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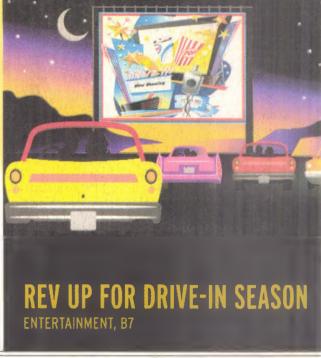
THURSDAY May 19, 2011

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PIPELINE

School finances

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools hosts a public meeting at the Plymouth District Library 6-8 p.m. tonight (Thursday) designed to provide information about the impact of school funding cuts on students.

Parents and community members will have an opportunity to stop in at anytime to view a P-CCS video about the impact of cuts, to ask questions and to write letters to their state representatives. P-CCS staff members are donating letter writing materials (envelopes pre-addressed to state legislators, stationary, etc.) to provide interested participants with a convenient opportunity to write to their state legislators (sample letters will be provided).

The Plymouth District Library is located at 223 S. Main in Plymouth.

Memorial parade

The Plymouth community observes Memorial Day with its annual Memorial Day Parade down Main Street and ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in front of Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth.

The parade is sponsored by the Plymouth Lions, American Legion Posts 391 and 112, Plymouth Vietnam Veterans and the Plymouth VFW.

The parade steps off at 8:30 a.m. from the corner of Main and Wing streets and proceeds north on Main to the Veterans Park at Church and Main.

The ceremony will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m. World War II veterans will be on hand as special guests. Master of ceremonies will again be former Marine Capt. Steve Monaghan, and he'll be joined by retired Air Force Col. Charles Cone. a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, who will deliver the keynote address. Monaghan is past commander of American Legion Post 112 and a Plymouth Lion. Cone is a Plymouth Lion and past district governor of Lions International.

Shoe drive

Bodyworks Healing Center of Plymouth is asking residents to put their best foot forward and help the Pangea **Educational Development** by donating old yet wearable shoes at Bodyworks Healing Center, 819 N. Mill, in Old Village Plymouth. The collection runs through July 30. Each person who donates wearable shoes for the cause will receive a \$10 coupon toward services at

Bodyworks Healing Center. To learn more about the Pangea Education Development or to make a monetary donation, visit http://www.pangeaeducation.org/#/about-us. To learn more about Bodyworks Healing Center and see what services we provide, please visit http://www.bodyworkshealingcenter.com.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salvation Army volunteer Karen Burton sorts donated tea and coffee.

Residents help mail carriers deliver food to hungry families

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Residents of the Plymouth and Canton Township area helped mail carriers Stamp Out Hunger with their generosity on Saturday.

More than 31,000 pounds of food, donated by residents whose mail is delivered through the post offices in Plymouth and Canton township and Belleville, was received by the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps after the National Association of Letter Carriers' 19th annual Stamp out Hunger event on Saturday. Mail carriers picked up the donations during their regular routes.

Along with another 8,600 pounds of food donated recently by people who attend Plymouth Township's Northridge Church, much of Saturday's donations will help the Plymouth Corps' emergency food pantry feed hungry families in the region.

"It's tremendous," said Laurie Aren, the Plymouth

Please see FOOD DRIVE, A5



Carolyn Setty sorts. Behind her, Peggy and Ray Schneider do the same. The Schneiders will be recognized as Salvation Army family volunteers of the year.

School board eyes hike in class sizes

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Whatever teachers remain in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools next year are going to have larger classes to teach.

After Tuesday's special meeting of the district's Board of Education, the only questions remaining seem to be how many teachers will there be and how many more students will each of them have to teach.

Though board members made no decisions Tuesday, they did hear administration proposals to raise class sizes up to two students per class at the elementary level, by nearly five students at the middle school level and almost four

Facility fees going up, see page A5.

students per class at the high schools.

Mike Bender, the district's director of secondary education, said the administration will try to keep the sting of budget cuts out of the classroom as much as possible.

"We have wonderful programs in place, and we hope to be able to continue them," Bender told the board. "Our funding causes us to look more closely and have a greater focus on requirements at the state level and at our

federal accountability." Under the administration's recommendation, class sizes at the elementary level would jump by two students per class. For instance, the stu-

dent-teacher ratio in grades 1-2 would jump from 26 to 28. At the middle school, ratios would climb from 30.25:1 to 35:1; at the high schools, it would jump from 31.5:1 to

At those levels the district, fighting an \$18 million deficit, would be able to drop 22 teachers and save \$1.6 million in middle school teachers and another 26 teachers, with a savings of \$1.95 million, at the high school level.

Elementary school savings will depend on whether the board decides to close Fiegel Elementary School, a recommendation made a few weeks ago by the administration. Closing Fiegel and adding two

Please see CLASSES, A5

Bar, restaurant workers toast smoking ban

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The smoke has cleared on Michigan's year-old ban on lighting up in places where food and drink are served, and those who work in some of the Plymouth area's bars and restaurants aren't seeing a lot of down side.

"It hasn't affected us at all," said Sam Khashan, owner (with brother Kevin) of Sean O'Callaghan's pub in downtown Plymouth. "I think more people are happy."

"I don't think it's had much of an impact," said Kevin Montagano, owner of the Rock Bar and Grill, across Penniman from O'Callaghan's. Montagano added that he hasn't given much thought to the law since it took effect in May

Khashan said the ban requires more effort from his staff, which provides outdoor receptacles for cigarette butts, tries to keep the sidewalks free of litter and monitors O'Callaghan's interior for scofflaw smokers. But he hasn't seen the backlash from smokers that he expected, he

SMOKERS COMPLY

"I expected a lot more complaints, a lot of trouble policing it," he said, "and we don't encounter that.'

Montagano, who opened Rock Bar and Grill just a few months before the no-smoking law took effect, said there were some complaints initially, but that patrons are now conforming to the law.

"It's amazing what a smoker will do to have a cigarette," he said. "They'll go outside when it's 20 below and smoke."

"I love the smoking ban. I think it's great," said Jamie Justin, a bartender at Hermann's Olde Town Grille in Plymouth's Old Village neighborhood.

Justin said she's noticed larger dinner crowds at Hermann's, something she attributes to the cleaner air there.

Before the ban took effect, Justin said, she heard smokers at Hermann's complain about it, but the issue seems to have settled. Hermann's provides a heater in wintertime for customers who head outside for smoke breaks.

Hermann's patron John Please see SMOKING, A5



At the Plymouth Bennigan's, patron Richard Holland said he's a smoker who likes the year-old ban. He says he doesn't mind going outside. "I smoke less if I have to go outside. I prefer coming into a place that's smoke-free." Holland, who is from Vineland, N.J., even chooses nonsmoking hotel rooms.



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Plymouth will be out for blood this summer

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 19, 2011

Plymouth will host an American Red Cross summer blood drive at City Hall on Friday, June 3.

Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every two to three seconds, and most of us will need blood in our lifetimes. City Hall blood donors can enter two raffles, one for a pair of tickets to DTE Energy Music Theatre and another for a \$3,000 gift card for gasoline purchases.

The June 3 drive is 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.; City Hall is at 201 South Main. To schedule an appointment via the Red Cross website, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code PCH. Walk-ins will also be welcome.

Blood donors who haven't donated in at least eight weeks are eligible to give; 16-year-olds can now donate in Michigan with parental consent. For all other eligibility questions, call (866) 236-3276.

Folk society hosts season finale

Scott Ludwig of Canton Township, a retired music teacher with deep roots in folk, jazz and pop, will be the guest host Saturday during the last BaseLine Folk Society concert of the 2010-2011 season.

The coffeehouse-style concert, which will also feature the group Rise Again and an open-microphone segment for visiting performers, is 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 North Sheldon Road, at Junction, south of M-14, Plymouth.

BaseLine is a group of fans

and musicians dedicated to the performance of acoustic folk and traditional American music.

Musicians interested in performing up to two songs during the open-microphone segment — during which eight slots will be available — can sign up between 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. A lottery will be held to pick the players if more than eight people or groups show up.

For more information, call Mike Mullen, BaseLine's president and founder, at (248) 347-

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

Website concert

Date/Time: Saturday, May 21, 8 p.m. to midnight

Location: Liberty Street Brewing Company, 149 W. Liberty, Plymouth Details: Local musician Kim Gnagey of Plymouth will launch her new website, Kimgnagey.com, with a special concert, which will feature Gnagey's original music. The event includes music from Master Dan Vigil, Megan and Tom do the Blues, Kim Gnagey and Friends, and FOUR BLOCK EMPIRE.

Contact: (734) 207-9600

Top volunteers

Date/Time: Through Friday, May 20 **Location**: Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce

Details: The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is still looking for nominations from local groups for their Volunteers of the Year. All of the Volunteers of the Year will be recognized at the Showcase Plymouth/Taste of Plymouth event being hosted May 23 at the Inn at St. John's.

Scrapbooking event Date/Time: Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Contact: Wes Graff, (734) 453-1540

AROUND PLYMOUTH

'Lip' service

Barefoot Productions showcases the conclusion of its 2010/2011 season with Terrence McNally's award-winning, "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," running through May 22. "Lips Together, Teeth Apart" is a contemporary drama punctuated with sharp humor and human poignancy, telling the story of two dysfunctional couples who vacation at a beach house on Fire Island during the fourth of July holiday. The cast includes Piper Grenfell of Canton (Chloe); Kristin Heitmeier of Northville (Sally); Michael Ludlum of Canton (John) and Jonathon Wennstrom of Livonia (Sam). "Lips Together, Teeth Apart" plays 8 p.m. May 20-21, and 2 p.m. May 22. Tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$14 for students and seniors. For more information or tickets, call the Barefoot box office at (734) 560-1493 or go online to www.justgobarefoot. com. All performances are held at the Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main Street in Plymouth.

Location: Plymouth Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main (south of Ann Arbor Road)

Details: Scrapbookers and cardmakers are invited to a 12-hour National Scrapbook Day workshop. Scrapbookers can choose between

C) GANNETT

a full day or half day. The cost is \$40 for 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., or \$25 for a half day. In addition to getting scrapbooking time, meals, and goody bags, attendees will be helping to support the Salvation Army's Tiny Tots preschool program. Contact: Cassie Hull by May 16 at (734) 612-9000 or e-mail cassiekh@ gmail.com.

Library friends

Date/Time: Monday, May 23, 11:30

Location: Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth.

Details: The Friends of the Plymouth, Canton, Novi, and Northville Public Libraries are sponsoring a book and author luncheon, which will be held at Fox Hills Country Club. The cost is \$25. The featured speaker will be Wall Street Journal columnist Jeffrey Zaslow, who has authored the best sellers, The Girls from Ames, and

The Last Lecture, as well as Highest Duty, a memoir of Captain Sully Sullenberg, the pilot who successfully landed U.S. Airways Flight 1549 in the Hudson River. This is the 25th anniversary of the book and author

luncheon. Contact: Tickets may be purchased between April 15 and May 15 at the Plymouth, Canton, Novi, and Northville Public Libraries, No tickets will be available at the door.

Preschool open house

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 5-7 p.m. Location: Plymouth Salvation Army Corps, Main Street just south of Ann Arbor Road

Details: The Salvation Army offers its Tiny Tots Preschool for ages 3 to 5. Come and meet the teachers and see the classroom. To register for the fall's classes, bring \$35 for the registration fee.

Contact: Call Sheila Johnson at the Salvation Army, (734) 453-5464. More information is also available online at www.misalplymouth.org.

Farm exhibit

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays; 2-5 p.m. Thursdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, April through November Location: Canton Historical Museum, corner of Canton Center and Heritage Park Drive in Canton Details: Ever wondered what living in Canton back in the 1800s was like and who lived and worked on the land many now call home? Bring the whole family to experience the Canton Historical Museum's highly anticipated new exhibit, "Whose Farm Do You Live On." Learn the history of this thriving farming community from the 1800s and well into the 1900s before its transformation by land developers in the 1930s. Find out who originally purchased the land and the names of families who lived there. View tools used by these families for farming, personal care, cooking, play and education.

Contact: For additional information, visit www.cantonhistoricalsociety.org or call (734) 397-0088.

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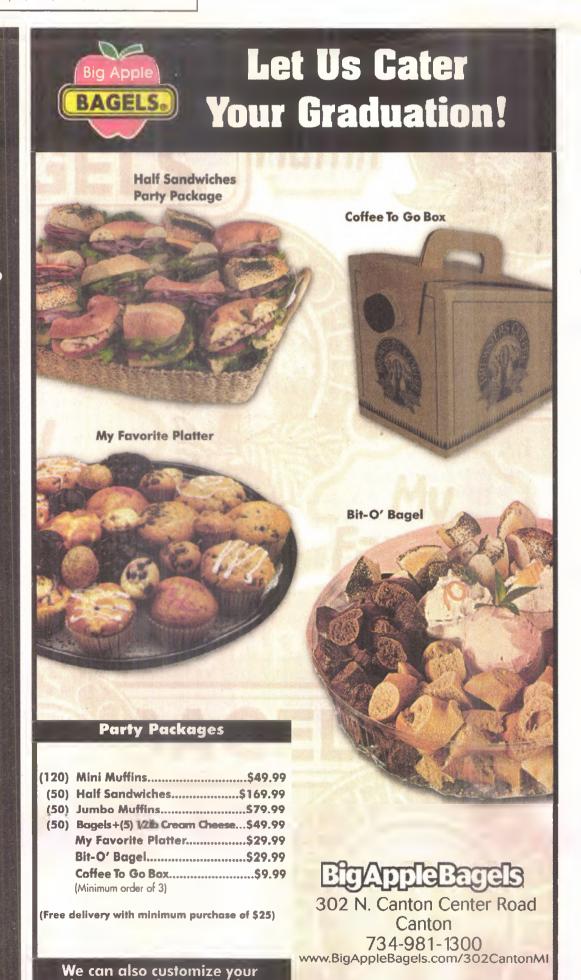
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Network, sample the food, explore area businesses at annual Showcase

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Local chefs will fire up the stoves for a live cookoff, restaurants will offer samples from their menus, volunteers will be honored for community service and some 70 businesses will be talking up their products and services during the 22nd annual Showcase and Taste of Plymouth on Monday.

The event, organized by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, is 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Inn at St. John's on Five Mile. Tickets are \$10 each.

The event is moving to a new space at the Inn at St. John's, an upstairs grand ball-room and adjoining smaller ballroom that Wes Graff, the chamber's executive director, said will give exhibitors and visitors to the popular event more elbow room. More than 800 people attended last year's event. "It's not going to feel so cramped," Graff said.

MORE CHEFS

This will be the second year for the Showcase's Chefs Challenge, sponsored by Mama Mucci's Pasta. Chefs Alexander Termos of the Ironwood Grill and Tim Bryant of Independence Village, a senior citizens facility, will be cooking pasta dishes that will be judged by a panel of three, including two instructors from the culinary arts program at Schoolcraft College.

"The only thing they (the chefs) know is they're getting pasta. Everything else is a surprise" Graff said. "They do not know the rest of the ingredients they will have."

The cookoff proved to be popular last year Graff said.



Plymouth
Community
Foundation
Volunteer of the
Year Jim McKeon
with Plymouth
Community
Chamber of
Commerce
executive
director Wes
Graff at last
year's showcase
event.

This year's challenge is scheduled for 5:10 p.m.

"It's just a great way for both the places to promote themselves. The chefs love to show off in these kinds of challenges," Graff said.

Also popular are the Taste of Plymouth restaurant booths, which offer sample dishes.

It will be the first Taste of Plymouth for Amici Italian Bistro in Plymouth's Old Village, which has been open for about a year and a half.

"We're really excited to do this and I can't wait until next Monday," said Jake Lindsey, a manager at Amici. "It should be a good time."

NETWORK TIME

Lindsey said he sees the event as a good opportunity to network, not only with visitors but with the people who own and represent the other participating businesses.

Amici's menu hasn't been finalized, Lindsey said, but they're leaning toward homemade meatballs, Italian sausage and meat sauce, and perhaps specialty desserts.

A wide array of Plymouth area businesses and organizations, from retailers to banks to pet-oriented shops to jewelers to nonprofits, will have booths at Showcase, Graff said. "People who have fun with their exhibit" seem to draw the most attention, he said.

The chamber will take a timeout at 7 p.m. to honor some 26 volunteers of the year from local service clubs and community groups, and to recognize the three winners of the chamber's college scholarship, a service-based award. A renewed fundraising effort for the scholarship fund raised about \$4,900; three local high school seniors will get a scholarship of \$1,000 each, and the balance will go toward next year's scholarships, Graff said.

The volunteers from local groups will each get a certificate of recognition from U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and a flower from Ribar Floral Co.

"It's always rewarding to honor their service," Graff said.

The Inn at St. John's is at 44045
Five Mile, just east of Sheldon Road.
Showcase and Taste of Plymouth
tickets will be available at the door.
The event is sponsored by Hines Park
Lincoln and Community Financial
Credit Union.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

Decision on waiver awaits downtown parking study

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A decision on a developers' request to have parking requirements waived in exchange for a cash payment, for a building proposed for downtown Plymouth, has been postponed pending the results of a downtown parking study.

The Plymouth City
Commission voted 6-0 for the delay, which had been recommended by City Manager Paul Sincock, at its Monday meeting. Jim Penn, the city's building official, said he would be open to working with developers on detailed plans for the so-called 789 Building, but that any construction would have to wait until the parking issue is settled.

"We were not aware that our project would be stopped until we do a parking study," Omar Hamdan, one of the developers, told the commission.

The \$7,650 study of downtown Plymouth's parking needs, and availability, is being done by the consultants Rich & Associates. The study should be completed

by the end of June, said Tony Bruscato, operations director of Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority.

Hamdan and Ed
Dombrowski plan a two-story
building, with a second-floor
restaurant that would feature
open-air terrace seating, for
the southeast corner of Ann
Arbor Trail and Main Street.
Their site plans, scaled down
from a three-story building that had been proposed,
were approved last week
by the Plymouth Planning
Commission.

Hamdan and Dombrowski plan to lease the building for retail, restaurant or office use, or a combination of those.

The new building would require 16 parking spaces, but a never-yet-used ordinance allows the City Commission to vote to waive that requirement for a cash payment of \$10,000 per parking space. Any money collected under the ordinance is to be set aside for future parking needs

Hamdan and Dombrowski, who plan no parking on the site of the new building, are offering \$160,000 in exchange for a waiver of the requirement.

Meanwhile, Mayor Dan
Dwyer thanked Hamdan and
Dombrowski for scaling back
plans for the 789 Building,
which had been criticized by
the owners of several existing
businesses.

"I just want to thank you for listening to the people and modifying your drawings," Dwyer said.

Commissioner Ron Loiselle was absent on Monday.

Developers of another downtown project, the expansion and remodeling of the former 1999 Tavern on Forest, which closed last fall, are also seeking a parking waiver, but only three parking spaces are required for that project, because of the second-floor restaurant space that would be added. City Commissioners last month voted to postpone a decision on that waiver request, deciding also to wait until the completion of the parking study.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

Streetscape project on schedule

Contractors have removed and repoured the bases for the brick paver cross walks located at Main and Fralick as well as Penniman Ave., and Union St. Brick pavers were set to be installed this week, according to Plymouth Downtown Development Authority officials.

