the President, Room 190, Administration Center, at Schoolcraft College's campus in Livonia between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Board will interview candidates Dec. 16, and the new board member will be seated at the board's Jan. 24, 2007. meeting. The term for this appointment covers the period of Jan. 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007.

The person chosen and any others who may be interested in being elected for a full six-year term on May 8, 2007, must file nominating petitions by 4 p.m., Feb. 13, 2007, with the Livonia City Clerk's Office. In order to be considered for appointment candidates must be willing to run for the office in the May 8 election.

To be considered a candidate for the position, an applicant must be a registered voter and a resident of the Schoolcraft College district, which includes Plymouth-Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Clarenceville and part of the Novi school districts. The seven-member board meets once a month, with members serving six-year terms.

Schoolcraft College is a public two-year college, offering classes at the Livonia campus on Haggerty Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads, at the Radcliff Center in Garden City and online.

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Return to Regional not out of question for talented Chiefs B3

Plymouth resident excels in grueling race across Sahara B6

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SPORTS

B (CP)

Sunday, December 3, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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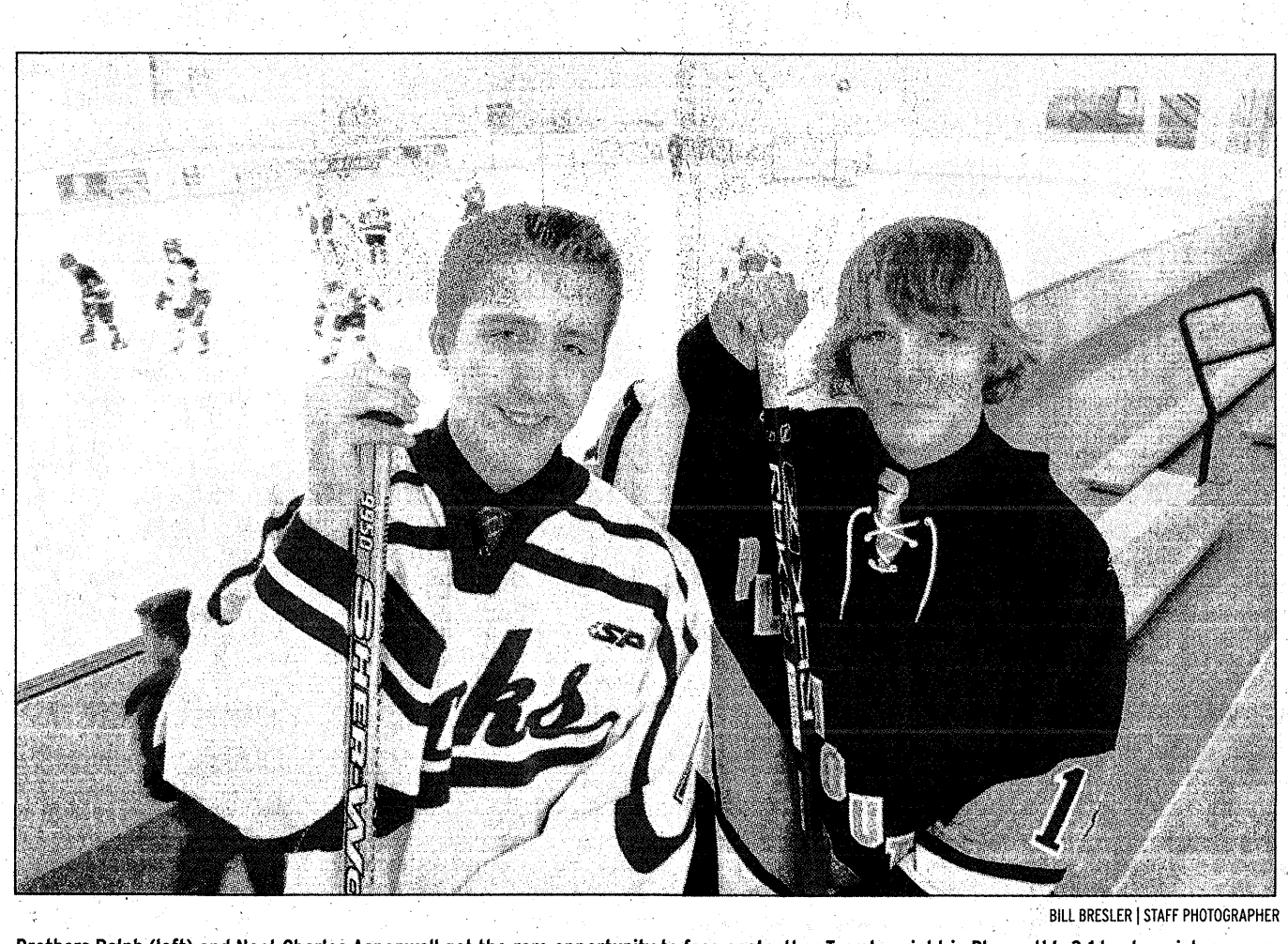


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brothers Ralph (left) and Noel-Charles Aspenwall got the rare opportunity to face each other Tuesday night in Plymouth's 3-1 hockey victory over Salem. Ralph is a senior goalie for the Rocks; Noel-Charles is a freshman forward for the Wildcats.

Oh, brother!

Aspenwalls face off in rare sibling-vs.-sibling showdown

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Only one person stood between Plymouth freshman hockey player Noel-Charles Aspenwall and a dazzling, break-away goal during the Wildcats' game against Salem Tuesday night at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

That one person was Ralph Aspenwall, the Rocks' senior goalie who also happens to be Noel-Charles' older brother.

In a classic case of on-ice sibling rivalry that is rarely seen at any level of athletic competition, Ralph denied his little brother of a goal — and the good-natured in-house bragging rights that would have surely followed.

"I made a solid shot, but he made a good save on it," said Noel-Charles, recalling the break-away opportunity. "I had two other shots at a wide-open net that game, but I fanned on both of them.

"It was kind of weird playing against my brother, but it was fun, too."

Despite a 22-save night from Ralph Aspenwall, the Wildcats prevailed, 3-1, to improve to 3-0.

PLEASE SEE **BROTHERS, B2**

FAMILY TIES

When Ralph and Noel-Charles Aspenwall played against one another Tuesday night, they were just the latest set of athletic brothers to face off in an official game. Here are a few siblings that have done likewise in professional sports:

- **NFL:** New York Giants running back Tiki Barber and his twin brother Rhonde, a cornerback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.
- **NHL:** Boston Bruins forward Phil Esposito and his younger brother Tony, a Chicago Blackhawks goal-tender.
- **MLB:** Atlanta Braves Hall-of-Fame pitcher Phil Niekro and his younger brother Joe, a former Detroit Tigers and Houston Astros hurler; and
- **NBA:** San Antonio Spurs guard Brent Barry and his younger brothers Drew and Jon, a former Piston.

Whalers double-up Saginaw

Chris Terry's tip-in of a Leo Jenner shot at 9:15 of the second period snapped a 2-2 tie and the Plymouth Whalers went on to defeat the Saginaw Spirit, 4-2, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night at Compuware Sports Arena.

Plymouth, which has won seven of its last nine games, improved to 15-10-1-0, good for 31 points. The Whalers are eight points behind Saginaw, which remains in first place in the West with a record of 19-9-0-1 (39 points). Plymouth has beaten Saginaw in three of the four games played so far this season.

Besides Terry's sixth goal of the season, the Whalers received a pair of lamp-lighters from first star and Columbus Blue Jackets draft choice Jared Boll, who now has eight goals on the season, and a single goal from Chicago-draftee Evan Brophey, who now has nine goals this year.

Plymouth did well defensively, killing off all five Saginaw power plays while receiving excellent efforts from defensemen Zack Shepley (the game's third star), Brett Bellemore and Los Angeles-draftee Ryan McGinnis.

After the teams traded two goals apiece in the first period, Terry scored the game-winner when he capped good Plymouth pressure deep in the Saginaw zone.

Terry's linemates – John Armstrong and Joe McCann – worked well deep in the Saginaw zone to win battles for the puck.

Armstrong was stationed along the left boards in the Saginaw zone when he found Jenner in the high slot. Jenner's low shot was tipped by Terry at the right lip of the Saginaw crease past Spirit goaltender Ryan Daniels.

Plymouth outshot Saginaw, 41-27. Whalers goaltender Michal Neuvirth stopped 25 of 27 Saginaw shots for his eighth victory of the season and third against Saginaw. Daniels played well in goal for Saginaw, stopping 37-of-41 Plymouth shots.

The Whalers complete a busy weekend at 3 p.m. Sunday at Guelph.

Prep Digest

Hoop tryouts

Tryouts for the Salem/Plymouth/Canton basketball club will be held Saturday, Dec. 9, in the Canton High School gymnasium, which is located in the Canton North building.

Following are the respective teams' tryouts times:

- **U14-U17** – noon to 1:30 p.m.;
- **U9 and U10** – 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.;
- **U11 and U12** – 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and
- **U13** – 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information contact Brian Samulski at (734) 414-0425 or Fred Thomann at (734) 484-7746.

MU duo recognized

Madonna University's junior midfielder Darrel Quinn (Fowlerville) and senior forward Pat Griffin (Redford Catholic Central) were both named as recipients of the 2006 NAIA Honorable Mention All-American awards in men's soccer.

Quinn also earned mention as a member of the 2006 NAIA Daktronics Scholar-Athlete team.

Griffin led the Crusaders in total points, racking up 27 during the season with a team high 10 goals along with seven assists, while finishing second overall in the race for the conference scoring title.

Griffin tallied four game-winning goals, including the game winner against Siena Heights in the conference semifinals, while seeing action in 18 of MU's 19 contests this year.

Quinn anchored the Crusaders midfield during the season, playing in 18 of Madonna's 19 games. He scored three goals and added two assists for a total of eight points while helping Madonna to a Region VIII semifinal appearance.

Iaquaniello signs

Plymouth resident and Dearborn Divine Child student Maria Iaquaniello has signed a letter-of-intent to play basketball at Western Michigan University beginning in the fall of 2007. Iaquaniello averaged 14 points and six rebounds a game this past season for the Falcons.

2006-07 Prep Hoop Preview

Quick, athletic Rocks look to reverse last year's 6-15 mark

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Like David many years before it, the Salem boys basketball team will be relying heavily on a "Stone" to take down some Goliath-like opponents this season.

Junior Grant Stone, the Rocks' leading scorer last season (12.0 points per game), won't carry a slingshot onto the court, but he's definitely equipped with a more accurate jump shot than David ever had. And based on his average of six rebounds per game last season, the 6-foot-5 swingman would do a nice job of boxing David out around the glass, too.

"Grant is a very versatile player," said Salem coach Bob Brodie, who is entering his 22nd year of leading the Rocks. "We can put him on the perimeter and he can post up inside, too. He's 6-5, but he plays bigger than that because of his jumping ability.

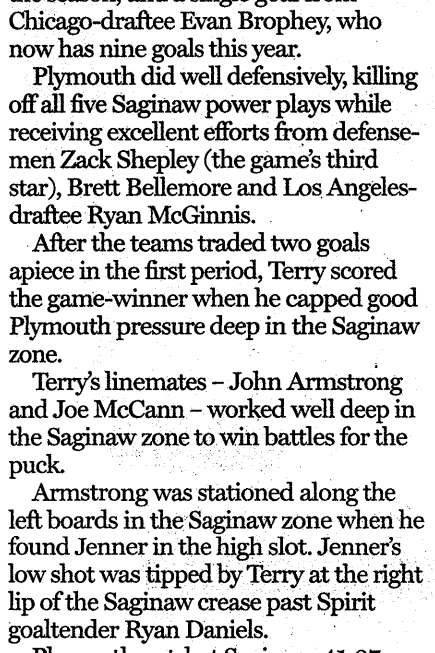
"Grant played a lot of AAU ball this past summer against some great competition, so that should help him this season. We just need him to get a little bit more assertive."

The Rocks are coming off a 6-15 season that saw them finish second behind Walled Lake Central in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division. While Brodie will miss graduated starters Billy Leddy and Joe Halewicz, he can find solace in knowing that several players are returning who saw a healthy number of minutes during the

PLEASE SEE **ROCKS, B2**

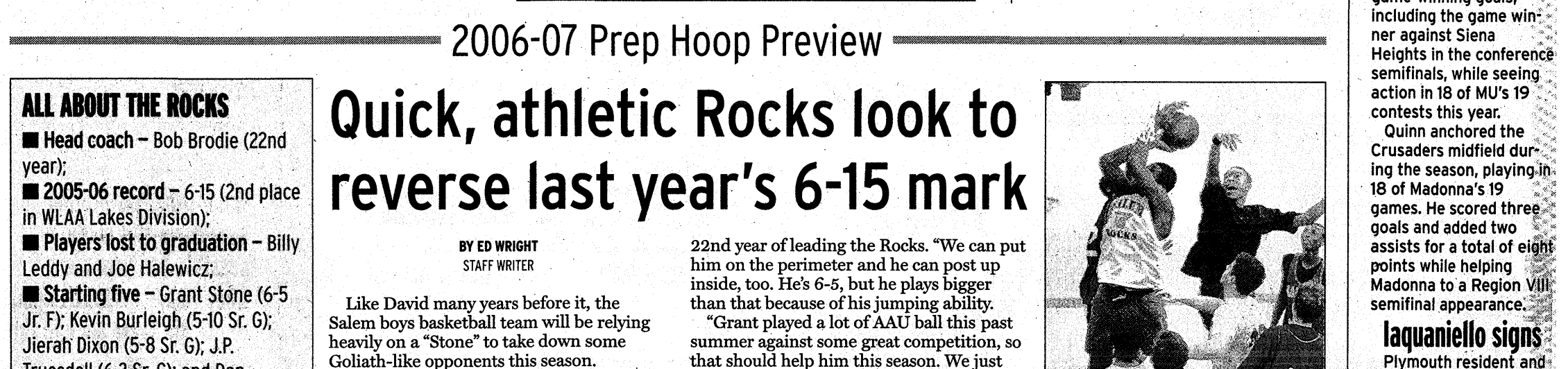
ALL ABOUT THE ROCKS

- **Head coach** – Bob Brodie (22nd year);
- **2005-06 record** – 6-15 (2nd place in WLAA Lakes Division);
- **Players lost to graduation** – Billy Leddy and Joe Halewicz;
- **Starting five** – Grant Stone (6-5 Jr. F); Kevin Burleigh (5-10 Sr. G); Jierah Dixon (5-8 Sr. G); J.P. Truesdell (6-3 Sr. C); and Dan Cassidy (6-2 Sr. F).
- **Coach Brodie's outlook** – "We're not real big, but we're quick and we have a lot of experience back," said Brodie. "This team also seems to have good chemistry. They played a lot together this past summer and they had a good pre-season."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore forward Courtney Frazier goes up for a contested layup during a Salem basketball practice earlier this week. The Rocks are looking to improve on last season's 6-15 record.



ROCKS

FROM PAGE B1

2005-06 campaign.

"We're not real big, but we're quick and we have a lot of experience back," said Brodie. "This team also seems to have good chemistry. They played a lot together this past summer and they had a good preseason."

A quartet of seniors will join Stone in the starting line-up. Kevin Burleigh (5-10) will handle the point-guard duties while Jierah Dixon (5-8) will man the two-guard spot.

"Kevin is very quick and he does a nice job of quarterbacking our offense," said Brodie. "He worked hard on his jump since last season, so his shooting range has increased. He's also a lot stronger, which will help him defensively.

"Jierah has good quickness and he can shoot. He can handle the point, too, if need be."

Patrolling the baseline for the Rocks will be 6-2 small forward Dan Cassidy and 6-3 power forward J.P. Truesdell, both of whom logged big-time minutes last season.

"Dan is a great shooter and a smooth player inside," said Brodie. "He's extremely quick and he can play out on the perimeter if we need him to.

"J.P. is our defensive specialist inside. He's a rugged player who's strong on the glass. He has some good power moves inside, too."

Among those players who will see ample playing time coming off the bench will be 5-8 senior guard Mike Marek, 6-3 junior forward Ross Davis and 6-7 senior center Brian Baumgart.

"Mike is extremely quick and he's an excellent ball handler, so he'll be playing a lot at the point," said Brodie. "He's one of best defensive guards, too.

"Ross is a lot like Grant in that he's very versatile. He can post up the big guys, plus he has good range with his jump shot. He's an excellent passer as well.

"Brian will give us a big defensive presence inside."

Others who will be counted on to make key contributions to the Rocks' fortunes this season are juniors Tyler Jeleniewski (5-10 guard), Kevin deBear (6-1 forward/guard) and Matt Dybas (6-4 forward); and sophomores Anthony Mullins (5-11 guard) and Courtney Frazier (6-6 forward).

Brodie predicted the WLAA will be as competitive as ever.

"This league seems to get tougher and tougher every year," said the veteran coach. "Northville went 20-0 last year and they have their best player — Alvin Storrs — back, so they'll be the favorite going in. But Canton will be tough and I think John Glenn will be much improved, too."

Salem opens its season Tuesday when it hosts Redford Union. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

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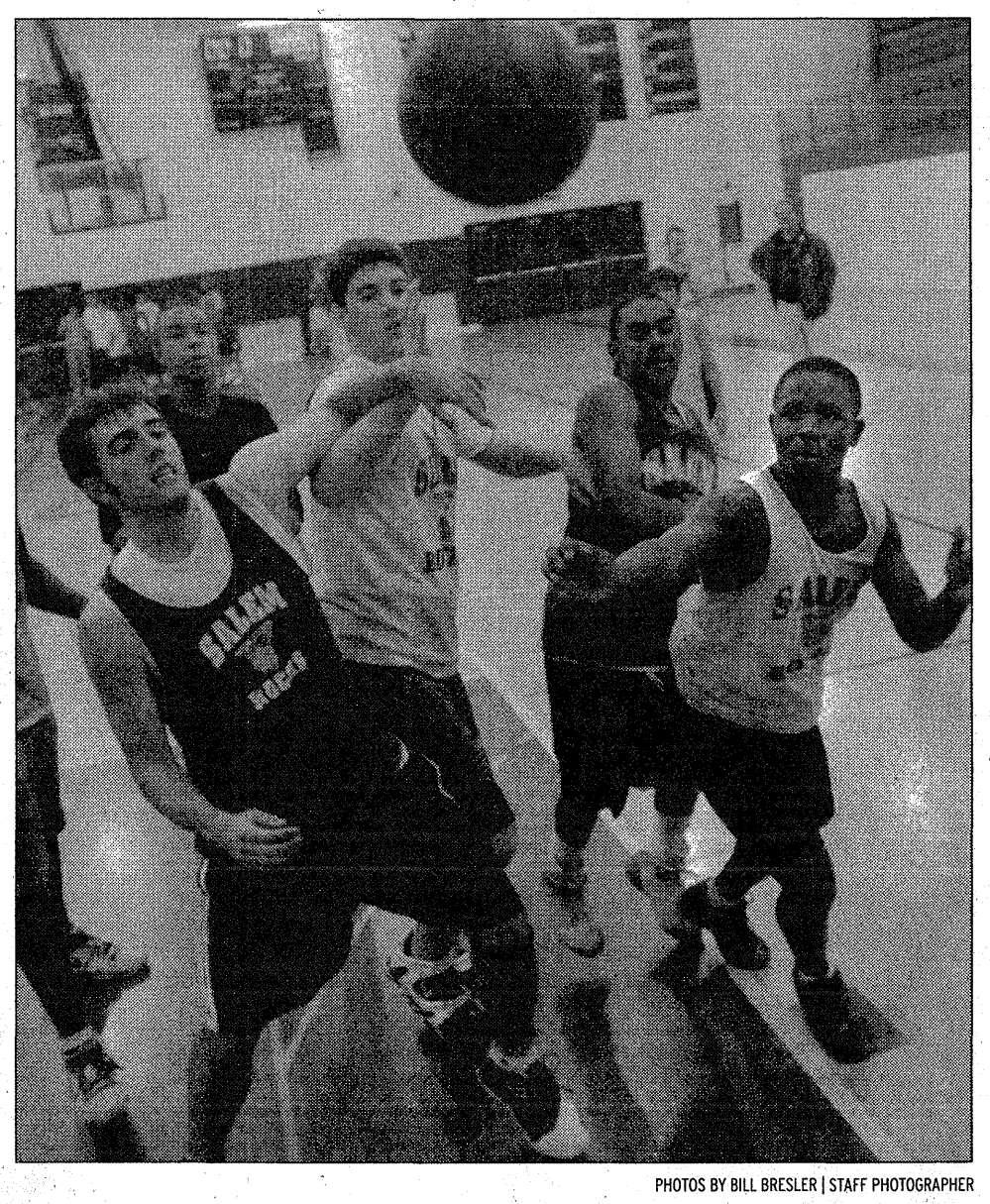
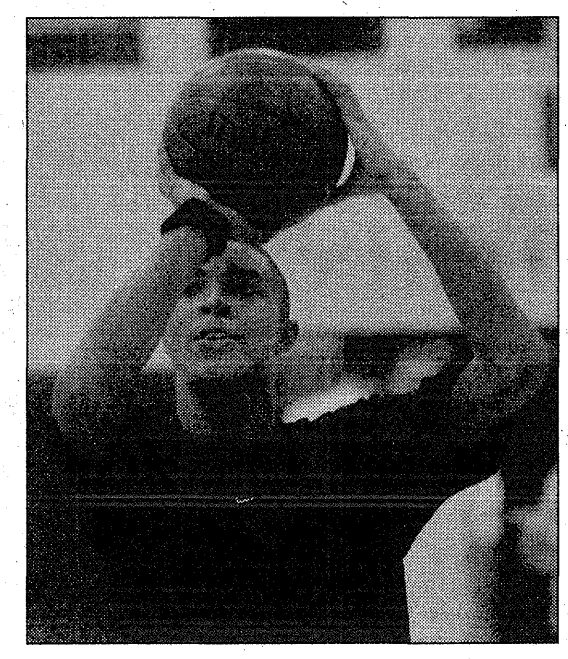


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

J.P. Truesdell, Grant Stone, Matt Dybas, Kevin Burleigh and Anthony Mullins fight for a loose ball during a Salem basketball practice last week.



Salem Coach Bob Brodie returns for his 22nd season at the helm.



Junior Grant Stone is the Rocks' leading returning scorer (12.0 per game).

Chief icers edged in their 1st game with new coach

BY RYAN DOHERTY
CORRESPONDENT

PREP HOCKEY

After dropping their season opener a week ago to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central 4-3, Livonia Churchill head coach Pete Mazzoni said he was worried that the long layoff between games might affect his team Friday night as the Chargers took on Canton at the Arctic Edge Arena.

And after a sluggish first period Mazzoni's team got their legs back to game speed just in time as they held on to beat Canton 2-1.

The game was the first for the Chiefs under the tutelage of new coach Dan Abraham, who replaced Mike Behen just two games into the campaign. (See Thursday's *Observer* for details on the coaching change.)

Churchill, 1-1 overall, also took to the ice without their captain, fourth-year defenseman Phil Wendecker, who sat out Friday's game with what he described as a pulled stomach muscle.

Wendecker, who played through the injury against the loss to CCC, said his physician told him to take a week off from hockey after a visit to his office on Monday.

"It's a big loss for us," Mazzoni said. "When you lose a guy who can carry the puck and also logs a lot of minutes you just hope some other players step up and our defensemen did that tonight."

Wendecker also quarterback's the Charger power play.

"We hope to have Phil back on Monday or Tuesday once he gets the clearance from his doctor," Mazzoni added.

Meanwhile, the Chargers outshot the Chiefs 11-4 in the first period.

Churchill's Kyle Burke opened the scoring at the 8:45 mark of as he took a nice pass out of the corner from teammate Kody Strong, and wristed a shot over the glove of Canton goalie Kevin Swanberg, giving the Chargers a 1-0 lead.

Senior Steve Greco also drew an assist on Burke's goal.

Not to be outdone, the Chiefs fired back 29 seconds later as sophomore Ryan Lash tapped a rolling puck past Charger goalie Scott Lewan.

Canton sophomore forward Mark Barath fired a shot towards Lewan from between the hash marks, and as Lewan leaned back to search for the puck, Lash stepped in to even the score up at 1-all. Sophomore Ryan May got the assist.

Canton, winless in three starts, struggled at times Friday night clearing the puck out of their zone, and Abraham said his players are starting to adjust to his coaching philosophy.

"I'm happy at this point to be able to stay within one goal of a team like Churchill," he said. "With the caliber of players they have, they're a potential state champion team in my opinion."

The Chargers continued to pressure the Chiefs as the second period got underway, and Swanberg made by far his best save of the game at the midway point.

The junior netminder slid across the crease and kicked out his right leg to stop a point blank shot off the stick of Charger forward Matt Heinzelman.

"He (Swanberg) stood his ground real well and came out and challenged shots tonight," said Mazzoni.

Swanberg stopped 30 shots in his first start of the season.

"I feel confident that we have two goalies who will put us in a position to win some close games this season," Abraham said.

Swanberg didn't get much help from his teammates offensively either, as the Chiefs failed to register a single shot on goal in the middle period.

Churchill on the other hand peppered Swanberg with 14 shots in the second, but couldn't get one past him as the teams entered the final period 1-1.

With 7:03 left in the game Churchill's Dustin Wischmeyer found the loose puck after a scramble in front of Swanberg. The sophomore slid the go ahead goal under a sprawling Canton netminder to put the Chargers up for good, 2-1.

Tony Ross and Jason Proctor assisted on the goal.

"I really liked our effort in the second and third period," Mazzoni said, "but we just have to work on putting some more pucks in the net.

Canton, despite being outshot in the game 32-7, had an opportunity to tie the game up on a late power play, but were unable to capitalize.

The Chiefs squandered four man-advantages Friday night.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 5
Redford Union at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton at Monroe, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 7
Lutheran South at Canton Agape at United Christian Church, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8
Monroe at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton Agape at Deerfield, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Dec. 6
Canton at Livonia Stevenson at Eddie Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8
Northville at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Plymouth at Livonia Churchill at Eddie Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9
Canton at Dearborn at Detroit Skate Club, 7:20 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Saturday, Dec. 9
WLAA Conference Relays at Salem, noon
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 6
Canton at Grosse Pointe North, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9
Canton at Davison Invitational, 10 a.m.
Salem 10-Team Invitational, 9 a.m.
Plymouth at Temperance-Bedford Invitational, 10 a.m.
PREP VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 9
Canton at South Lyon Invite, 8 a.m.
Plymouth at Madonna Tournament at Plymouth, 8:30 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 4
Bethel (Ind.) at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 6
St. Clair CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Madonna at Rochester College, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8
(Holland Sentinel Comm. Tourney)
Madonna vs. Goshen (Ind.), 6 p.m.
Hope College vs. Grace Bible, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9
Holland Sentinel Tourney, 1 & 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 6
St. Clair CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
Marygrove College at Madonna, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9
Goshen (Ind.) at Madonna, noon.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Sunday, Dec. 3
Whalers at Guelph Storm, 3 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 7
Whalers at London Knights, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8
Whalers vs. Sudbury Wolves at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9
Whalers vs. Barrie Colts at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE
Sunday, Dec. 3
Det. Ignition vs. California Cougars at Compuware Arena, 4:35 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9
Det. Ignition at Milwaukee Wave, 4:35 p.m.

BROTHERS

FROM PAGE B1

"Before the game, both of us told our teammates what our brother's weaknesses were," joked Ralph Aspenwall. "After the game, we met at center ice and told each other, 'good game' and talked a little bit. It was definitely different knowing my brother was out trying to score against me."

The brother-on-brother showdown was made possible two years ago when Noel-Charles decided to put his name back in the hat instead of automatically attending Salem like his brother.

"At the time, Ralph was playing AAA hockey, so I didn't think we'd ever get a chance to play together in high school," said Noel-Charles. "A lot of my friends drew Canton so I decided to re-draw, and I drew Plymouth.

"Before last season, Ralph decided to play high school hockey. It would have been cool to have been able to play on the same team, but it was too late for me to change back to Salem."

Not surprisingly, the game was agonizing to some degree for the players' parents, Valire and Ralph, who didn't want to show partiality to either of their sons.

The brother-on-brother showdown was made possible two years ago when Noel-Charles decided to put his name back in the hat instead of automatically attending Salem like his brother.

"We were hoping the game would end in a tie," admitted Valire. "My seat in the stands was right on the red line for all three periods and my husband sat right in front of me, so we didn't favor either team. It was hard because you want to see both of your sons do well."

"I was more nervous than I usually am for a game," said Ralph Aspenwall, the players' father. "But I was more proud, too, seeing them both out on the ice at the same time like that."

The Aspenwalls' parents will be sitting on the red line at least one more time this season.

"Salem and Plymouth play again on February 2 at Compuware, so we get to do it all over again," Valire Aspenwall said.

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2006-07 Prep Hoop Preview

Return to Regional not out of question for talented Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The last time we saw the Canton boys basketball team in action, Andre Bridges was leading the Chiefs to a near upset of state power Orchard Lake St. Mary's in a mid-March Division 1 Regional final showdown at Troy Athens High School.

Bridges has since graduated, but many of his tall, talented friends have returned in an effort to help lead coach Charlie Paye's squad back to the Regionals and beyond.

"We have 10 seniors back from last year's team, so we have a lot of veteran experience this year," said Paye, whose team peaked late to post an 18-7 mark in 2005-06. "Two of our returners — Steve (Paye) and Ryan (Waidmann) — are three-year varsity players, so we'll be looking to them for leadership.

"Our strengths are probably our size and our athleticism. We have a lot of players who can get up and down the court, too."

The Chiefs' starting front-court is as tall and talented as any other in the Western Lakes Activities Association, if not the entire metropolitan Detroit area. Led by the 6-5 Paye (9 points, 5.5 rebounds last year), the 6-7 Waidmann (11 and 6, respectively) and 6-4 junior Neil Sharma, most opponents will feel short-changed when they try to match up with the Redwood-like team.

"Steve is playing very relaxed so far," said Charlie Paye. "I think it helped him playing football this fall and getting away from basketball for a while. Steve and 'Waid' work together extremely well around the basket.

"Ryan's always been tough to stop around the basket, but he's improved his shot even more during the off-season. He can go out 10 feet from the basket now and knock it down consistently. He's quicker than a lot of players his size.

"Neil is a good shooter and he's gotten quicker since last year, which will help him defensively. He's a good rebounder who's not afraid to go back up with it."

The Chiefs' starting back-court will be manned by a pair of seniors: slick-dribbling, smooth-shooting point guard Josh Butler (5-11) and hustling, defensive-minded Eric Zech (6-0).

"Josh jumps and shoots extremely well, and he can distribute the ball," said Paye. "He's one those kids who's in great shape, too, so he can play all 32 minutes if we need him to.

"Eric is a very good defensive player. He's one of those kids who never stops. He's improved his shot over the summer, too. Eric is one of our better passers and he runs the court well."

Leading the Chiefs' reserve unit is a trio of — what else? — seniors: Caleb Larner (6-0 forward), Ryan Langdon (6-0 guard) and Eric Thornton, a 6-6 forward.

"Caleb isn't real tall, but he's strong and he has a quick release inside," said Paye. "Even though he's not as big as most of the guys who are guarding him, he doesn't get his shot blocked a lot.

"Ryan will be our first guard off the bench. He's very good defensively. He'll get after you.

"Eric is one of the few kids we have who can play above the rim. He's a great jumper, he can shoot the three and he runs the court well."

The next wave of Canton reserves consists of seniors Devy Jackson (6-0 forward), Pete Boucher (5-10 guard) and Nick Vukcevich (6-3 forward).

"They all played a lot this summer and they all played well," said Paye.

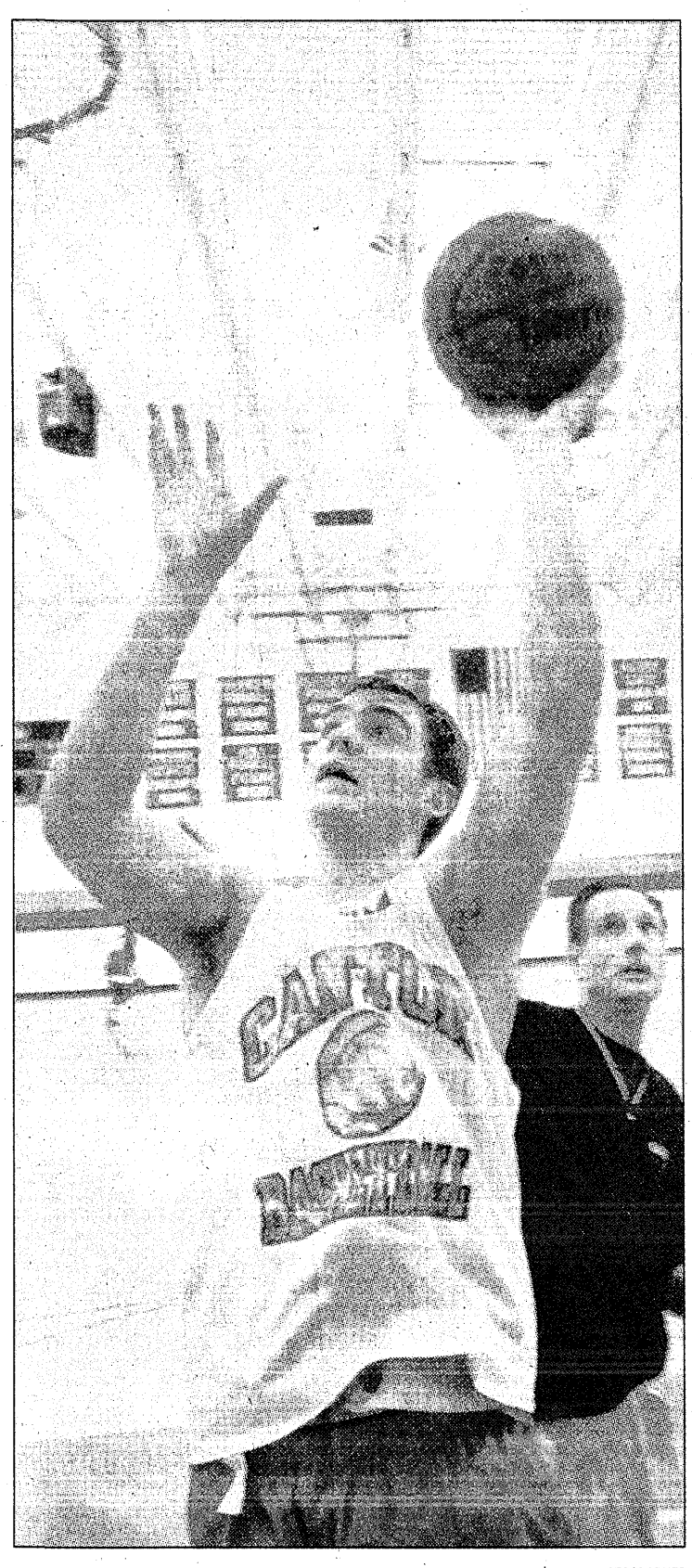
Also counted on to make contributions for the Chiefs will be a quartet of juniors: Chris Bailey (6-1 forward), Brody Coplai (5-11 guard), Ryan Seely (6-0 forward) and Will Tidwell (6-4 forward).

"Northville and Walled Lake Central will be tough again," Paye said, sizing up the race for the 2006-07 WLAA title. "John Glenn should be tough, too, with Dan Young taking over as the new coach.

"I like our team, too. It's a good group of guys and they get along and work hard."

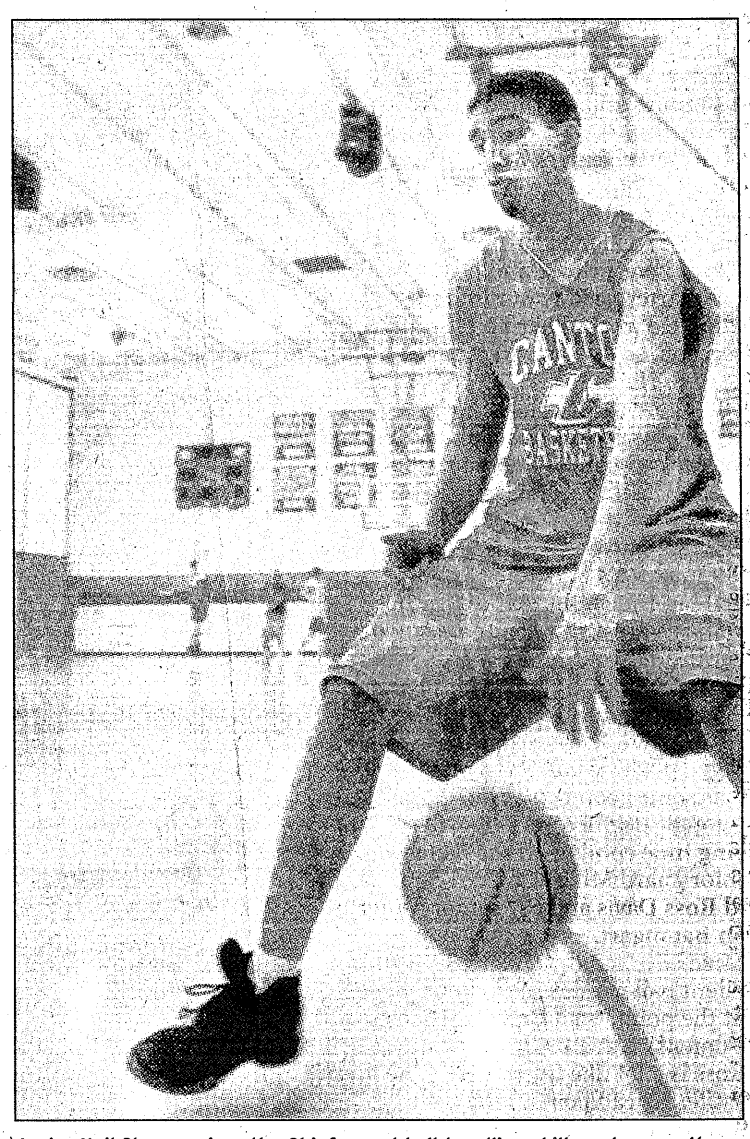
Canton opens the 2006-07 campaign Tuesday at Monroe. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton coach Charlie Paye (background) will be counting on senior center Ryan Waidmann to produce in the paint this season for the Chiefs, who advanced all the way to the Class A Regional final last season.



Junior Neil Sharma gives the Chiefs great ball-handling skills and a smooth outside shooting touch.

ALL ABOUT THE CHIEFS

- **Head coach** – Charlie Paye (4th year);
- **2005-06 record** – 18-7 (advanced to Regional final);
- **Players lost to graduation** – Andre Bridges, Rob Eppler and Andy Larsen;
- **Starting five** – Ryan Waidmann (6-7 Sr. C); Steve Paye (6-5 Sr. F); Neil Sharma (6-4 Jr. F); Josh Butler (5-11 Sr. G); and Eric Zech (6-0 Sr. G).
- **Coach Paye's outlook** – "We have 10 seniors back from last year's team, so we have a lot of veteran experience this year. Our strengths are probably our size and our athleticism. We have a lot of players who can get up and down the court, too."

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CONTINGENT X-RAY TECH
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Sanaldo earns MISL honors

The Major Indoor Soccer League announced on Tuesday that Detroit Ignition goalkeeper Sanaldo has been named the League's Goalkeeper of the Month for his performance during November.

Sanaldo becomes the first-ever player for the MISL expansion team to receive MISL Player of the Month honors. The 28-year old netminder met the expectations set before him after being selected first overall in the 2006 MISL Expansion Draft held in June.

"I am very happy for Sanaldo as he has been doing an outstanding job for us in goal thus far this season," Ignition President Greg Bibb stated. "I think Sanaldo and Danny Waltman give the Ignition the best goalkeeping tandem in the League. It is nice to see Sanaldo receiving the recognition he deserves for his strong November play."

Sanaldo (2-2) has started all four of the first-year club's 2006-07 regular season games allowing just 17 goals over that period. This season, Sanaldo leads the League with a 7.92 points against average, ranks second overall with a .712 save percentage, and is third in the MISL in total minutes played with 257:28. During the 2005-06 season, the goalkeeper assisted the Baltimore Blast to a successful League Championship run minding the net during the MISL Championship Series. Sanaldo was awarded MISL Player of the Week honors on November 13, the second weekly award of his career.

Offensive Player of the Month recognition went to Vicente Figueroa of the California Cougars who leads the League in scoring, with 16 points, and is tied for the lead in goals scored, with six. The Defensive Player of the Month award went to Milwaukee Wave defender Troy Dusosky who scored 13 points and five goals over four games this season.

MUST-SEE TV

The Detroit Ignition has announced that the club has reached an agreement to broadcast one additional home contest during 2006-07 season live on Comcast Local, a 24-hour regional sports network that provides exclusive sports programming to over 1.6 million viewers in four states, Ignition president Greg Bibb announced Thursday.

Comcast Local will provide viewers with the Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007 match-up against the Philadelphia KiXX. Kick-off is slated for 4:35 p.m. ET. The additional broadcast gives fans the opportunity to see the Ignition take on each of the Major Indoor Soccer League's member clubs through the season.

The Ignition broadcast team includes experienced play-by-play veteran Al Pawlowski and color-analyst Roger Faulkner, a name well-known to the soccer community in the state of Michigan.

"The addition of February 25 telecast strengthens our broadcast package and gives our fans an additional opportunity to see the team on Comcast Local," Bibb stated. "As a new property in a very competitive sports region, these broadcasts are vital to our continuing growth and expanding reach."

The Ignition broadcast schedule resumes this afternoon at 4:35 p.m. as Detroit takes on the California Cougars in a match-up between the MISL's two newest clubs.

The first 2,000 fans in attendance at Sunday's contest will receive Detroit Ignition water bottles courtesy of the Henry Ford Medical Group, the official team physicians of the Detroit Ignition.

SPORTS BRIEFS

HVS WINTER PROGRAMS

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering its "Winter 2" round of sports programs beginning Jan. 2 through Feb. 28.

The registration deadline for indoor soccer, flag football and dodge ball is Dec. 15. Leagues traditionally sell out during "Winter 2", so teams are encouraged to sign up early.

The team fee for indoor soccer (under-9 through over-30) is $925 and the free agent fee (for players who need to sign up without a team) is $95. The fee for U5-U8 is $550 and the free agent fee is $65. All indoor soccer leagues include eight games and free agent fees include a free T-shirt. The team fee for flag football is $925. Elementary, middle, high school and adult leagues will be offered.

The team fee for dodge ball is $400 for six games, plus an end-of-the-season tournament. Teams consist of at least 10 players. Instructional clinics for soccer, basketball and volleyball are also available. Check www.hvs-sports.com for information on drop-in soccer and basketball; or call (734) HV-SPORT.

St. John's Golf Course named one of U.S. best

Readers of Golf Digest, a leading golf magazine, have ranked The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth as one of the "Best Places to Play" in the country.

The Golf Digest honor recognizes public courses in North America and the Caribbean Islands as a desirable location to participate in golf and is ranked by approximately 20,000 readers.

Judging criteria includes overall experience, standard of service, value, condition of playing areas and pace of play for 18 holes.

Golf Digest's "Best Places to Play" also serves as a guidebook for golfers seeking a quality experience.

"We are thrilled to be recognized by Golf Digest readers," said Paul Wegert, general manager of The Inn at St. John's. "Our course is the perfect location to enjoy a round of golf, hold a charity golf outing, or for entertaining and unwinding as part of corporate events or a weekend stay."

The Inn at St. John's features a championship 27-hole, Par 72 course with plenty of challenging peaks and valleys. It provides a distinctive experience for golf enthusiasts of all skill levels. Additionally, The Inn at St. John's spacious grounds give the feeling of an exclusive club, enhancing the golfing experience.

For more than a half a century, the stately architecture of The Inn at St. John's has been a regional landmark.

Located in the heart of metropolitan Detroit, the 192-acre property features a seven-story luxury boutique hotel with 118 rooms including over 22 suites, along with Five Restaurant, a 70-seat casually elegant restaurant and martini lounge, serving a refreshing take on American classics.

For more information, visit www.theinnatstjohns.com.

'Cup' is headed to Compuware

After a successful visit to Compuware Sports Arena earlier this year, details for the Stanley Cup's return to the Compuware Sports Arena are starting to take shape.

The Stanley Cup will be back in Plymouth on Friday, Dec. 8. After a 4-5:30 p.m. visit and public viewing at one of the 18-Detroit Area Plymouth Whalers Customer Reward program partner Meijer stores (Meijer of Canton, 45001 Ford Road) the Cup will be on display at the Compuware Sports Arena from 7:15-11 p.m. in the Main NHL Arena.

Plymouth Whalers season ticket holders and hockey fans of all ages will be able to view and enjoy the Stanley Cup while taking in the Plymouth Whalers vs. Sudbury Wolves game, which begins at 7:05 p.m.

"We're grateful that (Compuware CEO) Peter Karmanos has decided to bring the Cup back to Plymouth again this year," said Plymouth Whalers President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "Hockey fans love to be with the Cup, so we're excited to give them the opportunity to see the Stanley Cup one more time this season."

Like last July 17, the Compuware Sports Arena will provide a professional photographer for fans who want a picture with the Stanley Cup or folks can bring their own 35-millimeter cameras and snap a photo. The arena is requesting a $10 donation for professional photographs with proceeds being donated to the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Hockey fans who don't already have tickets to the Friday, Dec. 8 game can purchase tickets at any Ticketmaster location, the Compuware Sports Arena box-office (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday to Friday) or by calling (734) 453-8400 and charging by phone.

After hosting Sudbury and the Stanley Cup on Dec. 8, the Whalers host Barrie on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:05 p.m. The game features the Whalers' Annual Teddy Bear Toss. Fans attending the game are requested to bring a new Teddy Bear to the game and throw it on the ice the first time the Whalers score in the game. The new bruins will be picked up and donated to charity, courtesy of Plymouth United Way.

PREP STATE RANKINGS

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will publish copies of state rankings when space permits and on its Web site of www.hometownlife.com. Send copies to dstickradt@oe.homecomm.net, or fax to (248) 651-9080.

Girls Basketball

(By the Associated Press)

Class A – 1. Detroit Martin Luther King; 2. Auburn Hills Avondale; 3. Lansing Waverly; 4. Grosse Pointe North; 5. Saginaw Arthur Hill; 6. Flushing; 7. Detroit Pershing; 8. Brighton; 9. Rochester; **10. Livonia Ladywood.**
Others receiving votes – Midland Dow, **Belleville,** Farmington Hills Mercy, Okemos, **Plymouth Salem,** Clarkston, East Lansing, Benton Harbor, Utica Ford, **Plymouth Canton,** Howell, North Farmington, Detroit Northwestern.
Class B – 1. St. Clair; 2. Birmingham-Detroit Country Day; 3. Hudsonville Unity Christian; 4. DeWitt; 5. Detroit Renaissance; 6. Grand Rapids South Christian; 7. Midland Bullock Creek; 8. Portland; 9. Warren Woods-Tower; 10. Scottville Mason County Central.
Others receiving votes – Ludington, Marshall, Flint Powers Catholic, Ida, Mount Clemens, Wyoming Park, Corunna, Goodrich, Standish-Sterling, Grand Rapids West Catholic , Flint Northwestern Prep Academy 1.
Class C – 1. Saginaw Nouvel Catholic; 2. Houghton; 3. Kent City; 4. Detroit Community; 5. Sandusky; 6. Morley-Stanwood; 7. Michigan Center; 8. Flint Hamady; 9. Allen Park Cabrini; 10. Marcellus.
Others receiving votes – McBain, Pewamo-Westphalia, Memphis, New Lothrop, Southfield Christian, Muskegon Catholic Central, Olivet, Wyoming Kelloggsville, Grandville Calvin Christian, Marlette.
Class D – 1. Portland St. Patrick; 2. Chassell; 3. Muskegon Western Michigan Christian; 4. Pickford; 5. Beal City; 6. Auburn Hills Oakland Christian; 7. Frankfort; 8. Lansing Christian; 9. Climax-Scotts; 10. (tie) Crystal Falls Forest Park, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart.
Others receiving votes – St. Joseph Lake Michigan Catholic, Onaway, Felch-North Dickinson, Carney-Nadeau, Gaylord St. Mary Cathedral, Kingston, Wyoming Tri-Unity Christian, L'Anse, Marion, Byron Center Zion Christian, Engadine, Traverse City Christian, Rapid River.

Boys Ice Hockey

(By the coaches association)

Division 1 – 1. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central; 2. Orchard Lake St Mary's; 3. East Kentwood; 4. Brighton; 5. Marquette; **6. Livonia Stevenson;** 7. South Lyon; 8. Howell; 9. Grosse Pointe North; 10. Traverse City West.
Division 2 – 1. Trenton; 2. Birmingham Brother Rice; 3. Warren DeLaSalle; 4. Grosse Pointe South; 5. Saline; 6. Davison; 7. Portage Central; 8. Muskegon Mona Shores; 9. Novi; 10. Traverse City Central.
Division 3 – 1. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood; 2. Grosse Ile; 3. Flint Powers Catholic; 4. Big Rapids; 5. Chelsea; 6. Gaylord; 7. Grand Rapids Catholic Central; 8. East Grand Rapids; 9. Dearborn Divine Child; 10. Riverview.

Boys Soccer

(Final Rankings, by MHSSCA)

Division 1 – 1. Traverse City West; **2. Livonia Stevenson;** 3. East Kentwood; **4. Plymouth Salem;** 5. Grosse Pointe South; 6. Northville; 7. Novi; 8. Warren DeLaSalle; 9. Utica Ford II; 10. Rochester Adams.
Honorable Mention – Ann Arbor Pioneer, Rochester Stoney Creek, Clarkston, Dearborn.
Division 2 – 1. Dexter; 2. East Lansing; 3. Mason; 4. Hudsonville Unity Christian; 5. Dearborn Heights Crestwood; 6. Grand Rapids Christian; 7. Oxford; 8. Auburn Hills Avondale; 9. East Grand Rapids; 10. Bloomfield Hills Andover.
Honorable Mention – Birmingham Seaholm, Lapeer East.
Division 3 – 1. Richmond; 2. Roscommon; 3. Birmingham-Detroit Country Day; 4. Bridgman; 5. Jackson Lumen Christi; 6. Macomb Lutheran North; 7. South Haven; 8. Grosse Ise; 9. Elk Rapids; 10. Cheboygan.
Honorable Mention – Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic, Flint Powers Catholic.
Division 4 – 1. Allen Park Inter-City Baptist; 2. Muskegon Western Michigan Christian; 3. Auburn Hills Oakland Christian; 4. Southfield Christian; 5. Traverse City Christian; 6. Ann Arbor Greenhills; 7. Muskegon Catholic Central; **8. Westland Lutheran;** 9. Royal Oak Shrine; 10. Adrian Lenawee Christian.
Honorable Mention – Hudsonville Freedom Baptist, Burton Genesee Christian, Jackson Christian.


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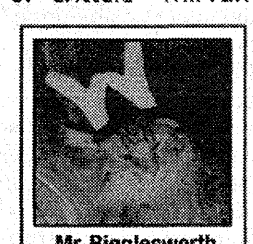
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Send in your Family Favorite HOLIDAY Recipes
Cookies....Pie....Stuffing.....
We all have holiday recipes that are **Family Favorites**, recipes that are loved and cherished and passed down from generation to generation. This year The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers wants to put those recipes in print! **Starting on Thursday, November 30th and running each Sunday through December 10th, we will print a page featuring these special recipes.**
Send yours in today!
Send in your Family Favorite Recipe complete with cooking time and temperature (and maybe a bit of history or origin) to:
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It's time to share your Family Favorite Recipe with your Observer & Eccentric Family!
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Plymouth resident excels in grueling race across Sahara

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER



Pictured above are Plymouth resident Jim Dawson (right) and fellow competitor Rossa O'Donnell.

It was Stage 5 of a 150-mile adventure race across the Western Sahara Desert when Plymouth's Jim Dawson, an experienced ultra and ironman competitor, began wondering if he had bit little more than he could chew.

"That was a slog – mentally and physically it was brutal," the 39-year-old Dawson said. "I haven't had to reach into my suffer bucket like that in a long time. I questioned for a moment what I was doing. It was very tough."

Dawson ultimately completed the 54-miler that day in 14 hours, 14 seconds and 39 seconds. Nearly five of those hours were spent orienteering in the darkness to Camp El Ris Village.

Minus six toenails, he got through all six stages in a total time of 33:44:00, seventh overall among 131 finishers and the first American.

Heck, Dawson not only finished. He raced it.

After a day off from the gruelling fifth leg to replenish, clean up and recoup much needed electrolytes, Dawson dueled with his new-found friend, Rossa O'Donnell, 38, of Ireland.

"We helped each other where the trail markings were confusing (on Stage 5)," Dawson said. "He's just a neat guy. We worked together with about three kilometers left."

The final day was a piece of cake compared to the previous five stages.

It was a scenic 13-kilometer finish through the downtown streets of Cairo and into the Sphinx in Giza where the Great Pyramids stood.

"I was battling Rossa for first in my age group," Dawson said. "He's a strong hill runner. He eventually caught me. It was a great battle. We hammered it out at the end."

Dawson, who did a bulk of his training at the Livonia Family Y, finished the 8-mile leg in 1:10:04. O'Donnell earned seventh place overall in 33:40:42.

The winner, 29-year-old Jimmi Olsen of Denmark, covered the 150 miles in 26:55:004.

The first women to finish, Claire Louise Milson of Great Britain, took fifth overall in 32:00:58.

Following a post-race banquet for the runners and three days of recovery and sightseeing before flying home, Dawson reflected on his six days in the desert.

"Things fell into place," he said. "I did surprise myself. I didn't think I'd get caught up in it, but my game plan worked and I was able to race it instead of just trying to survive."

In the months of training leading up to the Racing the Planet Series event (Oct. 28-Nov. 4), Dawson could be seen wearing a backpack and running against a 15-degree grade on an indoor treadmill at the Livonia Y.

"There's a big learning curve to pack and what not to pack," Dawson said. "But I probably packed too heavy and that added to my time. The other runners were able to pack lighter. But you have to stay hydrated. You're camping out and preparing food. I learned one thing – I did not pack enough salty foods."

After a 7½-hour bus ride out of Cairo, the competitors started out of Camp Iceberg for the first stage, a 19.3-mile leg.

"We went by the Twin Rocks, beautiful formations, just immaculate," Dawson said. "There was plenty of sand – you'd sink three inches – and then run on hard rock formations. The terrain we were running on was black carbonized, you'd see coral sea shells, snail fossils imbeded, starfish, millions of them."

Temperatures started out in the mid-90s before quickly rising on that first day.

"It hit over 100 and 105 almost every day," Dawson said. "I came in 18th. It was my hardest (leg) because I got sick. I was dehydrated. My water intake was O.K., but I didn't get enough electrolytes. I wanted to go slow to acclimate myself, but I didn't think I'd feel that sick."

Day Two, a 19.8-miler, started in Camp Salt Pepper. Dawson moved up to 12th place by finishing in 4 hours, 20 minutes.

"It was the same type of terrain, smaller formations on salt flats, not quite as much elevation," he said.

On Day Three, Dawson moved into the top 10 on a 23.8-mile leg that finished at Camp Rolling Sands.

"It was one of my better runs," he said. "It was almost all sand. You got a good taste of the sand dunes. There were some brutal climbs."

Dawson also encountered an unexpected sand storm.

"It was like somebody flipped a switch," he said. "We spent a good half-day running in that. My head was covered. I wore goggles. Everything became crystalized. My gear was completely spotless."

But by Day Three, the race began to take its toll.

Dawson's girlfriend, Doreen Hoffman of Grosse Pointe Park, dropped out because of a toe and foot issue.

"Foot care, food and recovery management," Dawson said. "Your feet just get hammered. Some were forced out by toe and foot infections. You're basically self-supported out there, but they (Racing the Planet organizers) provide the hot water. You'd start at 8 a.m. and try and get done by one or two in the afternoon, then start your recovery."

On Day Four, Dawson embarked on a 24-mile leg from Camp White Tower.

"Mentally, as well as physically, it was pretty brutal," he said. "Very rocky. We got the heat of the day. It was very hard. It was around 48 degrees (Celsius). But I did pretty well that day. We ran through a small oasis, which was pretty neat. We ran through mummy tombs. Some of the people stopped and took pictures."

The next day, the 54-miler, was no sight-seeing trip, but the 5-foot-8, 155-pound Dawson got through it.

"I had no joint injuries," he said. "I lost about 12 pounds and dropped about 4-to-5 percent body fat. I spent three days after the race in a feeding frenzy, lots of burgers and pizza."

When Dawson finished each stage, he'd receive printouts of e-mails sent by friends and co-workers at Jacobson Industries in Livonia where he serves as a production manager.

"They'd have a generator at the campfire and it was nice to get that support from home," Dawson said. "Racing the Planet is just a top-notch organization. And the neat thing about it is that you meet people from all over the world. There were three competitors from the History Channel, who were doing a documentary. I was also part of a study with Johns Hopkins University."

So what's in store for Dawson in 2007?

"I got great satisfaction, I'd do it again," he said. "There's a new format, a race in the Gobi Desert, but I don't know right now if that's feasible. There's an Ironman (2-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run) in Louisville (Ky.) in late August, which I definitely want to do."

When he arrived home, Dawson received quite a welcome from his co-workers.

"They had cake," he said.

How appropriate.



AAUW marks 125th with pride
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Artist's work an asset in fund-raiser
PAGE C10

New joint replacement designed for women
HEALTH - PAGE C8



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Sunday, December 3, 2006
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Pondering: I think I have enough

It's that time of year again, the lists are being made and the decorations are being hung and the festivities are being planned. Yes, the holidays are upon us.

With the holiday season beginning so does the shopping season begin, or should I say the "Break the Bank Season." My friends have already let it be known that they are most fond of the latest in modern technologies that are now on the market.

From I-pods to Blue Tooths and MP-3 players and even the new $600 Play Station-3 we Americans seem to have a love affair with our gadgets and our toys. Now, I understand how important technology is. It can advance and improve our lives.



Bobbie Jones

I also know America is a consumer-driven society and our purchase power is great – capitalism is at the core of America's foundation.

However, how much is too much?

I can't count the number of times I have driven through a subdivision and looked in some of the opened garages and seen just how overflowed they are, so full to the brim that the family cars can't even fit in them.

When I hear my friends and co-workers talk about how their homes and garages are so cluttered and disorganized I am just thankful I learned a phrase a long time ago that has kept me sane and out of the clutches of clutter: "I think I have enough."

When I was in my 20s it wasn't the Christmas season that taught me the lesson of it's better to give than to receive. It was a television talk show host doing a show on "Rescuing your home from clutter." The one thing I took away from that show was a rule that goes like this: If one new item comes into the home two items go out.

In the attempt to conquer clutter this rule was just a first step, but it was a beginning. Like most women, in my early years I had a passion for the latest fashion and the beloved shoe. Over the years, I had accumulated quite a bit of merchandise, some of which was barely used.

Over the years, I had accumulated quite a bit of merchandise, some of which was barely used.

Giving became my mission. During the course of two years I located organizations, groups and individuals that were in need of perfectly good items. Most of the time I would keep clothing slated for give-away in the trunk of my car just in case the giving spirit hit me and I found someone in need. After my given spree had ended I vowed to live a much simpler life.

Now, believe me I know just how hard it can be to part with our beloved stuff. It must be because I hear the cry from garages across America begging for relief. But, the thought of someone in need being helped by something you have to offer is a pretty compelling reason to truly make this a giving season.

If that doesn't do it for you go back to the rule, for every new item in, two items out. Just look at it as a way to load up on the latest in technology you really crave and with the two items that will be leaving you will now have the much-needed space to store your new purchase.

Yes, my friends still make fun of me because I don't own a flat-screen TV or an MP-3 player and, as silly as it may sound, I still watch movies on a VCR. Even when I saw everyone running around using I-pods as their music listening device of choice, a good old-fashioned Walkman tape player did it for me.

But with the funds I have saved over the years I have been able to do some pretty helpful and useful things for others. To me that makes all the teasing something I accept with gratitude. Maybe next year someone in need will be having a joyful holiday season because of you.

Bobbie Jones is a Belleville resident and a regular contributor to the *Observer*. She can be reached via e-mail at WORKHARD36@aol.com.

Cheesy role

Mice battle their way to star status

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Ian Smith reaches around to pull out his tail. The 8-year old boy is proud of playing a mouse in *The Nutcracker*. It's a minor part, but frequently leads to a starring role.

Smith is just one of dozens of children who dream of eventually trading in their furry gray costume to perform as Clara or the Mouse King in local productions by the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Co. and Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, Livonia Civic Ballet and Eric Johnston's Detroit Ballet based in Farmington Hills and Birmingham.

PLEASE SEE **MICE, C6**

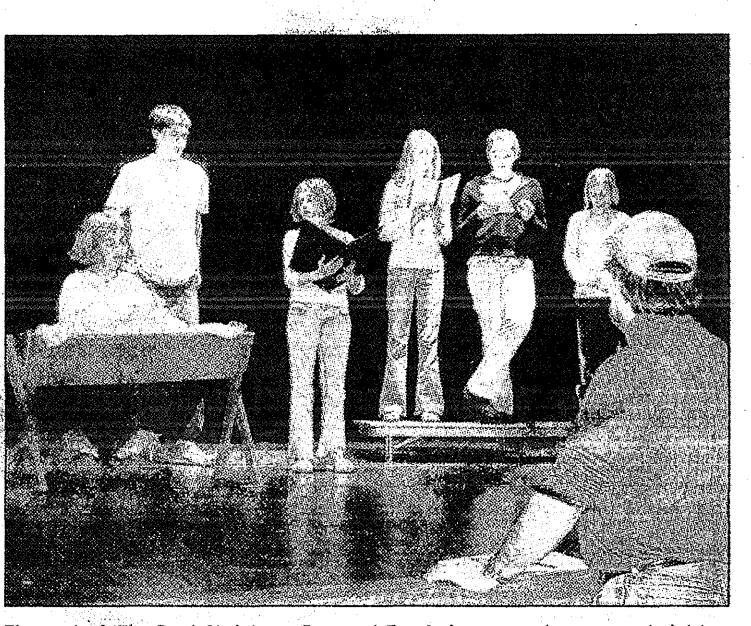


TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rebekka and Samantha Zawisza (left front row), Evan St. Juliana, Ian Smith, and Danielle Butler, and Rori Kennedy (left back row), Haley Shawver, Shahanna Sarkisian, Giselle Ulep, Rebecca Falzon, and Valerie Lovson and are among the dozens of children playing mice in local productions of 'The Nutcracker.'



Stacy Ellison was one of the angels in last year's Christmas production at Detroit World Outreach in Redford.



The cast of 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever' gives a contemporary twist to the story about the Christ child's birth in a manger.



Detroit World Outreach incorporates the birth of the Christ child into a contemporary story about a husband and wife and their new baby.



Scott Swartout and costumer Mary Fry prepare for a dress rehearsal of 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever' at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham.

Broadway-bound

Christmas pageants go glitzy to spread the message

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Flying angels, pyrotechnics, special lighting and sound effects are replacing traditional Christmas pageants with Broadway-style productions that require hundreds of church members to act, sing and work behind the scenes.

The true meaning of Christmas isn't forgotten, however. The simple story about the birth of the Christ child in a manger is being incorporated into contemporary dramas and musicals to attract audiences — and it seems to be working.

While seating is almost sold out for the Glory of Christmas at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth, there are still tickets available for A Family Covenant, a new production with drama skits, music, dancing, a 150-voice choir, flying characters, big-screen video, special lighting effects, digital sounds and a kids dream scene at Detroit World Outreach, 23800 West Chicago, Redford. Tickets are $5, children under age 3 free, groups of 10 or more are $3.50 per person, and available by calling (313) 255-2222, Ext. 236. For details, visit www.dwo.org.

"Expect to hear great music, a full choir and band, and experience a family sharing time," said Rev. Robb Stancer, the creative arts pastor who arranged the production, which has been in rehearsal for a couple of months. "It's a simple story about a husband and wife and a brand new baby and their trying to give their son the very best first Christmas ever. Along the way they find out it's not just one day and see the story evolve into the nativity scene, and a scene just for the children, but we don't want to give that away."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF BIRMINGHAM

Diane Bert can't stop talking about The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, a funny, sentimental story about six unruly siblings about to ruin the annual production. The drama is part of the Traditions of Christmas activities hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. The multi-event open house includes carols, stories, musical performances, model train layouts, a life-size crèche, cookie decorating, crafts, displays, film and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, 3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the church, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham. No tickets, donations or reservations necessary. Call (248) 644-2040.

Bert tells the story of The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey, a woodcarver who is changed after meeting a young boy and carving a nativity set for his mother, a widow. Bert, a retired elementary principal and psychologist, learned the art of storytelling from her mother.

"The play is tender and great fun

PLEASE SEE **PAGEANTS, C7**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Olivet scholarship
Olivet College is offering every high school in Michigan the ability to nominate two graduating seniors to receive the new Olivet College High School Guidance Counselor Scholarship. The scholarship is worth $2,000 a year for four years equaling a total of $8,000 for each qualified student. Enrollment availability is based on a first come, first served basis. The scholarship program empowers the guidance counselor or staff to chose two responsible seniors who have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and 19 or higher on the ACT. One of the selected students must also demonstrate a greater need for financial assistance. For more information on the Olivet College High School Guidance Counselor Scholarship program, contact the Office of Enrollment Management at (800) 456-7189 or e-mail admissions@olivetcollege.edu

Shopping expo
RKE presents "Unique Treasures Gift Shopping Expo," featuring gift items, demos, prizes, refreshments; and cash-and-carry/special orders. The event takes place 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Mettetal Airport at Joy and Lilley in Canton. For more information, call (248) 355-9552.

Student development conference
Wayne State University's James S. Measell Public Relations Student Society of America chapter and Eastern Michigan University's Eleanor Wright PRSSA chapter have partnered to hold the 10th-annual student development conference. The conference will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in Ann Arbor Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The conference will be followed by an informal social held in the hotel's Street Side Bar and Grill. The event is open to all students who wish to network and learn from professionals in the many areas of public relations. The conference is open to all students in all majors. To attend the conference, contact Michael Munie, conference coordinator, at mmunie@emich.edu or you can register at the door the day of the event. Registration is $35 for PRSSA members, $40 for nonmembers if done before Dec. 1. After December 1st, registration is $40 for PRSSA members, $45 for nonmembers. Included in the registration fee is a light breakfast and lunch.

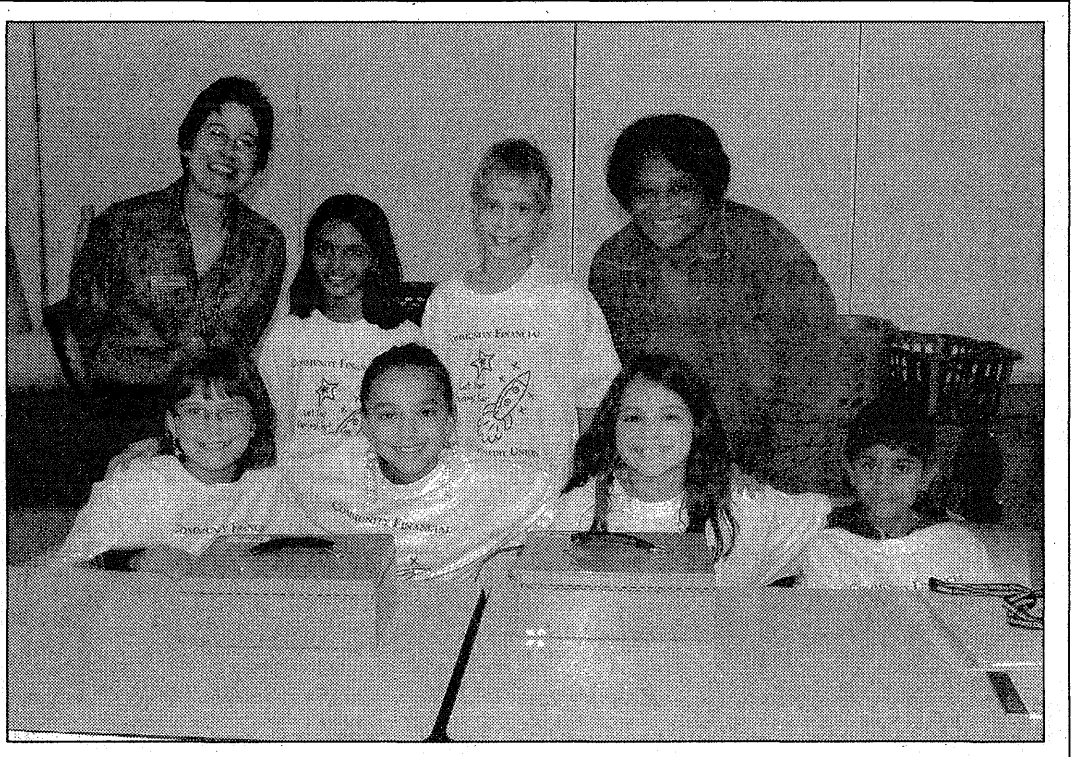
Career development scholarship
The Wayne Business and Professional Women's Club is now accepting applications for a "Career Development Scholarship" to recognize and support women entering or re-entering the work force or seeking to advance their careers. Candidates seeking application forms should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Wayne Business and Professional Women's Club, Career Development Scholarship Committee, 34030 Fountain Blvd., Westland, MI 48185. Completed applications are due postmarked by Jan. 31. For more information, call Amy Allen, (734) 522-1603.

Card party/luncheon
Victoria Chapter #290, OES, Livonia Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon to 3 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Admission is $6; event features table prizes and door prizes. The temple is located at 27705 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 459-6063.

Holiday nights
This December, step into a Christmas card of the past during Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village, Dec. 8-9, 15-17 and 19-23. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling (313) 982-6001 or visiting The Henry Ford's Web site at www.thehenryford.org.

Vespers and nativity concert
The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) will sponsor a Vespers service and Nativity concert on Sunday evening, Dec. 3 at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, 19600 Ford Road, Dearborn. The evening begins at 6:30 with a Vespers service concelebrated by priests from COCC member churches and sung by the COCC's Inter-Orthodox Choir. Following the service, the choir will sing a concert of Orthodox liturgical and para-liturgical music for the Nativity season and selected Eastern and Western European Advent and Christmas carols. The story of St. Nicholas and gifts for children will follow the concert. Refreshments will be served. The evening is free of charge and open to the public.
A freewill offering will be collected. For further information, contact Victoria Kopistiansky, director of the Inter-Orthodox Choir and chair of the COCC Music Committee, at (313) 366-0677 or KopistianskyVickie@sbcglobal.net.

Genealogical Society
The next meeting of the Livingston County Genealogical Society takes place 7 p.m. Dec. 7 at the First United Methodist Church, 1230 Bower Road in Howell. The meeting will be a social evening sharing holiday stories and mementoes, and will feature a "White Elephant" sale. The public is invited. For more information, call Margaret Bowland, (810) 227-7745.



Grand opening

Community Financial Education Partnership Coordinator Natalie McLaughlin (left) and Hulsing Elementary Principal Carolyn Washington are pictured at the student-run credit union's grand opening with enthusiastic fourth-grade volunteers. Hulsing becomes one of seven elementary schools within the Plymouth-Canton Community School District to partner with Community Financial. It is also the 24th school partnership in the credit union's financial literacy program. Prior to the grand opening, the fourth- and fifth-grade students who operate the student-run credit union at Hulsing were interviewed and trained by Community Financial staff. Students in the first through fifth grades are eligible to participate in the program.

Hospice training
Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

Literacy Council tutors
The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Toastmasters meet
Do you have a fear of public speaking? Do you need to do presentations at work and don't know where to start? Or are you terrified of the thought of standing in front of a group of people to present that report? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Toastmasters is for you! Canton Communicators Club meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island on Lilley, just south of Joy, in the Golden Gate Plaza. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Grief support
New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants.
If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhopecenter.net.

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.
The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Mark Hammar, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 455-6620.

Plymouth Newcomers
Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0-5 meet several times during the week at member homes and occasional special events. Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends! For details, contact Janet Keller at (734) 451-1840 or robertplus-janet@aol.com

Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue
The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association will meet 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There will be a guest speaker at each meeting and a variety of topics will be covered. There is no membership fee but a small donation will be accepted. For information call Lucy Rowley, (734) 462-1768

MOPS meet
MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September-May, for moms and their children, newborn-kindergarten, at Lakepointe Bible Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson, (734) 459-1861.

Mosaic
MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering. It presents speakers on child and family issues, has small-group discussion time, crafts and brunch. Child care is provided. It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Resha at (734) 207-0658 or resha@juno.com

Moms Club
Moms Club of Livonia-S/Plymouth, Canton and Westland offers a variety of activities for stay-at-home moms and their children. For more details, call Birthe at (734) 458-8143 or Kimberly at (248) 231-6120.

DAR
The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Monday of each month except January, July and August. A group with ancestors who fought in American Revolution. Members participate in community work involving veterans' hospitals, schools and community service. Call (734) 420-2775 for further information.

German/American Club of Plymouth
Meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 39100 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth. Call Mary Ann at (734) 420-0857 for further information.

American Legion
Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 meets at the I.O.O.F. Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. All veterans that served during any of the wars are eligible. Contact (734) 459-7324 for further information.

Women's Farm and Garden Club-Plymouth
Meets every second Monday of each month from September through June. Persons interested in joining may contact club president Linda Coughlin at (734) 459-7478.

Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club
Looking for energetic new members to participate in community service projects. This club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Salvation Army Building on Main Street. The third Thursday is a dinner meeting with a speaker. Call (734) 981-7259 for further information.

Mothers & More
The Wayne County chapter of Mothers & More meets twice a month in Plymouth. Call (866) 841-9140, Ext. 4329, or visit Web site mothersandmore63@onebox.com.

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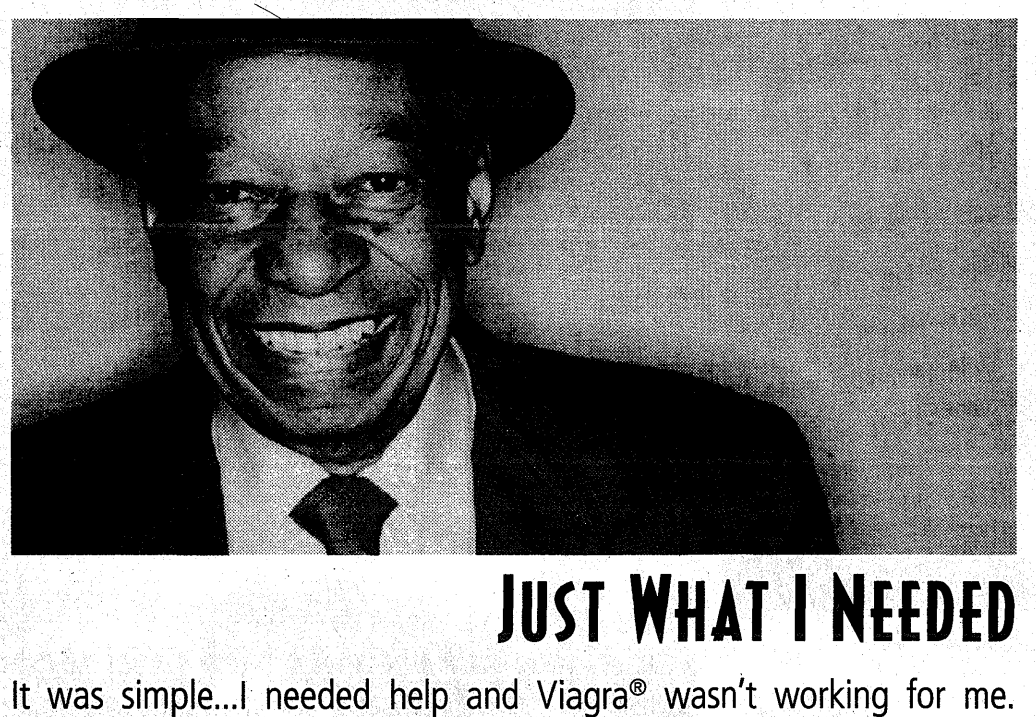

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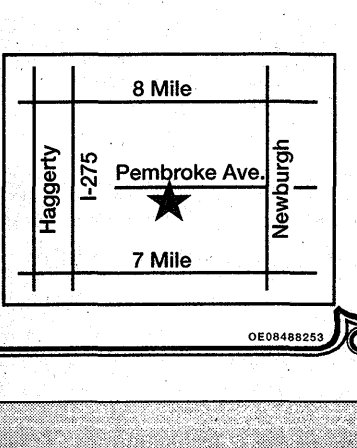

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AAUW gala celebrates progress made in women's rights

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 28, 1881, a group of women college graduates met to explore what they could do to help other women. Their efforts grew into the American Association of University Women, which marked its 125th anniversary Tuesday.

"This is a celebration of our 125th anniversary of AAUW," said Elizabeth Treloar of Wyandotte, past president of the Wyandotte/Downriver branch and state communications director. "This is the exact day."

Two AAUW districts representing southeast Michigan met that evening at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, bringing donations for the Alternatives for Girls organization. State President Mickey Edell of Canton was there.

"I'm just so proud to be celebrating this day," said Edell, a speech-language pathologist for the Plymouth-Canton schools. She praised the founding mothers. "We are so thankful to them," and for the rights AAUW has gained for girls and women.

"Now with the passage of Proposal 2 we face greater challenges," Edell, a Plymouth-Canton branch member, said of the recent move against affirmative action. "We must redouble our efforts. We've definitely made many gains."

Treloar, a retired fifth-grade teacher, cited women's growing enrollment at colleges and universities, and women presidents at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. "I don't feel it's a man's world anymore," Treloar added.

Barbara Medwedeff of Livonia was there with her Livonia AAUW branch. "Our branch started in '71," Medwedeff said. It has grown to 145 members. "So we're very proud of that."

Livonia's branch marked its 35th anniversary the week before the 125th anniversary program. "A number of us went to the 100th anniversary, which was celebrated in Boston," said Medwedeff, a retired elementary school teacher.

She's pleased Democrats have gained elected offices recently, and noted that new career opportunities have opened in addition to teaching and nursing. "I do (think there have been advances), but I hope we don't go backwards with some of the issues," she said.

Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretson brought a proclamation for the 125th, and wasn't forced to attend by his wife. "I'm here on my own free will," the mayor said prior to the program. "We certainly are very happy to support it."

He noted there were few women in his engineering classes at George Washington University. Engebretson worked with a woman who emphasized women's rights during the 1960s, the time Betty Friedan published her *The Feminine Mystique*. He's promoted women as city department heads because they're qualified.

Mary Fritz of Plymouth Township, also a Plymouth-Canton member, agreed women have moved into many other fields. "I've belonged to AAUW for over 50 years," said Fritz, who retired after many years as a Plymouth-Canton school administrator. Her branch was founded as Plymouth in 1952.

Fritz earned her Ph.D. from Wayne State University, and said AAUW was the impetus to keep her going. "I think women have a lot of determination," she said. "I'm just so happy to be here, I think it's wonderful."

Barb Temporelli of Farmington Hills belongs to AAUW's Farmington branch and is an adjunct professor of chemistry at Schoolcraft College. "Exciting," she said of Tuesday's program, which included birthday cakes with candles. "I think it's fantastic."



Amanda Good, executive director for Alternatives for Girls, accepts donations from AAUW members as part of their 125th anniversary celebration at Schoolcraft College.

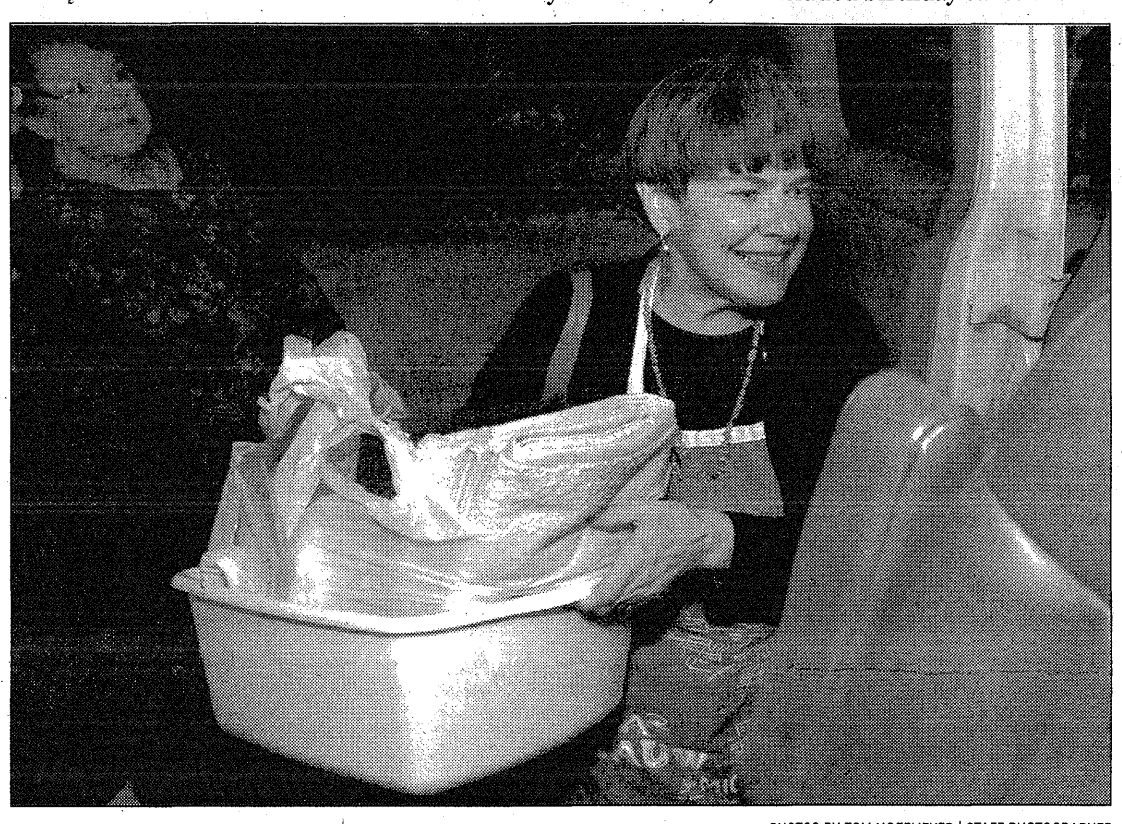
Temporelli's been in AAUW about 25 years. "I think education is a lot more open to women these days," she said. "I think there are a lot more opportunities," including more women in science.