Underground contractors worked each night last week to complete the underground infrastructure portion of the streetscape project. There were several emergency repairs that needed to be made as well.

DDA officials said contractors were "getting a jump start" on the second phase of the 2011 streetscape project by starting to do curb and sidewalk cement repairs on Forest Ave. and Fralick.

At this time Main St. (between Wing. And

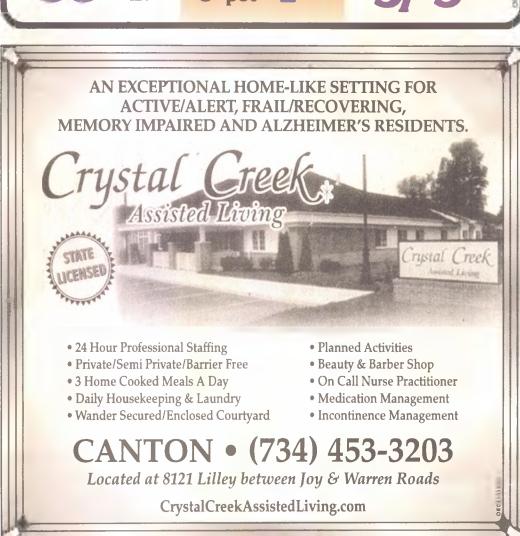
Church) may be prepared for paving as early as this week with paving to follow the week after. Overall the project is on schedule despite significant rain interruptions earlier in the project, DDA officials said.

"We anticipate Main Street to be open prior to the first Friday Night Concert on May 27," said Tony Bruscato, DDA operations director.

Phase II of the project will start immediately after Memorial Day and continue through mid-June. Residents should keep in mind that this schedule is tentative and may be impacted by weather, site conditions and crew/equipment scheduling.

Visit downtownplymouth.org for regular construction updates or follow us on facebook at facebook.com/plymouthdda







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Thursday, May 19, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

can break your heart

BY TOM KIURSKI **GUEST COLUMNIST**

I read up on fire deaths in the United States with hopes of learning safety messages to pass on to you. Many times, there are important lessons to be learned. Many times, the needless loss of life just breaks my heart. The following stories are real heartbreakers so take

the time to learn their les-

Our first story comes from Virginia, where an early morning fire blocked the Tom Kiurski primary escape path out of the

single-family dwelling, killing two people and injuring 11. There were no smoke alarms in the home (there's lesson No. 1), and the family used only the kitchen door to enter the house. The front door was in a living room that was converted to a bedroom shared by five boys. The door was locked, blocked and never used (lesson No. 2).

Since this fire started in the kitchen, their primary escape route was cut off. The parents awoke and went to the back of the house in the girls' area of the house. The father broke a window and was able to get eight children out. The mother was hurt and walking around the neighborhood, not knowing where to go (another lesson about meeting places here). The cause of this deadly blaze was a pan full of food and oil left burning on the stove after everyone went off to bed (still

another lesson).

Our next story happened in Illinois, where a fire started in the basement bedroom and killed a man and a boy living there. It seems they were unable to escape because the front door had an interlock device on it, whereby the front door is locked with a key from the inside as well as a way to work the lock with a key from the outside (lesson here). While trying to escape, they made it to the door but did not have the key and were overcome by heat and smoke and died just one door width away from safety.

This home was also without a working smoke alarm (another lesson, right?), and was started by an open flame that was too close to the bedding on the bed (again, another lesson). This may have been because the boy was playing with matches or a nearby candle that was too close to the bed.

A Wisconsin woman fell asleep while smoking in a chair. She awoke, but only made it as far as the kitchen before collapsing. Can you come up with a lesson here all by yourself?

There aren't that many new and exciting ways to die from fire. It is the same ones, repeated over and over, approximately 4,000 times per year in the United States alone. Take a few minutes to go over this information with loved ones, plan ahead for how you would escape your home if hit by a fire, and install and test plenty of smoke alarms in your home.

Tom Kiurski is training coordinator for the Livonia Fire Department.

Keeping up on fire deaths Man tackles theft suspect; stolen items recovered

A Plymouth Township man foiled a larceny early Sunday, running outside to tackle a man he had spotted in his parked car, police said.

The 19-year-old suspect, of Plymouth, was arrested when officers arrived, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. A duffel bag with a number of items in it, including a navigation system, a camera and a purse that the victim identified as having been in his car, was recovered, police said.

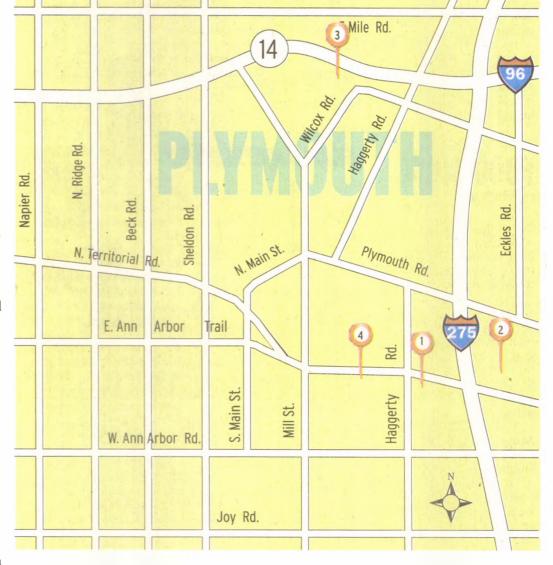
The incident occurred just before 7 a.m. on Haggerty near Ann Arbor Trail. The victim told police he was awakened by his dog, and that when he went to take the dog out, he saw a man inside his 2010 Ford Edge, which was parked in the

He put on a pair of shorts and ran outside, chasing the stranger, who had fled from the car, he told police. He tackled the suspect on the front lawn of a nearby house and called for a neighbor to phone, police, he said.

No injuries were reported. Also in the duffle bag were a small amount of cash and several other items, including a second navigation system, a cable television box and an antenna that were later identified as having been stolen from a Toyota Camry that had been parked in the driveway of a house on nearby Micol Drive, police said.

Other larcenies

🥦 A navigation system, a hunting knife and a multipurpose tool were reported stolen Sunday from a Chevrolet Malibu that had been parked on Aspen Drive, in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and I-275.



The car had been left unlocked, a police report said. The theft occurred between about 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, police

• Cash, a folding knife and a pair of scissors were reported stolen May 11 from a car parked in a garage at a house on Hammill Lane, in the area of Northville Road and M-

Both the car, a Subaru, and the garage had been left unlocked, police said. A candy tin in which the cash had been stored was found on a workbench in the garage.

The theft occurred between about 10 p.m. May 10 and just before 11 a.m. May 11.

Flag stolen

A 5- by 8-foot U.S. flag was reported stolen Sunday from outside a house on Spicer Drive, in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and

The flag was flying at the top of a 30-foot flagpole when it was taken, the victim told police. The theft occurred between 6 p.m. Saturday and 5:30 a.m. Sunday, a police report said.

By Matt Jachman







students per class would eliminate 30 teachers and save the district some \$2.5 million (the number drops to \$2.1 million if the board decides to keep Fiegel open).

At the request of board members, the administration also put together numbers that would show savings if the district only raised the student-teacher ratio to 33:1. Savings would be \$975,000 at the middle school level, and another \$1.17 million in high school savings.

"We'd sure prefer the 33-to-1," Bender said. "But knowing our funding challenges, we're recommending the 35-to-1."

Bender acknowledged the curriculum team would have to focus on core classes - English, math, science and social studies - and move other areas, such as alternative education, businesses, music and art, to a

lower priority.

Board members wanted to know which classes the administration might recommend cutting to meet that mandate, but Bender said that information is still being collected.

"I need to know what courses are being eliminated," board Treasurer Judy Mardigian said. "I can't make a decision until that question is answered."

Dawn Tomaszycki of Canton has a child going into kindergarten, and a special-needs third-grader. She's concerned the third-grader will stop getting the personalized attention

"My son already has 31 kids in his class," Tomaszycki said. "The teacher is lucky enough to have an aide. I'm concerned with the classroom size, and the teacher's ability to support each student's needs.'

The board is expected to make some decisions on class sizes during its meeting Tuesday, May 24.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

Groups to see fee hikes for school use

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

LOCAL NEWS

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education took a small step forward in their battle against a looming \$18 million deficit Tuesday by approving an administration recommendation for changes to how the district's buildings are used and increasing what groups pay to use them.

Changes proposed by the Community Education Department to what buildings are used, who uses them and how much revenue is generated could amount to some \$86,000 in increased revenue, according to department supervisor Betty Bloch.

'Not only would we cut back on staff and hours, we're looking at consolidating our programming," Bloch told Board of Education members at their meeting Tuesday. "We're looking at maximizing the use of our rooms."

Highlights of the plan:

• The district would consolidate programs such as youth basketball, swim lessons and other classes to three of the district's five middle schools and the high school park. Some 800 Plymouth-Canton

students are involved in youth basketball. The idea would be to maximize the use of racquetball courts in the Canton High School North building for things like dance and exercise classes.

The district would also increase fees to cover the "real cost" of the use of facilities, Bloch said.

• The use of the buildings by "inside groups" such as scout troops would be changed. Each building would limit use for its students/PTO groups to one night a week. Overtime charges for set-up and teardown (if needed) would be passed on to the groups, unless the group provided volunteers for that work.

Scout groups who use the buildings after 6 p.m. would only be allowed use of the gym on a first-come basis. Additionally, a \$10 fee per meeting would be charged (scout groups currently aren't charged for use of the build-

 The biggest change could come for outside groups who currently aren't charged for using the facilities and would see a \$10-per-hour fee established. For instance, Special Olympics groups aren't charged for some 200

hours a year in gym time, and another 36 hours in the pool. The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps (176 hours) and the Plymouth Community Band (110 hours a year) would also be affected.

· Groups such as the YMCA, the middle school pom team, All Saints Catholic School, AAU teams, churches, the Chinese school and various dance groups who use the auditorium at Salem High School would all see increased

The problem, as Bloch pointed out to board members, is these groups aren't likely to be none too pleased with the rate increases, which will need "strong support" from the

"If we are to do these things, it will require strong support from the administration," Bloch said. "These groups will not be happy.'

Board members gave the administration a "thumbs up" vote on instituting the changes.

"These are different days," trustee Barry Simescu said. "We have to keep the cuts away from the classroom, and this is a good effort at doing that."

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Corps' director of family and community ministries. "It's a lot of work for us right now, but it really helps set us up for the balance of the year.'

Aren said demand for emergency food is growing slightly, and expected to grow even more once the school year is over, as children who take advantage of schools' free and reduced meal programs will have to find food at home.

Workers at the Salvation Army were finishing up food-sorting on Tuesday: Outdated food, which cannot be given away by the food pantry, is thrown out; items set to expire within 90 days are put in a short-date area; and the rest is sorted by food type: green beans with green



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Food pantry director Tammy Moyer checks the food as it's being sorted.

beans, soups with soups, etc. Collections were down from 2010, said Aren, who suspects the rainy weather Saturday had something to do with

lower collections. Food was also collected in the area on Saturday for emergency food banks in Belleville and for Northville Civic Concern.

mjachman@hometownlife.com

(313) 222-2405

Hogg, who is not a regular smoker but said he occasionally enjoys a fine cigar, said he was against the ban before it started, that he saw it as an infringement on personal lib-

Now, "It's good," he said. "It wasn't as bad as everybody thought.'

TO THEIR HEALTH

Hogg said he appreciates returning from a night out without nasal congestion, a sore throat and smelly clothes. "I didn't know how bad it was getting," he said.

"It really has not affected too much of our business," said Lee Kempisty, general

manager at Bennigan's on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth

Township. She noted, however, that, as the ban coincided with the difficult economy of the last few years, it might be hard to say exactly how it's affected "I've really had no pushback. Sales for us right now are get-

ting better," she said. More patrons now like to sit at Bennigan's bar area, which had been a smoking section before the total ban, she said.

Kempisty said some regulars may have stopped coming to Bennigan's because of the ban, but that other customers in favor of it have taken their

"Where else are they going to go?" she said of the smokers. "It's not like I'm the only one who did it."

CLEARING THE AIR

She added that Bennigan's has also seen some energy savings, because its air-handling system isn't tasked with clearing out cigarette smoke (the restaurant had a no-cigar rule that predated the smoking ban). "The air doesn't have to work nearly as hard as it did before," she said.

Kempisty's also seen an increase in productivity, she said, as employees can no longer take smoke breaks, indoors or out. Employees generally like the ban, she said.

However, she said, garbage duty gives those employees who do smoke a chance to light up.

"I get a lot of people requesting to take out the garbage," Kempisty said.

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Frugal finds

Blogger leads way to coupon clipping savings

CORRESPONDENT

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 19, 2011

Meghan Lombardo wants to save you lots of money, and she knows exactly what you need to get started.

Coupons.

Surprised? So were many others until they checked her blog, "Savvy Spending: Because Paying Retail is for the Birds." where the Canton resident regularly shares deals and tips with readers and subscribers.

Lombardo uses her website to post everything from grocery store coupon links to other cash-saving deals like free admission to area botanical gardens and a deal for a free 8 x 10 photo collage from Walgreens. One recent post even included information for a free breakfast at Ikea.

"I get excited about saving money and getting things for free," Lombardo admitted, adding that she often saves between 50 and 60 percent off each grocery bill. "It can be very addicting.

Lombardo, the mother of two children, ages 4 and 6, said she has used coupons her whole life. However, it was not until she was a newlywed that she became more budget-conscious and started using coupons more seriously.

Stumbling across another coupon website where shoppers boasted of saving huge amounts of cash on food and household purchases, she decided to take her money-saving tactics to the next level. By matching coupons found in weekend newspaper circulars with weekly store sales, she discovered she was able to increase her savings dramati-

"There is a whole strategy involved in effective couponing," Lombardo said, adding that careful planning and reviewing local store ads is essential. "Now, I spend less but there is more food in the house."

SAVINGS REALIZED

Encouraged by her savings, Lombardo continued to investi-

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Community Church in Wayne.

She also visits local groups such

as Mothers of Preschoolers and

gives talks on using coupons to

"It seems like all of the sud-

den it has gotten really popu-

lar," she said. The tough econo-

my has pushed couponing into

Plymouth resident Stephanie

Kuhn agrees. She began using

college graduate looking to cut

"I figured if I could save \$10

would be \$120 a year. And that

coupons when she was a new

back on her monthly grocery

every month on groceries, it

is a lot of money when you're just out of school ... it really

Now as a mother of three

continues to use coupons regu-

her coupon use to both restau-

rants and clothing stores. She

girls under the age of 7, she

larly and has even expanded

adds up," she said.

the mainstream, she said.

save money

GROCERY BILL

Meghan Lombardo and daughter Lilley, 4, show off the family's savvy spending habits. "I get excited about saving money and getting things for free," Lombardo said.

gate new ways to save money. Friends were often impressed with her frugal finds and asked her to share deals via e-mail.

Soon she had a long list of friends and family requesting information on the best deals she found. She even had people stopping her in church, asking for money-saving tips.

"They all wanted to know how I did it. I thought a blog would be an easier way to communicate," she said and launched her site in January 2010. She currently has 250 followers and subscribers on

Staying organized is key when using coupons, Lombardo said. Clipping coupons and matching them to store sales can take time, and posting these "match-ups" on her site helps speed up the process for others, she said. She regularly posts match-ups from current area newspaper coupons to sales at local stores such as Meijer, CVS, Rite Aid and Walgreens.

Lombardo notes that the recession has fueled a new interest in couponing and more people are seeking ways to economize. A part-time technology teacher for Livonia Public Schools, she also teaches

Vaccine Packages

Expires 6-15-11.

sales and special offer coupons to stock up on clothing at local stores such as Gymboree.

often takes advantage of stores

"I make my shopping list based on what I have coupon for," Kuhn said, adding that daughters Grace, Aubree and Ashlyn are already learning the value of saving.

"They like to help me clip the coupons and out of the newspaper and when we go shopping they ask, 'Is it on sale?'" she said.

"Three kids are so expensive, especially when they're in diapers," noting that she often trades coupons with her sister in-law, Emily Barczyk, whom she affectionately calls "The Coupon Queen."

LESSONS FROM MOM

Barczyk, a Plymouth mother of two and longtime coupon user, credits her mother with instilling appreciation of a good value.

"My mom used coupons when I was growing up. I like to save money and I don't pay full price unless I have to. I get excited about saving money and getting things for free," she said.

As a stay-at-home mom, Barczyk feels that using coupons gives her an opportunity to support to the household budget.

Barczyk and her mother still trade coupons and shares tips on sales over the phone, she said.

"I feel good when I walk out of a store and have saved money ... it makes me feel like I am contributing," she

Lombardo also acknowledges that helping others save money has been rewarding.

Tips to achieve couponing success

Interested in learning to use coupons to save money? Canton resident Meghan Lombardo regularly uses coupons to help save as much as half off her weekly grocery bill. She posts many of her tips and links to area freebies on her website at www.savvyspending-meghan.blogspot.

Here are some of Meghan's tips for beginners:

1) START SMALL

Don't think that you have to make a 180-degree change in the way you shop on the first day of couponing. Try to clip a few coupons and use them when the item is at a rock bottom price. Or, just tackle one store at a time to learn the ropes. Remember, big changes — in anything - take gradual steps to reach completion. Take baby steps.

2) HEALTH AND BEAUTY ITEMS ARE FREQUENTLY FREE

Did vou know vou can literally get free toothpaste every week at drugstores? If you combine coupons, store reward money (like Extra Care Bucks at CVS), and sale prices you can almost always pick up a few tubes of toothpaste for free. The same goes for deodorant, shampoo, floss, toothbrushes, cleaning supplies, medicine, laundry detergent, medicine, and more.

3) START A STOCKPILE

The secret to saving money at the grocery store is buying what you know you'll use when it's free or cheap with coupons — not when you actually need it.

Here's what I mean: I know that in our house go through

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about a box of pancake mix each month. The shelf life of the box of pancake mix is six months. I can pay \$3.50 for it when I have run out of it and need it, or I can buy six of them by combing coupons and a sale and pay just 50 cents each! I know I'll use it, I won't have to buy it again for six months (or until that sale comes back), and I've just saved myself some money! Apply that to all the weekly freebies and deals, and you've got yourself a nice stockpile!

4) STACK STORE COUPONS WITH MANUFACTURER **COUPONS FOR MORE SAVINGS**

Many stores offer their own coupons that can be used with a manufacturer coupon. "Stack" a store coupon with a manufacturer coupon on the same item. These coupons are easy to print online and can greatly increase your savings.

5) PLAN AND PREPARE

Couponing doesn't have to take up hours of your time. There are so many websites that do most of the work for you — showing you what the best deals are, telling you where to find the coupons you need, and sharing with you the freebies that are out there. Take 30 minutes or so each week to plan your trip, and print, clip, and organize your coupons and you're all set to go. They say that time is money, and that 30 minutes you spent in planning and preparing your trip can easily save you 50 percent off your grocery bill.