The speaker was Beverly Coleman Alexander, who has worked with at-risk girls in the Detroit Public Schools and with Alternatives for Girls. She's a minister and a graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Ashland Theological Seminary.

Alexander told the approximately 100 women they're the embodiment of all great women "whose visions we now see. Collectively, we are products of our American foremothers."

She spent more than 10 years with Alternatives for Girls, committed to betterment of impoverished girls and young women. "Your giving will go beyond Christmas," Alexander said. "I applaud you, my sisters, my AAUW sisters."

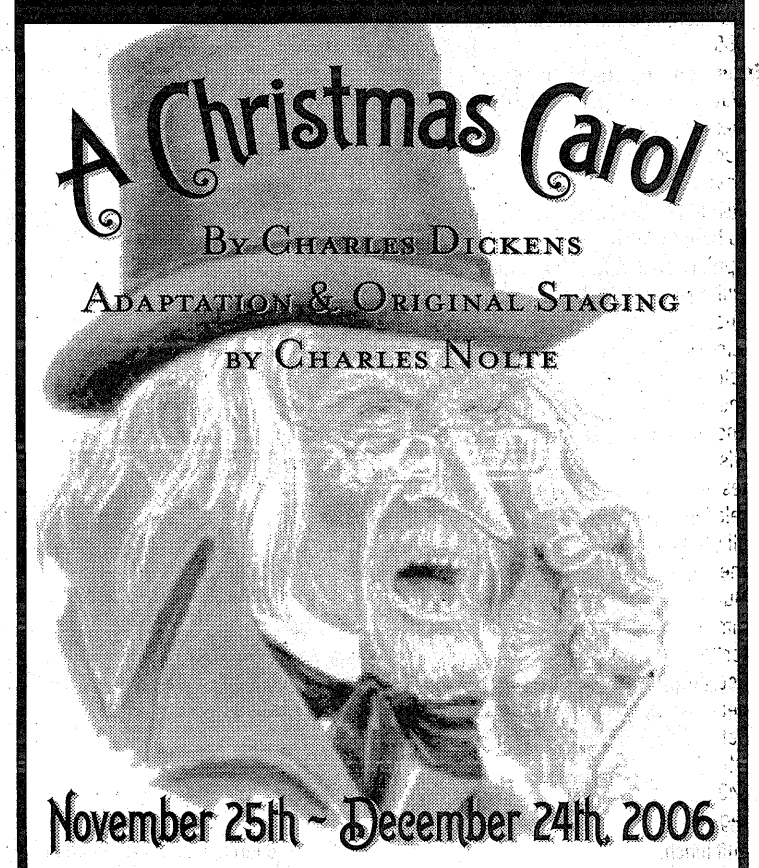
Alexander, now working on her doctorate, described her own life and how much an AAUW scholarship helped when she was at U-M. "You're enabling a girl or young woman to go on to school," she said.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Mostaghim brings her donations to the Alternatives for Girls van as she and her fellow AAUW members take part in the organization's 125th anniversary celebration at Schoolcraft College.

Meadow Brook Theatre Co.



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and maybe yours will be picked to print!

Share your Family Favorite Recipe with your Observer & Eccentric Family!

Family Favorite Fruit Cake:

1 1/2 cups raisins
2 cups sugar
5 tablespoons margarine
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cloves
1 cup walnuts
1 1/2 cups dates (chopped)
2 cups boiling water
3 cups flour
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups candied fruit (I use red and green cherries)

Place raisins, dates, sugar, water and margarine in sauce pan; simmer gently for 20 minutes. Cool Sift flour, before measuring. Then sift flour, soda, salt and spices together. Stir into cooled mixture. Add nuts mixed with a little flour. Then add the candied fruit. Pour mixture into greased and floured pans. Bake 1 hour or more til done in moderate oven at 325 degrees. Use 3 small pans or 2 loaf pans.

This delicious fruitcake is a surprise to all who think they don't like fruit cake! It has a spice cake flavor and no sour fruit. I have been making these fruitcakes for years to give family and friends. A homemade gift is a special touch and it sends an extra special holiday wish.

Submitted by: Susan Pinto

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WEDDING

Quiambao-Castro

Cassie Marie Castro and Edmund Schaar Quiambao were married Aug. 12.

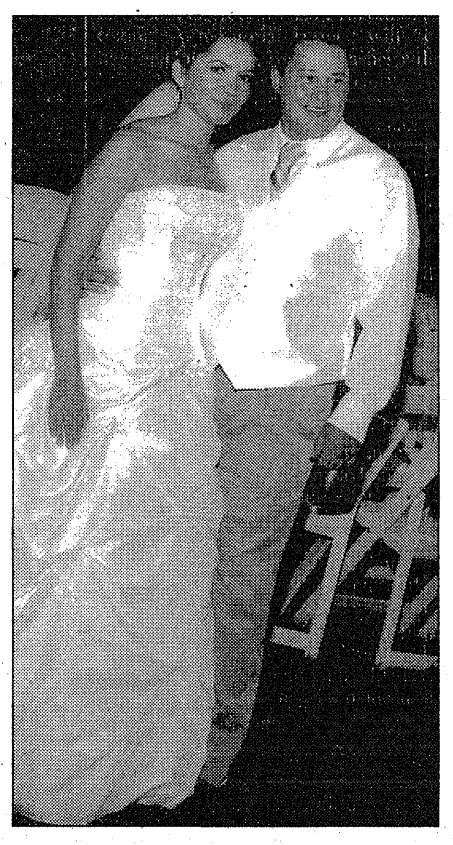
The wedding and reception were held at Fox Hills Country Club of Plymouth. The wedding was officiated by Barnett Jones, the bride's brother-in-law.

The bride is the daughter of Robin Jackson and John Castro. She has a degree in science.

The groom's parents are Bill and Julie Skrent. He grandparents are John and Betty Schaar. He is completing a degree in business.

The couple honeymooned on Mackinac Island.

They will make their home in Canton.



How to submit announcements

Local engagement, wedding, anniversary and birth announcements run in the Sunday editions of the *Observer*.

There is no charge to submit an announcement.

To obtain a copy of our forms for engagements,weddings, anniversaries and births email Hugh Gallagher at hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

Or send the following information to Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150:

For engagement announcements, include:

- Names, addresses and cities for the bride, groom and both sets of parents
- Where bride and groom attended (or attend) high school and college and years graduated
- Where bride and groom are employed
- Wedding date
- Wedding location
- Daytime phone number and e-mail address in case we have any questions.

For wedding announcements, include:

- All of the above, plus
- Clergy's name
- Names and cities of all attendants
- Reception location
- Honeymoon location
- City where couple will reside

Please send photos in a vertical format. If you are e-mailing a photograph, please send it as a "jpeg."

Photographs may be picked up after publication; or enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you have questions regarding your announcement, call (734) 953-2149.

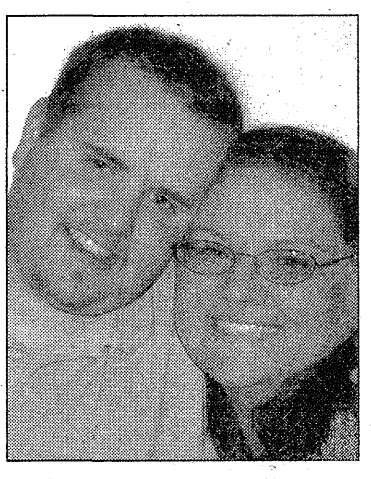
ENGAGEMENTS

Witt-Simmerer

Larry and Karen Witt of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda Catherine Witt of Canton, to Robert Anthony Simmerer of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a 2001 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia. She received an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College in 2003 and graduated with distinction form the University of Michigan-Dearborn with bachelor of arts degree in elementary education. She is employed as a substitute teacher for Dearborn and Livonia schools and works part time at Target.

The prospective groom is the son of Bill and Susan Simmerer. He is a 2001 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and received an associate's degree from Schoolcraft



College in 2006. He will be attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn working toward an accounting degree. He is employed at Bex Inc.

An October 2008 wedding is planned for St. Thomas a Becket Church in Canton followed by a reception at Crystal Gardens.

Smith-Nafe

The Rev. Paul and Cathy Clough announce the engagement of their son, Jeffrey J. Nafe to Laura J. Smith, daughter of Ronald and Deborah Smith. Jeffrey is also the son of the late Dr. Don O. Nafe, Jr.

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of the Woodward Academy High School in Atlanta, Ga., and a 1999 graduate of the University of Alabama. She is employed as a key account manager with Twinlab in Atlanta.

The prospective groom is a 1992 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and a 1996 graduate of Central Michigan University. He is employed as an advanced web developer with Turner Broadcasting Systems CNN Division in Atlanta.



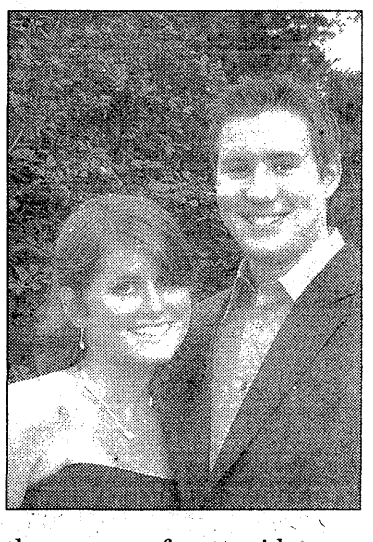
They plan a May 2007 wedding in Atlanta.

Walsh-McNally

Christine Walsh and Sean McNally are engaged and planning an August 2007 wedding. Parents of the future bride are Martin and Anne Marie Walsh of Fenton. The future groom is the son of Patrick and Cyndi McNally of Belleville.

The future bride is a 2003 graduate of Fenton High School. She will graduate from Central Michigan University in December of 2006 with a bachelor's degree in family studies, and will begin graduate school in the fall of 2007 for a master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

The future groom is a 2003 graduate of Belleville High School. He will graduate from Central Michigan University in



the summer of 2007 with a bachelor's degree in English, with a minor in advertising.

Buhl-Washer

Robert and Karen Buhl, of Grosse Ile, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kourtney Buhl, of Canton, to Timothy Washer, of Livonia, son of Robert and Deborah Washer, of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Grosse Ile High School and Purdue University and she is employed by Buhl Insurance Agency in Trenton. Timothy is a graduate of Farmington High School and Michigan State University and is employed by Travis Pointe Country Club in Ann Arbor.

The couple will be married in March 2007 at Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church, with a reception to follow at The



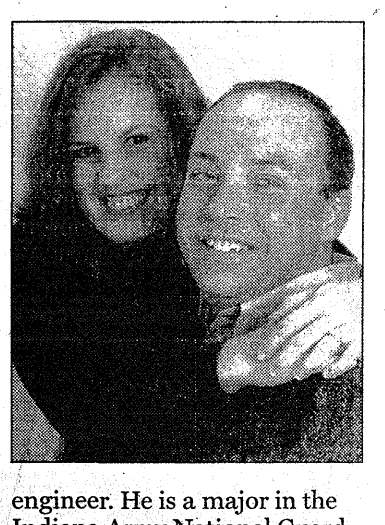
Dearborn Inn. They plan to honeymoon on Marco Island, Fla.

McPhail-Benbow

Roy and Carol McPhail of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Christy Lynn McPhail of Muncie, Ind., to Brent Leaman Benbow of Indianapolis, Ind.

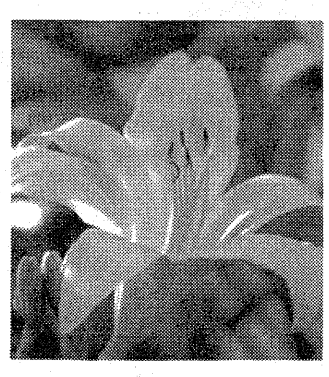
The bride-to-be is a 1989 graduate of Stevenson High School and a graduate of Western Michigan University. She is employed as an occupational therapist at Bell Memorial Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation Center.

The prospective groom is the son of Robert and Donna Benbow of Montpelier, Ind. He is a graduate of Purdue University and is a network



engineer. He is a major in the Indiana Army National Guard.

An April 2007 wedding is planned for Muncie, Ind.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ❖ fax: 734-953-2232

e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net



RICKY SEAN ARQUETTE

Age 32, November 28, 2006, of Westland. Dearest son of Diane and the late Leo. Dear brother of Michael and Philip Graham. Nephew of Jean (Randall) Harris. Cousin of Randy Harris, and Debbie and Lori Arquette. Funeral Services were held on Friday, December 1, 2006, from the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Garden City. Please sign Ricky's online guestbook at www.rggrharris.com

JAMES D. DENEAU

Age 86, a resident of Franklin for 55 years, passed away on November 30, 2006. He was born on April 20, 1920 in Bay City, MI. Jim married Anna Mary Adams in The First United Methodist Church of Birmingham on March 16, 1951. He was President of the Den-Ross Company - Industrial Cutting Tools. He served in the U.S. Army with the Rangers as a Jungle Survival Instructor. He was distinguished with several citations including two bronze battle stars. After WWII, he continued serving in the Michigan National Guard. He was a resident of Franklin Community for 55 years, member of Masonic Lodge #3 F & AM Union of S.O., member of Scottish Rite, member of Huron River Hunting & Fishing Club for 54 years and senior member of D.A.C. for 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Anna Mary Deneau; daughter, Pamela A. Deneau; son, Ross J. (Pamela) Deneau; and grandson, Jason P. Deneau. Funeral service at The Wm. R. Hamilton Co., 820 E. Maple, Birmingham, 11:00 AM, Monday, December 4, 2006 with Reverend Robert H. Bough officiating. Visitation, Sunday, 2:00-4:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM. Interment will be in Franklin Cemetery.

COL. LEROY CLARK FELTON

Age 87, passed away November 27, 2006. He was born on March 15, 1919 to the late Lynn H. and Anna M. (Miller) Felton. Roy graduated from Plymouth HS in 1939 and received his teaching degree from Michigan State Normal School (Eastern Mich Univ.). He married Mary Jane Parmalee, the girl next door, on October 11, 1941. They made their home in Rochester for many years. Roy enlisted in the Air force on Apr. 6, 1942 and retired a Colonel on Mar. 15, 1979. Much of his service was based at Selfridge Air Field in Mt. Clemmons and as Squadron Commander in Pittsburgh, PA. He was an Industrial Arts Teacher at Rochester HS as well as a Charter Member of The Rochester Elks Club. In '79 Roy took early retirement and moved to Boynton Beach, FL. Mary preceded him in death in September of 2004. Roy remained active as he flew an airplane on both his 80th and 85th birthdays and jumped tandem out of a plane at 85. Roy loved spectating and playing golf, 3 hole's in one, the last at the age of 81. He enjoyed travel, dancing, family and working on and teaching the computer. Roy has three children; Ann, and husband Ray Huffman; Dennis (deceased) and his wife Rosemarie; and James. He is survived by his grandchildren, Patti and her husband John Inman; Matthew and his wife Amerine Arnold (daughter Raelyn); Brian and his wife Ginger Arnold (daughter Ansley). He is also survived by his brother George and wife Marion Felton, who reside in Tucson, AZ. Memorial service held at Aston Gardens in Parkland, FL. A military service and inurnment will be held in the spring at Arlington National Cemetery.

MARIAN VIRGINIA (TUCK) KOEBNICK

Marian was born December 16, 1918 and died November 28, 2006 of congestive heart failure at 87. Lived in Plymouth, graduated from Plymouth High School. Worked at NBD as a teller for 19 years before moving to Naples, FL in 1972. In Naples, she worked for Sears in sales (she was one of the best) until retiring at age 72. She built a cabin in Blue Ridge, GA where her sister and brother both had homes too. Marian and Earl were married for 49 years. Loving mother of Linda Lindeman, Douglas and Bill Coon. Proud grandmother of Ken, Michael, Jamie, Karen, Shelly, Tim, Carrie, Ken, Kevin, Russell and Amanda. Great grandmother of 13 and great-great-grandmother of three.

JOHN A. MCHUGH, SR.

December 1, 2006, age 78, of Wayne. Beloved husband of the late Helen. Dear father of Mike (Cindy) Wilson, Brenda (Charles) Butler and the late John Jr.. Brother of three sisters and three brothers. Grandfather of five; great-grandfather of five. Instate Monday 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection at St. Mary Church, Wayne, with Fr. Jack Baker officiating. Visitation Sunday 12-9 p.m. at Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood, Westland. VFW service 7 p.m.. Mr. McHugh was the area coordinator for Wayne/Westland Special Olympics Area 23 and memorials would be appreciated to them.

Please visit and post a tribute at: www.uhtfuneralhome.com



FLORENCE H. PARISI

of Maumee, Ohio, formerly of Birmingham/Troy, Michigan passed away at 9:45 a.m., Wednesday, November 29, 2006 at Ridgewood Manor in Maumee. She was born on January 14 in Chicago to Arthur and Cornelia Tighe Hullcranz. Florence was the beloved wife of Clifford Parisi, who died on March 5, 1999 in Michigan. She was the loving mother of sons, Clifford M. Parisi of Maumee and Robert E. Redfern, Jr. of Ringwood, New Jersey and his wife, Wendy; grandmother of Ryan and Todd Redern. Other survivors include her sister, Marie Moore of Columbia, Maryland and her brother, Stephen Hullcranz and his wife, Carolyn of Washington, Illinois. Florence had been a bookkeeper for many years at Greenstones Jewelry in Michigan prior to her retirement. She was a graduate of Elmhurst College and had earned a bachelors degree in business administration. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Burial of ashes will be in Riverside Cemetery in Norwalk, Connecticut. Mason-White Funeral Home in Washington, IL is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to the donor's charity of choice.

MARGARET ELEANOR RENO RAINEY

Age 89, of Birmingham. Beloved Wife of the late Stewart D. Rainey. Dear Mother of Marjorie (William) Darooge of Ada, MI and David Jr. (Barbara) Rainey of Birmingham, MI. Grandmother of her cherished grandchildren: Eric (Sara), Bradley (Amy), Lindsay Darooge, and David and Ryan Rainey. Two great-grandchildren and one sister, Donna Landers. She was a registered nurse for years. Member of Sarah Hunter Guild of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. Member of St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Bloomfield Hills. Funeral service was held at the Wm. R. Hamilton Co., 820 E. Maple, Birmingham, Saturday, 1:00 PM. Visitation was held on Friday. Memorial Tributes may be made to a charity of your choice.

VERA L. TROST

Age 92, November 23, 2006, of Brooksville, Florida (formerly of Westland). beloved wife of the late Arthur Dear mother of Arthur Trost, Jr., Gale (Sonne) Stowell, Gerald (Laurie) Stowell, Wendell (Dee) Stowell, Karen (Bill) Stacy, Kathleen (Edward) Myers, and the late Margie Edmonds. Also leaves 16 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren, and three sisters. Visitation and services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth.

KATHERINE O'BRIEN "Kay" WALTERS,

November 22, 2006. Funeral Mass Nov. 27, Lourdes Campus, Waterford. www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

In Memory Of

In Memory of GAIL (KANNERS) WICKENS

Aug. 16, 1954 - Dec. 4, 2005

Gail has been gone a year, but the wonderful memories we have of her remain, and are a testament to a life really well lived. She was a beautiful person both on the inside and out. Gail's wonderful sense of humor, kind and generous heart, and strong devotion to her daughters, family and friends were just a few of her fine qualities. After a tough, two-year battle, she was taken by leukemia (AML). Gail showed us the true meaning of courage and grace while facing this harsh disease. She had to leave much too soon, yet was extremely grateful for the 51 years she was given, saying, "I feel I've had more than my share of good fortune. I've done a lot and enjoyed it all, and I can check out without any big regrets." Gail was well loved by many who will always cherish her memory.

BILLY JOE YOUNG

of Venice, Florida died November 23, 2006 in Cape Coral, FL. He was born in Paducah, KY in 1932. He is survived by his wife Mollye, sons Ted and Billy Joe Jr., granddaughter Casey and sister Nancy LeSieur. Donations in Billy Joe's name can be made to: Metro Basketball Association, 411 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124 or Hope Hospice, 9470 Healthpark Circle, Ft. Meyers, FL 33908.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at $4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only $6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:

Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to
oeobits@hometownlife.com
or fax to:
Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson
734-953-2232
For more information call:
Charolette Wilson
734-953-2070
or Liz Keiser
734-953-2067
or toll free
866-818-7653
ask for Char or Liz

OE08428379

ANNIVERSARY



Bakers' 50th anniversary

Walter and Joanne (Wood) Baker of Westland celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 17.

The Bakers were married Nov. 17, 1956, at St. Mary's Mission Church in Sobiekski, Mich.

They have five children: Walter Baker Jr. of Clinton, Mich.; Pamela Baker of Commerce, Mich.; Janice Erisman of Westland; Brian Baker of Westland; and Jill Baker of Ypsilanti.

They have eight grandchildren and pictured with their granddaughter Kelsey Baker when she was named Wayne-Westland Junior Miss.

The couple enjoys traveling and spending winter in Florida and cruising.

A surprise reception was held in Westland on Nov. 5.



REUNIONS

Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Livonia Churchill
Classes of 1971-2007
Alumni Summer Bash 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 16, Nankin Mills Park, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. No fees but accepting donations. All proceeds over and above costs are being donated to the Western Wayne Skill Center. For more information, call Chris (Don) Nicholson at (734)658-5296 or Chris@ChurchillAlumni.com or Gayle Napolitano Nicholson at (734)728-0393 or Gayle@ChurchillAlumni.com.

Livonia Franklin
Class of 1969
A reunion is in the pre-planning stages for 2007. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com.

St. Mary of Redford
High School class of 1956
Grade School class of 1952
Looking for graduates. Contact (734) 525-5888 or e-mail: kheenan@glis.net.

Roseville High School
Class of 1956
A 50th reunion in fall of 2006. The reunion committee is searching for classmates. For information, call Shirley at (586) 677-2709; Alice at (586) 792-7757 or e-mail at alijune1939@scbglobal.net or thehermans2002@comcast.net.

Take a winter art class

The Visual Arts Association of Livonia is offering winter art classes and workshops. Classes are taught in all media by professional teachers and are open to beginners as well as advanced students.

Day and evening classes are available. The classroom is located in Room 14 at the Dickinson Center, 18000 Newburgh, north of Six Mile, Livonia.

For more information or to receive a free catalog, call (734) 838-1204.

@ THE LIBRARY

The Plymouth District Library offers the following programs during December:

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

The lower level is moving along as the new home of our Youth collections and programs. Check out the latest developments on the Library's renovation project by going to plymouthlibrary.org and clicking on the Building Blog. Current project updates and photos will take you behind the scenes.

■ CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP, Monday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. — Social worker Chris Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services will answer a wide variety of concerns for individuals caring for ill or aging family members. No registration is required.

■ WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRITING GROUP, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m. — Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author, Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience nor advance registration is required. Attend either meeting or both.

■ UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING YOUR CREDIT SCORE, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m. — Credit specialists of Community Financial will help explain how credit scores are determined, how to establish and improve credit scores and how to decipher a credit report in this one hour program. Register for this free program through the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

■ $$$ and SENSE, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1 p.m. — Join with others who are interested in learning and sharing information on personal finance and investing at this discussion group at the Library. The group provides a forum to study and share personal investment information, learn investment terminology, review different investment tools, and study individual stocks, mutual funds, annuities, etc. Each month, members follow and report on a mock portfolio they set up on the Internet. This is not a stock club, no monies are involved; members plan, moderate, and participate in each meeting. New members are welcome at any meeting. Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month in a library meeting room. For more information on current discussion topics, please contact Linda Pride, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 206, or lpride@plymouthlibrary.org.

■ LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP, Thursday, Dec. 7, 1-3 p.m. — This group is for individuals for whom glasses are no longer sufficient. It is facilitated by a professional and is intended to be social as well as informative. Guest speakers cover a variety of topics – caregivers or friends are invited to attend. No advance registration is required – for more information contact Ellen Stross at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 232.

■ MEDICARE D PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM, Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 1:30-3 p.m. — CVS Pharmacy will join the Library staff in helping seniors gain a better understanding of the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Attendees are invited to bring a list of their specific prescription needs and will have the opportunity to compare pricing in the different programs available. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibrary.org

■ World War II Perspectives, LONG LANCE TORPEDO, LONG RANGE GUNNERY AND ASSYMETRICAL WARFARE, Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. — Local history teachers are back to share their knowledge and interests in World War II. Kicking off this program series is Raymond Schepansky, Military History Teacher at Plymouth High School. He will discuss this topic as it related to pre-war strategy between Japan and the United States. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Plymouth District Library. Register for this free program at the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

■ YOUR POETRY GROUP, Sunday, Dec. 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m. — Round table readings of poems, your own or by others, are held on the second Sunday of the month. Reader's discretion of language is asked in the works read. For more information, contact Don Hewlett, (313) 272-3548, or donhewlett@aol.com

■ STARS, MOONS & PLANETS - There will be no Stars, Moons and Planets discussion in December – plan now to join local stargazer Mike Best when this group reconvenes Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. For more information contact (734) 459-BEST or starmikebest@comcast.net

■ CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. — Members of this book discussion group are invited to read *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: a Novel* by Lisa See. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. New members are welcome at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

■ LIBRARY GARDEN GROUP – There will be no Garden Group meeting in December. Start thinking about your 2007 garden at the next meeting to be held on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.

■ GREAT BOOKS – Great Books takes a holiday break – there will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. The discussion group is open to anyone who is curious and willing to work with others in developing an understanding and appreciation of great literature. For further information, contact group facilitator Karen Berrie at (734) 453-2454. To learn more about The Great Books Foundation, see the Internet Web site: http://www.great-books.org/

■ NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING – There will be no Needlecrafters Meeting in December. Kick off the new year with a new project when the group meets again Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required.

■ BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION, Wednesday, Dec. 27, noon — This month's discussion invites members to read *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* by Terry Ryan. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Linda Pride at the Library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail lpride@plymouthlibrary.org

■ DODGER BLUE ... and baseball really is funny, Thursday, Dec. 28, 7 p.m. — The library kicks off this special baseball series, "Hot Stove League: Professors of Baseball share their love of America's pastime" with Detroiter and former major league outfielder, Tom Paciorek. An Emmy Award-winning broadcaster, Paciorek will share vivid stories of his 40-year baseball career with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Atlanta Braves, the Seattle Mariners, the Chicago White Sox and the Texas Rangers. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibrary.org. This program is made possible with the generous support of the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

■ HOMEBOUND BOOK DELIVERY — Joining the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, the Plymouth District Library will deliver library books and audio books to homebound residents of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Call (734) 453-0750, Ext 240 to enroll or go to plymouthlibrary.org and complete the homebound delivery service registration.

Youth Programs

■ LAP SIT STORYTIME, Monday, Dec. 11, 10 & 11 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. — This 15-minute program is designed for the very young – babies ages 6-24 months and their caregivers. No older siblings please. Registration is required – call Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ BABY PLAY – There will be no Baby Play sessions in December. This fun program will resume in January.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED USES OF 2007 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Plymouth is announcing its objectives and possible uses for developing projects using Year 2007 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide benefits to senior citizens.
2. To provide benefits directly to persons of low/moderate income and/or areas in which at least 51% of the residents are of low/moderate income.
3. To maintain a high level of performance in the management of all CDBG funded programs while offsetting administrative costs to the General Fund.

PROPOSED YEAR 2007-08 PROJECTS:

The City anticipates receiving approximately $65,000 in CDBG funds for the contract year 2007-08, and has identified the following potential projects for use of these funds:

1. Bricks & Mortar Projects		$46,150
2. Public Services		$12,350
3. Grant Administration		$ 6,500
	TOTAL	$65,000

PUBLIC HEARING:

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects listed above, and to suggest other projects. All projects must meet one of the Federal CDBG objectives. A public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed uses of 2007 CDBG funds, and additional suggestions for use of said funds, will be held at the Plymouth City Commission Meeting on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Publish: December 3, 2006

OE08492722

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STUDENTS 2 FOR TUESDAY
GIVE EVERYONE MOVIE GIFT CARDS
SHOWTIMES VALID 12/1 - 12/7
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:30
VAN WILDER 2: THE RISE OF TAJ (R) 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:45
DECK THE HALLS (PG) 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:35
DEJA VU (PG-13) 11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
HAPPY FEET (PG) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:20
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) 12:40, 3:35, 6:30, 9:25
SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G) 11:10, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:40
COUPON FREE 20oz. DRINK with $2.50 purchase of 46oz. bag of buttery popcorn one per ad ©Canton Cinema Exp. DEC 31, 2006 "OC"

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Closing costs are waived unless you repay or close the loan within one year.

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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates can change. Stated rate represents the lowest rate available for a five-year term. Rate is based on credit score and term of loan. Payments will be amortized over 30 years with a balloon payment or refinancing available at the end of the loan. Other rates and terms are available.
**The balloon payment for this payment example would be approximately $18,904.83.
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Special Holiday Share Certificates & IRA Certificates

Earn 5.15% APY* Terms: 7 & 13 Months

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Dividends are earned and paid quarterly. Minimum deposit is $500. Special rate offer is available thru January 31, 2007. Rates can change monthly. A penalty will be applied for early withdrawal and may reduce earnings. For a list of current rates, visit our website.

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MICE

FROM PAGE C1

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BALLET

Smith has been preparing for bigger parts for about five years by playing one of the mice who defends the villainous Mouse King in the ballet about Clara and her nutcracker doll. Smith isn't just any mouse however. He's a junior Mouse King in training with the Plymouth-Canton company. Dressed in gray satin, Smith jumps into the air to show off the cat step he'll perform Dec. 9-10. Artistic director Dawn Greene said it's the one step a child has to know when they audition for the role.

"It's fun," Smith said. "I learn a lot of new steps and this year I'm getting swung around. You have to be able to do cartwheels and back bends."

Valerie Lovson hopes one day to graduate from being a mouse just like her sister, Olivia now 9 years old. Valerie is only 8 and can't wait to dance larger roles.

"I like the battle scene and fighting the dolls," said Valerien, a third-grade student at Hulsing Elementary in Canton. "I love being in *The Nutcracker*, but would like to be Clara once."

Like Lovson, Rebecca Falzon, 9, has danced as a mouse for two years and enjoys the role.

"The battle scene is a lot of acting and I really enjoy acting," said Rebecca, an Isbister Elementary student in Plymouth. "It's special because a lot of people come together and do this play to have fun."

The Nutcracker has become a Falzon family tradition. Rebecca's sister Rachel is a doll and a green flower. Dawn Greene tries to give children a part in every scene to keep them from becoming bored. Her grandson Ian Smith is a bundle of energy off and on stage.

"It's something they share," said Laura Falzon, the mother of Rebecca and Rachel. "They share an opportunity to perform together."

Kim Shawver is especially excited that daughters Haley, 7, and Lauren, 10, have the opportunity to dance with guest artists Erik Sanborn and Laura Goodman of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Ballet. This is Haley's first year as a mouse with the Plymouth-Canton Ballet. Haley is a second-grade student at All Saints Catholic School and takes classes at Joanne's Dance Extension in Canton.

"It's a big commitment, but they have the opportunity to work with other teachers, meet other dancers," Kim Shawver said. "Over the years, they've made friends and they're part of a big production with the orchestra."

LIVONIA CIVIC BALLET

Samantha and Rebekka Zawisza of Livonia enjoy running around in tails together in the Livonia Civic Ballet performances Dec. 9-10. Older sister Amanda is one of the Chinese dancers as well as a soldier and a boy.

"They love performing," said Lisa Zawisza, mother of Samantha, 4, and Rebekka, 6. "They have a great time."

Evan St. Juliana is the youngest mouse in the Livonia Civic Ballet production and isn't talking about the experience. The shy boy is the son of Arnell St. Juliana, the company's assistant artistic director.

"We have the boy mice in black so you can tell he's a boy," said Arnell St. Juliana, who's excited about spotlighting Addison O'Day and Raphaela Finkenauer in the lead roles of Nutcracker and Sugar Plum Fairy. Finkenauer received her early dance training at the Cologne Ballet Academy in Germany and currently teaches ballet at Bunny Sanford's School of Dance in Livonia, as does O'Day. A former member of the Alabama Ballet, O'Day is presently pursuing an academic career at Wayne State University, as is Finkenauer.

Samantha and Rebekka Zawisza of Livonia enjoy running around in tails together in the Livonia Civic Ballet performances Dec. 9-10. Older sister Amanda is one of the Chinese dancers as well as a soldier and a boy.

Rori Kennedy doesn't quite know what to expect in her first year as a mouse, but says she's excited. The 6-year-old is a student at Farrand Elementary in Plymouth Township.

ERIC JOHNSTON'S DETROIT BALLET

Giselle Ulep is just as thrilled as Kennedy, even though she's been playing the role of a mouse with Eric Johnston's Detroit Ballet for four years.

"There's nothing like the feeling of being onstage," said Giselle Ulep of Beverly Hills.

Chris and Pamela Sarkisian plan to see all of daughter Shahanna's performances with the Detroit Ballet. The 8-year-old plays a mouse when not attending Harlan Elementary in Birmingham.

"The great thing is that Eric is very good with all the girls," Chris Sarkisian said. "He's very serious, keeps them until they get it right. He doesn't accept I can't. He asks them to say they'll at least try."

Johnston works as hard as his students. He believes in featuring dancers only from his schools — Betty Johnston Dance Studio in Farmington Hills and the Birmingham Dance Academy. This year his 20 mice range in age from 5 to 8.

"That's how we break them in," Johnston said. "The mice is where I like to incorporate modern dance into formal ballet. I want them to improvise and be cute mice, mean mice, do a whole range of actions so they have plenty of work to do."

Plymouth-Canton Ballet Co. and Plymouth Symphony Orchestra performances take place at 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy, Canton. Reserved tickets are $20, $10 for children up to age 12. Call (734) 451-2112, send e-mail to info@plymouthsymphony.org, or visit the Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

Judge Ron Lowe introduces each performance with a reading of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. A Sugar Plum Tea follows the 11 a.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday performances. Tickets for the tea are $5.

Livonia Civic Ballet presents the holiday classic at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Tickets are $12, $10 students and senior citizens, $8 under age 12. Call (734) 427-9103.

Eric Johnston's Detroit Ballet performances run 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Groves High School, 13 Mile and Evergreen, Birmingham. There is no charge. Call (248) 854-5864 for details.

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ANNIVERSARY



Holstines' 50th anniversary



Richard and Patricia (Usiondek) Holstine, who resided in Livonia and the area for more than 20 years and now reside on Elk Lake in Williamsburg, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 16 by renewing their wedding vows at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Houghton Lake with immediate family and a few friends.

Following the ceremony they will dine together and then return to Windemere Lodge to continue the celebration.

The Holstines were married Jan. 19, 1957, at Detroit's St. Rita's Church by the Rev. Arthur Steslicki. While in Livonia Patricia was part of the St. Colette's Church guitar group and other organizations. Richard was a member of the Father Daniel Lord Knights of Columbus and also the golf league.

Their children are: Kathleen (Mike) Stacey of Livonia; James (Sharen) Holstine of Traverse City; Thomas (Peggy) of Marshall; Jefferey (Lisa) of Macelona; and Terrence (Danielle) of Hot Springs, Ark. They have 16 grandchildren and one great-grandson with another due in 2007.

Richard retired from his management consulting business in 1989; Patricia retired from her owner/operator business in 2002.

The Holstines enjoy traveling, the wildlife around Elk Lakes and spending time with family and many friends.

Visit www.hometownlife.com for news updates

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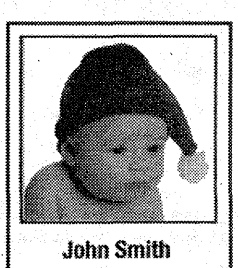

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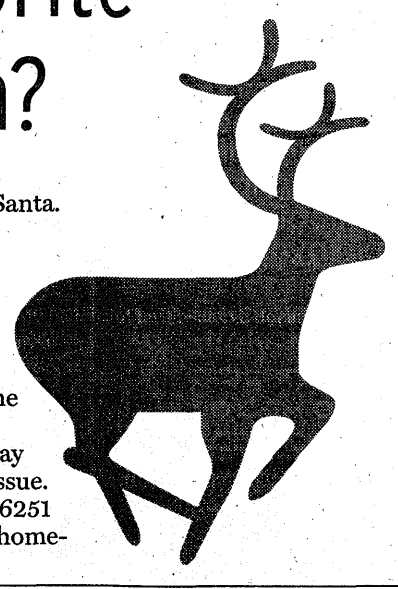
What's your favorite holiday tradition?



Everyone knows about leaving cookies and milk for Santa.

Or making latkes at Hanukkah.

And lighting candles during Kwanzaa.

Even the festivus pole has become a seasonal icon thanks to *Seinfeld*.

But we'd like to know how you personalize the holidays. Maybe you've created a totally new tradition or you've put a unique spin on an old one. What makes the season special for you and your family?

Tell us in 200 words or less about your favorite holiday tradition and we'll publish responses in an upcoming issue.

Send replies by Friday, Dec. 15, to Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48510 or e-mail hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

PAGEANTS

FROM PAGE C1

and gives child actors and actresses a chance to perform," said Bert, a Bloomfield Hills resident. "This is our gift to the community to help people get into the spirit."

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Laura Pawlowski has been rehearsing the new musical drama, A Christmas Prayer, since October because she believes in the message behind the prodigal son's journey. Performances take place at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 553-7170. There is no charge for the hourlong performance.

Pawlowski is the sister who begs the prodigal son to come home. More than 100 church members take part in the production.

"We include everyone from a 3-year-old in the Joyful Noise choir to teens that sing and dance so all age groups are represented," Pawlowski said. "It's a contemporary drama with drums, electric guitar, brass, sets, lighting, sound effects. There are so many people involved it becomes this wonderful community. It reminds you your prayers aren't always answered in the way you want them answered, but they are answered."

Like Pawlowski, Becky Gee is excited about including as many members of the church as possible.

"One thing that sets our productions apart from others is it's all inclusive and integrated with liturgical dancers, young vocalists that are woven into a meaningful production," said Gee, director of worship, music and the arts.

NORTHRIDGE CHURCH

Roxann Powell doesn't want to give away all of the special effects in this year's Broadway-style production at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township. Five flying angels and pyrotechnics are a few of the highlights returning this holiday season in the Glory of Christmas. It takes more than 600 performers, stage crew, orchestra and volunteers to put on the show for which a limited number of tickets are still available 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and Sunday, Dec. 10; 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10, at the church, 49555 N. Territorial at Ridge. Tickets are $13.75 and $15.75, and available by calling (800) 585-3737. Call (734) 414-7777 for more information.

"What's different this year is that we're appealing to your sense of smell," said Powell, creative arts director. "I think it's going to be a lot of fun. We have some beautiful songs this year, including the Josh Groban version of *The Prayer*. We're always trying to get better at what we do. Our philosophy is to inspire people and honor God."

UNITY OF LIVONIA

The Journey to Bethlehem returns for a sixth year to Unity of Livonia. The walk-through play of the birth of Jesus runs at 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Unity, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 421-1760.

WOODSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Follow That Star rocks Woodside Bible Church with a contemporary Christmas Musical at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at 6600 Rochester Road, Troy. The production features actors, bands, vocal groups and soloists portraying the Christmas story through drama and modern arrangements of favorite Christmas classics. Tickets are $8 and available at online at www.woodsidebible.org.

A children's version of Follow That Star takes place 6:45 p.m. Dec. 9 and 3:45 p.m. Dec. 10 and is free, but reservations must be made online. For information, call (866) 533-7729.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, and 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, the Sanctuary Choir, instrumentalists and drama team present Journey to the Manager, a musical drama at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. The nursery is available for children from birth to age 3 for both dates. For details, call (248) 348-7600.

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ANNIVERSARIES

Harts' 60th anniversary

Bernie and Dorothy (Fritz) Hart of Livonia will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Dec. 7.

The Harts were married Dec. 7, 1946, in Detroit. They have lived in Livonia for 28 years.

The Harts have two children, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Bernie is retired from Erb Lumber/

The couple enjoy spending time with each other, family and friends.



Judge 50th anniversary

On Dec. 1, 2006, Jim and Betty Judge celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Family and friends shared in the celebration at Fox Hills on Nov. 25. The couple's three children, Cathy Judge, Barney and Kathy Judge and Tom and Tracey Judge and nine grandchildren Matt (21), Andrea (20), James (19), Emily (19), Colton (14), Tyler (12), Rory (10), Olivia (8), and Colin (4) were present. Other family members included Ruth Schettenhelm, Mike and Nancy Judge and Joe Judge. Barney offered the prayer and the grandchildren presented a tribute to the happy couple. Jim has retired from road construction and Betty taught business classes at Redford Union High School.



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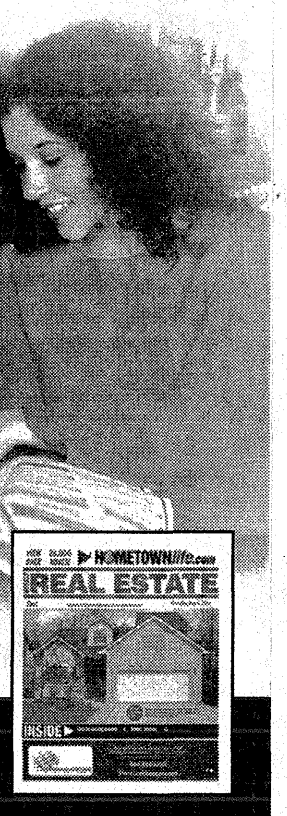
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Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Anatomically correct

New joint replacement designed for women

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Judith Harris felt the difference in her knees within six-weeks of receiving a new joint especially designed for women. The stainless steel implant was less bulky and provided greater range of motion than the traditional joint replacement Harris received in April 2004 in the opposite knee.

Until recently joint replacements were offered in a range of sizes based on an average between a man's and a woman's knee. The gender specific joints are narrower to accommodate the female bone structure and as a result improve function.

"I noticed it right away," said Harris who received the newly-designed joint replacement Aug. 14. "When I was walking it didn't seem as bulky. It felt more natural. The first knee feels artificial. The second knee is part of me like it's supposed to be there."

Dr. John Swienckowski couldn't be happier about medical device manufacturers finally recognizing the variances in a man's and woman's bone structure. The new knee, besides being narrower and thinner, is contoured to prevent the joint from overhanging the bone, causing pain and possibly damaging surrounding ligaments and tendons.

"A ladies knee is usually smaller than a man of the same size," said John Swienckowski, D.O., an orthopedic surgeon at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. "We've done CAT scans and know men and women are different. A male knee is more like a box."

Swienckowski is very familiar with the differences in anatomies after performing knee and hip replacements for 35 years. Swienckowski observed his first surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in 1972 while teaching at Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. He first began using the gender specific joint by Zimmer about four months ago. Since then Swienckowski's witnessed positive results in 20 women who suffered with pain and disability from degenerative arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, or traumatic injuries before receiving the gender specific joint. Although the women ranged in age from their early 50s to 70s, Swienckowski would recommend the surgery to younger patients even though another replacement surgery would probably be required in the next 15 to 20 years.

Patients should check with their physician to determine if they are eligible for the surgery. Swienckowski suggests asking about a surgeon's experience before making a decision to proceed with the joint replacement. Major complications such as infection, blood vessel injuries and clots that can lead to death can occur. Another consideration is the length of the recovery process and whether a patient will have to start with a walker before using a cane. Swienckowski said that therapy can last from eight-weeks to three -months.

"Back then we had no long term studies," said Swienckowski who sees patients at his TriCounty Orthopedics office in Farmington Hills. "If there was the option of having them suffer for 15 years, I would rather they have that 15 good years. With rheumatoid arthritis they normally are not as active. After the surgery men and women are able to go out and enjoy

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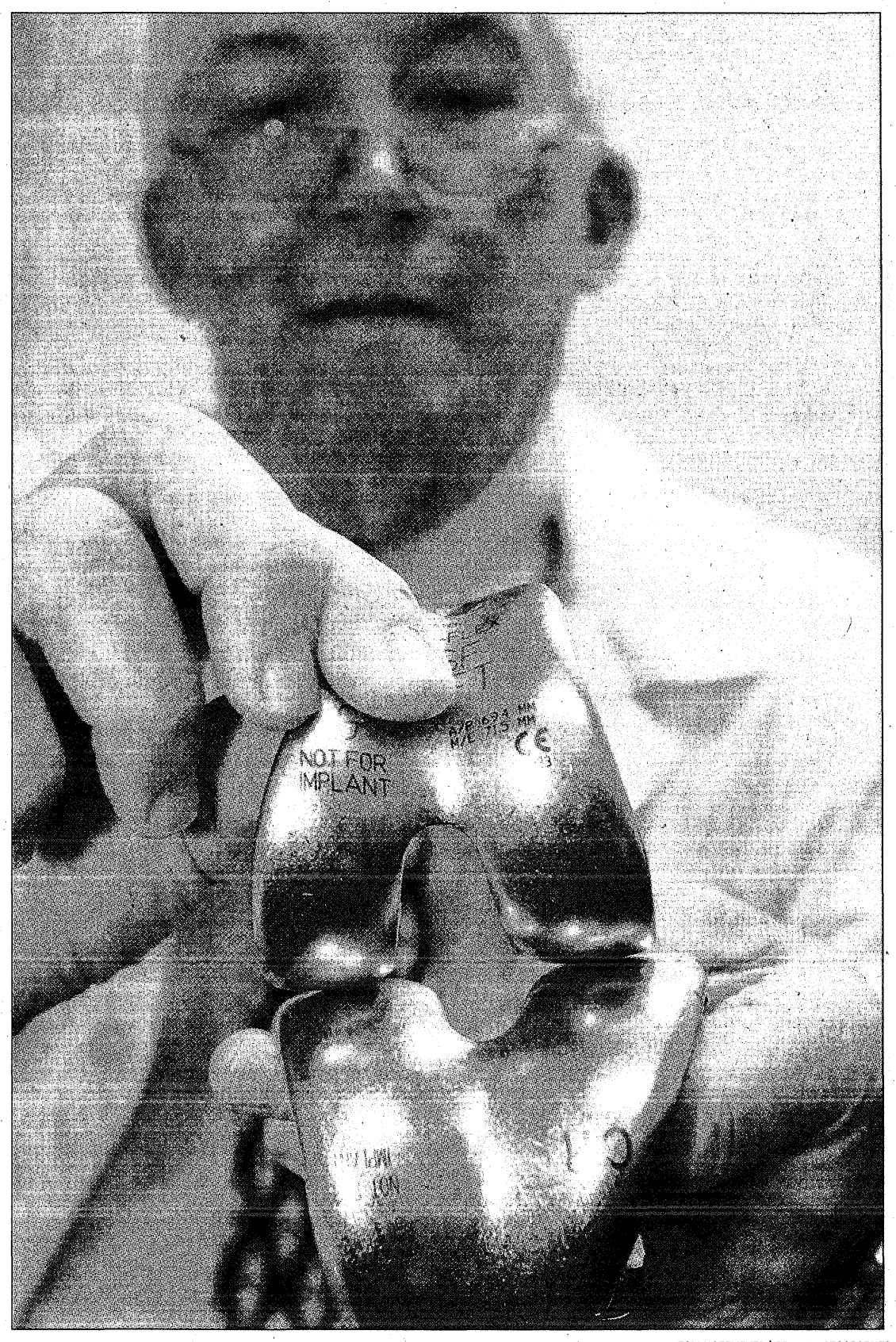
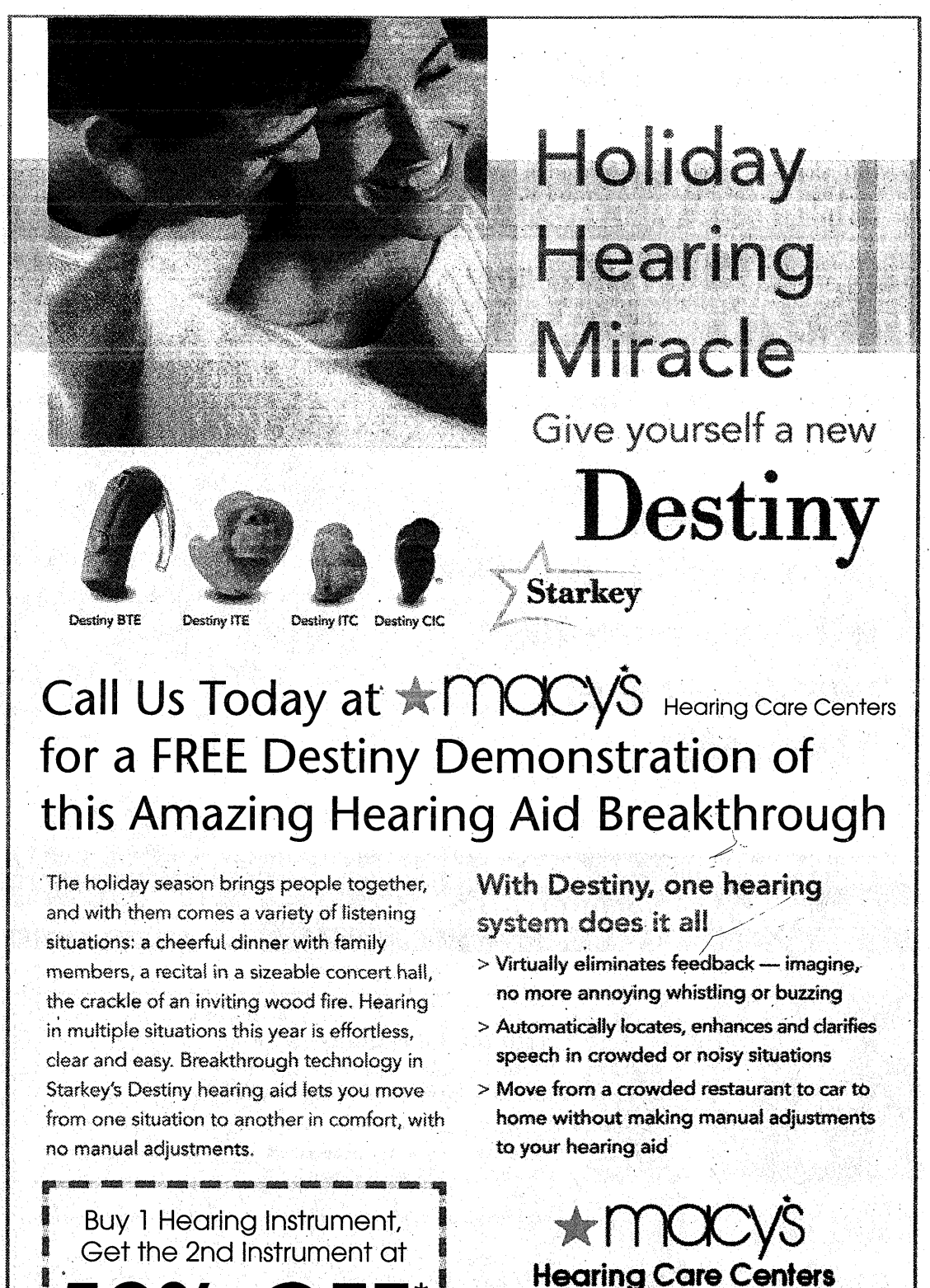


TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Dr. John Swienckowski shows the difference in size between the men's knee replacement (bottom) and the woman's (top).





Some video games are an exercise

Dan from Livonia e-mails that he is upset his son doesn't want to do anything but play video games and worries he's not getting enough exercise.

Dan, you do have reason to worry. The child obesity rate in America is rising at an alarming rate! Too much time watching TV, playing video games, sitting at the computer, and poor nutrition are all partially to blame. But, if you have a hard time pulling your children away from video games, I have a tip for you – a new study discovered certain games can actually be good forms of exercise. Researchers found when children played certain martial art games, they saw an increase in their heart and breathing rates.



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

So, look for games that force your child to get up and move, such as "Dance-Dance Revolution." Just remember, these games aren't a substitute for outside activity like running, riding a bike, or playing sports. Try to limit the indoor game time and, whenever possible, send your kids outside to play!

Brian from Ferndale e-mails asking how he can fit in exercise when his day is already too full.

It's simple Brian – you won't believe how much exercise time is actually in your day. Here are three things you can do to help you get 30-60 minutes of exercise each day.

No. 1 – Walk! When you go out to the supermarket, post office, or even out to eat, park far away because all of those extra steps really add up!

No. 2 – Make the most of your down time. Do leg lifts while talking on the phone or put a stationary bike in front of the television. Or, jog in place while waiting for that pot of water to boil for dinner.

No. 3 – Do a little bit of housework. Vacuuming, sweeping, and raking all work your arm and leg muscles. Just 10 minutes of each can burn almost 200 calories and you just added a half hour of exercise to your day (not to mention your house looks great!)

Before you know it, you'll be able to find all kinds of ways to fit exercise into every day and you'll feel great too!

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judith Harris, who has had two knee replacement surgeries, talks with Dr. John Swienckowski about her newfound mobility.

CORRECT

FROM PAGE C8

their children. I just replaced a second hip in a 24-year old man with inflammatory arthritis."

Harris is now able to pick up her grandchildren and go to the playground which she was unable to do before the August surgery. The 64-year-old Redford woman went from taking pain killers and limping to rising at 3:30 a.m. to ride a stationary bike then walking a mile to the coffee shop near her home every morning. The constant pain caused by degenerative arthritis and the wear and tear of lifting 60 to 80 pounds at a time in the stock room at Sears for 30 years, for the most part is gone unless Harris overdoes it. Total knee replacement involves removing the damaged portion of the bone and resurfacing the knee with metal and plastic implants. Harris's first surgery required a longer recovery period than the second minimally invasive procedure thanks to a smaller incision.

"I had a hard time getting out of a chair, laying down I couldn't stand up," said Harris who has 16 grandchildren under the age of 11. "I had stiffness after the first knee was replaced but not this time. The first surgery took six months of recovery and therapy. The second I was finished in about three months."

In the last 35 years joint replacement surgery has made tremendous advances. Swienckowski remembers watching that first knee replacement surgery in Ohio where the surgeon wasn't even sure whether the joint was in backwards. He had to rely on a mimeographed sheet of directions.

"It's gone from making freehand cuts to (using) instrumentation to do something precisely and repetitively and get the same results," said Swienckowski. "Materials have changed as well. We now have polyethylene plastics to withstand wear. I'd be surprised if the new knees don't last 20 years."

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Still time to get a flu shot

With more than 77 million doses of flu vaccine already delivered nationwide, now is the perfect time to call you physician to schedule a flu shot, according to the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS).

"Since the flu season does not usually peak until February or later, now is an ideal time to get a flu shot," said MSMS president Paul Farr, a Grand Rapids gastroenterologist.

Farr points out that most people who do get the flu have a complete recovery, but it does take a week or more of misery. The flu also keeps people from work, school and leisure activities. With more people vaccinated, it will help control the spread of flu to others.

"Getting a flu shot is not only a great way to protect yourself, but your whole family," said Farr.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

DECEMBER

Super moms
Super Heroes...Super Moms, an all day program for women who find that being a mom is becoming increasingly difficult 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, topics include medication safety, proper nutrition for families, physical fitness, dealing with teens and being part of the sandwich generation, at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maples, West Bloomfield. There is a $5 charge for lunch. Pre-registration required for the program presented by Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital. Call (248) 937-4000 or online at www.hvsh.org.

Building a legacy
St. Mary Mercy Hospital sponsors a workshop that teaches you how to build a legacy of the past for your family, called Remember When? 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Northville Senior Center, 303 W. Main Street, Northville. The speaker is Bonnie Hilberer, Vermeulen Funeral Home. Adults attending will receive a personal copy of the book, Just a Few Memories to Share.
Presentation is free, but registration required. Call (248) 349-4140.

Teen drug workshop
"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do" series provides helpful information to families and others concerned about a young person who may be harmfully involved with alcohol or other drug use. The free workshops are presented by Ronald Harrison, SW, in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Classroom EC4, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. Parents, other family members, teens, and people who work with teens are welcome. Free literature about alcohol/other drugs and teens is provided.
Part One: What To Know will be presented 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, and Jan. 2, and provides information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. Part One and Two are repeated every first Tuesday of each month from October to June.
Part Two What To Do is scheduled 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9, and provides information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified, and will include a recovering teen speaker.
For more information, call (734) 973-7892, send e-mail tojessa@med.umich.edu or visit www.teensusingdrugs.org.

Stroke screenings
Appointments begin at 9 a.m. Dec. 5, at St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren, Canton. Cost is $109-$129. Call (800) 697-9721. Pre-registration required.

Karmanos lecture
Cancer and the Family: A Parent's Guide to Talking with Their Children 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Crittenton Hospital, 1101 W. University Drive, Rochester. To register or for details, call (800) KARMANOS (527-6266).

Substance abuse therapy
Group for ages 18-25 who are sincere about recovery and have completed or are currently in a treatment program, or participating in AA or NA, at Birmingham Maple Clinic, 950 E. Maple, Birmingham. Meets 8-9:30 p.m. Thursdays. Intake evaluation required. For details, call David Garvelink at (248) 646-6659 or (248) 320-6700.

Caregivers support
St. Mary Mercy Hospital and the Alzheimer's Association have collaborated to offer an Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group 3-4:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in Classroom 1 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia.
Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, which causes memory loss and a decline in mental function over time. The support group offers information, discussion and support to family members, friends, and caregivers who care for someone with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.
There is no fee. No registration required. For more information, contact Audra Frye, Alzheimer's Association, at (248) 426-7055.

Blood drive
Huron-Valley Sinai Hospital in conjunction with American Red Cross of Oakland County is recruiting donors for its Holiday Blood Drive 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, in the Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Conference Center, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce.
Blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good general health. Donation process takes a little more than an hour. Walk-ins welcome but appointments encouraged. Call (248) 937-3314 or visit www.givelife.org and sponsor code "huronvsh."

Hats for the Homeless
The Broe Therapy Choir presents a concert and delivers hats for the homeless 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at The Detroit Rescue Mission. In the spirit of the season the a capella choir (comprised of people recovering from traumatic brain injury, mental illness and substance abuse) is asking for donations of winter hats and gloves, and can goods. Call to arrange drop offs or pick-ups at Broe Rehabilitation Services in Farmington Hills. The concert and program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (248) 474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit www.broechoir.com.

Know your nutrition
Presentation takes place 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Please use Main Entrance on Five Mile. This is a St. Mary Mercy Hospital Diabetes Support Group presentation. A new topic is presented on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, pre-registration not required. For more information, call (734) 655-8961. The speakers are St. Mary Mercy Hospital dietitians Katie Dooley and Judy Swancutt.

Alateen support group
For teens who are dealing with someone with an alcohol problem, meets the first and third Sundays of the month at 10 a.m., at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For details, call (248) 706-1020.

Educational seminar
The date for a seminar on bariatric surgery (gastric bypass), performed laproscopically, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, has been changed to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in the auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan. Speaker is surgeon Tallal Zeni, M.D., and Paula Magid, director, Bariatric Program. To register, call (734) 655-2692 or toll free at (877) Why-Weight (949-9344).

Blankets for AIDS
Higher Ground, an HIV-AIDS support group based in Royal Oak, is sponsoring the fourth Blankets for AIDS Drive to help adults and children living with HIV-AIDS in southeastern Michigan. To participate purchase a new blanket and drop it into the bin at Affirmations on Nine Mile in Ferndale, Paramount Bank on Woodward in Ferndale, or St. John's Episcopal Church at Eleven Mile and Woodward, Royal Oak, by Dec. 31. For more information, call (586) 427-1259 or send e-mail to higherground2003@aol.com.

Exercise classes
For men and women with Jeanie Weaver, personal fitness trainer and certified physical education teacher and group exercise instructor, classes continue through December at Metropolitan School Gym, 15585 N. Haggerty, north of Five Mile, Plymouth. An exercise therapy class geared for seniors wanting to improve balance, strength, stamina, and bone density 8:45-9:45 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. Core strength and performance class runs 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and includes jump rope, weights, bands and full body weight training loads to increase strength, dynamic flexibility and core strength. Intensity is intermediate to advanced. Cost for both sessions is $6 drop in fee. For information, call (248) 446-9176 or send e-mail to jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860



ARTHRITIS & CANCER

A relationship exists between cancer & arthritis. Rheumatoid arthritis is the condition most associated with an excess of lymphomas.

This association occurs because lymphocytes are the cells producing the cytokines that drive rheumatoid arthritis. The continued over stimulation of T and B cell lymphocytes leads to an increase in their numbers. In turn this excess raises the probability that lymphocytes will escape the surveillance that normally causes early death of cells otherwise destined to become cancer cells.

Studies in different countries and focusing on groups varied in their education, eating habits, racial backgrounds, and work have shown no difference in the amount of excess lymphomas associated with rheumatoid arthritis, but that excess always exists.

Where controversy arises is in determining if a further rise in the incidence of lymphoma occurs from the medications used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. Since rheumatoid arthritis itself increases lymphoma, a statistician has a difficult task of finding if anti-rheumatoid drugs increase the risk even more. So far evidence indicates that medication such as methotrexate does not increase that risk. The data on the anti-TNF medications (Enbrel, Remicade, and Humira) is not so clear cut. Therefore, until physicians accumulate more information, they must keep close watch on the blood counts of patients taking these drugs.

Experience shows that few gains come without a need to exercise caution in their use.

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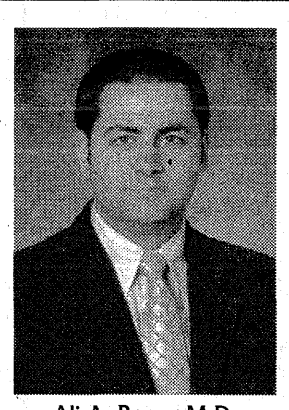

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Artist continues to find good reasons for living



Linda Chomin

For the last decade, Olive Salley has wondered why she's lived so long. Now she knows. Although the 100-year-old Livonia woman is no longer able to paint due to failing eyesight, her art remains valuable.

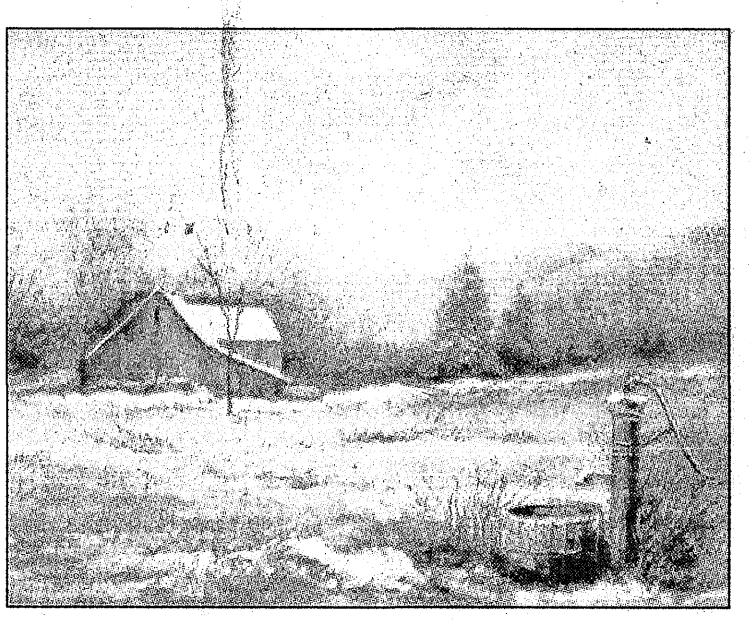
Thanks to the vision of activities director David Alvarez, the Livonia Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is selling copies of Salley's paintings to raise money to build a chapel and bird aviary for residents.

Salley moved into the center at age 98, when it became difficult to care for herself. She's grateful for the kindness of the staff and quickly consented to the fund-raiser. On Friday, Dec. 8, she'll not only celebrate her 100th birthday, but a reason for living.

"God asked me to stay to build a chapel," Salley said. "They don't have a nice chapel. If anybody wants to buy the pictures, it will help a lot. I hope they can get some money."

For years, her children Joseph Salley and Laura Nash, grandson Bob (Susie) Nash and two great-grandchildren Lindsey and Logan kept her going, as did the painting. Olive Salley has been creating works of art since she was old enough to hold a brush. One of the paintings, "Bubble Boy," was created when she was only 14. Since then, she's captured hundreds of forest scenes, flower gardens and landscapes in color. That wasn't always easy, as Salley raised her young children alone after the death of her husband. Somehow, she managed to study art at St. Mary's Academy in Windsor for four years.

"I think she's wonderful," said daughter Laura Nash of Livonia. "She has a beautiful outlook on life, very positive, very sensible. She's very caring, just a great gal."



'The Pump' is among the artist's creations.

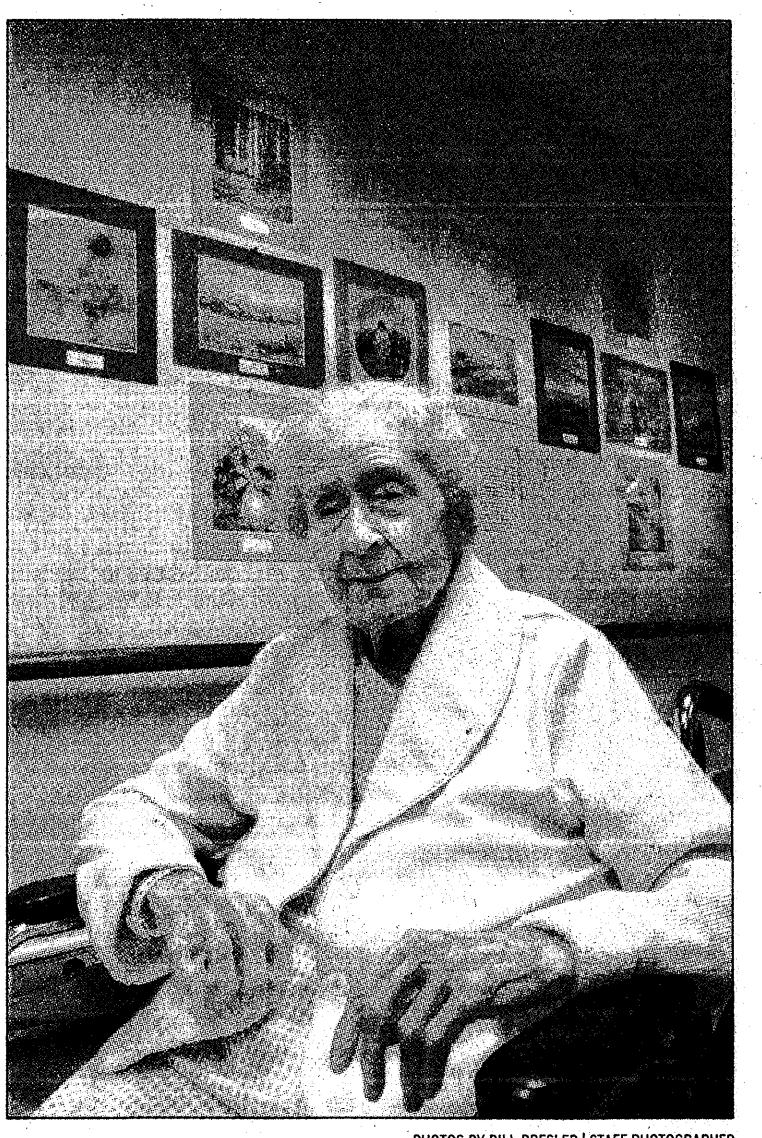
Alvarez took on the project shortly after coming to work as activities director, not only because of Salley's painting, but his fondness for the generous artist. Salley can't praise Alvarez enough. She's grateful for the sing-alongs and line dancers he's scheduled for residents to enjoy.

"On my second day of work, I came into this room and said this is a museum," David Alvarez said as he nodded to the paintings hung on Salley's walls. "All during the digital reproduction, she's telling me and directing me what to do. We're very interested in making this a success."

Alvarez has set the price for digital copies of the paintings at $25 each. The chapel is estimated to cost $500,000, the bird aviary about $5,000. For information about purchasing a copy of Salley's paintings, call (734) 421-6564, Ext. 208.

To promote the fund-raiser, the nursing center is showing an exhibit of the copies in the lobby through next year. A Life in Color takes viewers for a drive along Lake Michigan, stopping along the way to view an abandoned rowboat as well as a birch tree. A still life of flowers and the painting of the bubble-haired boy from the 1920s evoke feelings of days gone by.

Life has changed drastically since Salley was a girl. She doesn't have to ring the operator anymore to make a phone call. Gone are the oil lamps, in favor of electricity. But she's most grateful for her family and friends like Wanda Ferguson, who delivered Meals on Wheels to Salley for several years. Ferguson is thankful to have Salley for a friend as well.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Olive Salley can't hold a brush or see well enough to paint, but her artist's spirit endures at age 100.

"She's given me three paintings. I was glad to have them," said Wanda Ferguson of Livonia. "The one of the thistles means a lot because thistles are the national flower of Scotland."

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. To contact her, call (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@hometownlife.com.



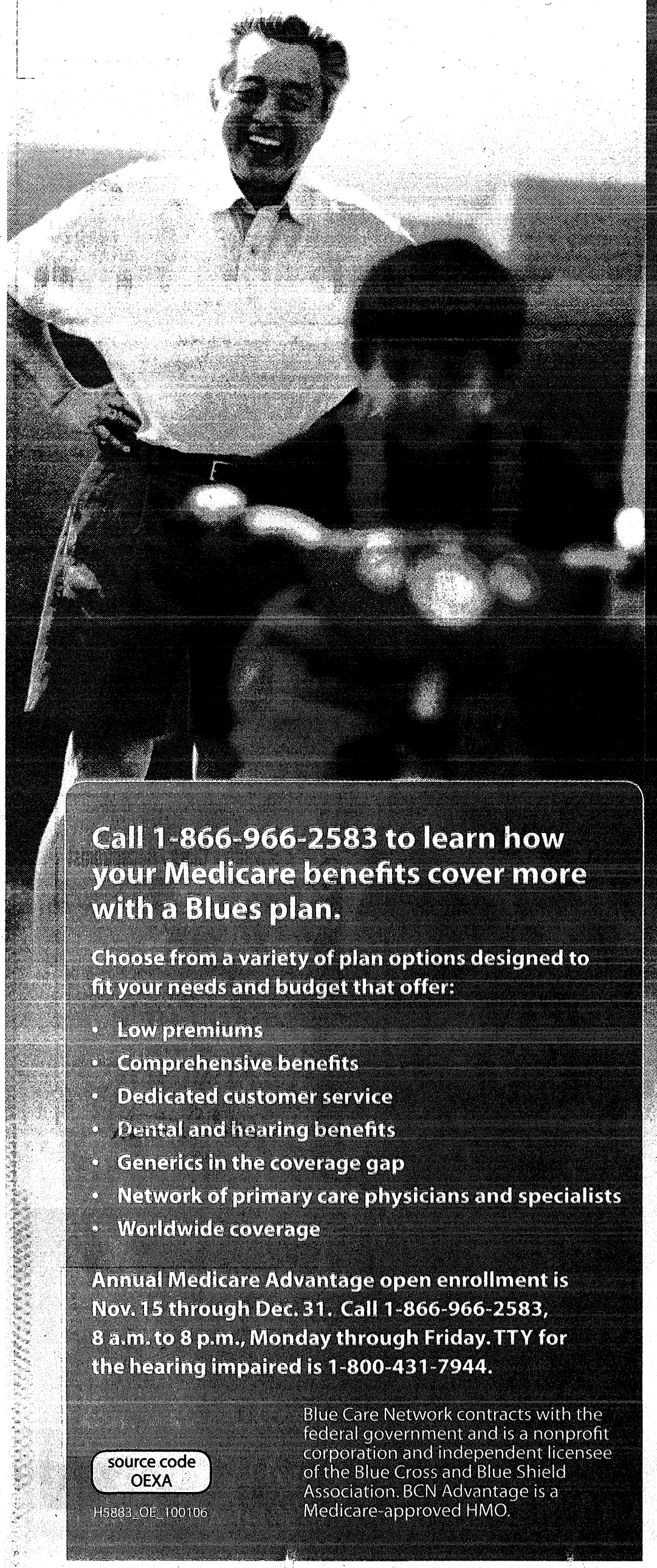
Olive Salley painted 'Bubble Boy' in the 1920s.

Celebrate season safe, sober

Taste test non-alcoholic holiday beverages and vote for your favorite at a party and mocktail mixer presented by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and SEMCA 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Westland Shopping Center at Wayne and Warren roads.

Take home the recipes to serve at your holiday party. Featured guests include Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans.

For more information, visit www.semcaprevention.org. SEMCA is one of 15 coordinating agencies created by the state to administer block grant and substance abuse services to insure that individuals in the region have easy access to treatment.



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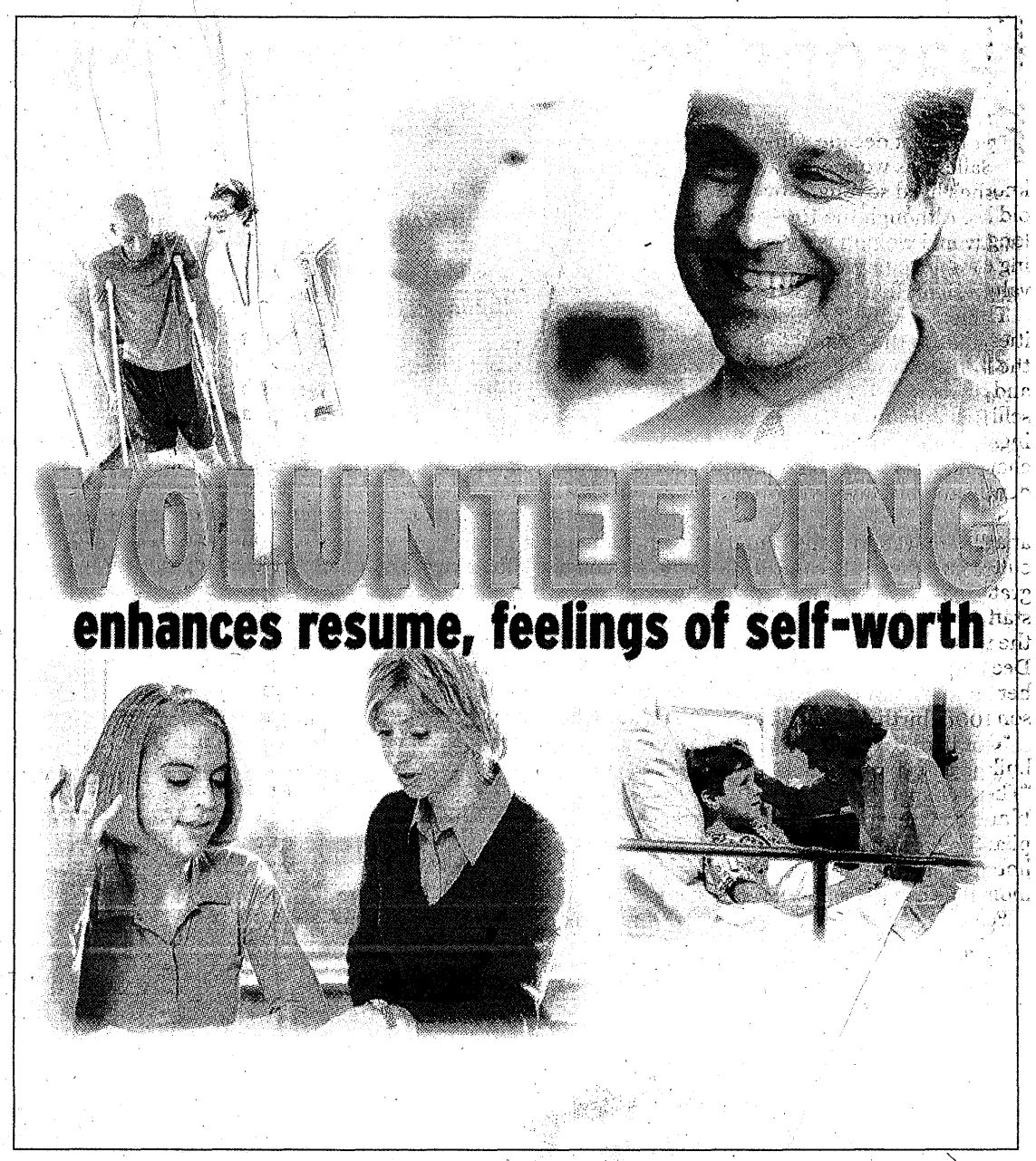

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Those who run local nonprofit organizations depend heavily on volunteers. Volunteering is also a great way to boost your resume, especially if you're short on work experience.

"It's excellent experience especially if someone is trying to get into a particular area they haven't worked before," said Suzanne Wiggins, executive director of the Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester.

That center relies on nearly 400 volunteers to stage its annual Art & Apples festival, held the weekend after Labor Day. "It's our primary fundraiser for the year," said Wiggins of the event, which also supports a number of other community nonprofits.

"It really shows how well the community wants to support us in that event," she said. Some other volunteers assist administratively in the office; the board is a volunteer one and volunteers assist with other events as well.

"We heavily depend on volunteers to help us get our events taken care of," said Wiggins, who urges prospective volunteers not to be hesitant about offering their time and talents.

"The personal reasons are obvious, the good feelings you have," agreed Jerry Trumpka, operations associate for the Plymouth Community United Way. Companies view volunteering as good community involvement, Trumpka has found.

"They certainly would like employees who show they're willing to do that kind of thing," he said.

The Plymouth Community United Way enjoys good community support, with over 200 volunteering for the recent Make a Difference Day. Those included Scouts, church groups, service club members and business people who wanted to show community support.

Trumpka finds that in light of Enron and other business scandals businesses like to be seen in a positive light. "They do want to support the community. A lot of it has to be the image, too."

He agreed that volunteering can definitely enhance a resume. If you volunteer in data input, for example, you then have work experience in that field. That's true for sales as well.

"It can definitely be good on your resume, to show you've handled these kinds of positions." Trumpka, who used to work for Midas in Plymouth, started with PCUW as a volunteer and moved on to the staff when the position opened up.

"It just happened to work out that way," he said.

Capt. Matt O'Neil, who with his wife leads the Wayne-Westland Corps of the Salvation Army, also sees the benefits of volunteering. His corps has groups from Lincoln Behavioral (closed head injury) and Goodwill come through who are trying to get back on their feet.

They assist in the food pantry and clean up the chapel, he said. Those who don't have special needs also assist at the Wayne-Westland Corps.

Wayne Memorial High Upward Bound students do community service work at the Salvation Army, and John Glenn High students do a food drive each year.

"It's not only great for us," O'Neil said of the volunteering, which is good for young people as well.

"We get quite a few. We don't get enough, but we get a lot," O'Neil said of Wayne-Westland volunteers.

Information on volunteering now is available online through the Salvation Army at www.ringbells.org. Volunteer bell-ringers are among those needed throughout the metro area this holiday season.



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The award-winning Observer & Eccentric Newspapers has a full-time opening for a Credit Specialist in its Livonia office. The Credit Specialist is responsible for contacting and collecting on delinquent accounts, researching customer payments and invoicing, and other related tasks.

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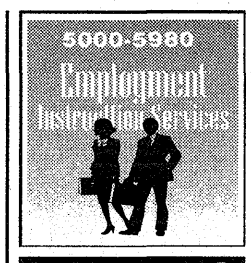

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CARPET CLEANING TECH
Exp'd. With aspirations of management. Willing to pay for quality exp. 800-372-5427

CAULKERS
Experienced Only
(248)347-6508

CERTIFIED
Carpet Installers,
Electricians & Plumbers
Sand & finish
Hard Wood installers,
Kitchen & Bath Installers
Apply in person at 12000 Globe St., Livonia.

CHEERLEADING COACHING POSITIONS
Youth activities organization is looking for responsible energetic individuals with cheerleading exp. Must enjoy working with children and have excellent communication skills. Part-time evenings. Call: 1-800-940-7469 x204

CHILD CARE
INFANT HEAD TEACHER
Learn While You Earn!
The Learning Tree offers employees an Education reimbursement program, on-site training along with
.... 401K Retirement Plan
.... Medical/Dental Benefits
.... Paid Vacation/Holidays, and Personal Days
.... Raise Reviews BiYearly
.... Bonus Program
Call 734-525-6369 or apply in person.

CHILDRENS DAY CARE HELP
Child care exp. necessary. Mon-Fri. Fulltime or part time for Home Day Care. Located in Bloomfield Hills.
Call 248-258-0768

CLEANING AUTHORITY
Of Plymouth seeking house cleaners. No nights or weekends. Earn $350+ per week. Car required. 734-455-4570

CNC Lathe/ Mill Operator

We offer an excellent benefit package, competitive wages, air-conditioned facility, steady overtime, and an opportunity for advancement. 5 yrs. minimum exp. must be able to program, and set-up.

Apply in person, mail, or fax resume to:

MOELLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.
43938 Plymouth Oaks Blvd
Plymouth, MI 48170
Fax: (734) 416-2200

E.O.E.

CNC MILL OPERATOR
Mold Work
Heidenhain, Mitsubishi, Fanuc
BENEFITS
START IMMEDIATELY!
Apply: 13050 Inkster Rd. Redford, S. of 96.

COLLECTOR Experienced

TCF Bank is looking for an experienced collector to work in our Consumer Lending Collections department. In this role, you will collect past due real estate loans and resolve customer issues to ensure obligations are met. The ideal candidate will have 1-3 yrs. prior collection experience and exceptional customer service skills.

TCF is a Wayzata, Minnesota-based national financial holding company with $13.4 billion in assets. TCF Bank Michigan has more than $2.4 billion in assets. TCF has more than 450 banking offices in Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Indiana.

For immediate consideration, apply online at www.tcfexpress.com, or fax resume to 734-930-6199

TCF BANK Since 1923

We value a diverse workforce & promote a drug free environment.