You can find Couponing 101 Guides, store policies, coupon lingo and more at Savvy Spending! (www.savvyspending-meghan.blogspot.com)

classes on effective couponing at the Canton Summit on the Park and CrossPointe **Canton Animal Hospital** Full service medical, surgical, dental care, grooming & boarding.

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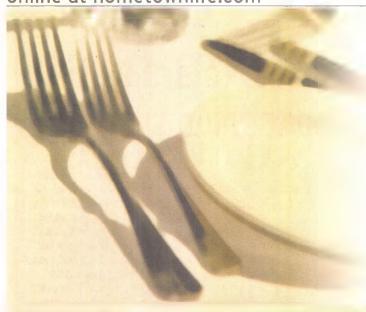
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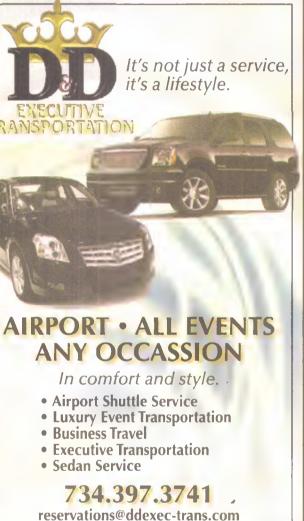
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Bookstock sets record for opening-day sales

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 19, 2011

This year's Bookstock is breaking records.

The week-long used book and media sale, which continues through Sunday at Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia, raised more money for literacy and education programs on its first day than ever before in its eight-year history, said Beverly K. Phillips, assistant director of public relations for the Jewish Community Relations Council, which cosponsors the event.

"It's great; it's fabulous. We're doing very well," she said. "It took years to build, but now that it's in its ninth year, people are familiar with it, and they want to be there."

Organizers said they have more than 230 tables of donated books, DVDs, CDs, books on tape, magazines and records at bargain-basement prices. That's 66 more tables than last year. They stopped counting after they reached 100,000 items.

From 3-9 p.m. today, those who buy three books can get a fourth for free. Books will be sold for half price Sunday, May 22, the last day of the sale.

Bookstock has generated more than \$530,000 for literacy and education programs throughout Oakland County and Detroit over the past eight years. This year, Bookstock established three Bookstock Scholar Awards, which will be given to outstanding library science students at Wayne State University. Bookstock proceeds will fund one of the \$2,000 scholarships, while the others will be provided by



Enid Comito is from Canton. She's hunting for fiction and mysteries.

corporate partners Gardner White Furniture and Wallside Windows.

"It's a very feel-good thing," co-chair Janet Berman said, adding that organizers take people's donations, give them a tax receipt, categorize and sell them, and turn them all in to dollars for literacy and education projects.

Bookstock is sponsored by the Oakland Literacy Council, Detroit Jewish News, Hour

Detroit magazine, Schostak Brothers and Co., the Jewish **Community Relations** Council, and a consortium of Jewish communal nonprofit organizations.

Laurel Park Place is on Six Mile Road east of I-275. The sale is open during regular mall hours.

For more information, call the Bookstock hotline at (248) 645-7840, ext. 365, or visit www.bookstock.info.

Radio station hosts Ragbirds in concert

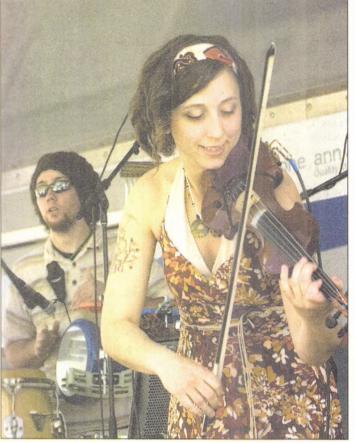
Student-run radio station 88.1-FM presents The Ragbirds, with special guests Serein, at the Salem High School auditorium Saturday.

Led by dynamic and energetic front woman and multi-instrumentalist Erin Zindle, The Ragbirds utilize an arsenal of instruments from around the world. The Ragbirds are a fusion of folk rock and pop hooks over danceable world rhythms stirred with a Celtic fiddler's

Surrounding Zindle's earthy-sweet voice is the whirlwind of guitarist T.J. Zindle and dynamic bassist Brian Crist, spinning over the world-beat grooves of drummer Loren Kranz and percussionist Randall Moore. Zindle skillfully switches between violin, mandolin, banjo, accordion and percussion, all while dancing around the stage, drawing the awe of audiences across the country.

The Ragbirds albums have received local and national praise, hailed "highly impressive" by USA Today and touted as "astounding international eclecticism" by Reveal Arts. The Ragbirds were formed in 2005 with the release of "Yes Nearby." The worldtravel-themed "Wanderlove" (2007) was Homegrown Music Network's number-one selling album in the fall of 2008. The 2009 international release of "Finally Almost Ready" saw the band invade Japan with the single "Book of Matches" reaching number one on the charts in Osaka.

In 2010, The Ragbirds reached yet another milestone in their young careers when they independently marketed and sold their 10,000th album.



Erin Zindle and Tim Dziekan play with the Ragbirds, an Ann Arbor-based band. The five member group plays world music that gets folks dancing.

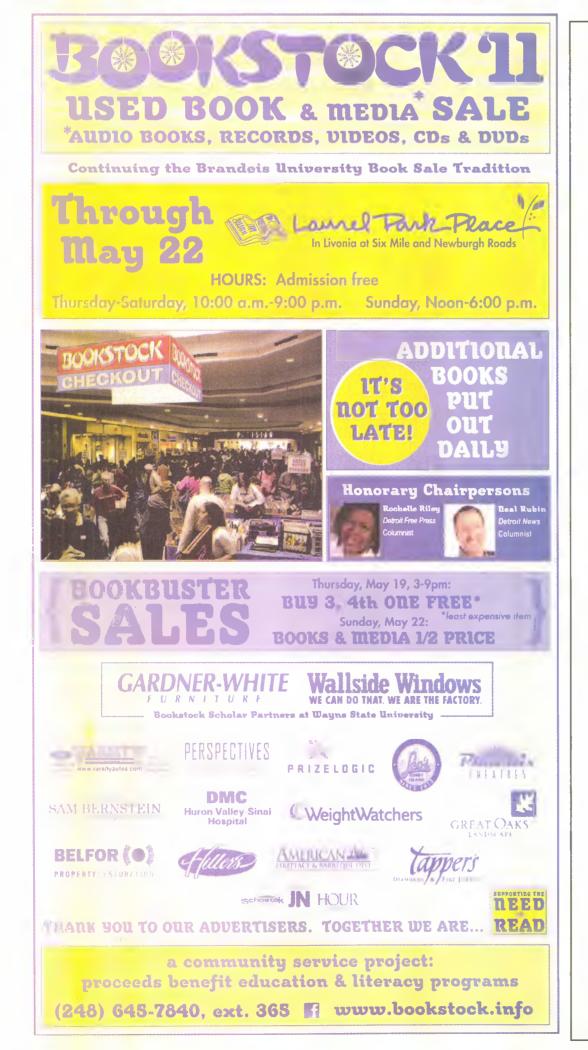
The Ragbirds have performed in more than 30 states to the tune of 150-plus shows a year. Crisscrossing the nation in their converted diesel bus that runs on recycled waste vegetable oil, these festival favorites have performed at Rothbury, 10,000 Lakes, Summer Camp, Ann Arbor Folk Festival, Hookahville and more, and have shared the stage with Rusted Root, Railroad Earth, Toubab Krewe, Hot Buttered Rum, The Duhks and others.

Station officials also announced Serein will also perform. Serein is a Plymouth-

based band made up of students at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Their debut CD, "As It Is," was produced in Ann Arbor by Jim Roll. Their CD is available on iTunes and they are working on a fulllength CD to be released this

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. They're available at the station's office at Salem High School. Tickets can also be purchased on-line at 881TheEscape.com. The show is at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. All the profits from the show will benefit

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Secretary of State revs up motorcycle safety message

BY STACY JENKINS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson rumbled into the parking lot at Oakland Community College on a black and orange Harley-Davidson 1200 Sportster.

"It has 1,200 cc's, so it wants to go!" Johnson said. "It doesn't like 25 miles per hour."

While the motorcycle was on loan from Motor City Harley-Davidson in Farmington Hills, it's not the first for the Oakland County Republican. Johnson has been riding motorcycles since she was 12 years old, when she saved up her babysitting money and bought her own. She was the first female to receive the motorcycle endorsement in Oakland County and the state of Michigan.

Now, there are more than 500,000 motorcycle riders who are endorsed in the state, and Johnson said she's sure there are many more who aren't.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY MONTH

On Tuesday, Johnson selected the OCC Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills to promote Motorcycle Safety Month and to urge riders to update their skills by taking training courses, which are offered at OCC, Macomb Community College and Schoolcraft College. She also encourages all motorists to share the road and be aware of each other.

"With the warmer weather and increases in gas prices, I think you're going to see a lot more motorcycles on the road,"

Since 2007, the number of Michigan residents with motorcycle endorsements has increased from 506,000 to

553,000. Yet, safety reminders during May — designated as Motorcycle Safety Month — are still important.

Johnson said 127 motorcycle riders were killed in vehicle-



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson rode a Harley-Davidson from the Motor City Harley-Davidson dealership on Grand River to OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, where she held a press conference on motorcycle safety.

Michigan.

TO GET ENDORSED

To earn a motorcycle endorsement on a driver's license, the rider must successfully complete a knowledge test and a safety course or a skills test with a third-party tester. There are 29 public and private providers in the state.

The Secretary of State's office is working to increase the number of motorcycle training providers.

A safety course is required for riders who are 16 or 17 years of age and for adults who fail the skills test twice.

"Safety is a rider's number one priority. Even riders who have years of experience can be surprised at what they'll learn at a motorcycle safety course," Johnson said.

The Michigan Motorcycle Safety Program is administered by the Department of State. For a list of motorcycle training programs and for more information, visit www. Michigan.gov/sos.

"An endorsement isn't just a recommendation from me. It's the law," Johnson said. "The best thing you can do for rider safety is to get your endorsement on your driver's license."

Oakland County Sheriff

motorcycle crashes last year in Mike Bouchard joined Johnson at Tuesday's press conference, saying safety is key among his motorcycle patrol unit and for all riders.

Bouchard, also an avid motorcycle rider, said safety is a real concern.

"For me, motorcycle safety is not an abstract concept," he said, noting that the Oakland County Sheriff's Department has lost members to motorcycle accidents. "Safety is not something that we overlook."

ABATE

Vince Consiglio, rider coach and president of ABATE (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) of Michigan, said between 60,000 and 75,000 riders have received motorcycle safety training in the Detroit area since 1981 through ABATE volunteer rider coaches and safety programs.

ABATE is a nonprofit that aims to preserve the overall rights and promote the safe operating practices of all Michigan motorcyclists. Instructors are needed; anyone interested in learning how to become a rider coach may visit www.abateofmichigan.org and click on "safety."

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Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, as she took off her helmet at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

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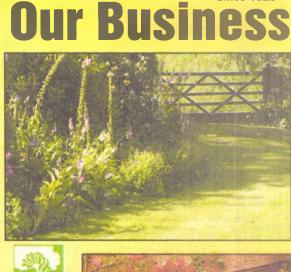


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The Spring Senior Expo drew visitors from all around Metro Detroit.

Area residents take in Spring Senior Expo

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More than 1,000 seniors and area residents converged Tuesday on the Spring Senior Expo at the VisTaTech Center in Livonia.

Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric/ Hometown Newspapers and Schoolcraft College, the eighth annual expo featured 65 exhibitors promoting their ser-

View a photo gallery and

vices in all areas affecting seniors' Programs about

video montage of the expo Medicare, Social Security and neck at hometownlife.com and back pain were presented. Exhibitors brought their expertise and information

on finance, retirement, housing, legal issues, health care, identity theft and more to this year's event. 'Fitness demonstrations on Zumba and line dancing, as well as strength training for seniors, were a big draw.

The Entertainment Network of Southfield hosted the Senior Feud, a fun spoof of the original show Family Feud. The high-tech game show system with questions, sound effects, real digital scoring and lots of prizes made for a great closing to this year's expo, according to attendees.

Seniors said they enjoyed everything from Senior Feud to pastries prepared by Schoolcraft College.

Paul and Sue Adams of Farmington took in the expo. The couple looked for housing opportunities for Paul's parents. "We're just here to collect information for them on senior care housing," Paul said. "It's helpful to have conversations with people here to discuss options." Paul also wanted information on long-term care insurance for himself.

"Having people here with all this different information has been helpful," Sue Adams said.

INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE

Susan Nye of Livonia wanted to gather information to help friends, one who wanted information about a Social Security issue, and another who wanted real estate information.

Nye said the expo was "a great event with a wonderful setup."

"There's information here for everybody, and you can talk to people," Nye said.

Ruth Williams of Redford said she gives the event "a good grade."

"There's a lot of good information here," she said. Williams said she wanted health and medical

information for herself. "I want to figure out how I can stay here longer on this Earth," Williams said with a smile. "I think

it's excellent. And the freebies don't hurt."

HEALTH INQUIRIES

John Elkins, a senior service liaison for St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, said many expo visitors were inquiring about the senior emergency room at the hospital, while others were commending the hospital for the room. Others, who did not have a doctor at the hospital, wanted information, Elkins

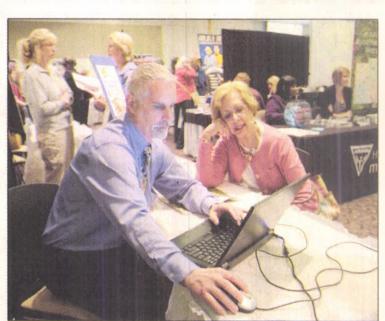
"We have people here asking about the hospital, and we are getting feedback on the emergency room," he said. "Two women told us they went there last year, then went to a different hospital and they talked about how different it was. One of the unique things about it is you get a geriatric assessment."

Elkins said he thought the event had an excellent turnout.

Look for a video montage of expo-goers produced by photojournalist John Heider on the web at hometownlife.com. A fall Senior Health and Living Expo is planned in October. Look for details in upcoming editions of this newspaper and on the web at hometownlife.com.



Line dancers cut a rug at the Spring Senior Expo.



Hometownlife.com Web Editor Larry Ruehlen helps Diana Hage of Westland set up a Facebook page.



Susan Nye of Livonia speaks with Brett Phillips of Plymouth RE/MAX.



Dr. Adam Mashike of Mashike Chiropractic Wellness Center shows Ruth Williams of Redford how to have a healthier spine.



Sharon and Bill Armbruster of Canton take a break to read the



Marilee Weinlander of Dearborn and Bob Hayrup of Westland had a good time at the Expo.

Fundraiser benefits vacation home dedicated to military personnel

A restaurant in Plymouth Township is hosting a fundraiser Saturday for a Michigan vacation home reserved for use by military personnel.

The Blum's Landing Bike & Classic Car Show is 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday at the Bennigan's at 40441 Ann Arbor Road, just west of I-275 and east of Haggerty.

Bennigan's customers with a show coupon, available online, will have 20 percent of their tab donated to Blum's Landing.

Blum's Landing is a bed and breakfast on 12 acres in the Rogers City area, minutes from Lake Huron and the Black Mountain

recreation area. It's run by Terry and Jan Blumberg of Canton Township in memory of their son, Sgt. Tevor A. Blumberg, was killed in 2003 in Fallujah, Iraq.

Blum's Landing is a place where service personnel and their families can take short vacations, free of charge, and enjoy Michigan's natural beauty.

visit www.blumslanding. org; for a Bennigan's coupon to direct money spent there on Saturday to Blum's Landing, visit alrpost32.

For more information,

The show is being sponsored by the American Legion Riders of American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Opening MESP account is great gift for grads

igh school graduations are upon us.
Congratulations to graduates and their families for completing an important part of their life's journey. A high school education is a stepping stone leading to some post secondary education -- either college or trade school.

The great majority of people recognize that in this everchanging society, a high school education is not sufficient. I encourage all high school graduates to continue to pursue their education, because now is the time to get the skills and tools needed to be successful.

Along with graduation season also comes the issue of finding an appropriate gift for the high school graduate. Because I believe in the importance of continuing education past high school, I encourage gift givers to consider a con-



Rick Bloom

(www.misaves.com). The MESP is a college savings plan that **Money Matters** is considered to be one of

the best in the

country. It is easy to establish and requires only a \$25 minimum to get started.

The benefit of an educational plan like the MESP is that the money grows tax-free for as long as it remains in the plan. Once withdrawn, as long as the money is used for a qualified education expense, which includes just about anything that relates to education, there are zero tax consequences. In addition, you don't have to worry about where the

graduate ends up attending college because the money can be used at any public or private institution in the country.

I recognize that graduates would much rather receive an iTunes gift card or one from Best Buy. However, what they like shouldn't be the only consideration. After all, they're high school graduates, which means they're adults now and need to start learning to think and act like adults.

A lot of people may think a contribution into the MESP would be a great gift, but they don't want to go through the hassle of opening the account. I recommend the parents of high school graduates open an account through the MESP and then notify family and friends that if they wish to contribute, the account information can be given to them. Then, all anyone who wishes to contribute needs to do is

parents of graduates are making it much easier for friends and relatives to invest in the graduate's future.

It's always amazing to me that college costs rise faster than just about anything in our society other than health care. The cost of a college education has spiked and we all know that with more budget cuts down the road, costs are

As you think of ways to honor the high school graduate for a job well done, one of the greatest gifts you can give is to help them take the next important step on the way to a successful future.

not getting any cheaper.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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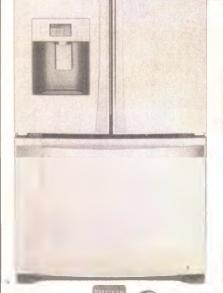
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OPINION

THURSDAY, May 19, 2011 PAGE A12 (P)

hometownlife (m) com

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Brad Kadrich, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Avoid tragedy Talk to teens about

It's prom and graduation season — time for parents to remind their teens about the dangers of underage drink-

dangers of drinking

The statistics are sobering. One person is killed every 30 minutes in an impaired driving crash, and someone is injured every 26 seconds, according to the southeast Michigan chapter of Mothers Against Drunken Driving.

But underage drinking poses other risks as well. Don't think it's safe to let teens drink just as long as they don't

Drinking impairs teens' decision-making skills, causing them to do things they ordinarily wouldn't. Furthermore, the consequences of their actions — having sex, becoming violent, committing a crime - can affect them the rest of their lives.

Contrary to popular belief, teens listen to their parents - even more so than their peers. Research shows parental disapproval is the No. 1 reason teens choose not to

> Don't worry about repeating yourself. Even if you've had the conversation

> before, bring it up again. Send clear, consistent zero-

> tolerance messages. Discuss

the dangers of drinking and

driving and alcohol poison-

If your teenager wants to

have a party at your house,

make it clear to guests that

alcohol and any other drugs

Lock your liquor cabinet

Monitor the party area,

restricting the entry and

exit areas to keep an eye on

what is brought in. Define

the party area and don't let

guests in other areas like

and hide or throw out all

prescription medications.

are not allowed.

Contrary to popular belief, teens listen to their parents - even more so than their peers. **Research shows** parental disapproval is the No. 1 reason teens choose not to

bedrooms or the garage.

drink.