Construction Supervisor
in Redford-Michigan
Salary - $62K-$65K/year
5 years Exp., chauffeur's lic., good organizational skills, long hrs. Monitor schedule performance. Ensure clean & safe project sites at all times, deliver materials, heavy lifting. Job Applicants must include AJB# and ETA Case# in their replies. Fax or mail your resumes to: Attention:AJB# 35819161 ETA Case# 05117-78112 TR 02 CRW
700 North Pearl St. suite 510
Dallas, TX 75201
FAX: 214-237-9116

CONTROLLER
PreBesto Homes seeks a Controller with manufacturing experience. CPA or CMA & 5 yrs. exp. Email resume: dcooper@prebestohomes.com

COUNTER PERSON
Auto repair facility. part time, 3 days per week. Wed., Thurs., Fri., 7:30-5:30. Computer exp. Microsoft Word and Excel. Knowledge of suspension/ brakes a plus. Call Bruce
313-532-8590

CONTROLLER OF MORTGAGE COMPANY

Headquartered in Southfield, MI this is one of the nation's most diverse wholesale mortgage lenders. We are a rapidly expanding organization, which presents a tremendous opportunity for both your financial and professional career growth! We are looking for a motivated individual to help bring us to the next level!

We need a Controller to oversee all accounting and finance related functions including month-end financial reporting, analysis, job costing, ad hoc reporting, and financial systems management. We are seeking an individual who is adapt in administering all corporate accounting functions including: reconciliation and recording of mortgage loans held for resale and corresponding warehouse funding lines, accounts receivable, fixed assets, accounts payable accrued expenses, loan servicing and investor accounting functions. This position manages a small staff and reports directly to the CFO.

Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Economics or equivalent work experience in a financial arena (at least 3-5 yrs). A solid understanding of workflow management under restrictive time constraints is pivotal in this function. Previous experience in the mortgage industry and with loan documentation is a major plus. Strong knowledge of loan servicing regulatory requirements a plus. Excellent analytical, organizational, problem solving, & process improvement skills.

In addition to a stable working environment that fosters growth, we offer a very competitive compensation package as well as full benefits (including: Health, Dental, Disability, and Paid Vacations/Sick Leave).

If you meet the requirements and are interested in exploring this opportunity, please email or send cover letter, resume, and any additional credentials to:

Pamela Groosbeck
MVB Mortgage Corp.
24400 Northwestern
Suite 200
Southfield MI 48075
pgroosbeck@mvb-mortgage.com

CREDIT MANAGER
Distribution company seeks a professional with 7-10 yrs collection, accounting and accounts receivable exp. Must be PC literate and have excellent communications, management & organizational skills. BA degree preferred. Benefits, profit sharing & 401K.
Call HR Manager
734-762-2410 or fax resume to 734-421-0993

CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK
for growing Livonia Co. Must have high energy, exceptional interpersonal, organizational & computer skills, MS Excel and Word. Duties - phone, contractor maintenance, some project mgmt. $10 per hr. Benefits after 1 yr. Fax resumes to: 866-697-7517

For the best auto classifications check out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper. "It's all about RESULTS!"

Delivery Driver/Service Tech
Medical Equipment Co. has FT position avail for delivery driver/service tech. Responsibilities include delivery & service repair of medical equipment throughout the Detroit Metro area. Customer service skills req'd. Exp in electrical repair a plus. Fax to 734-451-0404

DENTAL ASSISTANT: Fun & friendly Westland dental office needs a full-time Assistant. Exp. necessary Mon. - Thurs. Call 734-729-2366

DINING ROOM SUPERVISOR
A luxury senior apartment community in Canton is seeking a Dining Room Supervisor for an immediate part-time position. Responsibilities include: supervising wait staff and management of all dining room meals and functions. E.O.E. Please fax resume to 734-981-2829. No phone calls please.

DIRECT CARE STAFF
Needed for group homes. **MUST BE trained with valid driver's license.**
Afternoons
Call 734-722-7880
between 10 & 3

DIRECT CARE STAFF
Work in a children's respite home in Westland. High School diploma/GED. **Call Misty: 734-721-9072**

DIRECT CARE WORKER
Canton Group Home. Staff for afternoon/midnight shift. Highly independent residents. Competitive wages/ benefits. (734) 397-6955

Direct Care-- Immediate management position in Taylor home supporting 4 adults with developmental disabilities; qualifying candidates must have CLS, Inc. Part I training certificate; current management position in field or recently held position; call Evelyn or Mary 734-728-4201

Direct Care-- Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLA, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, 0#.

DIRECT CARE-ALL SHIFTS IMMEDIATE INTERVIEWS

- Openings available on Midnights & Afternoons for Direct Care Workers/ Nursing Assistants at our soon to be opened Neuro Rehab Facility in Farmington Hills.
- Openings available on All Shifts for Direct Care Workers at our residential group homes in the Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor area

$9 - $10/hr to start plus benefits and excellent advancement opportunities. Desire to work with people, proof of a valid driver's license and excellent driving record a must. No exp. necessary, training is provided. Apply in person for an immediate interview:

Monday, Dec. 4
9am – 6pm at:
Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers
32715 Grand River Ave.
Farmington, MI 48336
(between Farmington & Orchard Lake Rds.)

If unavailable for immediate interview, submit an application 9am-5pm Mon-Fri at our Farmington office above, or our Ypsilanti office at 5570 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (I-94 exit 183). Call for directions: 734-482-1512 ext.500. Drug-free workplace EOE

DRIVER - CDL
Team player w/positive attitude for local delivery and back-up warehouse.
$10-$12/hr plus benefits.
Fax resume 248-474-9888

DRIVER/Part-Time -For auto parts warehouse in Farmington Hills. Good driving record a must. Call 248-471-7222 x 1

DRIVER/SALES
5 NEW ROUTE REPS
Company vehicle. Paid training. $300-$500 (1st Wk). $600-$1500 after training. Must have valid drivers license. Exp. with manual transmission. No CDL okay.
Call Now: 734-466-9820

Driver

Answer the call.
If you've got the drive, we've got the opportunity

SEASONAL DRIVERS

You will be employed and paid by a staffing agency while on temporary assignment to FedEx Home Delivery. It's extra cash and a chance to work with an industry leader. You will be supplied with a truck and everything you need to pick up and deliver our customer's packages.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- 21 years or older
- Clean driving record
- Drug screen, background checks and physical required
- Customer Service skills
- Driving/delivery exp. is recommended
- No equipment necessary

Also looking for
DRIVER HELPERS

Apply in person, Tues-Wed & Fri-Sat, 9am-5pm at one of our locations:
28350 Plymouth Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150

6300 Center St
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Fedex Home Delivery is committed to equal opportunity/affirmative action (M/F/D/V), and to diversify its workforce. Visit us at fedex.com

FedEx Home Delivery

DRIVERS
Immediate Openings
Detroit based fulltime non CDL & CDL with ability to drive 24 foot straight trucks delivering expedited freight. Some occasional overnights and weekends. Ability to cross in and out of Canada. Good driving record a must! Able to base DOT drug test & pass and obtain a DOT physical. Prefer response by email to: **CourierHR@aol.com** or Fax **412-481-7396** or Mail to:
Courier Express
172 South 21st St.
Pittsburg PA 15203

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POLICY

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric News-papers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900.) The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reser-ves the right not to accept an advertiser's order, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors is given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This news-paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative ad-vertising and marketing pro-gram in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

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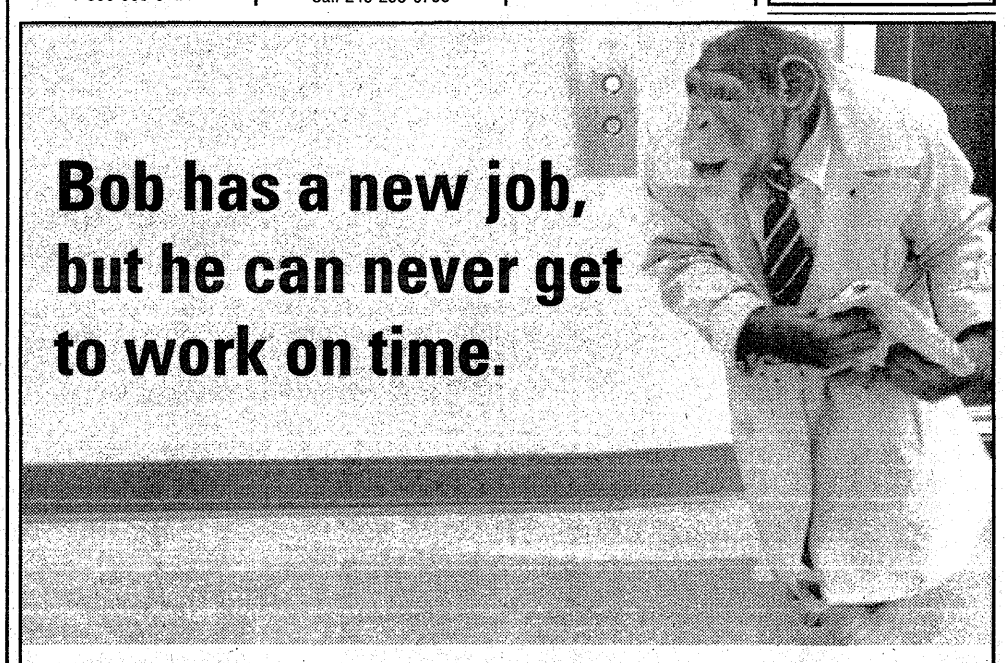
Sell it all with Observer & Eccentric
1-800-579-SELL



Bob has a new job, but he can never get to work on time.

We have someone who will. Heck, we even have Bob's next job.
Go to **CareerBuilder.com** or call us at **800-579-7355** to place your next Help Wanted ad.
Web plus print.

Discover the value.

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
careerbuilder.com™
A better employee is out there.

OE08443096

THE BLADE toledoblade.com

ELECTRICIAN

The Blade, the Pulitzer-prize winning newspaper serving northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan, has an immediate opening for an Electrician in its Maintenance Department.

Position responsibilities include maintaining high technology newspaper equipment at multiple Company facilities.

The successful candidate will have the following skills:

- Maintain a Journeyman Electrician's card;
- Strong electronics background;
- Mechanical aptitude for testing and troubleshooting systems;
- Experience with PLC5, relay logic, reading circuit schematics and ladder diagrams;
- Computer literacy;
- A valid driver's license.

Apply in confidence to the
Human Resources Department,
The Blade, 541 N. Superior St., Toledo, OH 43660
Resumes may be faxed to 419-724-6080 or e-mailed to HR@toledoblade.com. No phone calls please.

OE08492464

Equal Opportunity Employer



careerbuilder.com™

Observer & Eccentric HOMETOWNlife.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

Drivers
Looking for the best part time job?
Need your own transportation. Make an average of $50 per day, Part time. Great for student, homemaker and retiree, or just for extra money. We are hiring now, so call us today. We are a restaurant delivery service.
734-427-4850 call after 2pm
Mon-Fri

ELECTRICIAN
Minimum 1 yr. experience.
Commercial/Industrial/New Construction **(248)437-5500**

FINANCIAL ANALYST
TCF Bank is looking for a Financial Analyst to work at our new headquarters in Livonia. In this role, you will perform lending analysis and credit quality reporting. A bachelor's degree in finance or accounting is required, and prior financial institution experience is helpful.

TCF is a Wayzata, Minnesota-based national financial holding company with $13.4 billion in assets. TCF Bank Michigan has more than $2.4 billion in assets. TCF has more than 450 banking offices in Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Indiana.

For immediate consideration, apply online at www.tcfexpress.com or fax resume to 734.930.6199

TCF BANK Since 1923

We value a diverse workforce & promote a drug free environment.

GATEHOUSE ATTENDANT
For Detroit apts. Must have reliable transportation, and prior exp. 248-851-0114

GENERAL LABORER
Full time. Vacation, Health, Dental, 401K, profit sharing. Apply at: Nu-Core, 2424 Beech Daly, Dearborn.

GIS ANALYST
City of Troy (EOE) Bachelor degree-GIS, Geography, Engineering, Computer Science, Urban Planning, or Surveying and 2yrs GIS work exp. $45,423-$56,779.
Application deadline 12/27/06 4PM. Applications at:
Human Resources
500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Troy
or www.troymi.gov

GOVERNMENT JOBS
Earn $12-$48 per hour
Full medical/dental benefits
1-800-320-9353 Ext. 2429

HAIR STYLIST
Very busy hair salon needs hair dressers & barbers.
Call Kim 734-453-1717

HAIR STYLISTS
Eclipse Hair, Nails & Spa
4187 Old Canton Center
Canton. (734) 397-0013

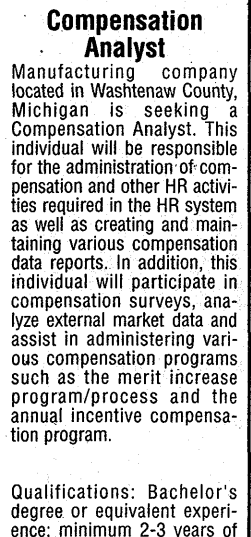
HR / Health & Safety Administrator
Needed for busy Livonia auto mfg/supplier. Will be conducting & coordinating safety / sexual harassment training for large volume of employees as well as add'l duties. Bachelor's degree & 3-5 + yrs exp req'd. Excellent computer skills with Word, Excel & PowerPoint. 45K+ DOE Email resume to: roxannek@wskills.com or fax (810) 227-1344. EOE.

Human Resources

Compensation Analyst
Manufacturing company located in Washtenaw County, Michigan is seeking a Compensation Analyst. This individual will be responsible for the administration of compensation and other HR activities required in the HR system as well as creating and maintaining various compensation data reports. In addition, this individual will participate in compensation surveys, analyze external market data and assist in administering various compensation programs such as the merit increase program/process and the annual incentive compensation program.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience; minimum 2-3 years of related experience with solid understanding of various compensation programs; experience/understanding of HR systems and associated compensation functionality within those systems; proficiency in Microsoft Office including Excel, Word and PowerPoint; working knowledge of applicable employment and compensation laws; flexibility and ability to work on multiple project assignments; attention to detail, strong organizational, administration, project management and communication skills.
We offer competitive pay/benefits and a great working environment. Qualified candidates please send your resume to: compensation1@hotmail.com
EOE

ID GRINDER
Machine tool company. Day shift. Good pay & benefits. Apply in person: 11865 Globe St., Livonia, MI 48150



Help Wanted-General 5000

IN-HOME CAREGIVERS
Needed to care for children and young adults with disabilities in their family homes in Westland, Canton, & Belleville areas. $7.76 per hour, plus benefits if full-time. Must have minimum of GED/HS Diploma, valid drivers license, and insured vehicle. CPR, First Aid, or CLS/MORC training a plus. Immediate Openings.
Please apply to:
Life Center, Inc.
15419 Middlebelt Road
Livonia, MI 48154
Fax: 734-261-4659

INSPECTOR SUPERVISOR
City of Troy (EOE) HS grad/GED & 4yrs exp supervising code inspection/enforcement program. Prefer computer exp. $54,044-$67,555
Application deadline 12/20/06 4PM. Applications at:
Human Resources
500 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy
or www.troymi.gov

INVENTORY COMPANY
Looking for inventory takers. $8.50 per hr. Paid training.
800-306-7714
www.rgisinv.com EOE

JANITOR PART-TIME
General cleaning in treatment facility in Canton. Days, weekends. Send resume to Hegira Programs, Inc. 8623 N. Wayne Rd., Suite 200, Westland, MI 48185.

Janitorial
Putting Together the Dream Team
Kleen-Tech has expanded into Detroit & has immediate openings for top-of-the-line Mgmt. & Admin, personnel to staff a large Class A janitorial contract. Please see our full ad in www.careerbuilder.com & look for Kleen-Tech.

JANITORIAL & FLOOR CARE
Several locations. Full & part time. All shifts. 734-425-0161

JOIN OUR TEAM
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is accepting employemnt applciations, for our Thrift Store and Donation Center, located at 6613 Wayne Rd., Westland MI (located in the Westland Plaza). Energetic, smiling faces can apply for the following positions: Assistant Manager, Store Associate and Driver. Any inquiries, call the
HR Department at 313.393.2938
Fax: 313.393.3015
Email: tweems@svdpdet.org

LABORERS NEEDED
Local galvanizing co. is in need of laborers in our production area. We offer competitive wages and benefits. Apply at 12600 Arnold St., Redford.

LEASING CONSULTANT
Large property mgt. co. is seeking a leasing consultant for a mid sized apt. community in Farmington. Candidate must possess a demonstrated ability to close the sale. We offer a great wage benefit package, commission & 401(K). Fax resume to:
(248) 569-1508

LIBRARY PAGE
City of Troy (EOE) Part-time, year-round @ Troy Public Library. Organizes & shelves books. $7.00/hr to start.
Application deadline 12/21/06 4PM. Applications at:
Human Resources
500 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy
or www.troymi.gov

LIVONIA HOUSING COMMISSION
The Livonia Housing Commission is seeking to employ a highly motivated individual for the following position within its Community Development Office.
HOUSING SPECIALIST
the Housing Commissin-Community Development Office operates programs that are HUD funded and that assist low income families with homeowner rehabilitation. The Housing Commission requires that the person filling this position have strong written, oral communication, analytical skills and desires experience with general construciton programs. Furhter, the successful applicant must be willing to receive relevant Stat of Michigan certifications for working with Lead-Based Paint. Application may be obtained from the Livonia Housing Commission. Application and resume are to be submitted no later than December 18, 2006 to the following address:
Livonia Housing Commissioin
33780 Lyndon
Livonia, MI 48154
Attn: James M. Inglis, Housing Director
734-421-6450 x102



Help Wanted-General 5000

LIVONIA HOUSING COMMISSION
The Livonia Housing Commission is seeking to employ a permanent part-time individual for the following positon within its Community Development Office:
HOUSING ASSISTANT
The Housing Commission-Community Development Office operates programs that are HUD funded and that assist low income families with homeowner rehabilitation. the Housing Commission requires that the person filling this positon have strong written and organizational skills, and be able to effectively communicate with citizens, governmental departments and construction contractors. Applicaton may be obtained from the Livonia Housing Commission. Application and resume are to be submitted no later than Dec. 18, 2006 to the following address:
Livonia Housing Commission
33780 Lyndon
Livonia, MI 48154
Attn: James M. INglis,
Housing Director
734-421-6450 x102

LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job,) a Career?
Change your life-
Real Estate Sales Agent.
Feel good about yourself, personally and financially.
CALL ED BOWLIN
AT 734-591-5940, EXT. 107

Machinists
Ocean living, warm all year! Skilled CNC machinists needed for a large manufacturer of chainsaws, in Virginia Beach, VA. Relocation costs paid. Exc pay and benefits! Fax or email resume to: juliev@wskills.com or Fax 810-227-1344. EOE

MAINTENANCE
Person needed for Farmington apt. community. Must have exp. in carpentry, plumbing, electrical & HVAC. Position requires on-call responsibilities. A criminal and driving check will be run prior to employment. Apt. available after 30 days, includes benefits and advancement opportunity.
Call Patti at: 248-476-8080.

MAINTENANCE TECH
Needed. Experience preferred. Apartment community, must have experience in HVAC, plumbing, electrical & prep. Must be available for on-call work. Please fax resume to Attn: Angel (734) 729-4021

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
With apartment experience. Westland area. Fax resume 248-924-3315 or call
734-451-5210

MANAGER
for quick lube. Exp required. Plymouth area. Fax resume to S. Ray 313-292-1738

MANICURIST NEEDED
For busy hair salon to service existing clients. No rent or percentage taken, all your own business. Call Kathy at 248-642-2882 or fax resume
248-642-7667

MARKETING EVENT PLANNER
Fast-paced and deadline-driven Events Dept seeks highly-organized, personalble and enthusiastic individual who is detail oriented and with exceptional computer skills, editing, proofreading, verbal and written comm. Multi-task position serves as liaison with suppliers, customers and other deptmts. Candidate will assist in the developmt of marketing mat. for mtgs and conventions, and will coordinate other meetings. Prior event or project mgmt required. Travel 20 days/year; O/T during peak seasons. Send resume and salary req to:
Director,
Human Resources - MEP
P.O. Box 9060
Farmington Hills, MI 48333-9060
FAX: 248 848 3771
barb.cheyne@concrete.org

MECHANIC NEEDED NIGHT SHIFT
to maintain 40 trucks with gravel train. EXPERIENCE is a must. Benefit package avail.
248-486-6593

Mortgage Lending Managers
Do you have at least two years of mortgage lending experience, exceptional sales skills, and the desire to advance your career? If so, we're looking for you!

TCF is hiring experienced lenders to meet and exceed consumer loan production goals as Branch Lending Managers at new branches in Taylor, Dearborn Heights, and Allen Park.

TCF is a Wayzata, Minnesota-based national financial holding company with $13.4 billion in assets. TCF Bank Michigan has more than $2.4 billion in assets. TCF has more than 450 banking offices in Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Indiana.
Please apply at www.tcfexpress.com or fax resume to 734.930.6199
TCF BANK Since 1923

NATURE CENTER COORDINATOR
City of Troy (EOE) Part-time $9.85/hr. HS grad/GED Computer & clerical exp req'd. Must be able to work weekends. Applications at:
Human Resources
500 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy
or www.troymi.gov

Help Wanted-General 5000

PRESCHOOL TEACHER-PT
Needed for Canton licensed home daycare. 9-5. Daycare exp preferred. 734-455-4988

BUSCH'S Fresh. Food. Ideas.
PRODUCE MANAGERS
Busch's is seeking knowledgeable and creative produce managers. Our managers ensure that our high guest service, superior facilities, and product quality standards are met.

Qualified candidates will have 2-3 years prior produce management experience, merchandising experience, knowledge of computer applications, outstanding communication skills, and excellent guest engagement skills.

Growing company, excellent benefits, shift premiums, and more

For more info and to apply online, go to www.buschs.com
Apply at any of our stores, or e-mail resumes to jobs@buschs.com

Public Safety Dispatcher/Clerk
Northville Township is accepting applications for full-time Dispatcher/Clerk. Essential functions include communicating with the public concerning crimes, medical emergencies and fires. Dispatching police, fire, and EMS. Starting wage of $16.30 hr with benefits. Qualifications include:
- U.S. Citizen or resident alien with the right to work in the U.S.
- 18 years of age
- High School diploma or equivalent
- Computer skills
- 2-3 years dispatch experience

Candidates must successfully complete a testing process, background investigation, psychological, and physical. Applications are available and returned completed to: Charter Township of Northville, Human Resource Department, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 by Friday, December 29, 2006 4:00 p.m. An application is also available at our website at www.twp.northville.mi.us Resumes will not be accepted without a completed application. Equal Opportunity Employer.

REAL ESTATE AGENT
Licensed to work approximately 20 hrs/wk. Doing administrative work, showing houses, etc. Must be available weekends. Fast paced, high production office with opportunity for more hrs. if desired.
Email confidential resume, cover letter & references to: adminasst05@comcast.net

REFRIGERATION TECH
For well established company. Experience preferred. Good benefits & wages. Contact Alan 313-533-0285.

Regional Bank Branch Mgr
A comm. bank is looking for an exp. Regional Mgr. Prior exp. Plus strong customer service, sales, mgmt. and training skills req. Email resume to oeresume@hometownlife.com Ref Box #1455 EOE.

SALES CONSULTANT
High end-couture bridal and evening atelier seeking a sales consultant with solid experience. Position requires organization and poise with clientele and must be a persuasive communicator with strong deal closing abilities. Please send resume to
lanotte@msn.com
or fax: 248-723-4010

SALESPERSON
T-Shirt cart at Laurel Park. $7 + p/hr. Flexible hours. Seasonal. 1-800-583-6116 ext 13

SERVICE COORDINATOR ASSESSMENT
Are you looking for a rewarding career where you can make a difference? WSC is hiring an Assessment Coordinator; duties include intake, case mgmt, and vocational counseling & assessment services. Requirements: strong verbal skills and report writing aptitude, MA degree in rehabilitation or human services & working towards or possess a CRC. Submit resume & salary req. to: karac@wskills.com
or fax: 810-227-1344
www.wskills.com EOE

SERVICE PLUMBER
Top pay. Full benefits. Service exp. necessary. Ask for Jim.
248-356-1680

SIDEWALK LABORRERS
Snow Removal company needs sidewalk laborers. Must have valid drivers license. Up to $15 per hour. Call for more information
248-676-0700

SIGN INSTALLER
Lamar Advertising is looking for reliable workers. Must have a valid driver's license, not afraid of heights & must be willing to work outdoors year round. You must be able to pass pre-employment physical & drug test. Apply in person:
Lamar Advertising
6405 N. Hix Rd.
Westland, MI 48185
Located btwn.
Ford & Warren Rds.

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

Help Wanted-General 5000

SNOW REMOVAL
D & B Landscaping, Inc. is seeking qualified on call personnel. Scope of work operating loaders, trucks, deicing equipment for lots & walks on commercial sites in Wayne County. 734-524-1030

SNOW PLOW DRIVERS
Shovelers & Sub-Contractors. Full/part time. Exc. wages w/overtime. Unique landscaping Call, 734-389-2400

SNOW PLOWING
Plow Drivers $15-$25/hr.
Sidewalks $10-$18/hr.
4 Wheeler w/plow $30-$45/hr.
Subs with Plow $55-$70/hr.
(313) 562-9051
or fax 313-562-9084
or website: greenerside.com

STAFF ACCOUNTANT
(For service business in Farmington Hills).
SEE OUR AD ON CAREER MARKET PLACE
on the front of the Employment Section.
American Laser Centers

TAX PREPARER
Plymouth CPA Firm seeks experienced Tax Preparer. Fax Resume to 734-455-1655 or Email to fantna@covad.net

TEACHERS/TUTORS NEEDED
Premium $ paid for Math & Science. Fax resume
248-344-2206 or email
clubz17@comcast.net

TELEMARKETERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
Open 7 days! Flexible scheduling! Email resume to asteele@strategiclenders.com Or call Amy at 734-521-0198

TILE TECHNICIAN
Virginia Tile Co. in Farmington Hills has a full-time 30-40 hour position. We are looking for an energetic detail oriented individual to work in a creative atmosphere. This position entails construction of ceramic and stone displays and general warehouse work. Benefits, profit sharing & 401K. Call: HR Manager at:734-762-2410 or fax: 734-421-0993

TOOL MAKER/ FIXTURE BUILDER
All around machinist & exp. leader. Great working conditions. Great benefits. Livonia. Call 734-591-2333.

TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is seeking applicants who possess five years supervisory experience, five years diesel/heavy truck or school bus mechanic experience, CDL (B) license with P&S endorsements and strong leadership skills. Position reports to Director of Transportation. Salary range: $48,143-$67,399. Refer to website for complete job posting and on-line application.
www.pccs.k12.mi.us
P-CCS 454 S Harvey Plymouth

VALET ATTENDANTS NEEDED
Holiday help part time in Novi & Southfield locations. Call 586-484-3936.

WAREHOUSE HELP
Starting wage depending on exp. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. Email Resume to:
bmeehan@idnhardware.com
or Fax: 734-591-3981

WAREHOUSE/ MEDICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIR PERSON
Livonia. Full time. Mandatory criminal background and drug screening.
Email or fax Chuck at
metromedical@sbcglobal.net
fax 734-522-9380

Help Wanted-Computer/Info Systems 5010

Software Developer
Seeking determined & innovative technical staff to lead projects involving software development & web services. Work independently or on a team doing systems development, implementation, network administration, & operations support. Requires web site development, software design, system administration, & database design skills. Will help to develop information systems strategies & gather systems requirements. The right candidate will be versed in the following technologies: HTML, .NET (C#, ASP, or VB), SQL Server, Unix/Linux/BSD, Windows administration, firewalls, and Javascript. Familiarity with UML, use cases, Oracle, C/C++, Java, Perl, and/or CMM SEI is a plus.
As a member of our team, you will help sell services & promote awareness of our team. In addition, your duties will include writing reports, & proposals & at times, you will support customers & end users.
One opening in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Contact:
SoftwareDeveloperJob@ajboggs.com
for more information.

TRAINING
Laid off? Looking for a new career? Short-term training programs in Computers and Video Gaming begin Jan. 22.
Call New Horizons CLC
1-866-307-1436
Job Placement Assistance
* Financing *

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FULL TIME Mon thru Fri., 8:30-4:30 for life insurance office. Proficient in Word, Excel, Outlook. Fax resume to Mr. Schafer 248-647-6523.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Wixom based sales company looking for an Automotive-based sales Administrative Assistant. Salaried position, part time. Working knowledge of OEM quote forms, e-communication tools and automotive experience is required. Flexible scheduling 5 days per week. Please send resume and work history. Fax 248-669-6666 or e-mail johnbull@seiauto.com

BOOKKEEPER & OFFICE MANAGER
For western Wayne County business. Experience with Quickbooks & Excel necessary. Send resume to: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia MI 48150 Ref Box 1450

BOOKKEEPER/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Detroit based co. needs a person with strong grammar and computer skills. Salary, benefits, retirement. Send resume 313-341-0315
or call Tues. - Thurs., 12-3pm for appt. 313-341-4791.

CAR BILLER
Exc. pay and benefits. Exp. required. Send resume to Varsity Lincoln Mercury Inc., P.O. Box 663, Novi, MI 48376-633 attn Kevin.

CLERICAL FULL TIME
Cash balancing, billing, and reception work. Includes benefits. Novi location. Phone 586-843-2303

ENJOY PEOPLE? COMMUNICATE WELL?
Become an important member of a team that strives to improve customer relations. You will be responsible for entering orders in our computer system; answering customer questions and assisting in the sales effort. This is an entry-level position. To qualify you must be available to work evenings and weekends. College students/home-makers welcome. Apply in person at the Gardner-White Furniture in Canton. 39453 Ford Road (next to Home Depot).
734-844-3190
www.gardner-white.com

GIRL/GUY FRIDAY
Needed immediately. Multi tasker, adaptable, detail oriented. Knowledge of all office equipment. Able to work independently. 3 years exp.
Fax resume 248-426-7773

LEGAL SECRETARY-PT
Word Perfect. General practice, probate exp. Livonia area. Fax resume: 734-762-0707

OFFICE MANAGER / BOOKKEEPER
40 hrs. Small business. Great phone skills. Accounting, Quickbooks a must. A/P, A/R, MS Word/Excel. Fax resume: 248-358-5678 or Email:
arthhinc@aol.com

OFFICE MANAGER/ ASSISTANT To DIRECTOR
For a traumatic brain injury Semi-Independent Program. Candidate must possess strong communication, clerical & organizational skills. Ability to multi task & handle a fast paced office environment in a professional manner. Work well with various types of personalities. Must be exp'd in: Microsoft Word, Excel, handling petty cash, employee/client schedules, Excellent benefits, pay commensurate with exp. Send Resume to: OMA P.O. Box 3460 Farmington Hills, MI 48333 Fax : 248-442-1180

RECEPTIONIST
$7-$10/hr. Must have good attitude. Leave Message:
(248) 426-0733

RECEPTIONIST
Full time Receptionist needed for Southfield based law firm. Fax resume to 248-354-6308.

TIER 1 / TIER 2 MANUFACTURING SUPPLIER IN PLYMOUTH
Is currently seeking candidates for....
ACCOUNTING CLERK/ RECEPTIONIST
Responsibilities for this position include:
Basic accounting duties (matching receivers to receiving report, matching invoices with shippers and purchase order receipts and miscellaneous accounting duties as instructed). General clerical assistance for staff. Distri-buting mail. Answering multi-line phone system promptly and professionally. Must have excellent phone skills, typing and data entry skills and the ability to multi-task. Must be very detail-oriented and a fast learner. Must have at least 3 years experience in basic accounting. Please forward salary requirements with resume.
Email:
oeresume@hometownlife.com
Reference Code #1456

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

ASSISTANT
Has your current position become routine, lacking challenge, restricting your personal growth? Our Canton dental practice is looking for an individual who is personable, passionate and willing to learn to join our assisting team. Some dental assisting experience required. Full time with competitive wage & benefits. Fax resume to 734-981-0370

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Chairside, exp. necessary. Full-Time. Call Sheree at:
(734) 420-2326

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Full time, experienced assistant needed for busy, friendly Farmington Hills office. Exc. compensation. 248-553-4660.

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Full/Part-Time. Experienced only. Livonia/Westland area. Benefits. **734-522-6470**

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Livonia office seeking energetic, self-motivated, experienced full-time Dental Assistant. 30-35 hrs. wk. Resume required with references. Come join this fun team. Call: 248-777-8044
Fax: 248-777-8717

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Needed for family practice in W. Dearborn. FT position with benefits. Call 313-563-2400 or fax 313-563-4608.

Dental Chairside Assistant
Full-Time. Minimum 1 yr. exp for relaxed Livonia dental office, pleasant surrounding, great staff. Fax: 248-473-7490 or Call: 248-473-0050

DENTAL FRONT DESK
Plymouth area. Exp. in patient scheduling, billing & insurance processing. 734-453-9413

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Maternity sub, Jan. thru March. Mon, Tues & Fri. (flexible) w/possible permanent position Weds. and/or Fri.
Farmington Hills.
Fax resume 248-855-5371
Or call 248-855-4850

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
Full time. Dental background a must; Dentech exp. a plus. Southfield area. Fax resume to 248-352-6088

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
Must be computer & dental office experienced. Part time for friendly Garden City practice. Call Kathie 586-914-6961

RECEPTIONIST
for dental office in Troy area. Experienced. 25-30 hours. Fax resume to 248-519-0300.

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Biomedical Technician
The University of Michigan's Livonia Hemodialysis Clinic seeks a full time Biomedical Technician. Duties include providing maintenance and preventative maintenance of Fresenius 2008H and K dialysis machines, as well as other maintenance and testing on hemodialysis equipment and systems. The qualified applicant will have an Associate's degree in biomedical technology or electronics, and previous dialysis experience.

To learn more or to apply online, visit www.UMjobs.org and bid on position #5105. Or fax resume to: 734-432-7871

University of Michigan is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer
The Difference is YOU.

University of Michigan Health System

CONTINGENT X-RAY TECH
Livonia Orthopedic practice. Must have exp. Email to oeresume@hometownlife.com Ref Box# 1457

HOME CARE RN
Heartland Home Health Care is looking for experienced nurses for their Medicare certified division. These are both full time, salary, benefited, Mon. thru Fri. and Per diem positions.
Call of FAX resume to
Debbie Johnson
Phone 248-948-9569
FAX 248-948-9848
EOE

INTERNIST WANTS TO BUY
Existing Medical Practice within 60 miles of Detroit. Call 248-924-0293 or email: drmann@lasterfinesse.com

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

JOIN THE TEAM
of a fast growing home care & outpatient rehab agency. Servicing patients in the tri-county area. Seeking caring staff FT/PT & contingent. RN, LPN, HHA, PT/PTA, CQI Coordinator, Medical Biller, Office Mgr. & Clerical Support. Fax resume 248-358-1535

LASER HAIR REMOVAL TECHNICIAN
For dermatology practice. Ann Arbor/Plymouth area. Exp. with Light Sheer Laser. Exc. pay. Email resume: a2derm@aol.com
or fax: 734-996-8767

M.T. or M.L.T.
Full & Part-Time Night shift. Detroit Bio Med Lab 23955 Freeway Park Dr. Farmington Hills (10 Mile Grand River area) 248-471-4116

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Experienced, full time w/x-ray exp. Busy medical practice in Farmington. Email resume to: Medexcel@sbcglobal.net

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
for pulmonary office. MA/Front office duties. Exp. preferred. Part time, 32 hr./wk. Fax resume to 734-542-4475.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Parttime for a busy family practice in Livonia. Must have previous exp in a medical office & be exp'd in phlebotomy. X-ray exp helpful. Must be avail for vacation coverage. Hours are: Mon 2p.-8p, Thurs 9a-6p. Fri 9a-2p & two Sats per/month during the winter 8a-noon. 734-427-3504

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Southfield busy G.I. office, exp. required. Please email: ammathis@comcast.net or Fax 248-746-9588 Attn: Ana

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
With experience in both front & back office. Part time for busy pro-choice physicians office. (248) 443-0239

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
With Experience
MEDICAL BILLERS
Exp with E-Thomas software
Very busy Internal Medicine office in Livonia. Fax Resume Attn: Christina 734-779-2121

MEDICAL BILLING
Laid off? Looking for a new career? Short-term training programs in Medical Billing begin Dec. 20/Jan. 24.
Call New Horizons CLC
1-866-865-6379
Job Placement Assistance
* Financing *

MEDICAL OFFICE CAREERS
Great salaries & benefits! 2+yrs exp req'd. Farmington Hills, Rochester, Commerce Twp: Practice Mgr, CMAs, Receptionists & Homecare Billers. Resume to Kelli:
kelli@harperjobs.com
Fax: 248-932-1214
Phone: 248-932-1204
Harper Associates
www.harperjobs.com

Nurses

Join our team of dedicated professionals and become a member of one of the largest and most respected providers of health care services in the country. We are looking for:

RNs & LPNs
Full & Part-time
All Shits

CENA's
Full & Part-time
All Shits

If you are interested in joining our team of caring professionals, please mail or fax your resume to:

Heartland - W. Bloomfield
Attn: Human Resources
6950 Farmington Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Fax: 248-788-8157
Phone: 248-661-1700
Or apply online at
www.hcr-manorcare.com
EEO/Drug-Free Employer

People. Strength. Commitment.

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Front desk, full or part Time. Experienced. W. Bloomfield Allergy Practice. Fax resume
(248) 626-2248

PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION
Classes begin in Jan.
1 day a week. 5 weeks.
Cost $850 at local hospital.
(313) 382-3857

PHYSICAL THERAPIST
Full or Part time. A unique opportunity to practice Evidence Based Medicine with exp'd Physicians in a Spine Rehabilitation Practice. Competitive Salary & Benefits. Fax resume to 734-582-9773 or Call 734-582-9770

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHNICIAN
PT (possibly fulltime). Needed for an established orthopedic physical therapy clinic in MI. Will train. Must be flexible. Fax resume to 734-542-9790 or jansenpt@yahoo.com

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH
Part time leading to fulltime. Exp preferred. Call
313-541-2886 Ask for Julie

RECEPTIONIST
Westland Urologists
Well Established/
Expanding practice
FT w/Benefits. 2 yrs **Medical Office Exp. Req'd**
Fax Resume 248-788-0011

RECEPTIONIST/SCHEDULER
Multi physician office needs receptionist/scheduler for full-time position. Must have excellent phone skills and pleasant personality. Exp req. Please mail resume to HR, 25899 W. 12 Mile Ste 200, Southfield 48034

RN
Part time. Farmington Hills Area. Pediatric experience.
Fax 248-788-4297

RN, LPN, or Medical Assistant
With Experience, needed for GROWING dermatology practice in Ann Arbor/ Plymouth area. Full-Time, exc. pay & benefits. Email or Fax Resume to:
a2derm@aol.com
(734) 996-8767

RN/LPN/CMA
Full or part time for W. Bloomfield allergy practice. Fax resume to 248-626-2248

RN/LPN/MA
Bloomfield Hills
Busy Pediatric Practice
FT & PT w/Benefits
Pediatric Experience Required
Fax Resume 248-788-0011

SURGICAL BOARDER
Livonia Orthopedic practice. Must be an experienced surgical boarder. Email to: oeresume@hometownlife.com Ref Box #1457

TECHNICIAN/AIDE Fulltime position. Physical therapy clinic in Farmington Hills. No exp. needed. Training provided. Call Micheal 248-442-2020

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

BAR & WAIT STAFF
Full or part-time. Days & Nights. Swim wear attire required. (734) 421-7744

BUDDY'S PIZZA
Now Taking Applications
Part Time AM Cashier
Premium wages, flexible schedules, 401K, discounts and medical insurance.
Apply at: 3637 W. Maple Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
248-645-0300

BURGER RESTAURANT
In Farmington Hills needs help. Restaurant exp. a must. $7-8 per hr. 734-578-7189

COOKS AND SERVERS
Waltonwood at Carriage Park, a Luxury Senior Apartment Community in Canton, is in need of Cooks to prepare home style cooking and dining room servers. The ideal candidate will have experience in fine dining and restaurant cooking. Flexible Hours and Excellent Benefits. E.O. E. Please fax resumes to 734-844-3060 attn: administrator

HOLIDAY RECRUITMENT

Do you hire extra help for the holidays?

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

YULE LOVE!

$46 per inch
3 inch minimum

Save 20% on each day after the first run when you commit to more than one day!

OE08480035

For more information or to place your ad, please call:
800-579-7355
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Make sure you ask for this special rate - Holiday Recruitment Ad only!

Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 "High —"
5 Green veggie
9 Pause fillers
12 Tony's cousin
13 Meadow browsers
14 Fair-hiring letters
15 — amandine
16 Browses, these days
18 Prime years
20 Juneau's st.
21 A Gershwin
22 "So long" (hyph.)
26 Age, as cheese
29 Truckers' radios
30 Philosopher — -tzu
31 Computer owner
32 Float along
33 Like a neat lawn
34 Southern st.
35 Underwater shocker
36 Chickens
37 Feigning
39 Voight of films
40 Commercial
41 TV receptors
45 50-50 proposition (2 wds.)
49 MOMA artist
50 Python or wrap
51 Court summons
52 Relieve
53 Diner sandwich
54 Perm follow-ups
55 Hazard

DOWN

1 Grab a snack
2 Wind instrument
3 Too smooth
4 Poorer
5 Safari country
6 Totally amazes
7 Hire out
8 Attempts
9 Always, to Byron
10 Ump's cousin
11 Call for help letters
17 Luau strummer
19 Prince Valiant's son
22 Consumer protection org.
23 Hit the horn
24 Ketch's cousin
25 Practically forever
26 Lion's mane
27 "La — Bonita" (Madonna song)
28 Mountain top
29 Army off.
32 Implore
33 Nickname
35 Provides funds
36 Gift-tag word
38 Holm or Fleming
39 Kids around
41 Mine opening
42 Asian mountains
43 What you pay at sales
44 Go in search of
45 Diminish
46 TV knob
47 Pack it away
48 Rapper Dr. —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	I	G		C	R	A	F	T		H	U	D
L	O	O		R	E	L	A	X		M	H	O
U	N	O		A	J	A	R		L	O	F	T
		N	O	T	E	S		F	A			
S	F		S	E	C		B	A	R	B	I	E
A	L	E		S	T	R	A	N	D	I	N	G
L	A	S	S		I	O	C		S	L	U	G
V	I	S	I	G	O	T	H	S		E	R	E
O	R	E	G	O	N		E	M	U		E	D
			M	P		P	L	U	T	O		
A	I	D	A		T	R	O	T		V	O	N
I	V	E		E	V	E	R	T		A	L	I
L	Y	E		S	A	S	S	Y		L	E	X

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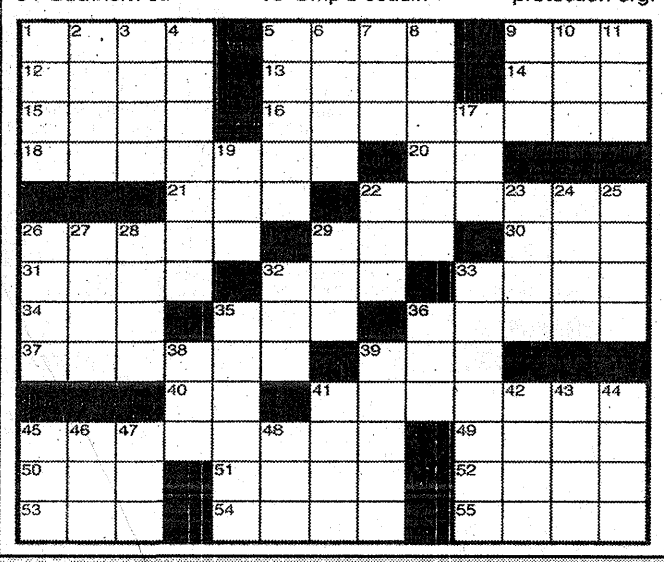

SUDOKU

4				3	6			
	6		9	7	2			1
					5	8		3
			7		3	9		
2	4	3		9	8		1	
9	7						8	4
								5
5	3	9		6	4	2		
8	1			2	7			

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

FETTUCCINE
LASAGNA
LINGUINE
MANICOTTI
RAVIOLI
RIGATONI
SPAGHETTI
TORTELLINI
VERMICELLI

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

S P A G H E T T I V
F E T T U C C I N E
R I G A T O N I W R
A L S D C V U I O M
T O R T E L L I N I
S I E S X T H N M C
A V L I N G U I N E
L A S A G N A Y R L
W R E R G H I P T L
E M A N I C O T T I

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SUDOKU

8	1	4	5	2	7	6	3	9
5	3	9	6	4	2	7	8	1
6	2	7	3	8	9	1	4	5
9	7	6	2	5	1	3	8	4
2	4	3	6	9	8	5	1	7
1	8	5	7	4	3	9	2	6
7	9	2	4	1	5	8	6	3
3	6	8	9	7	2	4	5	1
4	5	1	8	3	6	7	9	2

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SEEK AND FIND

I	T	T	O	C	I	N	A	M	E
L	T	P	I	H	G	R	E	R	W
L	Y	R	A	N	G	A	S	A	L
E	N	I	N	G	U	I	N	L	A
C	N	M	H	N	T	X	S	E	I	S
I	N	I	L	L	E	T	R	O	T
M	O	I	O	U	V	C	D	S	A
W	I	N	O	T	A	G	I	R
E	N	I	C	C	U	T	T	E	F
I	T	T	G	H	E	T	T	A	P	S

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careerbuilder.com™

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

COOK
PT, Nights & Weekends
Apply at
Starting Gate Saloon
135 N. Center St., Northville

Food Service
Great People,
Real Opportunities
PRODUCTION COOK
Chartwells School Dining Service is seeking a Production Cook in the Detroit surrounding area. Duties include cooking and ordering. Culinary background and prior exp. required Mandatory background check.
FAX RESUME TO: (248) 347-4296, EOE

SERVER
Exp. professional server with wine knowledge. Full or part time. Good work environment.
FIAMMA GRILLE
in Plymouth 734-416-9340
Ask for Patrick or Gayle

WAITRESS'S & HOSTESSES
OLGAS KITCHEN
NOW HIRING in West Bloomfield. Apply in person at 6655 Orchard Lake Rd or Call 248-855-3630

Help Wanted-Health & Fitness 5100

FITNESS TOGETHER Is looking for Qualified Personal Trainers for W. Bloomfield & Novi locations. E-mail resume to: boosadikot@fitnesstogether.com

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE
ON-LINE CAREER SEMINARS
Tuesday 7-8 pm
Email
jdzon@GMACKee.com
For a Webex Invitation
- Retirement Plan
- GM vehicle discounts
- GM vendor discounts
- Major relocation accounts
- Company referral
- Commission splits from 50-100%
- GM health insurance discount

Jackie Scherbaty
jscherbaty@gmackee.com
(734) 564-6153

Restaurant

Unique Restaurant Looking for Unique People...
california PIZZA KITCHEN
Join the California Pizza Kitchen team at our Farmington Hills location for fun hourly opportunities!
★ **NOW HIRING** ★
Servers
CPK team members enjoy:
- Flexible Schedules
- Great Pay
- Excellent Training
- Great Health Benefits

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Ph: (248) 737-5912
www.cpk.com
EOE

REAL-ESTATE at it's best!
Observer & Eccentric

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE!
All Real Estate COMPANIES ARE NOT THE SAME
If you are serious about entering the business and profession of Real Estate Sales, you owe it to yourself to investigate why we are #1 in the market place and best suited to insure your success. Call
LILLIAN SANDERSON
@ (734) 392-6000
OR **ALISSA NEAD**
@ (734) 459-6000
COLDWELL BANKER
PREFERRED REALTORS

AUTO SALES NEW & USED
CRESTWOOD DODGE
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Earn ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS each day with tested, proven, easily duplicatable "Three Step Success System" that is creating MILLIONAIRES1 24 hour info line 800-887-1897. Change your life. Call now.

FAMILY FAVORITE Edy's Grand Ice Cream
Edy's Grand Ice Cream, has built a successful business On the principles that one person can make a difference and that excellent people produce excellent results!

We are currently hiring for the following position:

Route Sales Representative
- All candidates must have a valid CDL B or higher
- Strong communication skills and customer relations skills
- Route sales /DSD and retail experience is preferred
- Must be able to lift up to 50lbs
- Must be able to work in sub zero climate conditions

COVER LETTER w/RESUME E-MAILED OR SENT TO:
Edy's Grand Ice Cream
Attention: Tina Weber
P.O. Box 7002
Novi, Michigan 48375
tmweber@edys.com

MUST RECEIVE ALL INQUIRIES BY Friday December 8th.
WE OFFER COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT PACKAGE & SALARY.
All Applicants will be required to pass a Drug Screen & Background Check. We are an EEO Employer

Established Construction Company Specializing in **Insurance** restoration is hiring **Salespeople** with the following requirements, extensive construction knowledge, above average computer skills. Xactimate exp. a plus. Salary, commission, benefits, company vehicle & phone.
Please e-mail resumes to ajawad@comcast.net or fax to 248-414-6836

INSIDE SALES
For heavy duty truck parts. Exp. necessary, great hours. $40-70k per yr. 734-786-3757.

REAL ESTATE SALES
An elite residential real estate firm seeks to add a limited number of full time professionals to its highly skilled team of sales consultants. If you would like to be considered, visit us at **www.WeirManuel.com** and click on "try our career evaluator" and take our online interactive assessment. We will contact you with the results.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK FOR YOU! 1-800-579-SELL

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR:
Modular home builder to oversee and train sales managers to meet sales goals and complete all marketing functions. B.A. in business/marketing 2+ yrs experience, good knowledge of residential sales, construction & development, financial reporting, finance and mortgage experience.
E-mail resume:
dcooper@prebestohomes.com

SALES PROFESSIONAL
No exp. necessary. Must be mature, responsible & motivated. Top compensation. Good professional work environment. For used car lot in Garden Cty. Apply to
Jim Daniel 734-427-1550 or Fax 734-427-7006

Senior Community Sales/Marketing
Luxury Senior Community in the Canton area is seeking an EXPERIENCED Sales and Marketing Consultant to fill a full time position working with seniors. Candidates must have an affinity for working with senior population. Must be able to work some weekends and have good computer skills. We offer competitive wages and very generous commissions.
Please mail resume to:
P.O. Box 255005
West Bloomfield, MI.
48325-3005.
Attn:Leasing-Senior

TELESALES PROFESSIONALS
Large Ad Agency is seeking a sales exec and a prospecting exec. Resume required, competitive salary + commission. Fax resume to 248-354-0069

Help Wanted-Part-Time 5200

AVON NEEDS
Representatives Now!
Call 734-425-1947

Help Wanted-Domestic 5240

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Job Opportunities 5310

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Job Opportunities 5310

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Position Wanted 5340

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Childcare Needed 5380

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Business Opportunities 574

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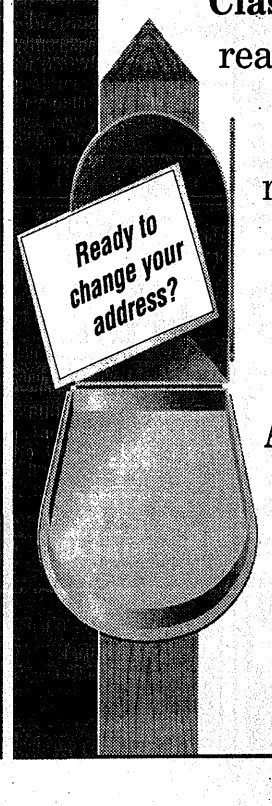

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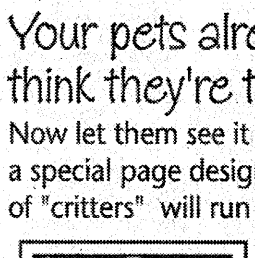

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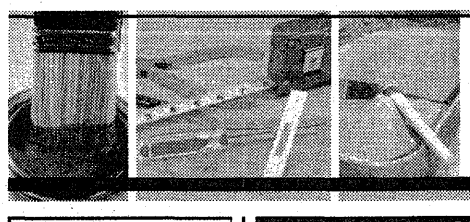

Home and Service Guide

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0001-2450 Home & Service Guide



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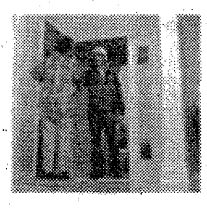

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Market Place

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6000-6980 Announcements



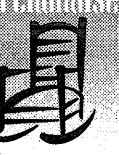
Announcements & Notices 6200

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association shall be held at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland on Dec. 12, 2006 at 8pm for the election of directors & such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

Health, Nutrition, Weight Loss 6420

PRESCRIPTIONS LESS THAN CANADA! MONTH: Flormax $27.00, Fosamax $16.00, Plavix $45.00, Singulair $51.00, Norvase $26.00, Advair $50.00, Evista $32.00, Viagra $2.75. Global Medicines 1-866-634-0720 www.globalmedicines.net

7000-7780 Merchandise



Absolutely Free 7000

Christmas tree 9 foot artificial. No lights. (734) 455-2445

7015 - Party-Events 7015

THE LADIES OF GRACE Cordially invite you to a Christmas Victorian Tea Sat. Dec. 9th, 12noon-3pm. A traditional, Victorian luncheon will be served & you will be blessed w/a devotion & reading to encourage & uplift you. Held at Grace Baptist Church, 28440 Lyndon, Livonia, MI 48154. Please RSVP no later than Dec 6th to Helen Andrews, 313-532-8374. Victorian dress requested, but not mandatory. A donation would be appreciated.

Antiques/Collectibles 7020

DINING ROOM SET English Barley Twist Dining Room Table and 4 Chairs. Oak, 42" x 42" with 2-18" self-storing leaves, chairs with cushions, & table pads. Very good condition. $650 - 734-667-2966

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Is the stuff in your house piling up? Call Classifieds today! 1-800-579-7355

Auction Sales 7060

MIDWEST MERCHADISING Huge Estate Tag Sale Thurs & Fri, Dec. 7th & 8th Doors open 9am until 5pm (Numbers at 8:00am) **Estate is located in Detroit The Boston-Edison District** For photos & location go to midwestautoauction.com, then click estates OR call 734-462-5938 after 5pm Dec. 6th for location

REAL ESTATE AUCTION Large 4 Bdrm Ranch on Approx 2.93 Acres Antiques, Glassware & China, Pottery, Book Collection, Sterling Silver Jewelry, Vintage Car Dealer Booklets, License Plates, Tools, Furniture, Household, Hudson & Model A Car Parts More! 5765 MUNGER ROAD YPSILANTI, MI. Sat., Dec. 9th, @ 10 AM Estate of Ruthada and Charles LisKow Complete details with pics @ Braunandhelmer.com BRAUN & HELMER AUCTION SERVICE David Helmer 734-368-1733

Moving Sales 7130

CANTON- 250 S. Lotz, S/ Cherryhill. Fri & Sat. 12/ 8 & 9, 9-5. Antiques, furniture, sewing machines, books, etc.

NOVI ESTATE SALE - Whole Home Filled! Dec. 7, 8, 9, 10 (9am-6pm). 26893 Roric, Novi, off Haggerty, between 12 Mile and Grand River.

REDFORD- Sun. 12/3 12-5 & Thurs. 12/7, 12-8. 24476 Schoolcraft. Violin, power tools, 10spd Ross, r/c airplanes/model railroad, fishing & camping gear, chemical glassware, kitchenware, etc.

Household Goods 7160

ATTENTION READERS! Do you have a couch, crib, dinette set or other type of merchandise that you would like to sell!! Call us today & ask about our Classified Merchandise Special of **$65!** Call us Today! 800-579-7355 Observer & Eccentric **It's All About YOU!** Some restrictions May apply

BED - 1 Absolute all brand new blue PILLOW TOP QUEEN MATTRESS SET. In pkg. $100. 734-891-8481

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BED - 1 ABSOLUTE ALL BRAND NEW PILLOW-TOP Queen Mattress Set in plastic $95.Can deliver 734-231-6622

BED - 1 SET, 3 PIECE KING PILLOW TOP MATTRESS New in bag, only $195. Deliverable, 734-891-8481

Bedroom set (Queen) Solid, dark wood. $195/neg. Misc. furniture. Best offer. Must sell! 248-345-6749

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BUNK BEDS- dark wood- $125; Deep Chest Freezer-big, moderate condition-$125. 248-789-0515

Household Goods 7160

DESK- Rolltop oak, lg size, New. $450; CHEST of drawers, good cond. $75. Round Oak Table-54", very old. exc. cond.-$475. 248-651-7674

DINING ROOM table w/2 leaves, 8 chairs & china cabinet. Classic Victorian. Cherry. $1800. 248-651-7946

DINING SET - Brown mahogany, ball & claw Chippendale table, 6 chairs, semi-antique, 44"x60" opens to 92", pads. Matching china. Pristine condition $2800. 248-474-4667

DINING TABLE 84" oblong pedestal, walnut, 3 leaves, 6 chairs, lighted china cabinet. $450/best. 734-340-5888

FURNITURE - Drexel "Cross Country" 3 pc. wall unit: 2 lighted curios w/glass doors & 1 open shelf unit $800; sofa & lamp tables $125 each. All light wood & exc cond. Oval pedestal dining table w/6 chairs, pattern grain light wood, opens to 100"x44", Art Deco style $900. Other misc. furniture & artwork. 248-477-6836.

FURNITURE - Oak pedestal dining table (72" with leaves) & 6 chairs, $500. Oak entertainment center with lights & mirrors, (holds 32" TV) $350. 734-729-6814, 734-765-3915

HUTCH - Mint cond! Hardrock maple, 2 door buffet & detachable cabinet with 2 shelves. $100. 734-455-1811

LEAVING STATE Must sell will sacrifice our houseful of beautiful near new furniture. Items include, cherry 10 piece kitchen dining set, cost over $4400 will sacrifice for $2250. Also have cherry 12 piece king size master bdrm. ste., cherry ten piece queen size bdrm. ste., two 3 piece cherry coffee table sets, two grandfather clocks, cherry sofa tables, 5 piece cherry pub set. 5 piece cherry game set, Mirrored pedestal plant stand. Gorgeous 11 piece cherry formal dining room ste. Many decorative lamps, large executive cherry & Burrel office desk, pictures, silk trees, mirrors, and etc. All less than 3 months old and in perfect condition. Must be sold as soon as possible. **Please call 248-293-0744**

MISC. Washer & dryer $300, oak bunk bed $200, cabinet TV stand. Anytime, (734) 326-7485

MISC. Double loft bed, white, almost new; single/futon bunk bed & 10' Christmas tree. Call after 5pm 734-710-0734

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MOVING SALE 2 couches, 2 full beds, chest, washing machine, dining table, snowblower. Best offers. 906-284-0374

POOL TABLE 4 x 8 Brunswick reproduction "Madison". Leather pockets, beautiful wood and new felt $2000. Grosse Pointe. 248-709-1224

TUB , CLAW & BALL Porcelain, 4.5 ft. long, 30" high. No chips, great condition. $300/best offer. (313) 510-7900

Appliances 7180

APPLIANCES - Kenmore fridge 18 cubic, 31"x63", $150. Kenmore washer, heavy-duty, 90 series, $100. Whirlpool dryer, 1 yr old, quiet dry, super capacity, $200. 734-459-0406

Bargain Buys 7200

MISC- Cherry dining rm set (table, 2 leafs, 6 chairs, lighted china cabinet) $500. Assort. household items & furniture. 313-588-0147

MISC- Home Gym w/weights. Good cond. $100/best; Microwave (works) $40/best 734-421-3815

Exercise/Fitness Equipment 7215

EXERCISE BIKE Recumbent, 1 yr old, $75. Roadmaster treadmill $75. Very good cond. 734-591-9182

STATIONARY BIKE (Life Fitness) 6 yrs old. Excellent condition, $100. 248-478-0441

TREADMILL (Spirit Eagle) 6 yrs old, excellent condition. $100. 248-478-0441

Building Materials 7220

BRAZILIAN CHERRY Pre-finished wood floors. From 2.5" planks to 5" wide. $2.99 per sq. ft. Joe 248-640-2993

Video Games, Tapes, Movies 7360

READERS ATTENTION! Do you have a Play Station I, stereo, instruments or any other type of merchandise that you would like to sell!! Call us today & ask about our Classified Merchandise Special of **$65!** Call us Today! 800-579-7355 Observer & Eccentric **It's All About YOU!** Some restrictions May apply

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

ALL NATURAL LUXURY BODY CARE FOR ALL Bath and body, skin care, hard care and more. Enter coupon: NAPS during checkout and save 15% on your entire order! **FREE SHIPPING** on order over $75! Visit our site at www.BestBathStore.com to see our products.

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GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT OFFERS Save up to 57% on Omaha Steaks and get 3 free gifts. *FREE Disney (tm) books * Free 1 month sample of Hoodia *2007 Entertainment (tm) books with $25 gift certificate with purchase! Additional unique offers! Bonus gifts! Get paid to try select items! www.clickcashbackoffers.com

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

I'm dreaming of the Holidays... Indulge others with the gift of Arbonne. Color, nutrition, weight loss & aromatherapy. 50% off Holiday gift sets, FREE gift wrapping. Order by 12/10 for holiday shipping. For product into check out www.yourhealthychoices.myarbonne.com to order call 207-748-3140 or email bettydesisto@hotmail.com

Inexpensive NOVELTY Gift idea! Christmas Santa Mini CD (Can be used as an ornament or wrapping accessory too!) *NOT AVAILABLE IN STORES!* Limited time offer - $7.99! Makes a great teacher gift! You need to see these for yourself! www.customcutmedia.com

Low your monthly payments! Lowerrates.com our FREE service offers debt consolidation, cash-out refinances, credit repair services. Visit LowerCards.com to reduce your credit cards to 0%!

TMX ELMO (2) New in Box, by Dec 15th, Best Offer 313-218-9960

WURLITZER 100 CD Jukebox New York, NY Twin Tower Bubbler $3000/best 734-878-4178

Musical Instruments 7510

ORGAN - LOWREY JUBILEE 32 rhythm styles, 11 orchestral sounds, 10 solo sounds, double keyboard, 10 free lessons. Asking $4500. (734) 722-3233

PIANO Beautiful upright Baldwin w/ bench. $3200. Owner, (734) 326-5513

Sporting Goods 7520

BILLIARD/POOL TABLE New in box, 8'1" slate, K-66 Bumpers, balls, sticks, rack, $850. (734) 732-9338

Wanted to Buy 7540

WANTED: SHOTGUNS, RIFLES, PISTOLS, TOOLS (HAND & POWER). CALL ANYTIME, 586-216-6200

Dogs 7840

AKC ENGLISH BULLDOG PUPPIES males and females, vet checked,shots,9 weeks old, great x-mas gift $1200-$1600 Tel: 734-646-3630

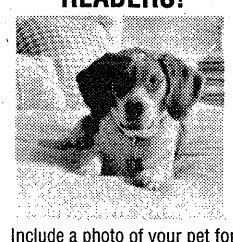


ALAPHA BLUE BLOOD BULL
Dog (Rare). Wonderful temperment, $1000 per pup. Contact Dave: 313-319-4227

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL... 1-800-579-SELL(7355) Observer & Eccentric

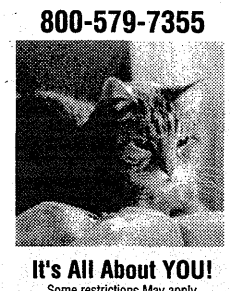
Dogs 7840

ATTENTION READERS!



Include a photo of your pet for only **$1/week** Along w/your classified pet ad.

Call Today for More Information! Observer & Eccentric **800-579-7355**



It's All About YOU! Some restrictions May apply

BEAGLE-PUREBRED. 1 yr. old male to good home, neutered, housebroken. Great with kids. 248-515-7882

GOLDEN RETRIEVER AKC. 5 female. 1 male. Ready for Christmas. $400 ea. 810-639-8052

LABRADOODLE PUPS- 2 litters! 810-895-6355 www.mypuppypalooza.com

LABRADOR MIX Male. Large, brown. 4 yrs. old. Excellent nature. Must relocate. To a good home. 734-729-4918

NEWFOUNDLAND PUPS AKC Ready for Christmas! Blacks & grays avail. Shots, dewormed. $800. 734-560-7299

Dogs 7840



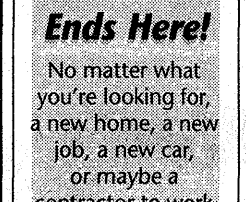
YORKI-POOS Designer Pups, hypo-allergenic, 8 weeks. Parents on site. Small, show quality. $900. 810-385-3432

YORKIE PUPS AKC 1st shots/wormed, 1 male, 1 female, very adorable, playful & loving! Perfect present! $850 - 248-635-2000

YORKIE PUPS AKC, 1st shots/wormed 1 male/1 female, very adorable, playful & loving! Should be about 5 lbs full grown. $850 248-635-2000

YORKIE PUPS- AKC 1st shots/wormed 1 male 1 female, very adorable, playful & loving. Perfect present! $850. 248-635-2000

Your Search Ends Here! No matter what you're looking for, a new home, a new job, a new car, or maybe a contractor to work on that new home... your search ends here in **Your Classifieds!**



1-800-579-SELL (7355) *"It's All About Results!"*

Household Pets 7880

ADORABLE PUPPIES! Westland Petland **Pets Make Life Better!**

PUPPY SALE!! Many popular breeds including: Akita, Beagle, Brussels Griffon, Boxer, Chihuahuas, Coc-A-Poo, Dachshunds, Elkhound, English Bulldog, French Bull-dog, Golden Retriever, Keeshund, King Char-les Cavalier, Miniature Pinscher, Miniature Schnauzer, Old English Sheepdog, Norwich Terrier, Papillon, Pomeranian, Mixes, Pug, Rat Terrier, Shiba Inu, Silky, Shih Tzu, Westie, Yorkie, etc..

Parrots: Blue & Gold, African Gray, Senegal, Goffin, etc..

Tropical Fish Sale

All puppies come with: 3 year limited Health warranty 3 free vet office visits Complimentary spaying/neutering Micro chipping

Petland Across from Westland Mall (734) 367-9906 ***www.petland.com***

GUINEA PIG. - 1 yr. old male, tamed, cage & supplies. Good home. $50/best. 248-444-8797

Up the creek without a paddle?

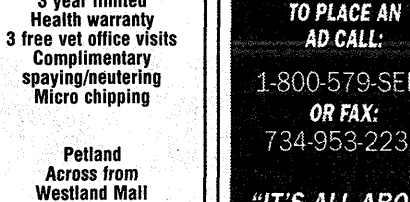


Get power!

Whether your buying or selling...it's quick and easy to find what you want in the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

TO PLACE AN AD CALL: 1-800-579-SELL **OR FAX:** 734-953-2232 **"IT'S ALL ABOUT RESULTS!"** *Internet: www.hometownlife.com*

Do you have.....



FIREWOOD FOR SALE?

With the higher energy costs, more and more people are converting to wood heat. With the cold temperatures right around the corner, the time to advertise firewood for sale is now!

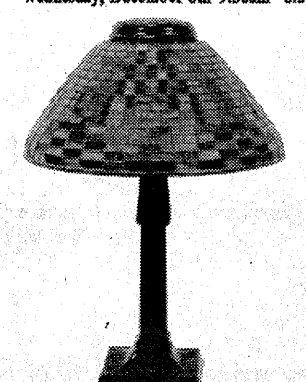
Place a **4 line ad** and run it **4 times for $75** or run it one time for $20.

If a display ad is what you need, you can run a **2 column x 2" ad 4 times for $150.**

Call 1-800-579-7355
THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
Place your ad TODAY!
0E08477629

Du Mouchelles
Auction at the Gallery

Auction Dates: Friday, December 8th at 6:30pm. Saturday, December 9th at 11:00am; Sunday, December 10th at Noon.
Exhibition Dates: Friday, December 1st; Saturday, December 2nd; Tuesday, December 5th; Thursday, December 7th from 9:30am - 5:30pm; **Wednesday, December 6th 9:30am - 8:30pm**



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FEATURING PROPERTIES FROM THE ESTATES OF KATHLEEN DEVLIEG AND JOHN BLOOM OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS; ALBIN KUCZYNSKI, GROSSE POINTE SHORES. OVER 1800 LOTS.

FINE ART APPRAISERS & AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1927
409 E. JEFFERSON AVE. DETROIT
TEL: (313)963-6255 FAX: (313)963-8199
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Is the stuff in your house piling up? Call Classifieds today! 1-800-579-7355



Real Estate

Observer & Eccentric HOMETOWNlife.com

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3050.....Birmingham
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3060.....Brighton
3070.....Byron
3080.....Canton
3090.....Clarkston
3095.....Clawson
3100.....Cohoctah
3110.....Dearborn
3115.....Dearborn Hgts
3120.....Detroit
3130.....Chelsea
3135.....Dexter
3140.....Farmington
3145.....Farmington Hills
3150.....Fenton
3155.....Ferndale
3160.....Fowlerville
3165.....Franklin
3170.....Garden City
3180.....Grosse Pointe
3190.....Hamburg
3200.....Hartland
3205.....Hazel Park & Madision Hgts
3210.....Highland
3220.....Holly
3230.....Howell
3234.....Huntington Woods
3235.....Keego Harbor
3236.....Lake Orion
3238.....Lathrup Village
3240.....Linden
3250.....Livonia
3260.....Milford
3265.....Monroe
3270.....New Hudson
3280.....Northville
3290.....Novi
3300.....Oak Grove
3305.....Oak Park
3310.....Orion Township
3315.....Orchard Lake
3318.....Oxford
3320.....Perry
3340.....Pinckney
3345.....Pleasant Ridge
3347.....Plymouth
3350.....Redford
3360.....Rochester
3370.....Royal Oak
3380.....Salem-Salem Township
3390.....Southfield-Lathrup
3400.....South Lyon
3405.....Stockbridge-Unadilla-Gregory
3410.....Troy
3415.....Union Lake
3420.....Walled Lake
3423.....Waterford
3424.....Wayne
3430.....Webberville
3440.....West Bloomfield
3445.....Westland
3450.....White Lake
3460.....Whitmore Lake
3470.....Williamston
3480.....Wixom-Commerce
3490.....Ypsilanti
3500.....Genessee County
3510.....Ingham County
3515.....Lapeer County
3520.....Livingston County
3530.....Macomb County
3540.....Oakland County
3550.....Shiawassee County
3560.....Washtenaw County
3570.....Wayne County
3580.....Lakefront/Waterfront Homes
3590.....Other Suburban Homes
3600.....Out of State Homes/Property
3610.....Country Homes
3620.....Real Estate Auction
3630.....Farms/Horse Farms
3640.....Real Estate Services
3700.....New Home Builders
3710.....Apartments For Sale
3720.....Condos
3730.....Duplexes & Townhouses
3740.....Manufactured Homes
3750.....Mobil Homes
3755.....Commercial/Retail For Sale
3760.....Homes Under Construction
3770.....Lakefront Property
3780.....Lakes & River Resort Property
3790.....Northern Property
3800.....Resort & Vacation Property
3805.....Florida Homes & Property
3810.....Southern Property
3820.....Lots & Acreage/Vacant
3830.....Time Share
3840.....Lease/Option To Buy
3850.....Mortgage/Land Contracts
3860.....Money To Loan
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Commercial /Industrial 3900 through 3980

3900.....Business Opportunities
3910.....Business/Professional Building
3920.....Commercial/Retail For Lease
3930.....Income Property For Sale
3935.....Industrial & Warehouse For Lease
3940.....Industrial & Warehouse For Sale
3950.....Office Business for Lease
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3960.....Commercial & Industrial For Lease
3970.....Investment Property
3980.....Land

1-800-579-SELL

3000-3890 Real Estate For Sale

Open Houses 3030

CANTON
OPEN SUN 1-4
3495 Nigara
Desirable Central Park South Sub, spotless, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bath colonial. Family room w/fireplace, hardwood floor in entry and kitchen.. Master suite w/vaulted ceiling & large private bath, second floor laundry, 2 car attach garage. $294,999.
Susan Olson
313-378-6468
www.pruselectre.com
Prudential Select Real Estate
Prudential Select Real Estate
1355 Canton Center Rd.

DETROIT. Boston Blvd Classic Queen Anne Tudor features carved mantel, stairway lighted by 2-story Tiffany style stained glass, 8 bdrms, 3 Fireplaces, 2 Full and 2 Half Baths and a large open entry. $197,000
Call Linda: 248-330-7477
MAX BROOCK REALTORS INC SINCE 1895
1821 W. Maple

Open Houses 3030

CANTON
OPEN SUN 12-1:30
1480 Walnut Ridge Circle
Updated home, 3 bdrms, formal dining, living room & family room w/fireplace. Huge kitchen/ dining area. $234,900. Great Home! Great Price!
Lisa Raths
517-202-1331
Century 21 Looking Glass
1-800-447-5589

FARMINGTON HILLS
OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM
29431 GLENOAKS
E/ORCHARD LK, S off 13 Mile Brownstone END-UNIT built in 1999. Bright open floor plan, vaulted ceilings. 3 bed, 2 bath with tons of UPGRADES like: tile baths, gas fireplace, recessed lighting, tile flooring, freshly painted interior. You'll love Master bedroom w/huge walk-in closet, bsmnt storage, attached 1 car gar, low association fee incl. water-$199,000
CALL D.DUTTON
248-390-3663, 248-647-6400
Prudential Cranbrook Realtors

LATHRUP VILLAGE. Gorgeous Louise Lathrup California Bungalow with 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, Hardwood Floors, Partially finished basement, 2 car attached garage, fireplace and more! $189,900
Call Linda: 248-330-7477
MAX BROOCK REALTORS INC SINCE 1895
1821 W. Maple

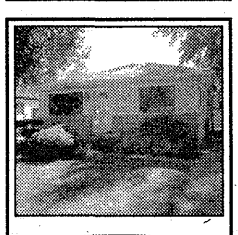
hometownlife.com

OE08492185
WESTLAND
By Appointment

CLEAN/WELL-KEPT
....3 bedroom neutral ranch. Full partially finished basement, 2.5 car garage. Wallside windows, roof shingles, and driveway replaced in 02.
$125,000
Will consider rent to own $1,100.
CALL...
DEBRA ESCH
(734) 972-8884
Real Estate One
555 Briarwood Ct., St. 100, Ann Arbor

Use your mouse to find your house. Real Estate at
www.hometownlife.com

Open Houses 3030



Just Reduced!

LIVONA
OPEN SUN 1-4
18564 GILLMAN
(S. off 7 Mi./W. of Inkster). Freshly painted, 3 Bdrm, ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, hardwood floors. $147,500. ($2000 Bonus to purchaser at closing). Immediate occup. Bring All Offers. Call
Linda, 248-316-0243
Renaissance Realty
(248) 477-0070

NOVI-OPEN SUN. 1-4
180 New Court
S/ 14 Mile, E/ East Lake Dr.
Move In Condition!
3 bdrm, 2½ baths, open floor plan ranch with vaulted ceilings, 2½ car garage, oversized lot. $215,000 or lease/ lease option. $1295/mo.
SANDY DONER
(734) 751-4800
sandydoner@yahoo.com
Remerica Hometown III
6231 Canton Ctr., Canton

PLYMOUTH
OPEN SUN. 1-4PM
1199 S. SHELDON
Bldg. G Unit 45. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath. Updated kitchen and bath, 55 + complex. Why Rent? $75,000.
Jill Adair Ginder
734-634-8104
GMAC RE-1365 S. Main St.

OE08491983
WESTLAND
By Appointment

WELL MAINTAINED
...and tastefully decorated colonial. 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, family room with fireplace, full basement, fenced yard. Off John Hix between Cherry Hill and Palmer. 2612341
$188,000
CALL...
DEBRA ESCH
(734) 972-8884
Real Estate One
555 Briarwood Ct., St. 100, Ann Arbor

www.hometownlife.com

Open Houses 3030

WARREN. This quad-level features 4 bdrm, 1 bath, Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Finished Bsmt, 2 car attached garage, Updated Kitchen, and so much more! $159,900
Call Linda: 248-330-7477
MAX BROOCK REALTORS INC SINCE 1895
1821 W. Maple

Birmingham 3050

TUDOR STYLE-1712 OAK AVE
4 bdrm located on corner lot. Many updates & original woodwork throughout. Must see! Seller motivated, looking at all terms.
Crossroads Financial and Real Estate Services
(877) 750-1433

Canton 3080

CANTON
OPEN SUN 1-4
3495 Nigara
Desirable Central Park South Sub, spotless, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bath colonial. Family room w/fireplace, hardwood floor in entry and kitchen.. Master suite w/vaulted ceiling & large private bath, second floor laundry, 2 car attach garage. $294,999.
Susan Olson
313-378-6468
www.pruselectre.com
Prudential Select Real Estate
Prudential Select Real Estate
1355 Canton Center Rd.

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Canton 3080

CANTON
OPEN SUN 12-1:30
1480 Walnut Ridge Circle
Updated home, 3 bdrms, formal dining, living room & family room w/fireplace. Huge kitchen/ dining area. $234,900. Great Home! Great Price!
Lisa Raths
517-202-1331
Century 21 Looking Glass
1-800-447-5589

NO BANKS NEEDED
Brick ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, finished bsmt, A/C, deck, 2 car, great area! 248-921-2432

Commerce 3105

By Owner

UNION LAKE-FRONT
2 or 3 bdrm, 1 bath. Living room, dining room, porch. Fireplace, bsmt, 2 car garage. Great view! Sewer & water hook-up available. Close to M-5. As-Is, $595,000. (248) 363-3187

Farmington Hills 3145

GREAT LOOKING COLONIAL!
27700 Westcott Crescent Cir.
11 and Inkster Area
Nice lot, 4 bdrms, 2,000 sq.ft.
Only $199,900
Audrey, (248) 345-1268
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
36642 Five Mile Rd.

MAKE A DEAL ON THIS HOUSE EXTRAORDINAIRE!
Ranch with fully finished walkout on 3 acres, 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, indoor swimming pool & spa! 5 car garage! Asking $535,500. MLS #26196117.
Century 21 Today, Inc.
(248) 855-2000

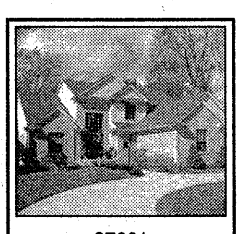
Garden City 3170

GORGEOUS
Close to Farmington Elementary - great location. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, finished bsmt, garage. All updated top to bottom - just move in! $149,999
DENISE McGUIGAN
734-564-4310
REMERICA HOMETOWN III
6231 N. Canton Center Rd.

HALF ACRE LOT
3 bdrm, 1.5 bath Cape Cod. Finished basement, 2 car garage. Updates. $179,500
FINISHED BASEMENT
3 bdrm, 2 bath brick ranch w/ remodeled kitchen & 2+ car garage. $124,900
Century 21 Castelli
734-525-7900

"We Work For You!"
hometownlife.com

Lathrup Village 3238

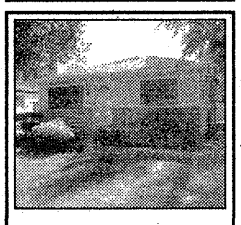


27601
MORNINGSIDE PLZ.
High end furniture included with the sale of this 4 bdrm, Brick/Cedar, 1995 colonial. Granite kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, finished bsmt, large lot, w/deck. A "TRUE" TURN KEY! $389,500.
BOB WELTMAN
Real Estate One
248-408-5171-Cell
25800 Northwestern Hwy.

Livonia 3250

By Owner
AN HONEST STEAL!
5 Mile & Farmington
3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car attached garage. 2500 sq. ft. tri-level. $1500 mo; or buy $149,900.
(248) 388-2444

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Beautiful setting backing to woods. 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath ranch, attach garage, finished bsmt, many updates. 14660 Yale. $189,000. 734 462-0714



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18564 GILLMAN
(S. off 7 Mi./W. of Inkster). Freshly painted, 3 Bdrm, ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, hardwood floors. $147,500. ($2000 Bonus to purchaser at closing). Immediate occup. Bring All Offers. Call
Linda, 248-316-0243
Renaissance Realty
(248) 477-0070

Livonia Schools
3 bdrm. brick ranch w/finished bsmt. Call for more info.
Lynn O'Hagan
734-737-2905
Century 21 Town & Country
705 S. Main Plymouth, MI

Livonia 3250

NO BANKS NEEDED
3 bdrm ranch, 1.5 bath, fin. bsmt, sun room, 2 car garage. Terms flexible. 248-921-2432

Continued In The NEXT SECTION

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****

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They selected a Realtor® and looked at a whole lot of listings and—bingo!—they found their next home.

As easy as that.

They never left the house.

They discovered that ***hometownlife.com's*** HOME site is user-friendly, interactive and has tens of thousands of local listings from area Realtors.

Are you looking for a home?

Log on to hometownlife.com and get ready to have a "That's it!" moment.

Your next home is just a click away

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS ONLINE AT

FIND YOUR HOME ON... HOMETOWNlife.com

AREA REALTORS • MORE LOCAL HOMES • MORE LISTED FEATURES • MORE PHOTOS • VIRTUAL TOURS • INTERACT WITH YOUR REALTOR

OE08401474.EPS

New Homes

E (*)

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Sunday, December 3, 2006
Joe Bauman, editor . (248) 901-2563 . jbauman@hometownlife.com
www.hometownlife.com

Berry a sweet choice for young families

The 1,309-square-foot Strawberry (404-42) would make an excellent purchase for the first time homebuyer. For a family with small children, the floor design for the Strawberry offers a substantial amount for your building dollar.

The handsome wood exterior projects a solid permanence and adds greatly to the curb appeal. The covered front porch leads to a recessed entry that has a vaulted ceiling and a roomy coat closet for the convenience of your guests.

To the left of the entry are the sleeping areas. The master suite, for a home this size, is quite spacious and features a large walk-in closet with plenty of shelves, window to the back yard, and a private bathroom.

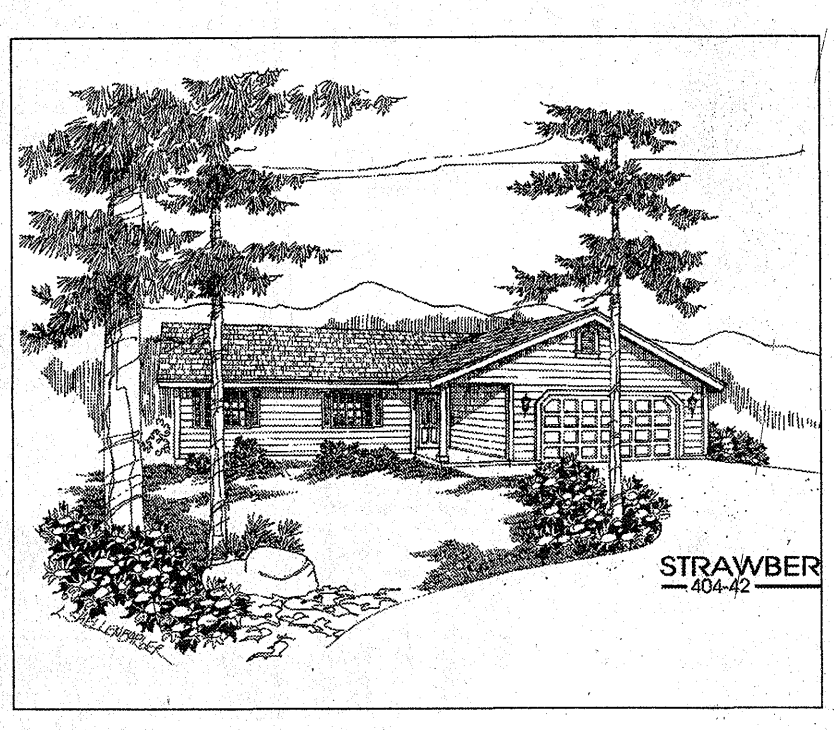
Across the hall, and in perfect proximity for those with youngsters needing close attention, are two good-sized bedrooms. Each has sufficient closet space, and one contains a built-in desk. This room, if not needed for use as a bedroom, could function as a sewing room, den or home office. In the hallway are a full bathroom and a linen closet.

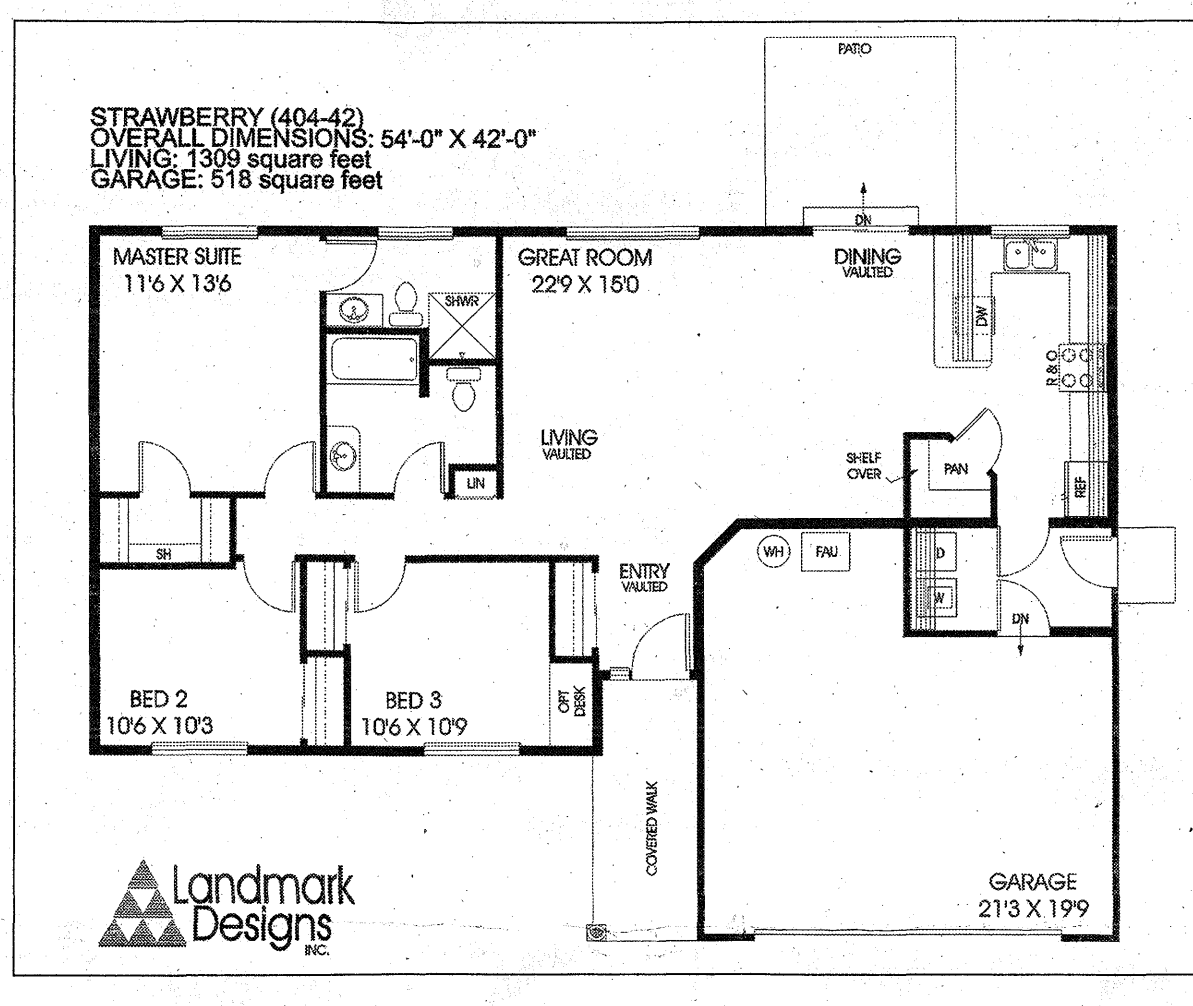
The main section of this floor plan, where family activities and entertaining are centered, is designated as a great room. This combines the living room, family room and dining room into one huge uncluttered expanse. Here you and your visitors can enjoy a movie, board game or good conversation.

The adjacent walk-in kitchen is placed for maximum efficiency. Along with all the appliances, there is a step-in pantry. Meals are easily served in the dining area or, weather permitting, open the sliding glass doors and use the patio.

An added feature is the direct access to the kitchen from the garage via the utility room. This allows you to carry groceries right into the house without worrying about the climate outside.

For a study plan of the STRAWBERRY (404-42), send $15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for you dream home ($5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com.





BRIEFS

Free seminar

A Down Payment Assistance Program Seminar will be 7-8 p.m. every Tuesday, through most of December.

The free seminar is ideal for first-time buyers. Located at 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 107 in Livonia. Please call with any question: (734) 432-0404.

Mortgage information

Colonial Mortgage Corp. will offer free seminars on reverse mortgages at the office at 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Seminars will be held 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 and 14. To learn more, contact Larry Brady at (734) 425-4520 or (800) 260-5484. This seminar is free of charge.

Building Industry Association

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan is offering:

- A builder's license preparation course 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. Presented by NCI Associates, the course prepares students for the Michigan Residential Builder's License Examination. Fee is $200. To register, call (248) 862-1033.
- A "Design/Build" seminar 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. The seminar is part of the Certified Graduate Remodelor series. Chuck Breidenstein of Builder Professional Services Group Inc. will teach the class. Fees are $140 for Remodelors Council members, $160 for BIA members or guests. To register, call (248) 862-1033.
- An Effective Business Management Seminar, "Energy-Efficient Construction: Design, Build and Market," 8:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. Jon Dattilo of IAQ Management Inc. will speak on energy-efficient construction and marketing. Continental breakfast is included. Fees are $20 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, $40 for guests. To register, call (248) 862-1033.
- An Industry Innovation Seminar on flooring 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. A light dinner and dessert are included. Fees are $10 at the door and for no-shows, free for those who register in advance. To register, call (248) 862-1060.

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1, 2, & 3 bedroom condominium homes
Starting from $199,000!
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BIRMINGHAM'S SCENIC GATED COMMUNITY
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1113 North Old Woodward
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Birmingham Theatre
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• Homes ready for upscale standard selections
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1109 LAKE PARK
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Kojaian Homes at its best! Own this quality new construction, open floor plan, 11' ceilings, fieldstone front, kitchen open to great room with doors to patio, pergola & private grounds, each bedroom with bath, wood study with fireplace, Bluestone front porch, lower level with bath & daylight windows, bonus room over 3 car garage. Ask for Melinda Allen.
$2,795,000
OPEN TUESDAY 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
366 WADDINGTON
Wow! Quality renovation and expansion by Mosher Dolan & Cataldo. Extraordinary design by Brian Killian in Prime Bloomfield Village location. Private and spacious master bedroom wing with dual bathrooms and walk-in closets. Dramatic open floor plan for family living. Exceptional kitchen by DeGulio. Traditional elevation with sophisticated style. $1,575,000
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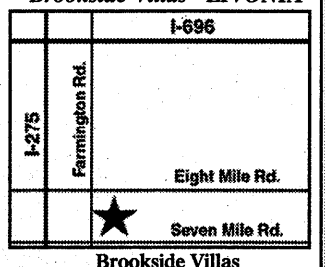
- First Floor Master Bedroom Condominiums
- 1986-2058 Sq Ft
- *Prices Starting from $249,900*
- 2-3 Bedroom Units
- 2 Car Attached Garages

BROOKSIDE VILLAS
Phoenix Home Building Company

Brookside Villas • LIVONIA



Brookside Villas
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Open 11-6 Daily
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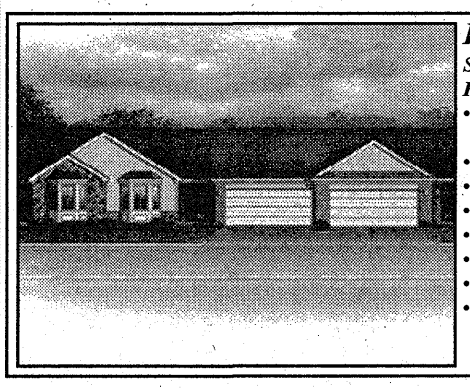

Bromley Park

Starting from the high $160's
Features:
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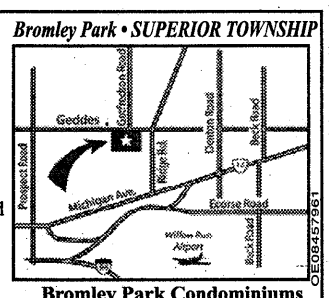
- Private Entrance
- 2-Car Attached garage
- All Kitchen Appliances Included
- Air Conditioning Included
- First Floor Laundry
- Full Basement
- and Much More!

Bromley Park Condominiums

Bromley Park • SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP



Bromley Park Condominiums
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Open Daily 12-5 Closed Thursday
www.bromleyparkcondos.com

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The Uplands

Beautiful New Townhomes in Plymouth Township

Features:
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- Spec Homes Available

Two Models Open Daily 12-6
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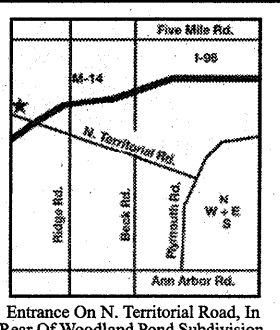

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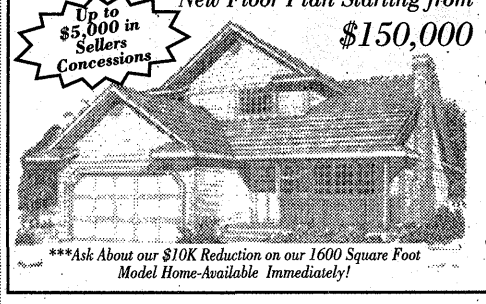

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- 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Bath, Ceramic Tile, Hardwood Floors Standard
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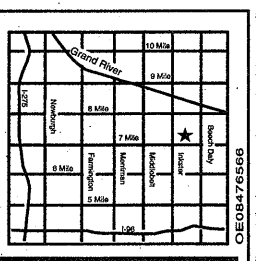

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Contact: (734) 306-6131 for additional information
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Ranch End Units *Starting From* **$161,900**
1,050 Sq. Ft. • 1.5 Baths

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1,550 Sq. Ft. • 2 & 3 Bedrooms With Optional Lofts • 2.5 Baths

Features:
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- Anderson Windows
- Custom Trim Packages

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1:00pm till 5:00pm • Closed Wednesday & Thursday

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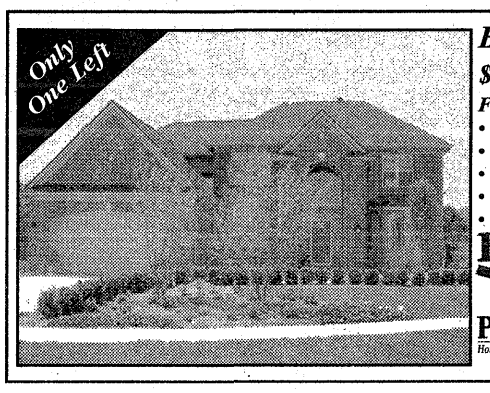

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$339,900

Features:
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- 2550 Sq Ft
- 4 Bedroom
- 2.5 Bath
- 2 Car Attached Garages

BROOKSIDE ESTATES
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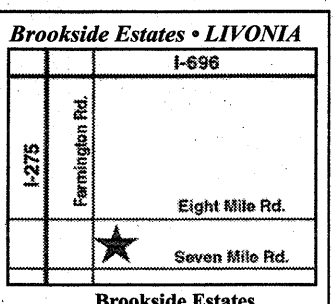

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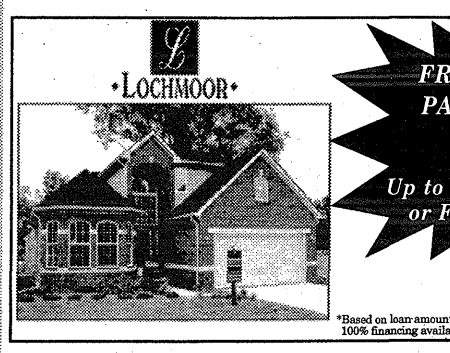

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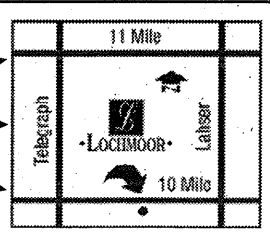

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Closed Thursdays
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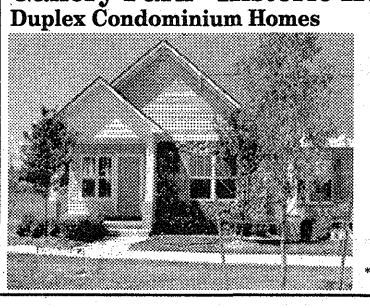
Gallery Park - Historic Howell

Duplex Condominium Homes



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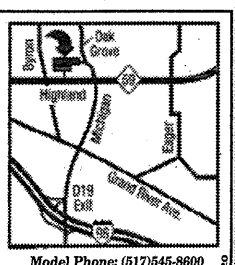

Model Phone: (517)545-8600
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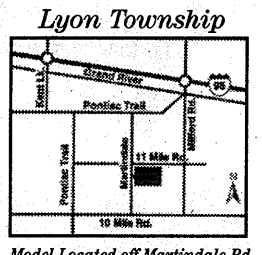
Lyon Township



Model Located off Martindale Rd. between 10 Mile & 11 Mile Rd.
Model OPEN Mon-Fri 11-6
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Gallery Park - Historic Howell

Attached Condominiums Homes



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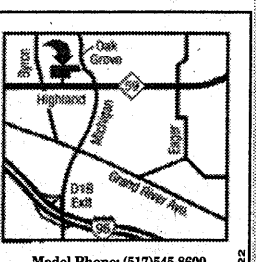

Model Phone: (517)545-8600
Model Hours:
Open Daily 12-6;
Closed Thursday
www.landmarcbuilding.com

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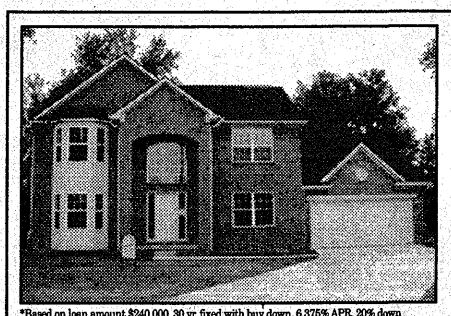

Park at Oakland Hills

Southfield/Birmingham Schools

*From $319,900 or Payments As Low As $1200**

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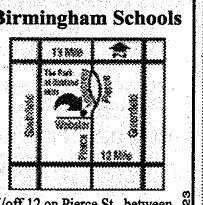

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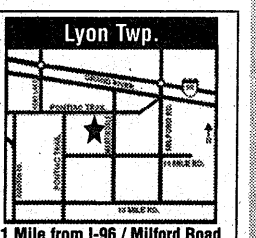

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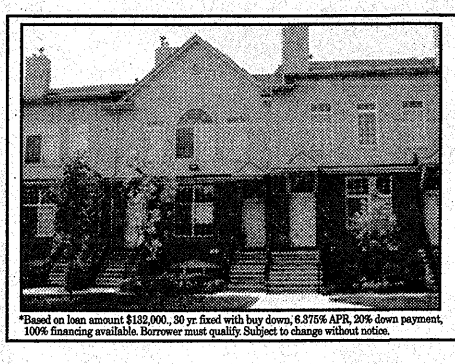

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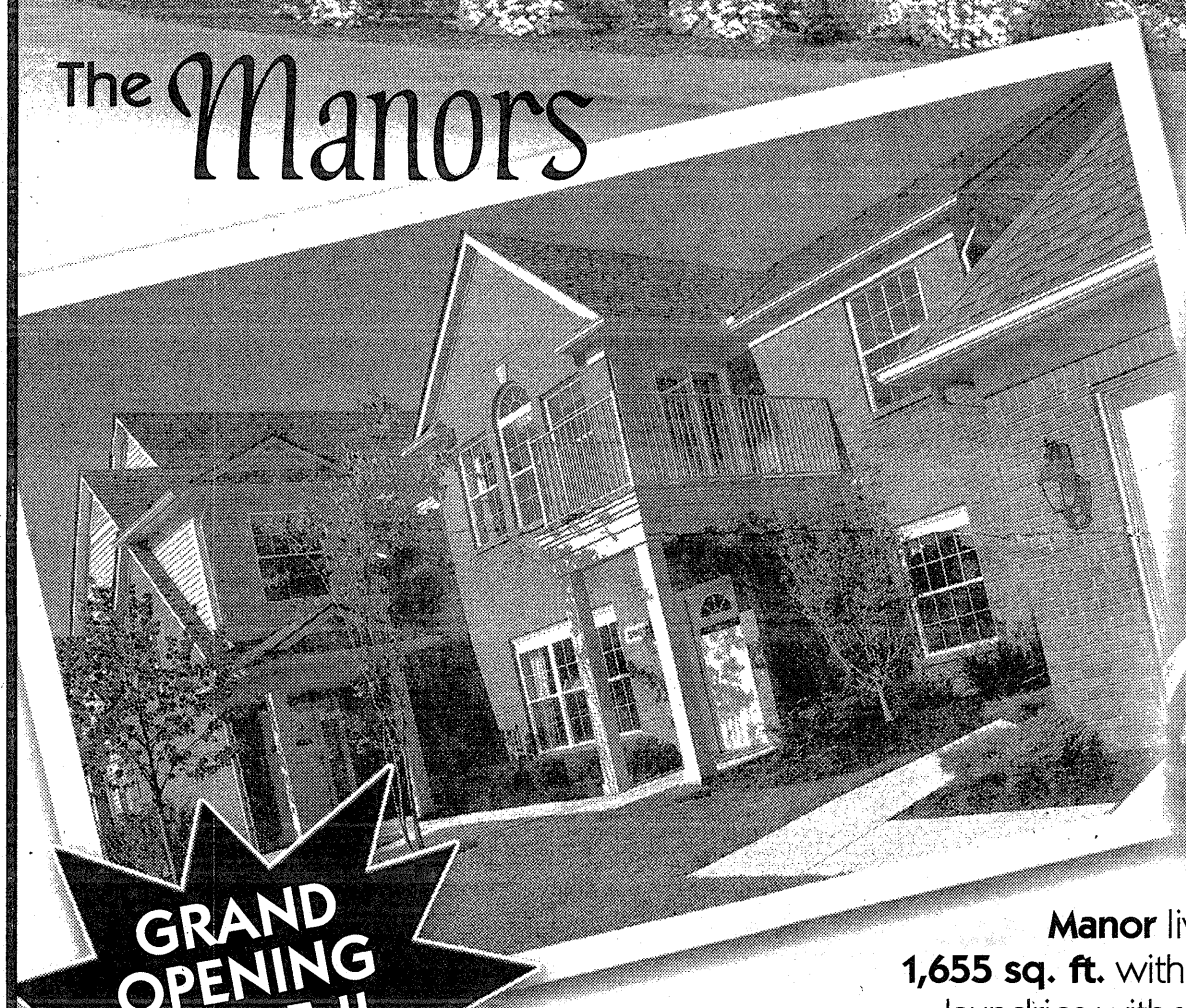

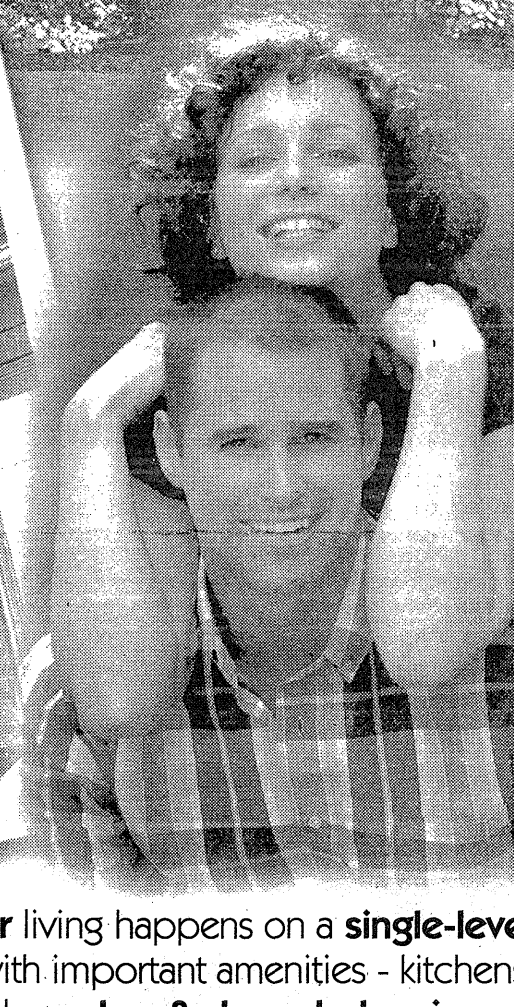

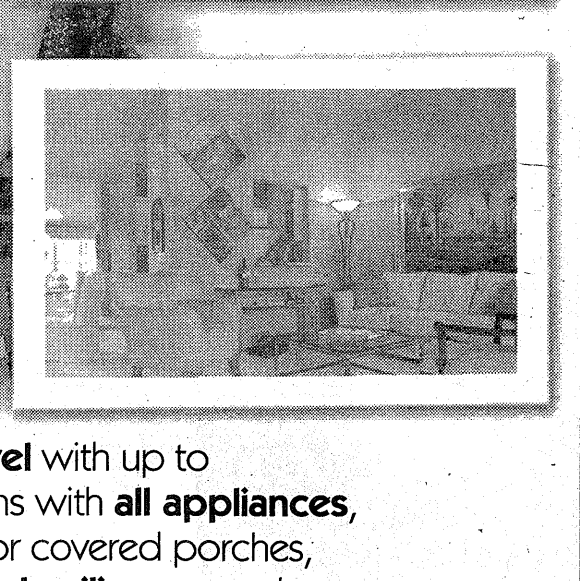

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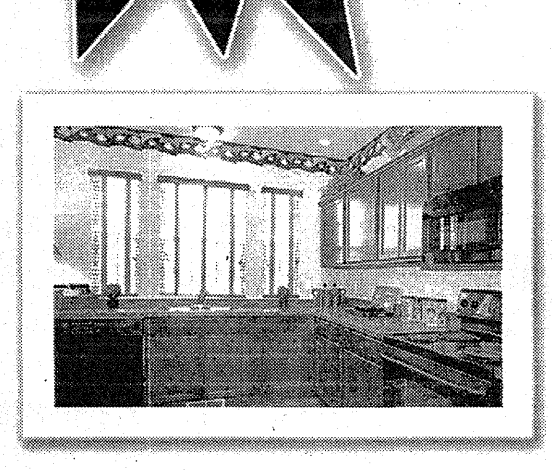
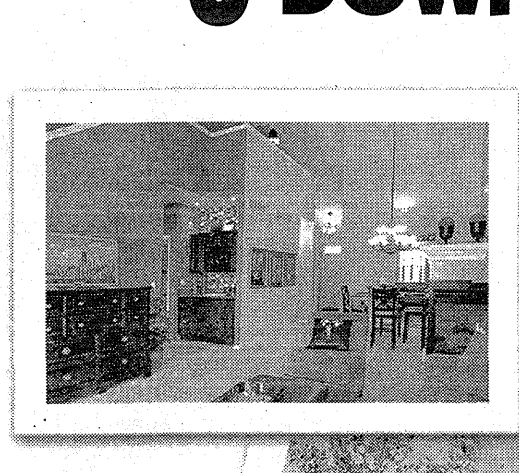
Manor living happens on a **single-level** with up to **1,655 sq. ft.** with important amenities - kitchens with **all appliances**, laundries with **washer & dryer, balconies** or covered porches, ceramic tile in baths, **fireplaces** and **cathedral ceilings**, per plan, window treatments and **attached garages, 2 bedrooms & 2 baths.**

$0 DOWN & $0 CLOSING COSTS*



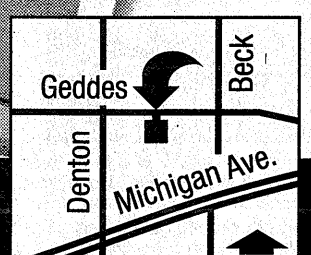


The Villas

The Villas lifestyle emerges with enchanting **2 or 3 bedroom condominium homes with lofts**, fabulous **gourmet kitchens**, convenient **1st floor laundries**, rejuvenating **master suites**, ceramic tile in the baths, **full basements** and **attached 2 car garages**, up to **1,950 sq. ft.** of space in all... all from the unbelievably low

$200's

*See Sales Associate for details.



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All information contained herein was accurate at the time of publication. In order to maintain the high degree of quality and incorporate management with greater facility and economy, we reserve the right to make changes in price, specifications, materials, or to change or discontinue models without notice or obligation. Floor plan dimensions are approximate.
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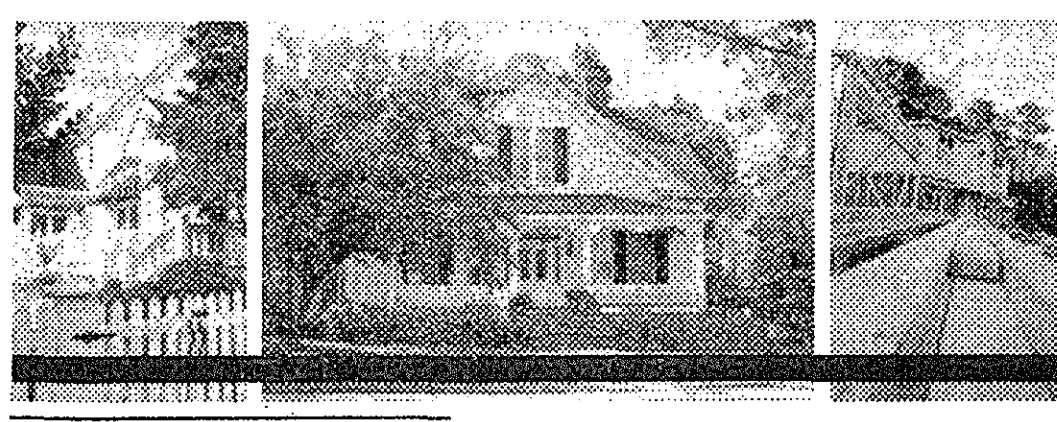

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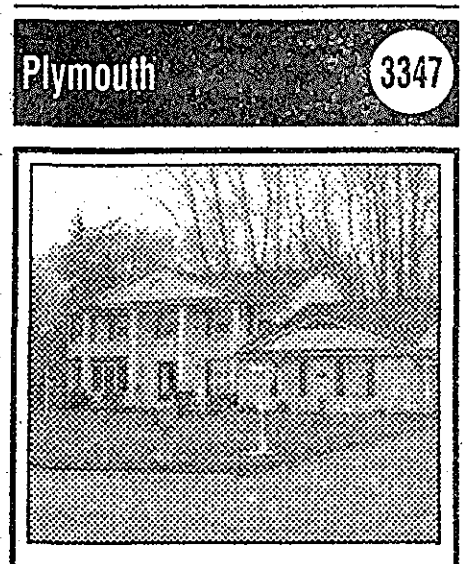

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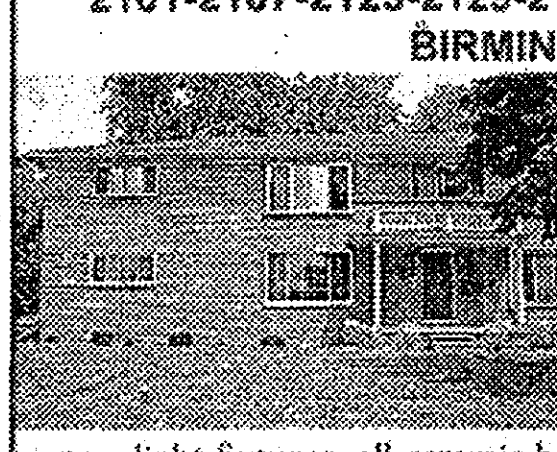

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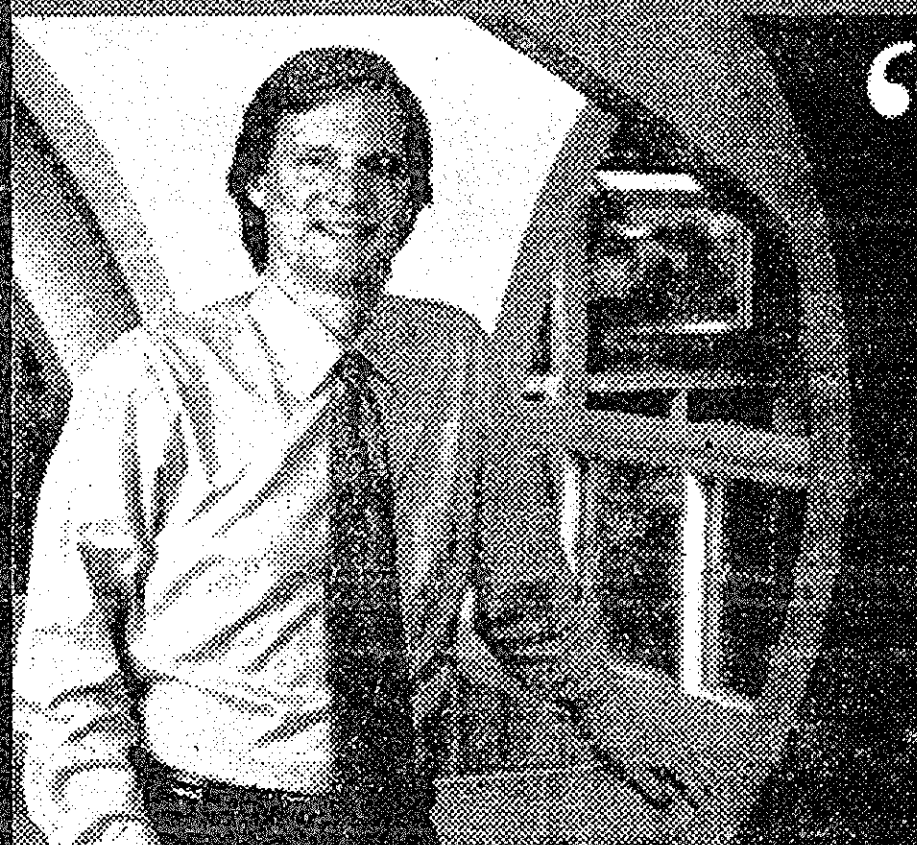

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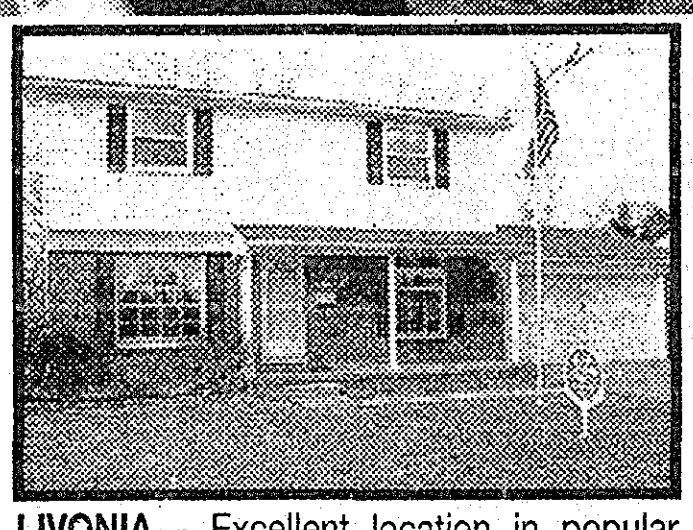

LIVONIA - Excellent location in popular sub. Colonial w/1829 sq ft, 4/5 beds, 1 ½ baths and treed private backyard. Lrg deck, covered porch, fireplace, fin basement. Newer furnace, roof, kitchen and bath. N off Schoolcraft to Brookfield to E. on Scone. Call Michael Price.
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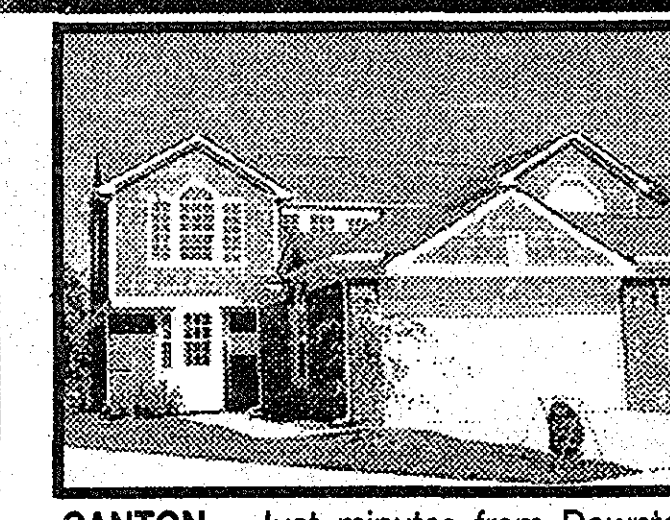

CANTON - Just minutes from Downtown Plymouth. New construction, 2 or 3 BR condo w/2 car att gar, 2.5 Bas, lrg deck for leisure living, for as little as $219,900. Call for weekly specials.
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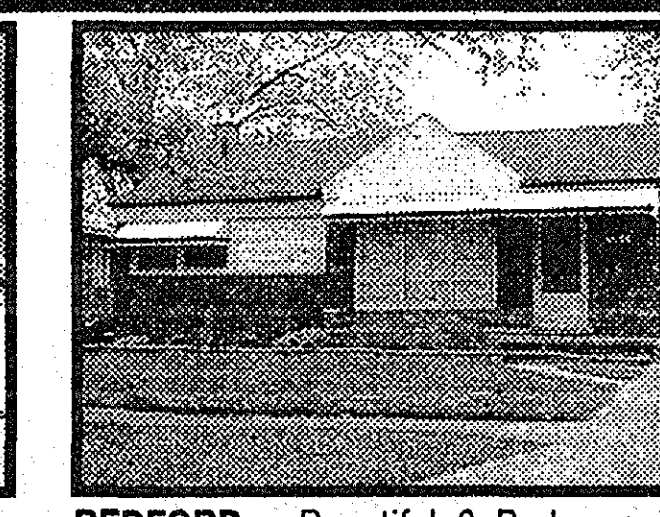

REDFORD - Beautiful 3 Bedroom Brick Ranch. Updates include, new roof, copper plumbing updated elec. furnace & air. Remodeled kit, newer oak cabinets & floor, hardwood floors, new bath in basement. This is a must see. Call Kevin Tindell
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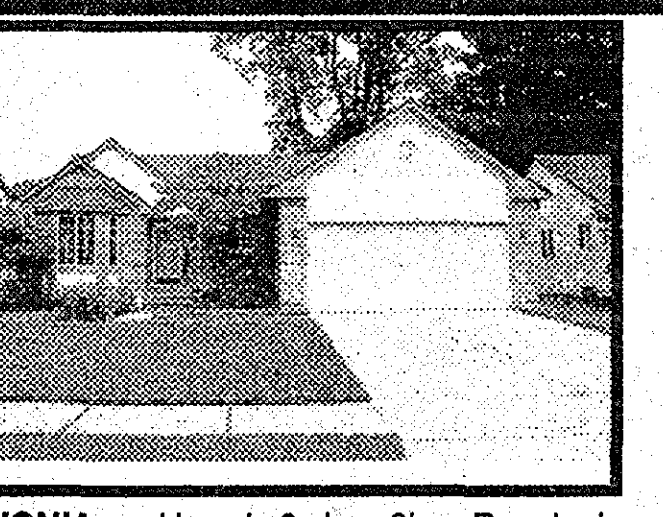
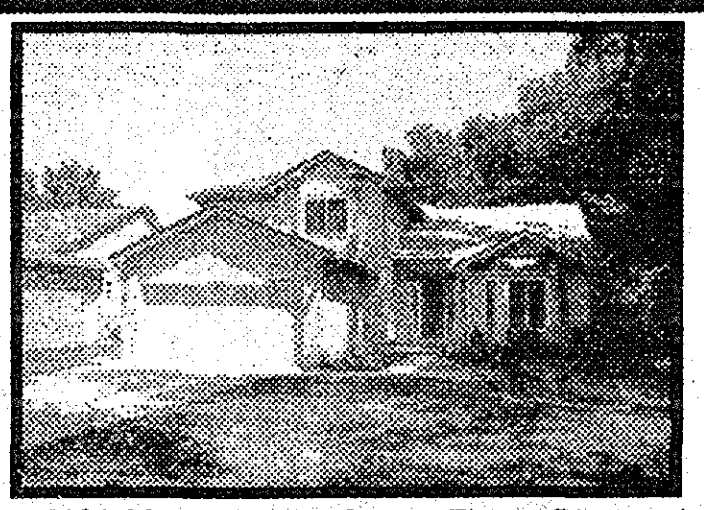
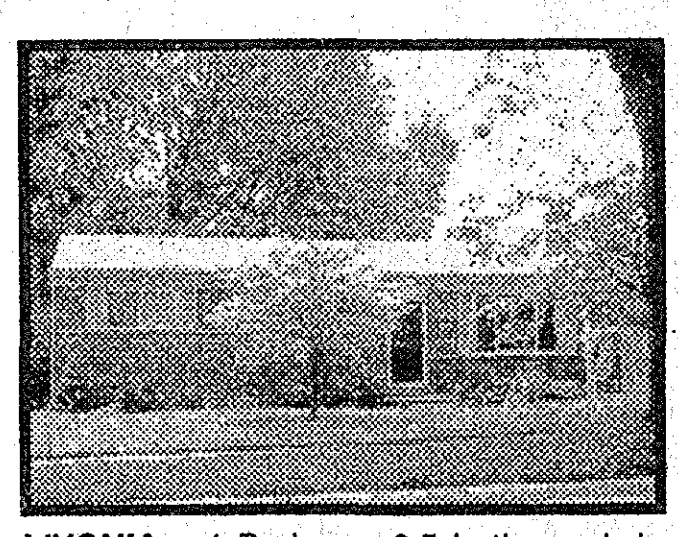


LIVONIA - Hurry! 3 br, 2ba Ranch in Livonia. 1600Sqft Clean, nicely landscaped & neutral! Opn flr plan, cath clng makes home feel roomy & cozy w/ the natural fire place, dual drwls leading to recently refin deck! Visit www.nancywarson.com or call Nancy Warson.
$229,900 D27430 248-470-6404



LIVONIA - Great Open Floor Plan w/ cathedral ceilings in the GR and MSTR STE. Lots of windows, private back yard. Basement plumbed for bath. Library/office with bay windows & French doors. Call Jim Donohoe
$279,900 L10218 313-570-5511