Set a beginning and an end time to the party.

Be prepared to call parents if a guest brings alcohol or other drugs to the party, or if he or she appears to be under the influence — just as you would want another parent to call you if your child showed up drunk at their

If your teenager wants to go out on in the evening, check in with him or her throughout the night and when he or she gets home.

Have a "code" phrase your teen can say to you over the phone that means he or she wants to be picked up from a party where alcohol and drugs are being used or other risky behaviors are going on. Do not push your teen for an explanation.

If you go out, let your teen know where you will be and how you can be reached.

Be a good example. What you do is just as important, if not more so, than what you say.

If you serve alcohol at your teen's graduation party, make sure no one under age 21 has access to it. Have a responsible adult serve all alcoholic drinks or don't serve any alcohol at all.

If you drink, drink responsibly by limiting the number of alcoholic beverages you consume.

Let teens see that people can have fun without drink-

Do everything you can to prevent your teen from becoming the next statistic. Graduation and prom should be remembered as happy times, not times of regret.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Michigan's ban on smoking in bars and restaurants is a year old this month. How do you think it's worked out so far?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"I think it's a very good thing, because I don't smoke. I hate it."

Kathy Howell



"I'm very much for health. I feel like even second-hand smoke is bad. ... I love going into a restaurant now and not even having them ask, 'Smoking or nonsmoking?'"

Lynn Temske



"It's great. ... Now you've got to hit the casinos. ... Now you can smell your food."

Sandra Burke Livonia



"I think it's a good thing, though I don't smoke. That's probably why I think it's a good thing."

Larry Schaefer Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Helmet health

I feel that the issue of not wearing helmets on bikes is affecting our community greatly. People who do not wear helmets have a high chance of damaging their brain and spinal cord.

My neighbor used to be very athletic and would ride his bike for miles on end. Until one day, when he was not wearing a helmet, he hit a bump on the sidewalk and went flying. His spinal cord was severely damaged. He is now paralyzed from the waist down and has difficulty moving his upper body.

My neighbor was one of the many who have suffered from damage to their spinal cord or brain. No one should have to suffer as my neighbor did. I greatly encourage others to wear a helmet when riding a bike.

Laws on wearing bike helmets should be enforced more because do you really want to risk it? If I did not wear a helmet, I would be very angry at myself from how I was living. Not wearing a helmet doesn't show others you are cool or a rebel. It just shows you are not wearing a helmet ... and what will that ever do for your life?

Will it show you accomplished anything? Because it won't, the only thing you will accomplish is that you accomplished putting your life on the line, and you might even die. Does that sound "fun?" I didn't

Start teaching your children to wear bike helmets. We would all like more birthdays in the world, not less. When we teach them to wear bike helmets, it will help them be more safe than not wearing them. Save the world, wear bike helmets.

Taylor Smith Canton

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

Kids section needed

I am writing to you in regard to the newspaper itself. I believe that if you add a kids/teens section, then it might increase newspaper

I know that not as many people have been buying, but if we add a kids section, then it will appeal to all ages.

In the kids section, you could include games, coloring contests, new kids' movies and articles that kids would enjoy.

 Some games could include tic-tac-toe, or a crossword puzzle that's not too hard. Overall, just some games that are easier for kids/teens.

For the coloring contests, you could have kids either color in what you draw, or you could have them draw their own. After they do it, they could send it in and they could win a small prize if theirs was good enough. You could include movies that are PG and under and include a

short summary of them. For example, the new movie *Hop* could be one. If there are no mov ies, then you can include books.

Lastly, the articles could be like, "Five bunnies saved from fire." Just something like that. that kids would enjoy to read and not get bored or confused by big words.

So, in all, if you start writing a kids section, you might be able to increase newspaper sales. Kids will be able to read the newspaper and enjoy it as much as adults. They will finally have something to read without having to use a book or magazine.

Let's bring this generation back to reading newspapers!

Hanna Cohen Canton

Colbeck's courage?

Where was the courage, Sen. Colebeck? On the floor of the Senate, you voted against HB 4361, the major reform legislation that raises taxes on citizens to give businesses a \$1.5 billion tax cut. But your most important action was to vote for the same bill in committee (Senate Journal #41). Are you trying to have it both ways?

In committee, you had your greatest opportunity for leverage. You could have sought lower tax rates to soften the pension tax blow on seniors, or minimize the cuts to school dis tricts, or cut back on the unnecessary tax break for big business. But instead you gave the gov ernor exactly what he sought and you tried to cover your committee actions by voting against the bill on the floor for final passage.

Do you think you can fool some of the people some of the time? Every time we pay more in state taxes, we won't be fooled.

> Richard Dawn Canton

Their guy in place, board should stay out of the way

hen the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education voted unanimously two weeks ago to offer the interim superintendent position to Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Vice President Dianne Gonzalez broke into applause, smiling

widely at what she correctly viewed as a victory for the board.

It was important, everyone felt, to have unanimity on this selection, to not only make sure trustees get the right person, but also to show they actually can work

Brad Kadrich together, come to a consensus and vote in unison on something — anything - that moves the district for-

They got it, and good for them. It was clear board members came into the interview process having looked at the candidates and, while they may have come in predisposed to hiring Hughes, they gave their attention and consideration to the three internal candidates.

Trustee Steven Sneideman was the only one who voiced concern about making the decision the same night, but he acquiesced in the name of unity and voted with the rest of them.

There was good reason for the happiness, the smiles and the congratulatory mood: They got the right guy, and they worked together to get him. Now there's one more thing they must all agree to do:

Stay out of the guy's way. Hughes, who most recently was the deputy superintendent in the Michigan Department of Education and helped write much of the curriculum the state requires districts to teach, knows what he's doing. He's done it every which way, heading a small district (2,500 students in Haslett) and a large district (18,000 in Dearborn). He's hired people, fired people, been involved in negotiations and legal issues.

He's never been in a district with the kind of three-school high school campus Plymouth-Canton employs, but if you're worried about his knowledge, know this: He helped design the current leadership model in place at the park.

He's worked with a variety of school boards, so nothing the oftentumultuous P-CCS board throws at him is likely to be a surprise. Hopefully, when this board — as it has been wont to do at times — strays into his bailiwick, he'll have the

gravitas to nudge trustees back into their roles.

For now, the board wants Hughes to focus on filling key positions, and I heard an idea the other day that makes perfect sense (Full disclosure note: It isn't my idea, I heard it from someone who didn't want to say it out loud yet), given the fact most observers believe Hughes will be in place for the entire 2011-12 school year. As Hughes goes about filling jobs such as that of Deputy Supt. Ken Jacobs and Assistant Supt. for Instructional Services Dr. Cindy Swift, he should hire people on two-year contracts. That will allow the people hired to have a little job security, but will also give the new permanent superintendent, likely to be hired to start the 2012-13 school year, the chance to bring in his own staff should he not be comfortable with the people who

are in place.

While he sorts all of that out, Hughes is making a good first impression. People within the ditrict are at least initially impressed There's no longer any doubt who running things in the district. Jacob. who had been functioning as chief operating officer since November is out of the picture due to a surgeons knife, while Supt. Dr. Craig Fiegel has faded graciously out of the pic ture to give the new guy a chance to succeed.

First impressions are important and Hughes has made a good one. Hopefully, it's been good enough to keep the board out of the way.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (313) 222-8899

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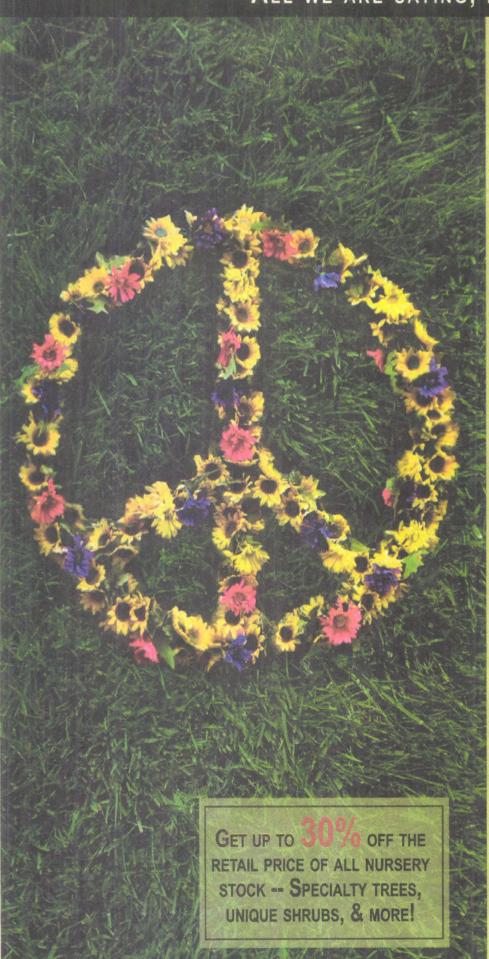
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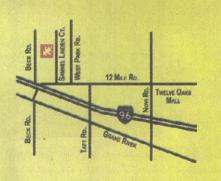
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SECTION B

SPORTS

THURSDAY, May 19, 2011

hometownlifemcom

CLASSIFIED ADS INSIDE

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D1 regionals set for Friday

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Less than two weeks after the Observerland Relays, another huge track and field meet is being held at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park with Friday's Division 1 regionals.

Boys and girls teams from 16 schools will convene, beginning with the boys pole vault event at 9 a.m. - when field events get started.

Preliminary events begin at 12:30 p.m. with the boys and girls 100-meter dash; finals will begin at approximately 3 p.m. or

about 45 minutes after the last semifinal event

and conclude with the 1,600-meter relay races for both boys and

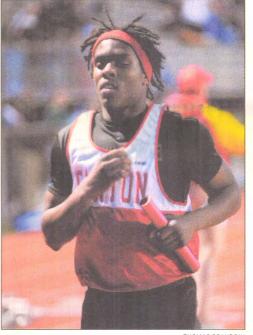
Admission is \$5 for students and adults. Passes will not be honored and concessions will be available.

Host Canton and other PCEP schools Plymouth and Salem will be joined at the Region 5-1 meet by Dearborn, Dearborn Heights Crestwood, Dearborn Fordson, Detroit Cody, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Redford Union, Redford Thurston, Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn. Several teams are coming off solid show-

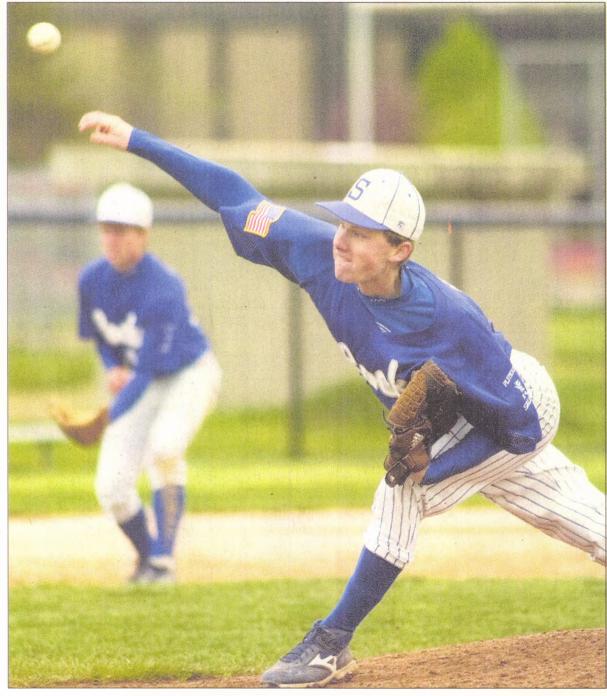
ings May 13 at the KLAA conference meet. Stevenson and Canton placed second and third in the boys race, only trailing victorious Novi. The Wildcats also won the girls race, followed by Churchill, Franklin, Plymouth and John Glenn in places 2-5.

Medals will be awarded to the first eight finishers in each event.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Canton junior sprinter Kevin Buford, shown during the recent Observerland Relays, looks for another excellent showing at Friday's Division 1 regionals.



Salem pitcher Matt Rowland (No. 4) sends the ball toward home plate during Monday's KLAA crossover baseball game against Wayne Memorial. Rowland pitched a complete game as the Rocks won 8-4.

Rocks winning, having more fun

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What a difference a year makes for Salem's Drew Thompson, whose red-hot performance on a cool, dreary afternoon spearheaded the Rocks to Monday's 8-4 KLAA crossover baseball win over Wayne

The senior shortstop missed virtually all of his junior season because of a knee injury. But he is making up for lost time — and his team is the beneficiary of his strong all-around play. Against the visiting Zebras, Thompson tripled to trigger a four-run third inning and capped the victory with a three-run homer to left field in the sixth.

And he helped starting and winning pitcher Matt Rowland with a defensive gem in the fourth, taking a throw from sophomore center fielder Demetrius Dunlap and firing a strike to third baseman Kyle Penn to cut down Wayne baserunner Shane Wilson for a key double play.

"It feels great. I'm so happy to be out there with my friends again," Thompson said following the victory. "Last season it kind of hurt, watching and trying to root them on as best I could. But now it feels really good being out there with my team again."

Rowland and the rest of the Rocks are glad he's back, too. With Thompson in the lineup, Salem boasts an airtight defense and improved offense. Monday's game provided plenty of evidence.

WINNING WITH BALANCE

"We hit the ball pretty well. Drew had a great home run to left field,"

said Rowland, a senior who pitched all seven innings to win his third game of the season. "We had good defense as well. A couple good plays by Scott Devine and Kyle Penn and Devin Price. The outfield played great."

Second baseman Devine jumpstarted the Rocks with a double in the opening inning off Wayne pitcher Kyle Casey (who also pitched a complete game). Devine moved to third on an error and scored on a sacrifice fly by catcher Brett Ramirez.

The Rocks (11-8 overall) then padded their lead to 5-0 in the third, although all four runs were unearned due to porous defense by the Zebras.

With one out, Price reached base

Please see BASEBALL, B3

Late goals foil PCA kickers

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For much of Tuesday's girls soccer game, it looked like Plymouth Christian would exact some revenge against Ann Arbor Greenhills — the very team that ousted the Eagles in the 2010 Division 4 district finals.

But a 1-0 lead evaporated midway through the second half when Greenhills junior forward Lauren Satterwhite scored twice within a three-minute span and the Gryphons went on to earn a 2-1 victory and a share of first place in the MIAC Blue Division (with 6-1-1 records).

"The first half we played really well," Eagles head coach Miki Djerisilo said. "And the second half ... we (didn't) win 50-50 balls in the middle of the field.'

Greenhills was able to finally stretch the field (PCA carried the play earlier) and some of the Eagles' defenders strayed from their assign-

For the first 60 minutes or so, PCA was in shape to gain a stranglehold on the division lead. Senior midfielder Annette Somercik scored on a penalty kick midway through the first half for a 1-0 lead.

BACK TO BACK

That held up — in large part because of stellar, aggressive goalkeeping by senior Brianna Harris until 22:37 remained in the contest. Sophomore midfielder Kristen

GIRLS SOCCER

Mikhail sent a crossing pass from the right corner in front to Satterwhite for the chip-shot tally.

Then with just under 20 minutes left, Satterwhite struck again.

The tie-breaking goal started with a corner kick from freshman midfielder Shari Jacobson inside the goal area and Satterwhite used a bicycle kick to redirect the ball into

"What I told them (Eagles) was stay away from free kicks and corner kicks because they're pretty good at that part," Djerisilo said.

PCA had few if any dangerous scoring opportunities the rest of the way. Freshman forward Martha Mullett raced up the middle after taking a through ball from junior forward Rachel Zandee, but the Greenhills goalie scrambled out to cut off the rush.

"They know what they have to do to win games," Gryphons head coach Jessie Seaver said about the comeback. "We've had a rough season due to injuries and stuff. But once they're motivated they know what to do, so it's really all on them."

Seaver said her team always gets fired up to play the Eagles.

"They're always excited to play them," she said. "The girls know each other, they've been playing each other

Please see SOCCER, B2



Setting a new Plymouth school team record in boys golf with a 2-over-par 290 at the Bedford Invitational were (from left) Ryan Rieckhoff, Josh Heinze (with golf bag), Kyle Rodes, Craig Whatley and Kyle Melnick.

Wildcats tear up tourneys

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With three tournament victories and a team record to boot, Plymouth boys golf coach Chris Moore understandably is pumped up for the state districts to begin.

"Three tournaments in four days and we won all three," Moore said. 'What a great weekend for Plymouth golf. Each and every kid on this team has put in a lot of practice to get their games where they need to be as we enter the last part of our season."

Optimism is flowing - and right-



Мооге

fully so — following the string of tournament wins, includ-

• Friday's JV tournament at Bedford Hills in Temperance.

 Saturday's Bedford Varsity Tournament

(at The Legacy in Ottawa Lake).

 Monday's tourney at Indianwood Country Club in Lake Orion. Of course, the highlight was the

Please see GOLF, B4

SIDELINES

Tyler-made

Plymouth Whalers alum Tyler Seguin, who attended high school at the Park, scored two goals and assisted on two others Tuesday night to pace the Boston Bruins to a 6-5 win over Tampa Bay in Game 2 of the NHL's Eastern Conference Finals

Seguin, drafted second overall by the Bruins in last year's NHL Entry Draft, also scored a goal in the series opener.

Golf for Rocks baseball

The third annual Salem Baseball/Golf Outing is slated for Saturday, June 25, at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center.

For \$110 per golfer (paid registration before June 1) or \$125 per (after June 1), there will be 18 holes of golf on the Classic Course, a hot dog lunch, clubhouse dinner with open bar, prizes and raffle.

Also, for those who do not plan on golfing, dinner will be available for \$50 per person.

All proceeds will go to the Salem Baseball Dugout Club. Hole sponsorships also are available. Please call or e-mail either Jeff Vergolini (734) 612-7027; jeff_vergolini@wowway.com or

Danny Devine (734) 751-4012;

salemrocksbaseball@gmail.com. Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center is located at 8768 N Territorial Road in Plymouth. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Dinner will take place immediately following golf.

Salem alumni game

At noon Sunday, June 26, will be the second annual Salem Baseball Alumni Game, at the varsity field.

All it costs is \$20 to play, which includes a commemorative T-shirt and lunch (hats will be available for an extra \$20).

Go to www.salemrocksbaseball@gmail.com to obtain a registration form (or for more information). Players will be asked to give favorite memories of their Salem varsity baseball careers.

Driving around bases

Hines Park Lincoln of Plymouth is bringing Lincoln's Drive Smart For Your School program to PCEP in an effort to raise up to \$6,000 for Canton. Plymouth and Salem baseball.

For every person who testdrives a Lincoln vehicle May 21 at Salem High School, Hines Park Lincoln and Ford Motor Co. will donate \$20 to PCEP baseball.

"Hines Park Lincoln knows how important extracurricular activities are to our high school students, and as part of this community we want to help," said Rhonda Sabatini, sales manager. "This is why we're excited to raise money for Plymouth, Canton and Salem baseball, meanwhile introducing parents, teenagers and other drivers to our lineup of high-quality vehicles and innovative safety and smart technologies."

Hockey open house

Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena is hosting open house and registration from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday for the Canton Victory Hockey Association.

Prospective players and their families are invited to learn about the association, plus get a free hot dog, pop and open skating 1-2:50 p.m.

There are other perks to those who visit the open house. Early signups will receive an open skating pass good for the entire summer; the first 70 kids to sign up for Learn to Play, Mini-Mite and Mite hockey leagues will receive fee equipment for the season (limited sizes available).

For more information, call (734) 487-7777 or visit www. cantonhockey.org.

Arctic Edge is located at 46615 Michigan Avenue (south

side), near Canton Center Drive.

Healthy 'Cats score 16

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 19, 2011

With lingering injuries having subsided, the Plymouth varsity boys lacrosse team enjoyed a rare blowout Monday night — a 16-2 rout of Howell in a KLAA crossover dual meet at Plymouth-Canton **Educational Park**

Enjoying a spectacular game was Phil Flesch, who scored seven goals.

Chipping in with three goals and an assist was Ken Fanelli while Drew Leist also had a four-point night (one goal, three assists).

"We finally have everyone healthy and everyone finally played a complete game," Wildcats head coach Brian Walsh said about his team (4-10 overall, 1-5 in the Kensington Conference).

Other goal scorers were Conor Downey, Ethan Christensen and Colin Clemons while Jeremy Cigile and Alex Miller each assisted.

Senior goalkeeper Mike Justus played the first three

BOYS LACROSSE

quarters before playing attack in the fourth. Brad Conley finished the game in the net for the Wildcats.

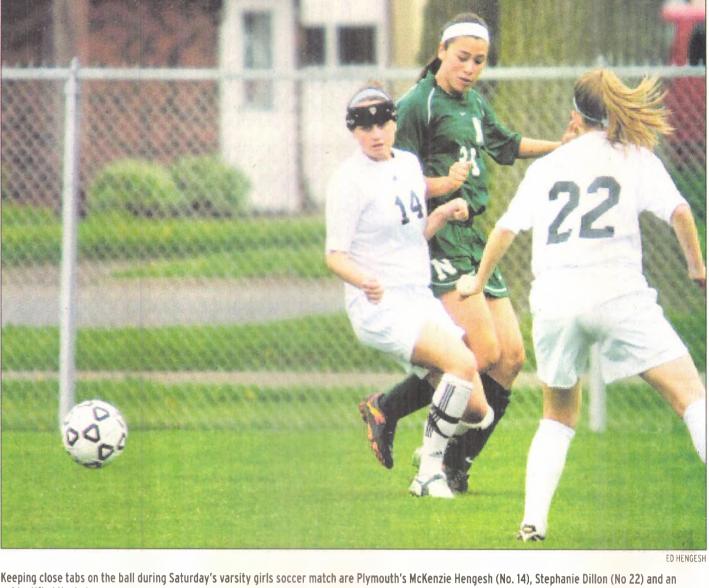
Ken Durham led Plymouth with eight ground balls, followed by Christensen (seven), Shaun Austin (seven), Ben Burkman (five) and Miller (five).

On faceoffs, top performers were Tyler Zalewski and Chris

In other KLAA crossovers on Monday, Salem beat Huron Valley 13-10 while Canton lost 14-10 to Hartland. The Rocks and Chiefs are 7-7 and 6-5 overall, respectively.

The Wildcats also won Saturday, 7-6 over Walled Lake Western.

Scoring four goals was Tyler Jasin, with Cigile and Downey each registering one goal and two helpers.



'Cats come up big against tough foes

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When the going gets tough, those tough Plymouth

Wildcats get going. That was the KLAA South Division girls soccer team's M.O. in 2010 and, judging from recent results, this year's state tournament could bring more of the same.

Last week, after defeating state-ranked Canton and then Livonia Churchill, the Wildcats faced visiting Novi, the team they lost to in the

2010 Division 1 state finals. Saturday's game finished 0-O, with Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich calling the first half "the best we've played all

Neschich added that the rematch was "a fast-paced,

well-played game with both teams getting quality scoring chances."

Senior goalkeeper Marissa Williams, whose brilliant play in last year's postseason keyed the Wildcats' march to the finals, was outstanding yet again in keeping Novi off the scoresheet.

The Wildcats (Plymouth, that is) defeated Canton 3-2 May 10 and followed up with Thursday's 1-0 victory over the Chargers to improve to 8-2-4 overall and 5-1-2 in the KLAA South entering Tuesday's game against Wayne Memorial.

"From start to finish (against Churchill), we just came out and really controlled the game," Neschich said.

Senior forward-midfielder Jennifer Babcock tallied the lone goal against the Chargers (6-4-2, 5-2-1).

The string of strong performances against quality opponents is giving Plymouth plenty of confidence as districts approach.

Plymouth is hosting a district that begins Tuesday, May 31, with other teams including Canton, Salem, Churchill, Livonia Stevenson, Northville, Garden City and Livonia Franklin.

'There are so many good teams in that district," Neschich said. "You can't look past anybody. It's going to be one game at a time.

Like last year, he has Williams in goal and strong players in the backline and midfield such as seniors Katie Moss and Katelyn Quinlan.

"But we're a little bit stronger offensively this year than we

were last year," Neschich noted. Returnees such as Babcock,

senior forward McKenzie Hengesh and sophomore midfielder Zoe Foster are being bolstered by talented freshmen such as midfielders Alyssa Dillon and Maria Farmer, among others.

"Definitely Alyssa Dillon is making a difference up top for us and the back line, they're just stepping it up," Neschich said. "They're taking care of business. Kate Moss has been doing a great job for us back there.

As for Hengesh, who scored her share of key goals down the stretch in 2010, "She's coming on like she needs to at this time of the year. She probably had her strongest game of the year (against Novi)."

Plymouth's Phil Flesch (No. 17) fires home one of his seven goals Monday against Howell in a KLAA crossover boys lacrosse matchup.

for all four years. It's always a big game."

Djerisilo, meanwhile, said his team can learn from the loss and be ready for the D4 districts, hosted by PCA and including Greenhills. Play begins Tuesday, May 31.

"What I told the girls," Djerisilo said, "I know exactly what we should be working on, and we have a couple games where we can work on it.

MAGGIE WALSH

"But it's good to know them. good to know their strengths."

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Salem turns it around in victory over S.L. East

After falling behind Tuesday at South Lyon East, the Salem varsity girls soccer team tied things up with just one second left in the first half.

The Rocks went on from there, to earn a 3-1 victory and improve to 7-5-2 overall and 5-3-1 in the KLAA Central Division.

Starting the rally with the equalizer was Kristina Klusek, who finished a nice play from Emily Barfuss and Emma Tardiff (who made the pass to Klusek). Getting that sequence going was Salem's hustle to win a 50-50 ball.

Tardiff and Klusek combined for the go-ahead marker, too. Klusek's nice cross set it up and Tardiff "made a great run into the box and put it past the keeper," said Salem head coach Joe Nora.

Wrapping up Salem's scoring was Klusek, off a beautiful

cross from Barfuss. "Kristina hit a solid volley the keeper couldn't get to," Nora noted.

Ali Eggenberger and Jamie Hunley divided goalkeeping

"We kept with the game plan and kept plugging away," said Nora, about the comeback win. "I'm proud of the way we finished off the game.

"(But) we need to play a more focused first 20 minutes. We're getting better and gaining confidence every day." With the loss, South Lyon

East dropped to 9-8-0 and 1-8-0 in the Central.

CANTON 8, JOHN GLENN 0: In a **KLAA South Division contest** Tuesday night, the host Chiefs routed Westland John Glenn.

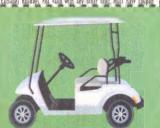
Ally Krause sparked the Canton attack with three goals, while Robyn Mack chipped in with two. Also scoring for the division-leading Chiefs (7-4-1, 7-2-0) were Kaitlyn Murphy, Jen Learst and Kavln Berinti.

The Rockets fell to 5-7-0 and 2-7-0.





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Blazers again in Catholic League finals

Livonia Ladywood is back in a familiar place — the Catholic League girls soccer championship final.

Catherine Garber scored off a free kick in the 64th minute to break a 2-2 deadlock Tuesday night as the Blazers downed host Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 3-2, in a league semifinal between stateranked teams.

Ladywood, now 11-1-6 overall, advances to Saturday's final against Wednesday's game between defending state champion Birmingham Marian and Madison Heights Bishop Foley. (Game time is 2 p.m. at Ladywood.)

"It was a big win for us against a quality opponent," said Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker, whose team earned its third league final in four years. "(Notre Dame) Prep has as good of attack that we have seen this season. (Katrina) Stencel and (Taylor) Timko are big timers for them."

Stencel opened the scoring in the 27th minute off a through ball from Timko, but Ladywood's Kelly Capoccia answered with a one touch finish off a cross from Domenique Sarnecky to make it 1-1 just a

minute before halftime. Paige Brennan gave the

Blazers a 2-1 lead in the 51st minute off an assist from Capoccia. Catherine Garber started the play with a free kick that Capoccia headed back across the goal that Brennan volleyed into the back of the net.

In the 60th minute, Stencel notched her second of the match when she finished a corner kick from Lauren Jabara to make it 2-all.

Alexandra Arnoldy made six saves for the fifth-ranked Irish (Division 3), who slipped to 11-4 overall.

Maddie Reed made four stops for the Blazers, who are ranked No. 7 in Division 2.

"I thought our girls adjusted well to the pace of the game," Shingledecker said. "We did a good job taking away what they wanted to do, but at the same time we were able to get ourselves into good locations offensively. We're excited to move onto the Catholic League final."

LUTH. WESTLAND 3, S'FIELD CHRISTIAN 0: Taylor Wiemer tallied two goals and added one assist Tuesday as Lutheran High Westland (7-3-1, 4-0-1 MIAC Red) rolled past host Southfield Christian (0-6

MIAC Red). Rhianna Francis also scored for the Warriors, while Angela Morrison and Merritt Solomon each contributed assists.

Morrison and Claire Oppenlander combined on the shutout in goal for Lutheran Westland.

CLARENCEVILLE 7, S'FIELD CHRISTIAN 0: Kayla Zawol had two goals, while Amal Musleh added a goal and two assists Monday as host Livonia Clarenceville (5-9) blanked Southfield Christian.

Sadie Zachos also contributed a goal and assist for the Trojans, who led 4-0 at half-

Other Clarenceville goal scorers included Ashley Murphy, Rachel Kirschweng and Karley Flores.

LADYWOOD 8, LUTHERAN NORTH 0: Domenique Sarnecky scored three goals in the opening 14 minutes Saturday as host Livonia Ladywood (10-1-6) whipped Macomb Lutheran North (5-7-1) in a non-league match.

Other Ladywood goal scorers included Erin Cronyn (21st minute), Deyana Walker (22nd and 51st minutes), Jenna Urso (first-ever at 39) and Emily Huddleston (51st to end the match).

Rocks have big day at Madonna Invite BASEBALI

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rain prevented Salem from playing for the Madonna Softball Invitational championship.

But a 3-0 record at Saturday's tournament has Rocks head coach Bonnie Southerland feeling good about her young and improving squad.

"I'm very proud of how they played this weekend and how they are progressing at this point in the season," said Southerland, whose team took an 11-11 record into Wednesday's key twinbill against division rival Novi. "It's a very important time. We are still in the race for the division."

Salem is one game out of first place in the KLAA Central with a 4-4 record.

At the Madonna invite, the Rocks defeated Novi 6-4 to win their pool and advance to the title game.

The rain forced the cancellation of that contest, which will

PREP SOFTBALL

not be made up, Southerland

Against Novi, freshman pitcher Kristin Zink went the distance for the victory. . Salem scored three runs

in each of the third and fifth innings.

Sparking that win were senior Kelli Janiczek (two doubles, RBI), senior Heidi Schmidt (double), junior Alexis Powell (run-scoring double), senior Lizzy Mazorowicz (single), freshman Emily Marcero (RBI) and sophomore Elliott

Mitchem (three RBI). The Rocks started the day with an 11-2 rout of Dearborn Divine Child, with winning pitcher Schmidt going 4-for-4 to help her own cause.

Marcero (2-for-3) and freshman Madison Koval (3-3, three RBI) also helped carry the attack.

The next game was a 4-3 victory over Belleville, with Schmidt striking out eight and not walking a batter for the win.

After a three-run second gave Salem an early 3-1 lead, the Rocks scored the eventual game-winning run on a homer by Powell.

Belleville cut the lead to 4-3 in the fourth and threatened to catch the Rocks, but unsuccessfully so.

Both Canton and Plymouth did not advance out of pool

SALEM 10, WAYNE 0: Marcero had a no-hitter until the fourth inning as she hurled the Rocks to this five-inning mercy victory on Monday.

She gave up just two hits and struck out 11, and also collected three singles and an RBI on offense. "It was a great game for Emily," Southerland

The 15-hit attack also featured Mazorowicz' 3-for-4 day with two RBI, and a 4-for-4 game by Schmidt (with an RBI). Other key contributors were sophomore Katie Meade (2-for-3) and Powell (double, two RBI).

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on an error and Thompson brought him home on a triple to right-center. Then the third strike to Tommy Rodriguez bounced to the backstop, allowing Thompson to score and Rodriguez to reach first.

An infield single by Brad Trublowski, a wild pitch and walk to Penn loaded the bases. After a force at home plate, Dunlap stroked the first pitch to center for a two-run single, opening up the five-run edge.

Wayne tried to come right back in the fourth and did score a run, on Wilson's double to deep right-center field, which scored Brandon Harnos (who walked).

Shane Kommer than hit a deep fly ball to Dunlap and Wilson tried to move up a base. But the Dunlap-Thompson-Penn relay foiled that plan.

The Zebras (10-12 overall) sliced the deficit to two runs in the sixth, briefly stirring hopes of a comeback. Stephen Gush singled and Jacob Lefler launched a two-run home run down the line in right to make it a 5-3 ballgame.



But Salem didn't take long to answer right back, to the lament of Zebras head coach Chris Bailey. On the first pitch of the bottom half of the sixth, Casey's inside pitch clipped Devine.

After a fielder's choice, first baseman Price singled and Thompson belted the ball through the wind and over the fence. Just like that, the Zebras faced an 8-3 deficit.

"When you start getting a little bit closer like that (5-3 following the Lefler homer), you got to go out the next inning and you got to shut down a team," Bailey said. "That's a momentum shifter right there. We could have come back into the dugout still down 5-3."

That made it a too-little, too-late scenario in the seventh. Wayne loaded the bases on a double by Jordan Lowry, single by Casey and walk to Harnos and Lefler singled to right to score Lowry.

Another run would have scored on the hit, except for Demetrius Dunlap (No. 21). the fact that a Wavne baserunner got tagged out between second and third for the final out of the game.

Camping under a fly ball in center field on Monday is Salem sophomore

"We just got to learn how to close out games a little bit," Bailey said.

Meanwhile, the Rocks are finishing strong, in terms of individual games and the season itself. In fact, Thompson can't wait to see how far they can go when districts roll around.

"I think we're that good of a team that we can win districts for sure and see where it can take us after that," he said. "I think we have a good enough ballclub where we can do some good things."

Wildcats win two

Plymouth defeated separate opponents in a Saturday baseball doubleheader.

The Wildcats (15-8 overall, 8-5 in the KLAA) blanked Belleville 10-0 behind the pitching of senior Harrison Michels and the hitting of senior center-fielder Mike Nadratowski.

Michels went the distance (six innings), giving up one hit and fanning five.

At the plate, Nadratowski had four hits, two runs and three RBI. Other contributors included Ben Wohl (two hits, three runs), Rich Guglielmi (two hits, two runs), Chad Schroeder (double, two RBI) and James Willey (RBI hit to enact the 10-run mercy rule).

The Wildcats also defeated Adrian by a 3-1 score. Despite only four hits, Plymouth "scraped together enough offense to win behind great pitching and defense," said head coach Bryan Boyd.

A downside to the win was an injury to starting pitcher Andrew Page, who went the first 2²/₃ innings before a liner off his hand knocked him out.

With a two-run lead at the time, Page still got the victory as Nick Sandberg (31/3 perfect innings in relief) and Willey, (two strikeouts in the seventh) finished it off.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Teaming up

The Plymouth Wildcats varsity girls softball team recently wore pink T-shirts for a 'Strike Out Cancer' benefit game against Livonia Stevenson. Approximately \$500 was raised at the May 9 event.

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 19, 2011

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Working on a practice swing at Fox Hills is Ryan Rieckhoff, one of the golfers who contributed to Plymouth's team record at the Bedford Invitational.

FROM PAGE B1

team-record 290 for 18 holes at the Bedford varsity tourney.

Sophomore Kyle Rodes and junior Josh Heinze each shot 71, tying for first (but losing in the playoff for individual honors).

Freshman Kyle Melnick (74), junior Craig Whatley (74) and sophomore Ryan Rieckhoff (76) rounded out the 2-overpar performance. Rodes, Heinze, Melnick and Whatley received top-10 honors.

ONE FOR THE BOOKS "It's unbelievable," Moore

said. "These guys practice so hard and it's so well-deserved.

"They've been fighting through cold weather and rain and wind all year. And they all peaked the same day."

On Monday in Lake Orion, the Wildcats shot 316 to capture their third tournament in just over a weekend.

Senior Justin Bauer and Heinze both led the way with a score of 77, each garnering a spot in the top 10.

Rodes (80), Rieckhoff (82) and John Tatti (83) registered solid showings to cap the tourney win.

Two Plymouth squads competed at the junior var-sity tournament. The group of Tatti (75), Eric Thompson (83), Chris Bicknell (82), Chris Kozler (85), Evan Chipman (85) and Ryan Riva shot a combined 325 for first place.

Not far behind (sixth, 339) were Lucas Winkler (79), Alex Decker (82), Gunnar Savalox (85), Jack Marentic (93), Corey Smith (93) and Thomas Wolf

"We hope that these wins are a springboard for success as we prepare to earn a trip back to the state tournament," Moore

tsmith@hometownlife.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL Thursday, May 19 Luth. Westland at Inter-City (2), 4 p.m. Saturday, May 21 (10 a.m. start time) Canton, Plymouth, Salem each play North Farmington, Farmington and Harrison **GIRLS SOFTBALL** Thursday, May 19 Huron Valley at Inter-City, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21 Canton, Plymouth at Lakeland Invite, 9 a.m.

Salem at Blissfield Invite, 10 a.m W.L. Northern Invitational, TBA **GIRLS SOCCER** Thursday, May 19 Plymouth at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Northville at Salem, 7 p.m. Franklin at Canton, 7 p.m. Saturday, May 21 (Catholic League Championship)

Birm. Marian at Ladywood, 2 p.m **BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD** Friday, May 20 (MHSAA Regionals) Division 1 at Canton, 10 a.m

Division 2 at Ladywood, noon Saturday, May 21 Div. 4 at Luth, Westland, 10 a.m. **GIRLS TENNIS** Friday, May 20

(MHSAA Regionals) Division 1 at Woodhaven, 8:30 a.m Division 1 at Novi, 9 a.m. Division 3 at Grosse Ile, 9 a.m. **BOYS GOLF** Saturday, May 21 TBA - time to be announced

BOYS LACROSSE Thursday, May 19 MHSAA Regionals, TBA Canton at Ann Arbor Huron, 4 p.m Friday, May 20 MHSAA Regionals, TBA. Canton at Ann Arbor Huron, 4 p.m. Saturday, May 21

Canton at Saline, 7 p.m. **GIRLS LACROSSE** Saturday, May 21 Salem at Lake Orion, noon

Herold and Associates, PLC is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by JOSEPH FARRAH, A MARRIED MAN AND HANNAH FARRAH, A MARRIED WOMAN to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS (MERS), Mortgagee, dated August 11, 2003, and recorded on August 10, 2010 in Liber 48684, Page 686. WAYNE County Records, Michigan, and assigned by mortgagee to BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC by an assignment dated April 11, 2011, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six and 02/100 Dollars (\$162,476.02), including interest at 5.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, Notice is hereby given that mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue in Wayne County Circuit Court Tower in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit in Wayne County, Michigan, at 1:00 p.m. on June 9, 2011.