LIVONIA - 4 Bedroom 2.5 bath ranch in NW Livonia. w/master suite. Updates include; roof, furn, a/c, windows, elec, fin bsmt, deck, oak kitchen. Natural fireplace in living room. New on market! Quick occupancy! Call Jim Donohoe
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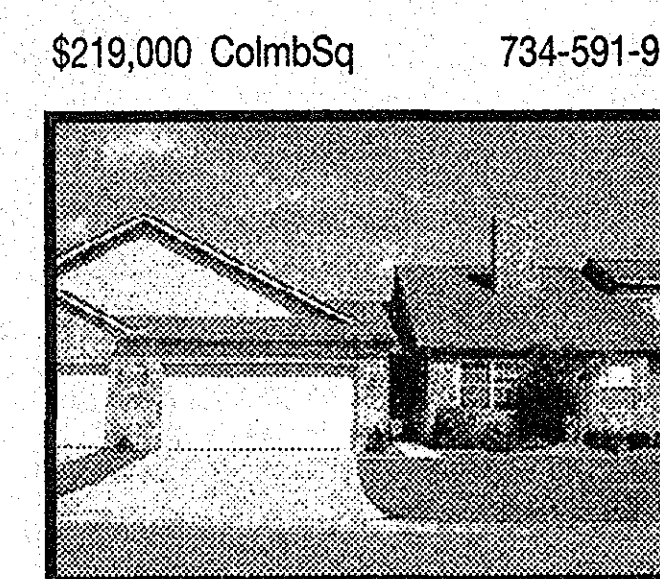
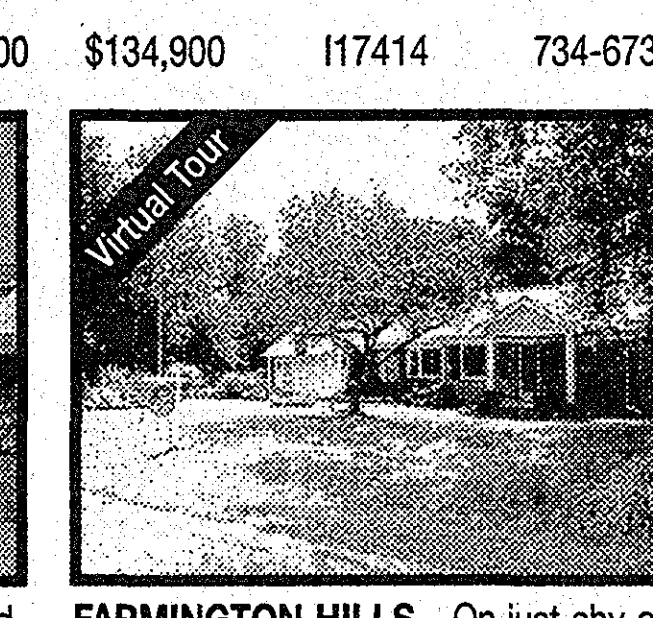


CANTON - Location, Quality, Value and Charm! Beautiful ranch condo has it all! Decorated in neutral colors; spacious open floor plan w/cath clng. DW to deck w/view of pond & fountain. Updated kit w/ large pantry. Call Mike Judge
$206,000 C327 734-591-9200 EXT: 155



FARMINGTON HILLS - On just shy of one acre this is truly country in the city. Beautifully updated & maintained, this ranch offers dynamite updated ceramic bath, updated eat in kitchen. Large 1st floor laundry. Call Marilyn Handloser.
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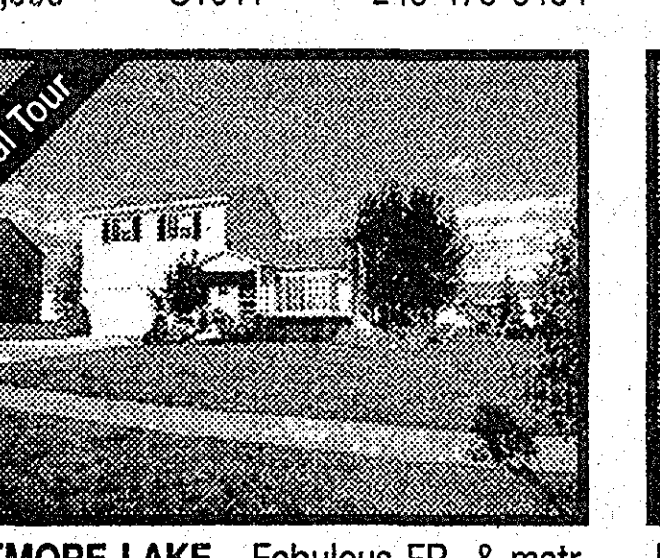

WHITMORE LAKE - Fabulous FR & mstr suite makes immaculate col in sought after Eagle Gardens. Pride of ownership & upgrades galore. LR w/FPl, Lg eat-in kit w/ hdwd flrs. Mstr suite w/2 w/i closets, & full bath. FR leads to paver patio overlooking sizable interior lot. Call Marilyn Handloser.
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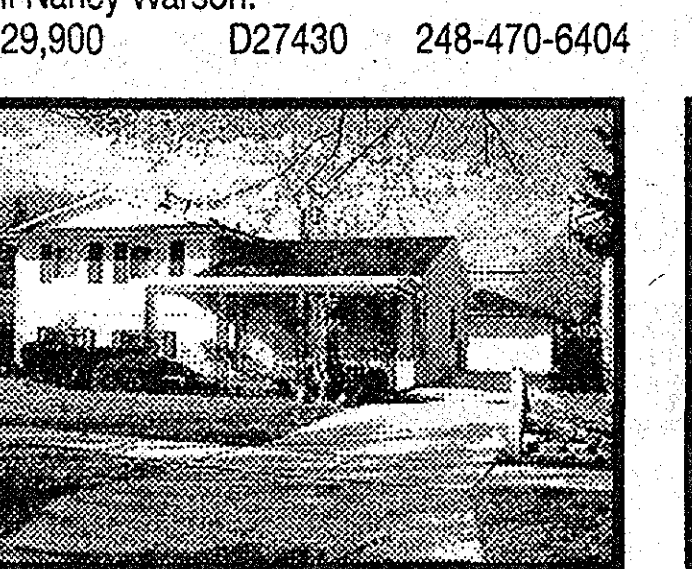

LIVONIA - Excellent condition home! Home offers eat/in kit, w/exit to back & 10'x 20' covered patio. Newer furnace, carpet, roof, & driveway. Exterior offers fenced yd, 2.5 car garage w/ opener, sprinkler system. Appliances included. Call Larry Hatfield
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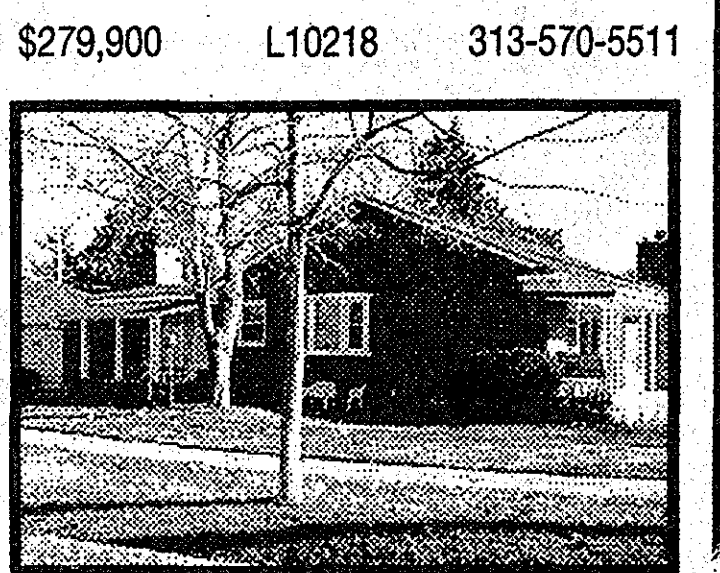

REDFORD - One of a kind Sub!! Brick ranch w/ 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, w/ an updated kitchen. Family room w/ firepla[illegible] off kitchen. New front porch, w/ deck [illegible] family room, & porch at back. [illegible] basement with w/o to back[illegible] Call Larry Hatfield
$159,500 S26844 313-[illegible]

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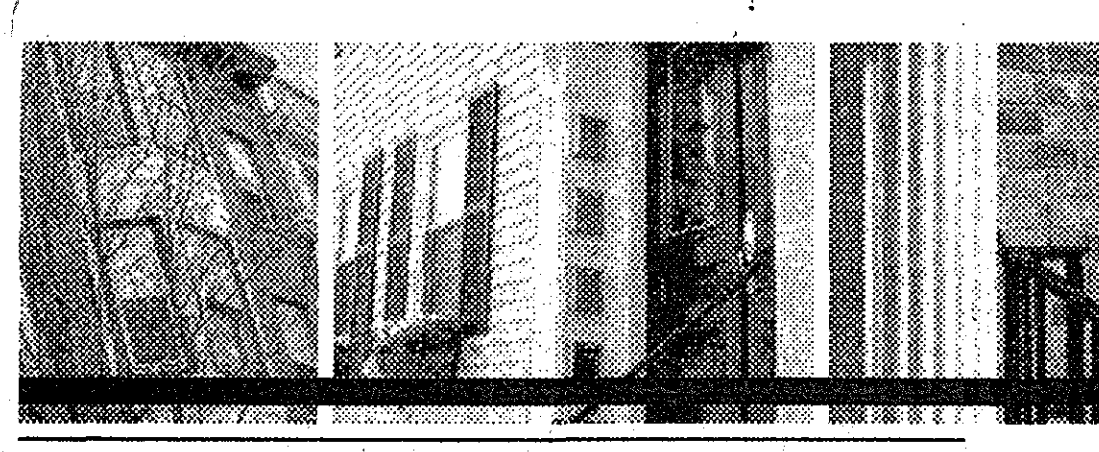
217 W. Ann Arbor Road



Apartments

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Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

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$99 Deposit Plus
1st Month Free*
Incl: central air, private storage, walk-in closets.
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*Some restrictions apply

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Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

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Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

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Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

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Condos/Townhouses 4020

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LIVONIA Beautiful 3 bdrm, 3 bath, 2 level spacious 2,225 sq. ft. at 6 & Newburgh Rd. Laurel Woods, $1500/mo. 734-464-8221 734-216-2615

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WAYNE - New construction. 1500 sq.ft., 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, garage, A/C, walk downtown. $975/mo. 734-476-3343

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WESTLAND- 3 bdrm condo, 1 1/2 bath, a/c, bsmt, garage, pool. $850 w/option. Ford/Hix area. 248-388-2203

Duplexes 4030

CANTON - Clean 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, fenced yard, shed, hardwood floor in living room. Avail. now! 734-981-5953

NORWAYNE - $700 Move-In! 3 bdrm. Updated kitchen and bath. Newer carpeting, freshly painted. 313-475-8309

PLYMOUTH CLEAN! CLEAN! CLEAN! Newly updated 2 bdrm, bsmt., nice yd., Near park. $825 248-349-6615

Duplexes 4030

PLYMOUTH Close to town. Nice, very large 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Air, full bsmt. Non-smoking, no pets. $850 mo + security. (734) 455-1040.

WAYNE - 2 bdrm, bsmt, dining room, C/A, stove & refrigerator, completely remodeled. $720mo., $1000 security. No pets. Lawn maintenance included. 734-427-7545

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Flats 4040

FERNDALE Charming 2 bdrm lower. Hardwood floors, Free washer, dryer. Ample parking. Near downtown. $600 mo. incl water. 313-805-2389

GARDEN CITY- ALL NEW! 1 bdrm, gas, laundry. $725, 1st mo free. 734-432-0303
www.terbergdesign.com/rent

PLYMOUTH 289 E PEARL ST. 3 bdrm lower. Freshly painted. $760 mo. 1 yr. lease. No pets. Credit check. (734) 453-4679

WESTLAND Ford & 275 Lg. 2 bdrm/ possible 3rd. Dining rm, laundry. Nice quiet sub. Attic. & yd., $630 734-576-3030

Homes For Rent 4050

BIRMINGHAM - 3 bedroom, 2 car garage, air conditioned, fireplace. 488 Harmon, $2300/mo. 313-570-9626

BIRMINGHAM 3 bdrm ranch. 2 bath, great room, fireplace, new hardwood floors. Full bsmt, 2 car garage. Built 1985. $1390. 248-252-3863

BIRMINGHAM
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BIRMINGHAM-3 bdrm ranch, newly remodeled. 2 car garage, attached, no pets.
$1250/mo. 248-643-9079

BLOOMFIELD HILLS Guest house. 1100 sq.ft. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, all appliances, w/ fireplace, on 4 beautiful acres. Share pool. Private drive. $1200/neg. 248-644-3147

BLOOMFIELD TWP, 2910 Middlebury Ln. 3 bdrm ranch, 3 updated baths. Wood flrs, 1600sq.ft., updated throughout. **$1500/mo, 248-646-3200**

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CANTON - RENT TO OWN! Problem credit okay. $1195/mo. with $600 monthly credit!! 734-667-1906

CANTON- Newer 4 bdrm, Brick Colonial, 2.5 bath, 3 car, 3083 sq. ft. $2500/mo. D&H Properties, 248-888-9133

DEARBORN Rent to Own, 3 bdrm. bungalow, bsmt., garage. Cute house, nice area, great starter. **248-921-2432.**

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DEARBORN HEIGHTS-3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, finished bsmt, 3 car garage. Crestwood Schools. No pets, $975/mo., 1 mo. sec. dep. **Call: 248-347-6623**

DEARBORN HTS. 4 bdrm bungalow, appliances, garage, fenced yard. $800/mo. + sec. 248-478-0213

FARMINGTON HILLS
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FARMINGTON - DOWNTOWN
2 bdrm, 2 baths, brick ranch, hardwood, bsmt, 2 car. $1400. 22932 Mayfield 248-506-9239

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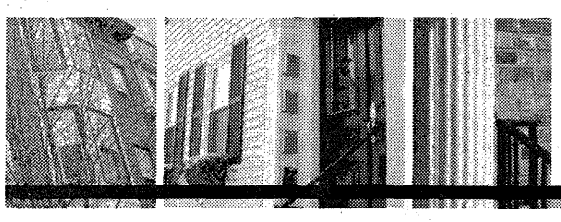

Apartments

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Homes For Rent 4050

FARMINGTON 2 Bdrm., hardwood floors. Laundry hookups. $675. Ref. & deposit req. Option to buy. 248-348-0066

FARMINGTON HILLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, updated kitchen, bsmt.,storage, 2 carports, pool/clubhouse. $1200/mo. D&HProperties-248-888-9133

FARMINGTON HILLS
3 bdrm, 1 car garage, no bsmt. $900 mo. 248-787-6808, 248-471-5606

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GARDEN CITY, Sharp 3 bdrm brick ranch. Finished bsmt, immediate occupancy, option to buy. $800, 248-788-1823

INKSTER- Remodeled 3 bdrm ranch, bsmt, 2 car garage, immediate occupancy, option to buy. $600, 248-788-1823

LIVONIA - 3 bdrm ranch, 1000 sq.ft., 2 full bath, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, $1150/mo. 248-752-1777

LIVONIA - 3 bedroom, 2 car, c/a, finished basement, stove/refrigerator. Pets. Negotiable. $950/mo. 734-717-3452, 734-717-7643

LIVONIA - Levan/7 Mile. Clean 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath ranch, bsmt, garage. No smoking/pets. $1300. 248-388-2005

LIVONIA 3 Bdrm. home on corner lot w/great room & wet bar. Could be 0 down, rent to own. 734-521-0235.

LIVONIA Joy & Merriman. $950. 3 bdrm., 2 car, partly finished bsmt., c/a. Option to buy. Below market. 734-495-0535

LIVONIA- 7 Mile/Farmington, 3 bdrm Colonial, 2 bath, library, finished bsmt, 2 car garage. $1500/mo. 248-245-7372

LIVONIA- 7 Mile/Gill. 3 bedroom brick ranch, 2 bath, 1900 sq. ft., finished basement, appliances, 2 car. $1800/MO.

MELVINDALE 2 Bdrm. brick ranch, garage, $600; 2 bdrm. ranch, $450. Option on both. 248-788-1823

ORION TWP.- 2 bdrm, attached garage, bsmt, fireplace, spacious yard w/deck. Call Eric: 586-777-9522

PLYMOUTH - 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, appliances, air, bsmt. No dogs. Available now! $850. Credit refer. 248-661-3641

PLYMOUTH - 3 bdrm, 2 bath, finished bsmt, appliances, 2 car garage, fenced yard, $1200/mo. 734-717-5091

PLYMOUTH 3 bdrm brick ranch. Fenced yd., attached garage. $1095/mo. 734-838-9613

PLYMOUTH Best Value Spacious 2 bedroom w/basement. 261 W. Spring. $700 734-674-3193

PLYMOUTH
Close to downtown & Hines Park. Beautiful 2 bdrm. duplex. Bsmt., appliances, beautiful deck. Nice area. $850 mo. 734-658-2347

Plymouth Duplex, Near Hines Park. Updated 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, large yard, no pets. $750. Agent, 734-718-6779.

PLYMOUTH Old Village. 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 1 car, fireplace, washer/dryer. $650/month + sec. 1 yr. lease 734-459-0474

PLYMOUTH- Country ranch. 3 bdrm, 2.5. bath. With outbuildings, $1350; house only, $1150. 734-516-1000

PLYMOUTH-Rent while you buy this 3 bdrm brick ranch with full bsmt, C/A. $1200/mo. **Agent: 734-718-3495**

REDFORD - 18459 Norborne. 1100 sq.ft., Garage. Freshly painted. $800/mo. Call for appt. 248-486-3291.

REDFORD - BEECH & 5 MILE
2 bdrm, overlooks park. Immed. occup., $550/mo.+ deposit. 313-468-4792

REDFORD - BRICK RANCH
Clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath, finished basement, $950/month. 248-477-2643, 248-320-8027

REDFORD 2 bdrm, 1 bath, bsmt. All appliances incl. washer/dryer. $800/month References. 734-591-6432

REDFORD 2 Bdrms, bsmt, air appliances, avail. $875. 734-718-0203

REDFORD 3 bdrm, 2 bath, brick bungalow. C/A. Lawn & snow service. Washer & dryer. $950 mo. (734) 464-6304

REDFORD
3 bdrm., double lot w/garage & bsmt. Could be 0 down or rent to own. 734-521-0235

REDFORD
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REDFORD 5 & Beech. Newer 3 bdrm. New paint, carpet, windows, bath. No pets. $725 mo. + security. 734-717-4510

REDFORD
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REDFORD NO BANKS NEEDED 3 Bdrm. bungalow, bsmt., 2 car garage, $975/$3500. 248-921-2432

REDFORD TWP. 1 bdrm $435. 2 bdrms from $545 mo., 3 bdrm from $770, 4 bdrm from $895, all remodeled, many updates. 313-255-5678

REDFORD- 11777 Tecumseh. Clean 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 car. New carpet. $975/mo. + sec w/ option to buy.734-207-2078

REDFORD- Near park. Clean 3 bdrm 2 bath bungalow. Bsmt, garage & appliances. New carpet. $900. 248-701-2295

SOUTHFIELD
3 bdrm, 1 bath, bungalow, bsmt, garage, appliances, $875/mo. 248-219-0920

SOUTHFIELD 8 Mile & Inkster, 3 bdrm., 2 bath, upgraded kitchen, lg. deck. $910/mo. + 1-1/2 sec. dep. 734-845-0809

SOUTHFIELD
Cute 3 bdrm! Large lot. 21121 Seminole. $700 per month. 1st month rent & security. 248-476-4929

SOUTHFIELD
S/9, E/Inkster, N/Grandriver. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, new carpet, appliances, fenced yard, pets okay. $650/mo. 248-669-3012

SOUTHGATE Sharp 3 bdrm ranch, garage, C/A, immediate occupancy, option to buy available. $800, 248-788-1823

TROY: Luxury 3 Bdrm
2.5 bath ranch w/ library, fireplace, 2.5 attached garage. $2500+. Broker/ Owner. 248-318-1463

WAYNE & WESTLAND 3 bdrms. Pets ok. $900. One w/garage. (734) 612-7708 or (734) 722- 8943

WAYNE- Remodeled 3 bdrm ranch, huge master bdrm, immediate occupancy, option to buy. $700, 248-788-1823

WEST BLOOMFIELD 4 bdrm., 3.5 bath, family rm. w/fireplace, eat-in kitchen, 2 car, sec. sys., invisible fence, ½ acre. Dog under 15 lbs ok. 1 yr. lease. Long term ok. N. of Maple/W. of Middlebelt. $2300/month 248-939-2559

WEST BLOOMFIELD LAKEFRONT
2 bdrm, new flooring, avail now! $975/neg. 248-324-2577

WESTLAND - 2 bdrm, bsmt, all appliances, A/C, new carpet, pets neg. $750+/mo. Section 8 OK. 734-397-8187

WESTLAND - 3 bdrm. Appliances, deck, fenced yard, C/A. Ford & Wayne Rds. $925/mo. No Section 8. 248-346-6108

WESTLAND - Sharp 4 bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, 2 baths, option to buy avail. $900, 248-788-1823

WESTLAND Remodeled 3 bdrm, bsmt, 2 car, non-smoking. No Pets. Sect 8 ok. $1095/$1195. 734-420-6952

WESTLAND Updated brick ranch, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt. 2 car, 1575 sq. ft. $1100/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

WESTLAND- 2 & 3 bdrm duplexes. Also 2 bdrm ranch. Updated, fenced, now ready! (Venoy/Palmer area). Great manager. 313-418-9905

WESTLAND-Rent while you buy! 3 bdrm ranch w/ bsmt & fenced yard. Cherry Hill & Hix. **$1100. Agent: 734-718-3495**

Southern Rentals 4090

S.W. FLORIDA - GULF COAST
Gated community, 1550 sq.ft., 2 bdrm, 2 bath, den, Lanai, garage, on 27 hole golf course. $4000/mo. 248-615-8985

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LIVONIA Female to share with same. Full house privileges. $595 (mo to mo)+ security incl. utilities. 734 425-9592

LIVONIA- Female only. Furnished w/utilities. 1 room -$350 + sec. Shared laundry. 248-982-3602 or 248-310-6652



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Rooms For Rent 4140

FARMINGTON HILLS
Kitchen, Washer/dryer. NO PETS $295+utilities. Call 248-835-9895

LIVONIA All privileges. $400/month. Includes utilities. No pets. 734-261-9534

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Tel-96 Inn	313-535-4100
Royal Inn	248-544-1575
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Commercial/Industrial For Rent/Lease 4230

AUTO REPAIR FACILITY- 2800 sq.ft. available for rent near busy Auto Mall, high traffic. I-96/Newburgh. 248-798-9957

EXTRA SPACE IN YOUR WAREHOUISE?
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LIVONIA-1,000-10,000 sq.ft.
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Commercial/Industrial For Rent/Lease 4230

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Less than $12/sq. ft./ per yr. (Triple Net) approximately 11,300 sq. ft., splitable. One story office suite with main street exposure and great parking. Perfect for any professional office. Willing to sacrifice at this low low price! This Won't Last Long.
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CANTON-NO BANKS NEEDED
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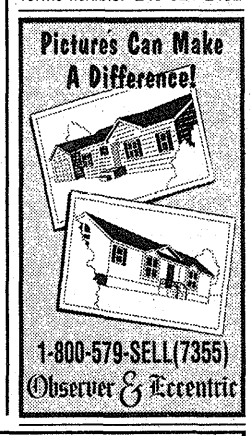
LIVONIA-NO BANKS NEEDED
3 bdrm ranch, 1.5 bath, fin. bsmt, sun room, 2 car garage. Terms flexible. 248-921-2432



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0% 72 Mos. Available

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27 Month Lease For Everyone
Sunroof, XM Radio Stock #T6385
$249** Per Mo.
Total Due GM Employee $1,519 Non-Employee $2,649

★★★★★ Frontal Crash Test Rating

2007 IMPALA LT
27 Month Lease. Stock #1248
$179** Per Mo.
Total Due GM Employee $1,774 Non-Employee $2,679

2006 EQUINOX LT
All Wheel Drive
Stock #8560
Was $25,600
$19,995*

Employee Price For Everyone
2006 MALIBU LT
Stock #P3199
Was $20,165
$17,171*

Employee Price For Everyone
2006 IMPALA SS
Stock #P3332
Was $30,600
$25,764*

0% 72 Mos. Available
2006 TRAILBLAZER 4X4
Stock #8582
Was $32,390
$19,995*

Employee Price For Everyone
2006 MONTE CARLO LS
Stock #P3699
Was $22,230
$18,386*

2006 SILVERADO
Stock #6T8645
Includes Plow
Was $34,962
$25,192*

Employee Price For Everyone
2006 SILVERADO EXT. CAB LT 4x4
Stock #P8993
Was $35,045
$25,894*

Employee Price For Everyone
2006 COLORADO PICK-UP EXT. CAB
Stock #8385
Was $19,575
$14,371*

2006 EXPRESS 2500
V-8, auto, air, locking diff., AM/FM stereo. Was $25,210. Stock #9807
$19,878*

2006 EXPRESS
V-8, 4 speed auto, air, PS/PB, 10' KUV body by Knapheide w/ side compartments. Stock #8707
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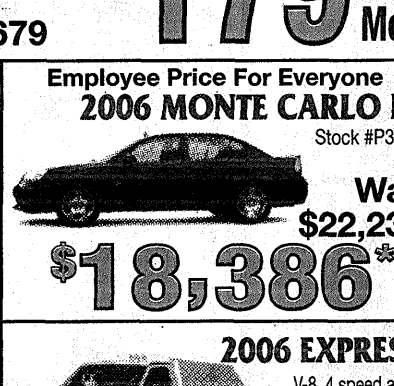

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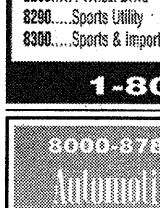

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8000.....Airplanes
8010.....Jet Skis
8020.....Boats/Motors
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8040.....Boat Docks/Marinas
8050.....Boat/Vehicle Storage
8060.....Insurance, Motor
8070.....Motorcycles/Mini Bikes/ Go-Karts
8080.....Motorcycles-Parts & Service
8090.....Off Road Vehicles
8100.....Recreational Vehicles
8110.....Snowmobiles
8120.....Campers/Motor Homes/ Trailers
8130.....RV-Motor Home Rental
8140.....Construction, Heavy Equipment
8150.....Auto Misc.
8160.....Auto/Truck-Parts & Service
8170.....Auto Rentals/Leasing
8180.....Auto Financing
8190.....Autos Wanted
8200.....Junk Cars Wanted
8210.....Utility Trailers
8220.....Trucks For Sale
8240.....Mini-Vans
8260.....Vans
8280.....4 Wheel Drive
8290.....Sports Utility
8300.....Sports & Imported
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8350.....Audi
8360.....Buick
8380.....Cadillac
8400.....Chevrolet
8420.....Chrysler-Plymouth
8440.....Dodge
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8610.....Mitsubishi
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8720.....Toyota
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DODGE RAM SLT 2002 Quad cab, 2WD, must see, $10,500.
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Trucks for Sale 8220

FORD F-150 XLT 1998 LOADED! Regular cab. 8ft. bed w/matching cap. 63,000 miles. Very good cond. $6700 248-557-3304

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GMC PICK-UP 1999 ,4X4, 3500 Series w/ Curtis 8ft. Snow Plow w/ hard tonneau cover. $15,500 734-427-0612

GMC S-10 2001- Sonoma extended cab, artic white, 40K, $8,995.
Lou LaRiche Chevrolet
888-372-9836

GMC SOMOMA 2001-extra cab, air, cruise, etc. Low miles. $9,995.
Lou LaRiche Chevrolet
888-372-9836

Mini-Vans 8240

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CHEVY UPLANDER 2006, DVD, loaded, $14,995.
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CHRYSLER Town & Country- LX 2001, 69500 mi, power sliding dr/seat. CD. Good cond. $8700/best. 248-505-0296

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DODGE GRAND CARAVAN 2000 Sport. 125,000 miles, candy-apple red. All power. Luggage rack, rear heat. $3300 734-664-3514

DODGE GRAND CARAVAN- 1999, loaded, dual sliding drs. exc. cond. 170,000 hwy miles. $2800/best. 734-354-0802

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FORD WINDSTAR SE 2002, 3.8L, auto, pw/pl, heated power mirrors, dual air, AM/FM 6 CD, quad bucket seats, floor console, key pad, Matador red, 7 passenger, 60K, Nice. $8,500. (248) 478-7439

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Vans 8260

CHEVY EXPRESS CARGO VAN 2005, 13K, $13,995.
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FORD E-150 1999 V- 8 Cargo. 70,000 miles, white, new tires, tool racks, Extra bench seat, synthetic oil, $5900. 313-414-4328

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CHEVY COLORADO Z71 2004 Crew 4x4, leather, heated seats, full power, black saphire, sharp, $16,500.
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FORD F150 2000 4x4, off road pkg., black, tonneau cover, $9,995. First time buyer program available.
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FORD F150 XLT 2003- Ext. cab., 4x4, all power. Red & ready! $15,995.
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FORD F250 XLT SPORT 2003, leather, 4x4, super cab, $19,995.
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GMC SIERRA SLE 2003 Z-71 package. 5.3 liter, Ext. cab, 65,000 miles, new tires, tontau cover, remote start, synthetic oil, $14,600. 313-414-4328

GMC SIERRA Z71 2002 4x4 Extended cab, hard tonneau, bright red, EZ fin. $13,950.
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JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE Laredo, 2002- low mileage, great cond., Loaded. $11,900/best. 248-885-1532

Sports Utility 8290

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CHEVY BLAZER 2001 4 dr., nice SUV! $8,495. Financing for everyone! We buy cars!
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CHEVY SUBURBAN LT 1999, loaded, custom conversion, 2 to choose starting at $9,950.
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CHEVY SUBURBAN LT 2003 4x4 Z71, black, leather, moon, low miles, $23,750.
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CHEVY TAHOE LS 2005, 4x4, 37K. $21,995.
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CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 2005 Extended SUV, full power, moonroof, CD, exceptional, black ice, $18,500.
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Sports Utility 8290

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FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2004 4x4, loaded, low miles, $16,495.
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FORD ESCAPE XLT 2002 4x4, leather, moon, yellow, $13,695.
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FORD EXPLORER XLT 2002 4x4, leather, 6 disc, $11,950.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

FORD EXPLORER XLT 2004 4x4, 23K, $14,995. Stk #3249T
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD EXPLORER XLT 2004 4x4, black, $12,995.
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

FORD FREESTYLE 2005, black, 22K, front wheel drive, $17,495.
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD FREESTYLE SE 2006- AWD, 15K miles, $19,995.
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

GMC DENALI XL 2004, pewter, loaded, $27,995.
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
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GMC ENVOY 2003, dark blue, 4x4, only $13,995.
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GMC JIMMY 1999 4 dr., 4WD, blue, $4,995.
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(734) 453-2500

GMC JIMMY 2001- Diamond edition. Loaded, 4x4, Exc. cond., low mi, blk., sunroof. $8500/best. 248-762-2085

GMC JIMMY SLE 2000, 4x4, Burgundy, moonroof, power seat, CD. Won't Last at $4995!
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GMC YUKON DENALI 2004, white, leather, loaded! $23,995.
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LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SE2 2002, 4x4, dual DVD pkg, dual sun roofs, leather, 20" chrome wheels, silver, 65K. Was $14,995, now $13,995.
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LEXUS RX300 2002, 4x4, DVD, leather, only $16,995.
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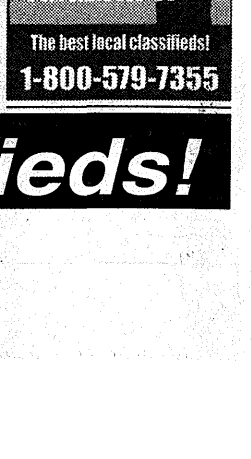

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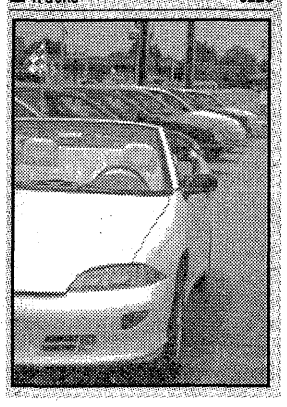

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Aura offers solid styling, refined interior for 2007

Advertising Feature

CAReport





By Tenisha Mercer
Avanti NewsFeatures

More known for its no-haggle sales policy than its eye-catching designs, Saturn rolled out cars, that, while solidly built, lacked in the design department. Slightly boring. Ho-hum. Predictable.

That's all changed, though, with the launch of the 2007 Saturn Aura mid-size sedan. This is a car that has turned the design world on its ears. Sleek. Refined. Jaw dropping, even.

And the good news is that while Saturn has totally revamped its lineup, its overall good value hasn't changed. An impressive bevy of standard features and good fuel efficiency make the Aura a good value at a base price of $20,595.

Saturn discontinued the L300 sedan in 2005, but the Aura is exactly what the brand needs, giving serious competition to mid-size competitors. The Honda Accord, Toyota Camry and Volkswagen Passat had better watch out.

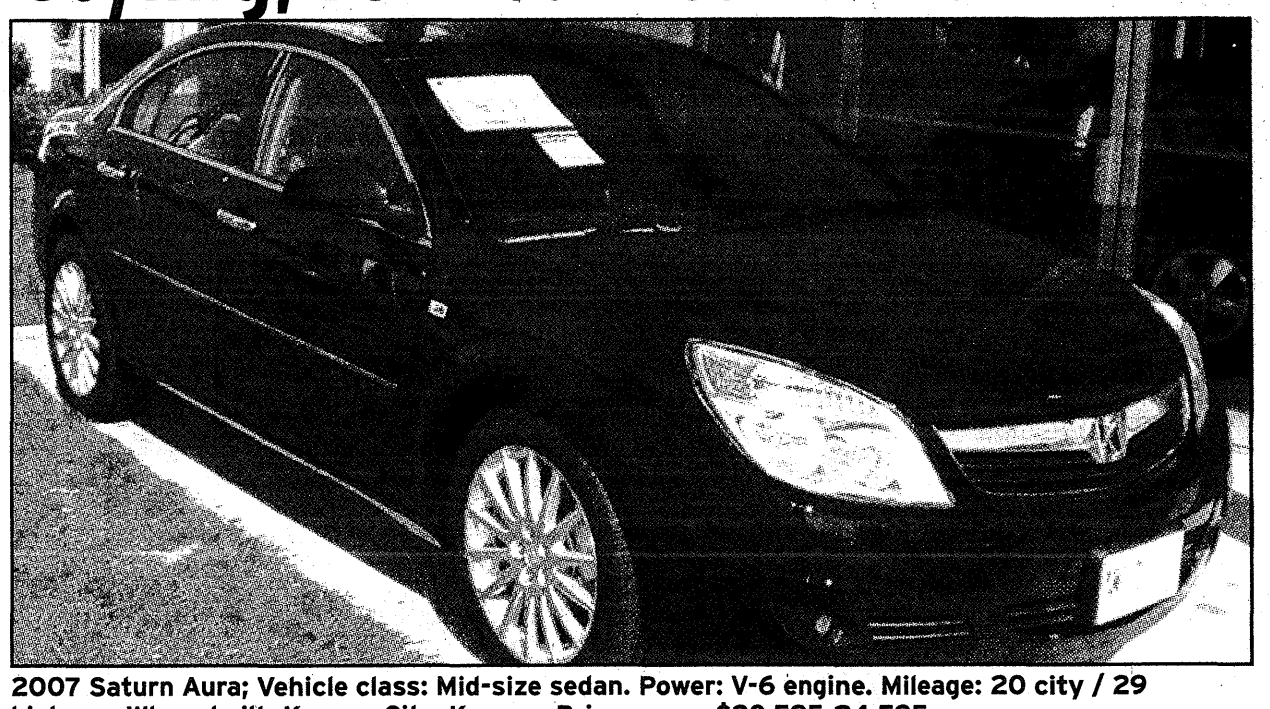
Built on the same GM platform that drove the design of the Chevrolet Malibu, Pontiac G6 and Saab 9-3, the Saturn Aura radiates style, refinement and class combined with a bold, edgy design. No bare bones interiors here, but plenty of features that make the Aura a super deal for the price.

Let's start with the design. The Aura is like no Saturn you've ever driven, with refined features, nicer materials and premium fit and finishes. It was so impressive that the Saturn Aura XR test vehicle I drove had passersby doing doubletakes. "Is that a Saturn," one lady asked me at the grocery store parking lot. I was proud to tell her yes.

Available in the entry level XE and the top-model XR, the Aura kept many of the designs that marked its spectacular launch as a concept vehicle last year: distinctive, jewel-like headlamps, a chrome grille bar and rakish, almost sloping silhouette.

What really drew my attention was the refined interior. You won't find shabby looking, bare bones stuff here. Colored trim flows across the instrument panel and around the door panel for a uniform look, while chrome trim and lacquered wood are inside. The cockpit is simple.

There are some impressive details. The radio antenna is built into the rear window, instead of sticking out of the car's rear. Amber lighting gives the Aura a premium feel.



2007 Saturn Aura; Vehicle class: Mid-size sedan. Power: V-6 engine. Mileage: 20 city / 29 highway. Where built: Kansas City, Kansas. Price range: $20,595-24,595.

Door handles are trimmed in chrome-like trim. Eighteen-inch, 14-spoke aluminum wheels and performance tires round out the look in the XR model.

It's roomy too, with a backseat that amply fit my 9-, 7- and 5-year-old children, thanks to a 112-inch wheelbase. And a high rear deck lid gives more trunk space than the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord.

If the devil is in the details, then the Saturn Aura is raising hell. The interior feature I liked the most: a dual bin storage center console area with sliding doors big enough to hold my purse.

Not a rinky dink little handbag, mind you, but an average-sized purse that comfortably fit into the storage bin. It's a must-have accessory for any woman whose tired of putting her purse on the seat of the car floor or in the backseat.

The Aura is chock full of standard features that make it a great value: A four-panel sliding roof, six speaker radio and eight-way power adjustable driver seats. Heated front seats and a premium eight speaker, six-CD stereo system with mp3 ports are optional.

The Aura comes in nine colors: Berry Red, Black Onyx, Bronzed Pewter, Cream White, Golden Cashmere, Midnight Blue, Ocean Mist, Silver Pearl and Techno Grey Leather.

Don't let' Saturn's refined interior fool you; this baby can move. You won't find a four-cylinder engine at all in this sedan. That's because it's powered by standard V-6 engines. A 3.5-liter, V-6 engine mated with a Hydra-Matic 4T4S four-speed automatic cranks out 220-lb. ft. of torque on the XE.

The XR comes with ample power as well with a 3.6-liter, V-6 with 252 horsepower mated to a six-speed automatic transmission that gives strong performance and fuel efficiency.

The result? A lightweight, fast sedan with incredibly smooth shifting and minimal noise inside the cabin. I was surprised at how fast the Aura was. Charging up and down the highway wasn't a problem with the Aura, which didn't give one bit of struggle.

A stiff chassis gives plenty of support, while front-wheel drive and super-tight suspension made navigating sharp curves and tight turns a breeze. Our XR sedan's base price is $25,000, but its speed and taut ride belied its price.

Safety features are impressive, with standard anti-lock brakes, traction control and six airbags. Stability control is a bonus on the XR model. The Aura comes with a passenger sensing system that adjusts air bag deployment.

An OnStar Turn by Turn Navigation System that sends step-by-step directions to drivers through the stereo is also available. And LED taillamps that illuminate quicker than conventional incandescent lamps help other drivers react quicker.

Overall, the Saturn Aura is an attractive package that won't disappoint. It offers an impressive range of features for the bargain buyer, while not skimping on those little extras that can make or break a vehicle.

Write Tenisha Mercer at avanti1054@aol.com. @2006, Fracassa Communications.

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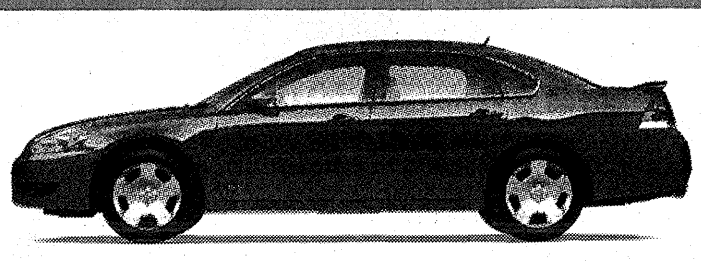

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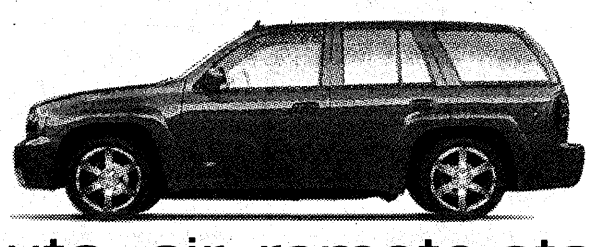

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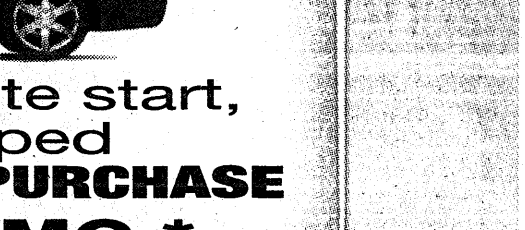

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