Said premises are situated in the City of Canton, Wayne County, Michigan and are described as:

LOT 43, GREENBROOK VILLAGE SUBDIVISION NO. 1, RECORDED IN LIBER 98, PAGE 68, WAYNE COUNTY RECORDS

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

DATED: April 21, 2011

ATTORNEY FOR: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC

Herold and Associates, PLC 4301 Orchard Lake Rd. Ste 180-B193 W. Bloomfield, MI 48323

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2133 Woodmont Canton, MI 48188

Publish: May 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2011

Mustangs grab conference title

Northville's girls tennis juggernaut rolled to the championship of Tuesday's **KLAA** Kensington Conference Tournament, hosted by Plymouth.

The tournament was originally scheduled for Saturday, but it was postponed to Tuesday due to rain and wind.

Tuesday's weather wasn't very good either, but it didn't bother the Mustangs.

Most of their No. 1 seeds came through as expected

- tallying 31 points, well ahead of second-place Novi's 24 points.

Bunched up were Salem (14 points), Livonia Churchill (13 points), Plymouth and Livonia Stevenson (11 points each).

Finishing eighth with four points was Canton, in a threeway tie with South Lyon East and Westland John Glenn.

Salem head coach Lin Ware said Northville's winning seven of nine flights was consistent with regular season

dual meet play. The Rocks did have two teams in the finals, Ashley Walker and Morgan Spencer at No. 2 and No. 3 singles, respectively.

Wildcats first at invite

On May 7, Plymouth finished in a first-place tie with Livonia Churchill at the Woodhaven Warrior Classic Invitational with 17 points.

Winning the championship at No. 4 doubles for the

Wildcats was the tandem of junior Molly Hudgins and

sophomore Laura Schmid. Plymouth also reached the finals in four other flights.

The runners-up included senior Andrea Haidar (No. 4 singles) and the following doubles tandems: No. 1, seniors Britta Swanson-Kayla Griffey; No. 2, seniors Brittany Rose-Iulia Fratila; No. 3, seniors Erin MacKenzie-Marlowe Susselman.

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

KLAA KENSINGTON CONFERENCE GIRLS TENNIS TOURNAMENT May 17 at Plymouth H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 31 points; 2. Novi, 24; 3. Salem, 14; 4. Livonia Churchill, 13; 5. (tie) Livonia Stevenson and Plymouth, 11 each: 7. Livonia Franklin, 9; 8. (tie) Canton, South Lyon East and Westland John Glenn, 4 each; 11. South Lyon, 3; 12. Wayne Memorial, 1

FINAL FLIGHT RESULTS

No. 1 singles: Abby Wang (Novi) defeated Angelica Woods (LF), 6-1, 6-2; No. 2: Erin Doud (N'ville) def. Ashley Walker (Salem), 6-3, 6-0; No. 3: Mackenzie Powers (N'ville) def. Morgan Spencer (Salem), 6-1, 6-1; No. 4: Alex Jeannotte (N'ville) def. Asawari Knaitkar (Novi), 4-6, 6-0, 6-0,

No. 1 doubles: Christy Murphy Danielle Romano (N'ville) def. Jenna Snyder-Meggie Riegel (Novi), 6-0, 7-6 (7-2); No. 2: Ally Weaver-Jackie Kjolhede (N'ville) def. Emily Kwederis-Ori Nagasaka (Novi), 6-1, 6-1; No. 3: Elizabeth Sakorafis-Christy

Snyder (N'ville) def. Ashley Aljadah-Emily Sheeran (Novi), 6-3, 6-1; No. 4: Meng Meng Jie-Amy Zhou (Novi) def. Erin Starr-Emily Toupin (N'ville), 6-1, 6-3; No. 5: Ria Barad-Kelly Turner (N'ville) def. Angela Huang-Alice Jiang (Novi), 6-1, 6-2 **DUAL MATCH RESULTS**

LIVONIA STEVENSON 6, PLYMOUTH 3 May 12 at Plymouth No. 1 singles: Aimee Moccia (LS) defeated Lindsay

Stemberger, 6-1, 6-1; No. 2: Laura Gumpper (LS) def. Sarah Mitchell, 6-1, 6-0; No. 3: Ashley Benvenuti (LS) def. Kirthi Duraiswamy, 6-3, 6-1; No. 4: Marlowe Susselman (P) def. Melissa Martinez, 4-1 (retired).

No. 1 doubles: Lexie Ranski-Kathryn Malkowski (LS) def. Britta Swanson-Kayla Griffey, 7-6, 6-4; No. 2: Taylor Tinham Maiko Ruetimann (LS) def. Lulia Fratila-Brittany Rose, 6-3, 6-1; No. 3: Mariah Tesarz-Andrea Haidar (P) def. Kelsey Futrell-Lauren Arsenault, 6-1, 7-6; No. 4: Laura Shureb-Melina Canzano (LS) def. Molly Hudgins-Laura Schmid, 6-4, 7-6; No. 5: Lauren

Prochazka-Ellie Anderson (P) def. Jenny Cami-Caroline Hay,

Dual math records: Stevenson, 6-7 overall; Plymouth, 6-4

LIVONIA LADYWOOD 5, PLYMOUTH 4 May 9 at Ladywood

No. 1 singles: Stephanie Petrusha (L) defeated Lindsay Stemberger, 6-0, 6-0; No. 2: Erica Ley (L) def. Sarah Mitchell, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3: Megan Glowacki (L) def. Kirthi Duraiswamy, 6-3 6-2: No. 4: Andrea Haidar (P) def. Nicole Salter (default)

No. 1 doubles: Kenzie Kettner-Jenny Rhodes (L) def. Brittany Rose-Iulia Fratila, 6-1, 6-4; No. 2: Mary Beth Ruona-Courtney Doenitz (L) def. Erin MacKenzie-Marlowe Susselman, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; No. 3: Kayla Griffey-Lauren Prochazka (P) def. Maura Mott-Mia Kudron, 7-6(3), 6-4; No. 4; Katie Bartek-Shannon Huff (P) def. Allison Franz-Shannon Butwill, 6-4, 6-2; No. 5; Becca Shaver-Stephanie Hampo won by injury default over Valerie Kolesar-

CYO volleyball signups

St. John Neumann parish in Canton is currently holding

registration for the upcoming

Any girls grades 5-8 in

from St. Thomas A. Becket,

Resurrection and St. John

Neumann.

of September.

extension 31.

now forming.

fall CYO girls volleyball season.

2011-12 are eligible to register

Practices begin the second

week of August with league

Neumann athletic director

YMCA spring leagues

The YMCA spring soccer

and girls volleyball leagues are

The soccer leagues are for

children ages 4-10 and will

run through June 11. There

will be one practice and one

game per week, on Saturdays.

Volleyball is for girls ages

through June 11. There will be

one practice and one game per

9-10 and 11-12, also to run

week, on Friday evenings.

Both the soccer and vol-

leyball leagues are filled on a

first-come, first-served basis

and the registration deadline

is April 1. For more informa-

tion about these leagues, or

other YMCA programs, go to

www.ymcadetroit.org or call

the office at (734) 453-2904.

If you know of a senior varsity

Captain's Corner

Walt Marek at (734) 455-5910,

games starting the first week

To register, contact St. John

PCA on the rise

Plymouth Christian's varsity track and field team continues a remarkable ascent from nearly folding five years ago due to lack of athletes.

In 2006, there were only two girls and five boys on the team and school officials were considering eliminating the program.

But Eagles coach Jennifer Lemieux is presiding over a very competitive outfit, one that is racking up plenty of awards.

Consider Saturday's Warrior Invitational at Lutheran Westland. The Eagles were seventh out of 16 schools and had first place in the high jump thanks to a new PCA women's high jump record set by Katelynn Barkell (4-feet, 10-inches).

All told, six women from PCA's coed team earned 14 medals. Barkell, Megan Lemieux, Leaha Dotson, Rachel Smith, Sydney Carpenter and Karen Windle were the medal winners.

Besides Barkell's win in the high jump, they took second in the 3,200-meter relay, 800 run, third in the 1600 relay and sixth in the 800 relay.

The PCA boys also had excellent showings, sparked by a sixth-place finish by Josh Allen in the discus. Lemieux said there were

multiple personal bests as the Eagles gear up for Saturday's Division 4 regionals, also at Lutheran Westland. Barkell's record is the third of

the season for PCA, following the 2009-10 season which featured 11 school records, a seventh place in the boys state high jump finals and state finals qualifiers in the girls 200, 400 and 3,200 relays.

Father's Day Run

The Plymouth YMCA Fathers Day Run has again been recognized as a quality physical activity by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

This year's run, by the way, is set to begin at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, June 19 in downtown Plymouth.

The Governor's Council endorses local, regional and state events to acknowledge an organization's ability to plan and carry out a quality event that significantly contributes to the health and well-being of Michigan residents. The Fathers Day Run exemplifies this core value and is endorsed by the Governor's Council.

"By endorsing local events all across the state, we hope to bring attention to the importance of physical activity and encourage our citizens to take responsibility for their health," said Marilyn Lieber, president and CEO of the council. "These local events can have a tremendous impact on health care costs that present a significant challenge for our state's economy." For more information

about the Governor's Council endorsement program, go to www.michiganfitness.org. For more info on the Fathers Day Run, contact cmorency@ ymcametrodetroit.org. Golf for Canton football

Here's a way to combine helping out the Canton High School football program with enjoying a day of golf.

Come out to Salem Hills Golf Club on Saturday, Aug. 6, for the annual golf outing/football fundraiser. Cost is \$100 per golfer. It will be a four-man scramble format. The fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, free range balls, lunch

SPORTS ROUNDUP

at the turn, a barbecue chicken and rib dinner, numerous contests and prizes.

For more information and a printable registration form, please go to www.cantonfootball.com. You can also call Lina Williams at (248) 240-1125 or Julie Baechler at (734) 645-7777.

Canton grid camps

That's not all of the news about Canton football. The Chiefs will be hosting three grid camps this summer.

The first one is for players going into grades seven-nine this fall and is a skills camp, with sessions 5-7:30 p.m. June 13-16. Contact freshman coach Richard Mui at (248) 229-2738 for more information.

After that will be the Wing-T Camp, slated to run 2-5 p.m. on June 20 and 5-8 p.m. on June 21-23. This camp is for players going into grades 10-12. Call varsity coach Tim Baechler at (734) 455-7691 for more information. The Fundamental Camp for

kids entering grades three-six will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon June 27-30. Contact Enza Laneva at (313) 300-1173 for more information. Also, check out www.

CantonChiefsfootball.com for forms and further information.

Wildcats grid camp

The 10th annual Plymouth Wildcat Football Skills Camp will be held from June 27 through June 29.

Youngsters entering grades 5-9 will go from 5-to-7 p.m. each day; those going into grades 10-12 will participate from 7-to-9 p.m.

Please go to www.plymouthwildcats.com to download a camp brochure and to get additional information.

Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk also will answer questions at (734) 765-1766.

Police Auction

Aachen Auto

2280 E. Michigan Ave.

Ypsilanti, MI. 48198

5/25/11 @ 9:00 am

1FTCR10A3TTA69530

1996 Ford Ranger

Publish: May 19, 2011

captain at Canton, Plymouth, Salem or Plymouth Christian who is worthy of recognition, please submit candidates for 'Captain's Corner" to Observer sports editor Tim Smith, tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Combine training

Combine training for high school football to prepare for the 2011 season takes place on Sundays at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine and use SPARQ, Michigan Preps and NUC testing protocols. To register, visit www.coach-

jacksonspeed.com; or call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404,



PUBLIC HEARING

The Plymouth Housing Commission has developed its 2011 Agency

Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work

Responsibility Act of 1998. It will be available for review by May

19, 2011 at our office in Tonquish Creek Manor, located at 1160

Sheridan Street, Plymouth, Michigan between the hours of 8:30 am

In addition, a public hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 20,

2011 in the Community Room at Tonquish Creek Manor at 1160

Sheridan Street, Plymouth, Michigan at 6:00pm. Everyone is

kayakpoolsmidwest.com Discount Code:522D56

FREE SAMPLE **EDAMAME** CREATE A EDAMAME GARDEN IN YOUR BACKYARD Edamame is also known as the Wonder Veggie with the following benefits: helps reduce risk of heart disease • improves bone health
• reduce the effects of PMS

· help reduce certain types of cancer

· rich in fiber, protein, vitamins and minerals We provide the seed, you plant, maintain, pick, boil and enjoy. Send self addressed stamped envelope (88") to: Dr. L.E. (Pat) May 422 S. Michigan Ave., Howell, MI 48843 (517) 518-4280







Beth May and Joshua Haynes

Church appoints pastor of student ministry

Joshua Haynes has joined the Lake Pointe Bible Church staff to work with middle and high school students.

The new youth pastor relocated from Fairview, Ala., where he was the administrative assistant at Concord Baptist Church.

Haynes graduated in May 2005 from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. As part of his studies he completed a certificate program in community and agricultural development, which included a six-month internship in Honduras.

His wife, Beth, is a Plymouth native. Born into the Martin family, she grew up attending Lake Pointe Bible Church and went to Salem High School. Beth graduated from Wheaton College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art education. She received training in wilderness and outdoor education at HoneyRock Camp in Three Lakes, Wisc., and has taught art and Spanish in public and private schools. The couple met at Wheaton College. After they were married the couple operated an organic farm from 2006-2010 in northern Alabama. They have two sons, Andrew, 3, and

Lake Pointe Bible Church is located at 42150 Schoolcraft. For more information call the church office at (734) 420-0515.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

MAY 29-JUNE 1

Financial Peace University

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesdays, June 1-Aug. 24 **Location**: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: During Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, participants will discover a world of freedom by using proven, biblical principles to permanently break free from the bondage of debt

Contact: (248) 474-3444 or search on www.daveramsev.

JUNE 2-8

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. June 2

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Driv,

Details: Bring resumes and dress to impress. Some employers may interview on the spot

Contact: (734) 404-2480

Spring Bazaar

Time/Date: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, June 4 Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh,

Details: Tables of crafts, jewelry, new and gently used household articles, and clothing will be sponsored by the Women's Guild

Contact: (734) 464-0476







CLARK, CATHERINE

Passed away peacefully on May 13, 2011, at the age of 87. She is now in heaven with her dear husband, Wilson, and dear sister, Mary. She will look down over her four children, Brad (Shelly), Mary (Randy) Smitt, Kevin, and Christine (Steve) Von Dissen, as well as eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was born in Rhode Island on December 19, 1922, and lived in Washington D.C., Boston, Massachusetts, and Buffalo, New York, before coming to Michigan. She worked as a flight agent for American Airlines and as a bookkeeper for Garden City Public Schools. Catherine had a large circle of dear friends from her associations with Garden City Schools, St. Theodore's Catholic Church, her friends and caregivers at Westhaven Manor, and other close friends. Her first love was her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed playing bridge with her friends, and attending social events at church. We will miss her warm smile and her rich New England voice. A memorial Mass will be held at Saint Theodore Catholic Church on Tuesday May 17, at 10:30 AM.

ROBERTS, JAMES W. (BILL)

Age 81, formerly of Garden City, died March 10, 2011 in Bradenton, FL. A Memorial Service will be held at Life Pentacostal Church, Sunday, May 22nd at 5 p.m. Life Pentecostal Church is located inside of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152.

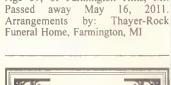


RUSINEK, STANLEY J.

May 16, 2011, age 75 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Maria E. Loving father of Dr. Christopher S. Rusinek. Dear brother of Eugene (Maria). Dear brother-in-law of Anatol (Anna) Styka. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Stanley was born in Poland on August 17, 1935. His journey to the United States included time in a Russian work camp in Siberia before being displaced to India, Africa, and England. He served in the Air Force before becoming an aircraft technician for Flying Tigers and later FedEx. He was devoted to his son Christopher and to his family. He was happily married to Maria Elizabeth for over 40 years. Visitation Thursday, 3-9 PM, at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, (btwn. Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Rosary Thursday 7 PM. In State Friday 12:30 PM until the PM Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 North Territorial (at Beck), Plymouth. Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or Angela Hospice. To share memories, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

STRZALKOWSKI, GARRET (GARY)

Gary, who died suddenly, was born May 11, 1952 in Jacksonville, Florida to Edmund (deceased) and Loretta. He grew up in Garden City, MI, retired from Wayne County, Willow Run Airport Division, and relocated to Jonesville, MI. He is survived by his mother, Loretta; brothers, David, Timothy (Sandra) and James; nephews Robert, Phillip and Matthew and niece. Alvson, Family and close friends will celebrate Gary's life at a private memorial. Cremation arrangements handled by Hampton-Kurtz Funeral Home, (517) 437-0605.



TREFF, DEBRA M. Age 59, of Farmington Hills, MI.

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 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

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

e-mail your oblt to oeobits@hometownlife.com

or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

For more information call: **Char Wilson** 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538

or toll free 800-579-7355

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First Friday Mass 7:00 p.r.
Saturday Mass 11:00 a
Sunday Masses 7:30 & 11:00 a.m. 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.

NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER

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248-626-3620

Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian **Education for all ages** Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter

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Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am

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Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs

GREEK **ORTHODOX**

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Day Er Demostries Can Governo Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes. Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire

Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-preshyterian org

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional

Staffed Nursery Available



Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, & Creeden 734-522-6830

> **Risen Christ Lutheran** David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth or Make W. Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are www.risenchrist.info

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CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church



36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750

10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship

Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev Mary E. Biedron

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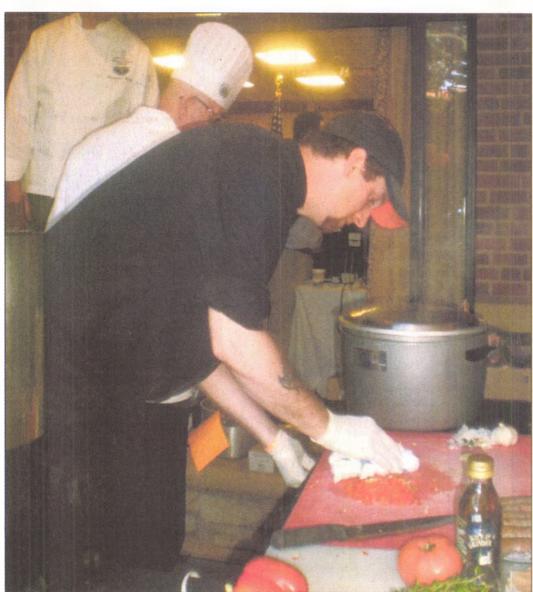
Thursday, May 19, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

CHAMBER CHAT



Sean O'Callaghan's Brian Belwood put some winning dishes together to capture last year's Taste of Plymouth competition. This year's Showcase Plymouth/Taste of Plymouth takes place Monday at the Inn at St. John's.

Showcase Plymouth

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents the 22nd annual Showcase and Taste of Plymouth 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 23, at the Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile in Plymouth. This year's event will be moving to the Grande Ballroom and adjoining Garden Gallery to create more space for the expanded atten-

Showcase and Taste of Plymouth was created to celebrate the Plymouth Community, its businesses, restaurants and the people who live here. Chamber officials expect more than 800 attendees. Admission is \$10 at the door and includes complimentary food, cash bar and a chance to win over 70 door

There will be a live Chef's Cooking Challenge with three judges and an announcer

describing the action. Also, as part of this event, we will be recognizing outstanding citizens from our local service clubs and presenting scholarships to local students.

Showcase and Taste of Plymouth is sponsored by Community Financial and Hines Park Lincoln.

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

Business development

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a business development worksnop, "6 Business Killers, Tuesday, May 24.

Attendees will learn how to protect your assets. As a business owner, you are focused on running the business. Every day brings new challenges, opportunities and decisions. This workshop will guide you in learning about the six common mistakes business owners make and the impact of those mistakes.

The event includes a panel of experts including Joe Barone of Barone Law, Jeffery Schultz of Schultz & Assoc., and Karl Carter of Michigan Financial.

To register for this workshop e-mail teri@plymouthmich. org or call (734) 453-1540. There is no charge to attend the workshop, but space is limited to 30 reservations.

Chamber map

The Chamber's 2011 map of the Plymouth Community is due to arrive soon. Chamber officials called the maps "one of the most requested items from the Chamber's Visitors Center."

The maps are also great give-aways. Chamber officials want to thank all of the members who made this map possible through their advertising. Businesses wanting a supply of maps can call the chamber office at (734) 453-1540 or email teri@plymouthmich.org.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Retail executive

Patricia Van Pelt has been named the Retail Executive for Fifth Third Eastern Michigan. In her new role, Van Pelt will oversee 89 retail financial centers and five regional managers. She succeeds Rhonda Saunders, who recently retired.

Van Pelt has served as Retail Market Manager for the

Northeastern Ohio Fifth Third Affiliate since August 2010. Prior to that, she was a Retail Regional

Van Pelt

Manager for four years in both the Upper East and South West regions of Cleveland. During her 10 years with the Fifth Third Bank, Van Pelt has distinguished herself as a

leader with great initiative and enthusiasm, which will prove valuable in her new role. As chief retail strategist, Patricia will ensure that Fifth Third's largest line of business takes an integrated approach to executing the affiliate sus-

tainable strategic growth ini-

"We are extremely gratified that we could find someone of Patricia's caliber from within the organization to fill this vital role in Southeast Michigan," said David Girodat, President and CEO, Fifth Third Eastern Michigan. "It is

a bonus that she is originally from this market."

"Fifth Third has been such a great bank to build a career with and this new position is the pinnacle for me," Van Pelt said. "I look forward to all the challenges we face in Eastern Michigan and to coming home."

Van Pelt, from Westland, will be relocating to the Detroit area. She is a graduate of Michigan State University.

Business news

From the folks at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

 This week the House of Fudge was chosen by Plymouth Rep. Kurt Heise (R-20th District) to provide a box of fudge to each of the 110 members of Michigan's House of Representatives upon passing his first bill through the House and onto the Senate for consideration. Heise told the DDA his colleagues "fully enjoyed" their gift from the House of Fudge, and it was noted that Plymouth is surely home to some of the most delicious fudge in Michigan, including Mackinac Island.

• The Cupcake Station is proud to support local schools with its "A+ for Education" Campaign. For every Good Apple Cupcake purchased through May 22, \$1 will be donated toward the school of your choice.

• Forest Computer Solutions and Sweet Afton Tea Room are sponsoring Tea, Cookies & Computers classes for seniors.

The 9-10:30 a.m. classes cost \$20 and include tea and cookies, as well as a 10-percent discount for lunch that day only. Reserve your seat by calling (734) 259-8611.

Bagel fundraiser

Big Apple Bagels will be participating in a national 65 Roses campaign with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The campaign continues through May 31.

As "proud members of the Canton community," Big Apple Bagels owners Dennis Griffin and Glenn Nenninger said they're "proud to help find a cure for CF."

"At Big Apple Bagels in Canton, we want to give back to our community which has embraced our business, by helping the search for a cure to this terrible disease," they said. "The children who battle cystic fibrosis are so brave and we are happy to help in any way that we can."

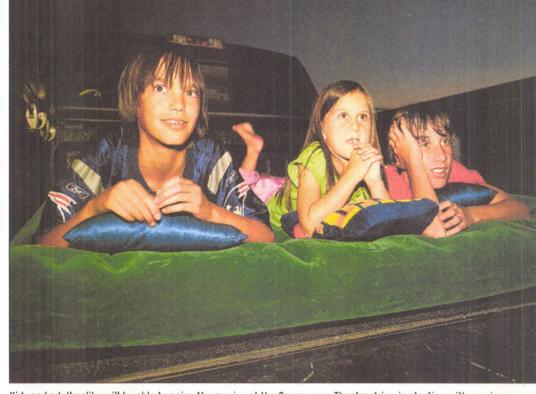
The phrase "65 Roses" was adopted by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation because it is what "Cystic Fibrosis" sounds like to a small child and has historically been used by children of all ages to describe their disease. Fundraising efforts in select Big Apple Bagels and My Favorite Muffin restaurants will include sales of \$1 pin-ups and 65 coffee travel mugs.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the pin-up sales and \$1 per travel mug sold will be donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

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Kids and adults alike will be able to enjoy the movies at the Compuware Theater drive-in starting with preview weekend this weekend (May 20-21).

Drive-in opens with sneak peek weekend

The drive-in movie experience returns to Plymouth Township Friday when the Compuware Arena Drive-In movie theater opens for its preview weekend.

Housed in Compuware Arena's parking lot, the theater opens with Sneak Peek Weekends May 20-21 and May 27-29.

The grand opening for the summer is June 10. The drivein will go seven nights a week starting Monday, June 13, and run through Sunday, Sept. 4.

Here are the movies scheduled for the first Sneak Peek weekend May 20-21:

• Screen 1 - "Rio" (G), followed by "Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules" (PG).

• Screen 2 — "Pirates of the Caribbean 4: On Stranger Tides," (PG-13), followed by "Fast Five" (PG-13).

• Screen 3 — "Thor," (PG-13), followed by "Insidious" (PG-13). Admission is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children ages 4-12;

kids 3 and younger are admit-

ted free of charge.

The Compuware Arena Drive-in is looking to host classic cars shows during the season. Any group that is interested is holding a car show can contact Compuware Arena Drive-in Manager Mike Henry at (734) 453-8400.

For more information, call

the Compuware Arena Drive-

In Movie Hotline, (734) 927-

3284 or go on-line to line to

com/drivein.html.

Classic cars

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, May 19, 2011

hometownlife (m) com

MADE EASY FOOD, B9

Wheels for Blums

Car, bike shows raise money for troop vacation site

O&E STAFF WRITER

If you love classic, custom, and collectible cars and motorcycles, this is your week to celebrate - whether you show vehicles or just like to look under the hood.

The American Legion Post 32 in Livonia starts its weekly Thursday evening car shows today, followed by a fundraiser show Saturday, May 21 in

The weekly event runs 5 p.m. to dusk at the Post, 9318 Newburgh.

"They barbecue and have a full meal on the inside," said Dan Newton, a member of the Post's motorcycle club, American Legion Riders. "Mostly they have classic cars and we end up having bikes. Very often you'll see 50 bikes parked out there."

Newton is in charge of the American Legion Riders' one-day show, "Wheels for Blum's," 11 a.m midnight, Saturday, May 21 at Bennigan's, 40441 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth.

For a \$5 entry fee, motorcycle and car enthusiasts can show their vehicles in either "custom" or "stock" categories. Trophies will be given for the best cars and bikes.

There's no admission fee to see the vehicles, but visitors will have a chance to enter 50/50 drawings, buy drinks or food from Bennigan's - with 20 percent of their tab going to Blum's Landing or donate by purchasing a car- or motorcycleshaped paper wheel.

"We re trying to help out all we can," Newton said.

A PLACE TO UNWIND

Event proceeds will benefit Blum's Landing, a vacation retreat near Roger's City for women and men in military service and their families. Terry and Janet Blumberg of Canton began working on the concept of a bed and breakfast for troops after their son, Trevor, was killed in Fallujah, Iraq while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in 2003.

Trevor had loved the out-of-doors and had asked his parents to take care of his friends in the service if he died while serving overseas. Their response was to begin building a retreat on 12



acres along the shores of Orchard Lake in northern Michigan.

"It took a year to find the property. The next year a builder roughed it in. I did the drywall, the plumbing and electrical," Terry Blumberg said, adding that members of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton have pitched in with building of the main retreat. "I'd still be putting the ceiling up if it weren't for them."

With the help of a few fellow Vietnam veterans, Blumberg will finish the floors in the main house and make sure the cabinets and countertops are in place.

"We're working on raising money for a dock and pontoon boat."

He also hopes to build two cabins for physically handicapped visitors.

TESTING IT OUT

Blumberg and his wife — who plans to retire next month as principal of Memorial Elementary School in Garden City — will stay in a small suite within the retreat when military families visit. A few of Trevor's friends stayed in the unfinished building last summer.

"They were the guinea pigs," Blumberg said.

"The husband and wife had come back from 15 months in Afghanistan. They came up and had a

Legion Riders may

look tough,

soft spot in their hearts

for Blum's Landing, a

retreat for men and

military.

women in the

The Blumbergs plan to serve visitors breakfast and then "turn them loose" to enjoy the property, which includes canoes and kayaks, a campfire pit

"They may just need a place to get away from it all for some time. That's what we're all about."

Along with raffles, food and cars, Wheels for Blum's will include a "blessing of the bikes and cars" at 1 p.m. Newton's brother, Steven, a Lutheran minister, will officiate, praying for a safe summer driving season.

In addition to the American Legion Riders car show, Quick Lane Tire and Auto Center at 6181 Canton Center, will team with the Mustang Owners Club of Southeast Michigan, A&A Driving School and Hines Park Family of Dealerships to hold its second car show for Blum's Landing, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, May 22. Registration for show vehicles is from 9-11 a.m. The event will include a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, hot dogs, chips and pop. Awards will be given for best engine, best paint, best interior, best of show and owner's choice. (734) 582-7280.



See macaws, pirates, gods at the drive-in

Compuware Arena's drive-in movie theatre will give visitors a "sneak peek" May 20-21 and May 27-29 in Plymouth.

The grand opening for the summer is Friday, June 10 and the drive-in will show films seven nights a week starting Monday, June 13. The season ends Sunday, Sept. 4. Here are the movies for the first Sneak

Peak Weekend, May 20-21: Screen 1: Rio (G) followed by Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules (PG)

Screen 2: Pirates of the Caribbean 4: On Stranger Tides (PG-13) followed by Fast Five (PG-13)

Screen 3: Thor (PG-13) followed by Insidious (PG-13)

Admission is \$9 for adults; \$6 for kids, 4-12; and free for kids, 3 and under.

For more information, call Compuware Arena's drive-in movie hotline at (734) 927-3284 or visit www.compuwarearena. com/drivein.html.

Interested in holding a car show at the drive-in this summer? Call Mike Henry, drive-in manager, at (734) 453-8400 to make arrangements and for more details.

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ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Through July 2; gallery hours are 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday or by appointment

Location: 15095 Northville Road, Plymouth

Details: "Parts of a Whole." an exhibition of assemblage, includes works by Lynn Krawczyk and Leann Meixner, both of Plymouth, and Joan Potter Thomas, manager of Northville Art

Contact: (734) 420-0775 or www. artandideasgallery.com

VAAL

Time/Date: Through May 27 Location: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive

Details: Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) presents its spring art exhibit, "Artistic Expressions." The exhibit features the art work of VAAL members in watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, mixed media and more. Show juror is Leslie Masters of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. Contact: (734) 838-1204 or vaalart.

Village Theater

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during any public performance, through May 29 **Location**: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton **Details: Work by Durwood Coffey** Coming up: Photography by John Middlestead, June 1-28 Contact: (734) 394-5300

COMEDY Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomedy.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 19, 2011

JD's House of Comedy Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays Location: 36071 Plymouth Road.

Details: Drew Thomas, May 18-21; Jef Brenan, May 25-28; Carlos Mencia, May 31; Bike Bobbit, June 1-4; Steve Lott, June 8-10; Dave Dyer, June 15-18 Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Harland Williams, May 19-21; Erik Allen, May 26-28; Jessi Campbell, June 2-4; Allan Goodwin, June 9-11; Nathan Timmel, June 16-18; James Johann, June 23-25; Dwayne Gill, June 30-July 2

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com



Kristin Heitmeier (foreground), Michael Ludlum, (left) Jonathon Wennstrom and Piper Grenfell perform "Lips Together Teeth Apart" for a final weekend, May 20-22 at Barefoot Players in downtown Plymouth.

The Ark

Time/Date: Eddie from Ohio, May 21; The Greencards and ChessBoxer, May 22; Crash Test Dummies, May 26; Take a Chance Tuesday featuring Dragon Wagon, May 31; Gaelic Storm, June 1; Suzanne Westenhoefer, June 3; Lipbone Redding and the Lipbone Orchestra, June 4; Leo Kottke, June 5; Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart, June 6; Joe Ely, June 7; The Hillbenders, June 8; Eliza Gilkyson and Sunny War. June 9; Bell X1, June 10; The RFD Boys, June 11; Mississippi Heat, June 12; The Hot Club of Cowtown, June 14; The Boxcars, June 15, Ivan & Alvosha, June 16; Paul Thorn, June 17; Christine Lavin and Don White, June 18; The Deanna Bogart Band, June 19; Guitar Shorty, June 20; Jimmie Dale Gilmore and the Wronglers, June 22; Lloyd Cole, June 23; Livingston Taylor, June 24; Annie and Rod Capps and Jason Dennie, June 25; The Waymores, June 26; J.D. Souther and Jill Andrews, June 27; Sara Swenson and Red Tail Ring, June 28; Stewart Francke, June 30 **Location**: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month; the next performance is 7 p.m. May 21

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth Details: Eight "open-mic" performances plus a featured group. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Open mic performers may sing two songs. If more than eight performers sign up, a lottery will be held for the eight spots. Guest group is month is Rise Again. Guest host is Scott Ludwig. \$5 at the door. This is the last concert of the

Contact: Mike Mullen at (248) 347-6881 or mimmullen@yahoo.com

Berman Center for Performing Arts Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Monday, May

Location: On the Jewish Community Center campus, 6600 Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Opening gala for the center will feature Broadway star Patti LuPone with Leonard Slatkin conduction the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra. Tickets are \$200. Proceeds will benefit the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. Contact: (248) 432-5420

Chamber Music Society of Detroit Time/Date: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 21 **Location**: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, on the camput of Detroit Country Day School,

Details: The Morgenstern Trio performs; tickets are \$43-\$75 Contact: (248) 855-6070

Community Chorus of Detroit Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. May 21 and 4

Location: Detroit Waldorf School,

2555 Burns, Detroit Details: "Serenade to Music" includes music of Handel, Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Copland, Barber, Lauridsen, and others. The conductor, accompanist, and guest artists are from the University of Michigan music school.

Contact: info@communitychorusofdetroit.com; or visit www.community-

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at

Jazz @ The Elks

chorusofdetroit.com ,

Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m., every fourth Tuesday; the next concert is May 24 **Location**: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth Details: Jazz musicians perform and complimentary hors d' oeuvres are served; donation \$5. The next concert features Ron Kischuck on trombone. Judie Cochill on vocals, Marion Hayden on bass, and Gary Schunk on kevboard

Contact: (734) 453-1780 www. PlymouthElks1780.com

Monster Piano Concert

Time/Date: 3 p.m. May 22 Location: Clarenceville High School, west side of Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Nan Washburn, conductor of the Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra will conduct 125 performers,age 4 through adult, playing multiple pianos. Presented by The Livonia Area Piano Teachers Association (LAPTF), in partnership with Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit. Admission is \$10 and \$8 for children, 12 and under Contact: Wilbur Miller at (248) 560-9200

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Tim and Myles Thompson, May 20; Gemini, May 21; Indiana Acoustic Artists in the Round with Jan Krist and friends, June 3; Kitty Donohoe, June 4; Empty Chair Night with Joel Palmer, Annie and Rod Capps, and Shari Kane and Dave

Steele, June 5; Around the House, June 10-11; Edie Carey with Jeff Scott, June 17; Michael on Fire and Billy Brandt, June 18; Jack Williams, June 19; Buddy Greene with Jeff Taylor, June 24

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

Village Theater

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. May 30 **Location**: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton Details: BeckRidge Chorale presents "Because of the Brave," a tribute to those who have served the country; \$10 and \$8

Contact: (734) 394-5460 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org

DANCE

Dinner and dancing

Time/Date: Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., June 4

Location: American Legion Stitt Post #232, 23850 Military, south of Warren Ave., east of Telegraph, Dearborn

Details: Dinner and dancing to oldies music. Includes buffet home-style dinner, open bar, beer, wine, pop and setups for \$25. Group table reservations available for eight. Casual dress with dancing until midnight. Advance tickets only

Contact: Ed at (586) 764-2224, edkempisty@msn.com

Moon Dusters

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m. Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the 30s, 40s and 50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays **Details**: Jazz for Kids Program Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com

Schoolcraft College's Piano Academy holds open house

Children, teens and their parents can learn about Schoolcraft College's Piano Academy — and hear current students perform — at an open house, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 22, in the Forum Building on the college's main campus, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia.

The Piano Academy begins in September and runs

through the school year with 32 weeks of group and private lessons for early elementary schools students in grades 1-4 and private and master classes for grades 5-12) students. Classes are available for credit or audit for adults as well. All programs offer comprehensive instruction in sight-reading,

keyboard theory, rhythmic

skills, improvisation, and com-

In addition to the Piano Academy, Schoolcraft's Music Department also hosts a Summer Piano Camp from June 20 - July 1 for mid-elementary through high school age students. The camp runs for two weeks with half-day sessions for each age group and level of experience. The week culminates in a recital at 7 p.m. Friday, July 1. Tuition for Summer Piano Camp is \$325 with an early registration discount if registered by May 31.

For more information about the open house, the Summer Piano Camp or any of Schoolcraft College's other music programs visit www. schoolcraft.edu/music or call (734) 462 - 4403.



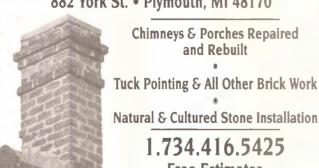
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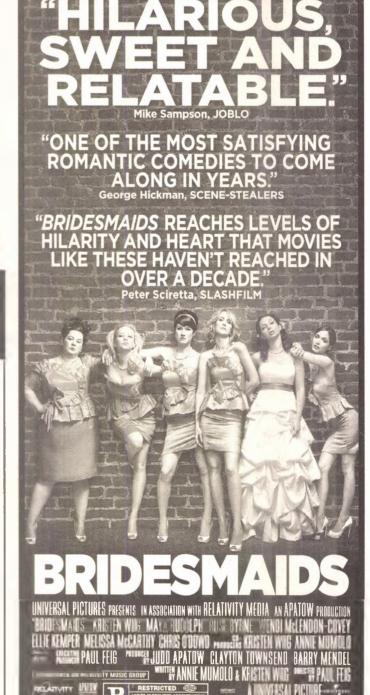
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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

lebrate every

Did you know that everyday baking is almost as popular as holiday baking? Wilton recently released the results of its bi-annual Celebration Report on How Americans Bake, Decorate and Celebrate. In it, 73 percent of the respondents said they bake for everyday enjoyment and treats, while 78 percent said they bake for holidays.

FLORAL FONDANT BOUQUET

Makes 12 to 15 servings

1 box (18.25 ounces) yellow cake mix

2 containers (15 ounces each) part-skim ricotta cheese, divided

4 eggs

¼ cup water

¼ cup vegetable oil

¾ cup confectioners' sugar

¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon ½ cup miniature semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 cup thawed non-dairy whipped topping 1 package (10 ounces) Vanilla Whipped Icing Mix

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray two 8inch round cake pans with vegetable

cooking spray; set aside. In large bowl, beat cake mix, 1 container ricotta cheese, eggs, water and oil with electric mixer on low speed for 30 seconds. Increase speed to medium; beat for 2 minutes or until smooth. Divide batter

evenly between prepared pans. Bake 32 to 35 minutes or until golden brown and firm to the touch. Let cakes cool in pan on cooling grid 10 minutes. Remove from pans and cool completely.

Meanwhile, for filling, place remaining ricotta cheese in food processor; pulse several times until smooth. Add sugar and cinnamon; pulse until just combined. Scrape cheese filling into medium bowl; fold in chocolate chips and whipped topping. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

To assemble cake, cut both layers in half horizontally, forming 4 thin layers. Place one layer on cake board or serving plate; spread 1/3 of filling onto layer. Repeat with remaining 3 layers and fill-

Prepare icing mix following package instructions. Spatula ice cake. See sidebar for options to create or purchase Flower Decorations. Position flowers on top of cake; fill in with leaves. Arrange additional flowers and leaves along bottom border.

Flower Decorations

Choose a decorating option. 1. I'm up for creating my own fondant flowers and leaves! Make fondant flowers and leaves in advance, allowing for plenty of time to dry. Purchase:

1 package (4.4 ounces) Neon Colors Fondant Multi Pack 1 package (4.4 ounces) Pastel Colors Fondant Multi Pack (green used) Flower and Leaf Cut-Outs Roll out neon pink, purple and

orange fondant 1/16 to 1/8 inch thick. Using medium Flower Cut-Out, cut flowers. Shape on thick Fondant Shaping Foam using ball tool; place in Flower Formers dusted with cornstarch to dry. Roll small balls of yellow fondant; attach to flowers with damp brush. Roll out pastel green fondant 1/8 inch thick; cut leaves using varied sizes of Leaf Cut-Outs. Place on thin foam. Using veining tool, mark vein lines. Dry completely; if desired, dry in flower formers dusted with cornstarch.

2. I'm a budding novice! Purchase: Pre-made royal icing flowers and leaves. Decorate: Position and arrange flowers per recipe directions.

BAKE-AND-DECORATE PROJECTS MADE EASY



Floral Fondant Bouquet Cake

Nancy Siler offers the "Ask Nancy" podcast with baking and decorating tips at www.wilton.com.

CELEBRATION REPORT

Americans bake for holidays

and every day according to the results of Wilton's bi-annual report on how Americans bake and decorate: 78 percent bake for holidays 73 percent bake treats and for enjoyment 71 percent bake for birthdays 69 percent bake for non-holiday family events 37 percent bake gifts 22 percent bake in a small business or as a favor to oth-5 percent bake for other rea-

sons The biannual Celebration Report by Wilton is an exten-

by a third party

sive online survey conducted

Cupcakes are tops for kids. Celebration report respondents favored cupcakes as a baking and decorating activity for kids' parties. Start with a cake mix and bake up a batch. Then get the kids involved. Take cupcakes to new heights with a fancy icing swirl and a shake of colorful sprinkles or sugars. Make them extra special with fun themed Wrap 'N Pix. Get more tips at www.wilton.com

PECAN SHORTBREAD COOKIES

Makes about 2 dozen 3-inch cookies

³/₄ cup (1½ sticks) butter, softened

½ cup granulated sugar

¼ teaspoon salt

3 egg yolks

1 teaspoon vanilla extract 2 cups all-purpose flour

3/2 cup finely ground pecans (about 2 ounces)

1 can (16 ounces) White Decorator Icing

1 can (16 ounces) Chocolate Decorator Icing Rose, Lemon Yellow, Kelly Green or other desired Icing

In large bowl, beat butter, sugar and salt with electric mixer at medium speed 1 minute. Add yolks, one at a time, mixing well after each. Add vanilla; mix well. Add flour and pecans all at once; mix just until combined. Press dough into a disc; wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least

2 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 375°F. Let cold dough stand at room temperature 10 minutes. Roll dough 1/8 inch thick on lightly floured work surface. Cut with cutters into Butterfly, Blossom, Round and Square shapes. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove cookies to cooling grid; cool completely.

Tint icing as desired. Suggested decorating

- Outline and fill in cookies with tip 3; smooth with finger dipped in cornstarch. Add contrasting colored dots, dot flowers, swirls, or lattice as desired.

-- Pipe tip 7 dots in center of Flower Cookie. Decorate petals with tip 3 or 7 outline, smoothing with finger dipped in cornstarch, or tip 3, 7 or 16 zigzag.

- Cover Butterflies with tip 16 stars or zigzags, or tip 3 or 7 lines. Add tip 3 or 7 dots and elongated dots.

- For Squares, pipe tip 7 ribbons and tip 3 bows or pipe lattice and dots using either tip.

- Courtesy of Family Features

CITY BITES

Taste it

Plymouth - The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents its 22nd annual Showcase and Taste of Plymouth, 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 23 at the Inn at St. John's located at 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth. The event is designed to celebrate the Plymouth Community including its businesses, restaurants and residents. Admission is \$10 at the door and includes complimentary food, cash bar and a chance to win more than 70 door prizes. There will be a live Chef's Cooking Challenge with three judges and an announcer describing the action. Outstanding citizens

from local service clubs will be recognized and some local students will earn scholarships. Showcase and Taste of Plymouth is sponsored by Community Financial and Hines Park Lincoln. For more information call the Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-1540.

In season

Wayne-Dakland - It's time to shop for fresh produce, flowers, artisan foods, meats, eggs and handmade items at local farmer's markets.

Here's the list: • Canton: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday through Oct. 16, at Preservation Park, 500 North Ridge Road. Perennial exchange on May 22. Recycle garden plastic at the market June 5, July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 4 and Oct. 2.

• Garden City: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Oct. 26 at Garden City Town Center Plaza, corner of Ford Road and Middlebelt.

• Farmington: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday through Nov. 19 in the Sundquist Pavilion in George Riley Park, at Grand River Ave., at Grove. Heidi Cook demonstrates container gardening at 10 a.m.

May 28. • Livonia: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 18-Oct. 8, at the Wilson Barn, 29350 West Chicago Road.

• Plymouth: 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday through Oct. 29 in The Gathering across from Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. The Farmer's Market will be closed on Saturday, July 9 for Art in the Park and Saturday, Sept. 10 for the Plymouth Community Fall Festival.

• Redford: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, June 19-Oct. 23 at the Marquee, 15145 Beech Daly south of Five Mile.

• Westland: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Oct. 25 at The Bailey Recreation Center, 36651

REAL ESTATE

PAGE B10 (*) Thursday, May 19, 2011

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES: SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAY

Julie Brown editor (313) 222-6755 jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Going green at home? Beware of consumer scams

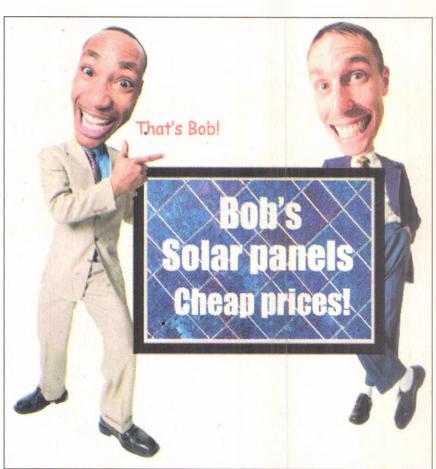
With warm weather here and many consumers looking to stick to a budget when making home improvements, many are turning to green solar energy as a solution. The Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan advises consumers to be smart about investing in any home improvement project.

Solar energy scams are no exception when it comes to the typical contracting scam. Fraudulent contractors prey on those who are unfamiliar with their product. They may show up at your door, advertise in local papers or deliver fliers to your home. Like the typical contracting scam, solar paneling scams can range anywhere from issues with the installation and costs to the actual solar panels themselves.

Consumers need to know how solar energy works and how the benefits will affect them before investing \$5,000 to \$60,000 in any solar energy products.

There are many state and federal rebates that offer a reduction in the initial costs. However, consumers who opt for a "greener" remodel this spring need to be weary of the less-thanreputable and unqualified contractors that breeze into town promising a variety of "green" services at cutrate prices. Consumers need to find an installer that is trustworthy and knowledgeable on the benefits of solar

"As with any kind of home improvement contractor, consumers need to be cautious of installers that promise toogood-to-be-true offers," said Patrick Bennett, director of Community Relations for the Southfield-based



BBB. "It pays to look beyond the lowest bid when selecting a contractor."

BBB recommends considering the following before investing in solar

•Determine if solar energy is right for you. Due to the high costs associated with the initial investment of solar power, it is important to conduct a self energy audit to determine if

solar energy is right for you. Usually, if your monthly bill is less than \$100, consider other ways to save energy that

 Consider all the costs associated with solar energy. Ask about all the costs associated with the maintenance and upkeep of the system. Determine if the benefits and savings outweigh the costs over the long run.

 Stay informed about state and federal incentive programs. Depending on your location, state and federal programs can save you as much as 50 percent on installation costs. Be sure to understand the terms and conditions of the incentive programs and conduct your own research prior to signing a contract with an installer. For the latest information on state programs, visit http://www.dsireusa.org/.

•Be cautious of installers that promise no out of pocket costs prior to reviewing your specific situation. Be leery if an installer suggests obtaining credit for the full amount of the system even though they are promising very low or no costs due to rebates.

•Make sure the roof of your home is equipped to sustain a solar panel system. Even though a properly installed solar system will not damage your roof, make sure your roof is in good condition before you begin the installation to avoid any future problems.

 Understand how your solar energy works. You can take full advantage of the benefits in solar energy once you know how it works. For instance, panels facing south with no shade obstructions receiving maximum sun exposure during the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., will provide the greatest percent of energy. Significant savings occur when you have excess energy that is not consumed by your household. This excess energy can then be credited to your utility bill, saving you

For more advice and information you need for hiring the right contractor for your home improvement projects, go to www.bbb.org.

Get pro's view on bed bugs

Q: We have a co-owner in our high rise who we believe has bed bugs in her unit which is spreading to other units. Do we have any basis to hold her responsible for the potential infestation of the entire

A: In my judgment, if the unit owner caused an infestation, you can charge that co-owner for it the same as if they had created any other problem in the unit which impacts on the common elements. You should be aware of the issue which often arises when you try to prove that the unit is in fact the source unit. Obviously,



Robert Meisner

very difficult to locate and can hide in the smallest places (nail holes, electrical outlets, etc.) and they can live up to a* year without eating or being

bed bugs are

detected. Most exterminators, I am advised, say that they can never be sure who introduced the bugs into a building since it may just be that the purported source was merely the first to find them (in fact, some people are not allergic to their bites so they don't even know they are being bit). I am advised that exterminators, when put on the stand, shy away from rendering any opinion as to who is the source unit. However, if the unit owner is taking responsibility for causing the infestation, I would attempt to charge them for the cost of extermination. You should carefully follow the recommendations of your exterminator as you are likely to need to treat all of the affected units, as well as those sharing any walls (floors) within those units. In any event, you should also consult with an exterminator for additional advice.

Q: Our association is being requested to allow a comfort animal, namely a beagle, to be with one of our residents because the beagle brings joy and comfort to a very depressed lady. Are we obligated under the Fair Housing Act to allow it based on our prohibition on animals?

A: HUD is presently taking the position that the Fair Housing Act should be interpreted to permit comfort animals and not to limit service animals to dogs and miniature horses. It will be up to the court to decide how they want to interpret the reasonable accommodation requirement of the Fair Housing Act. There is currently a split of authority whether comfort animals are required as a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act. One should remember though that an animal need not be a service animal only if it provides a physical service (e.g. guiding, supporting, lifting, alerting, shielding). A person with an emotional disability, whose doctor or therapist prescribes an animal for emotional support or comfort, may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation allowing him or her to keep the animal even if the animal is not specifically trained and not, by definition, a service animal. I do think that you would have a good argument that a beagle would qualify as a comfort animal, but you should get a specific legal opinion.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisnerassociates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

What you need to know when considering a short sale

BY WES MCCAIG **GUEST COLUMNIST**

any homeowners are choosing the short sale option as a way to prevent foreclosure. There are factors that can determine how long a short sale can take, if it can even be approved at all. Just as a seller should



Wes McCaig

Investors

county.org.

use a Realtor who is an expert in short sales, a buyer should also choose a Realtor who is an expert.

Find a bank that's ready to make a deal. It is important to realize that there is no guarantee that a short sale will be approved.

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne

County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday

of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline

Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for nonmem-

bers to be applied to annual membership. For infor-

mation, call (313) 819-0919 or visit www.reiawayne-

\$167,000 \$207,000

\$780,000

\$220,000

\$185,000 \$143,000

The bank usually needs to determine that the seller is facing financial hardship and could potentially go into foreclosure. If you can find a home for sale where the short sale has been already approved, most of the guessing and waiting will be

eliminated. However, if you find a home being

sold as a short sale and it's not yet approved, there are factors to consider. The first thing to find out is how many approvals are required. The bank may just be a servicer and an investor may actually hold the loan. For example, a homeowner may make their payments to Wells Fargo (servicer), but Fannie Mae (investor) may hold the loan. Once the servicer approves the short sale, it still needs approval from the investor.

Also, to complicate matters, a mortgage insurer may be involved. Mortgage insurers often counter terms and delay the process. The fewer parties involved the fewer hurdles to overcome. Your Realtor should be able to determine how far along in the process the seller is, how long it will take and if there are major obstacles that could prevent approval.

If you need seller concessions, which is a credit from the seller that gets applied towards your closing costs, then your Realtor needs to determine what type of short sale you are dealing with. Most short sales will limit seller concessions to 3 percent of the sales price. However, if the seller has

an FHA mortgage, the short sale approval will usually allow maximum seller concessions of only 1 percent of the sales price. If seller concessions are required, it is critical for your Realtor to find out this information.

Don't be fooled by a low asking price. Remember that the seller's bank will only allow the home to be sold at a price that makes sense for them too. While the bank often times wants to help the seller, they are typically not going to let a homebuyer take advantage of them. If the bank feels the price is too low, they will counter it. If the bank feels they will make more money on the home by proceeding with fore-closure, then they could very well go that route instead.

It is imperative to have the proper contingencies in the sales contract when purchasing a short sale. Realtors who represent the seller will often try to structure the contract to heavily favor and protect the seller, in terms of time commitments, inspections and earnest money deposits. There are multiple ways to structure a short sale contract and a homebuyer needs

to have their protection as well. Your Realtor should be able to structure a contract that benefits and protects

Buying a home is a major decision and if you choose to look at short sales it is important to work with a Realtor who understands the short sale process. In interviewing Realtors, it is important to ask what experience they have with short sale transactions and what kind of protection you can expect if you enter a short sale contract.

Wes McCaig is the owner and broker of Visible Homes, LLC (http://www.visiblehomes.com), a Michigan-based real estate brokerage which provides real estate services for homebuyers and home sellers. To view Wes McCaig's TV appearances, visit http://www.youtube.com/ visiblehomes. Visible Homes is experienced with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's programs, including the down payment assistance program, the tax credit program and foreclosure prevention programs. Visible Homes belongs to the National Association of Realtors, Michigan Association of Realtors and the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors.

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Career Seminar

A Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. For more information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@ kw.com.

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Jan. 31 to Feb. 4, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Beverly Hills 17310 Locherbie Ave 32880 Red Oaks Trl Birmingham 364 Hanna St 443 W Merrill St 938 Westwood Dr	
Commerce Township 2075 Canal St 4751 Fairgrove Ln 4453 Racewood Dr 5988 Strawberry Cir	

31084 Franklin Fairway St
36938 Ridgedale Ct
30815 Springland St
28455 Wellington St
Milford
630 Crawford Farm Ln
1073 Deep Valley Ct
Novi
41605 Burroughs Ave
45848 Lathum Dr
24682 Olde Orchard St
South Lyon
126 S Reese St
Southfield
17459 Gateway Cir
29641 Marshall St
25057 Woodvale Dr N
White Lake

1911 Howland Blvd

\$140,000

\$77,000 \$172,000 \$190,000

\$245,000

\$325,000

\$328,000

\$36,000

\$75,000

\$70,000

\$35,000

\$175,000

Farmington Hills

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of February 7-11, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses,

Canton	
2482 Amber Dr	\$163,00
523 Belvedere Ct N	\$365,00
2234 Berwick Dr	\$125,000
40645 Deer Creek Ct	\$204,00
3992 Elizabeth Ave	\$82,00
44145 Fair Oaks Dr	\$133,000
49168 Founders Ct	\$365,000
45067 Fox Pointe Dr	\$235,000
3028 Greenwich Ct	\$234,000
50278 Jackson Ln	\$255,000
4145 Kimberly Dr	\$170,000
8217 N Pointe Ct	\$285,000
1989 Peerce Ct	\$60,00
47536 Pembroke Dr	\$68,00
44214 Postmill Ct	\$150,000
47639 Scenic Circle Dr N	\$155,00
41643 Strawberry Ct	\$148,00
43419 W Arbor Way Dr	\$58,00
47143 Woodlong Dr	\$275,00
7160 Woonsocket St	\$198,00

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

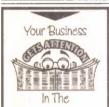
Garden City		Plymouth	
33412 Alta St	\$49,000	352 Adams St	\$125.000
28467 Beechwood St	\$45,000	11396 Cedar Ln	\$156,000
6220 Harrison St	\$40,000	42107 Lakeland Ct	\$260,000
31777 James St	\$51,000	51370 Plymouth Heights Ln	\$225,000
Livonia		10375 Red Maple Dr	\$200,000
11800 Alois St	\$45,000	480 Ross St	\$175,000
15040 Arden St	\$90,000	Redford	
16138 Bell Creek Ct	\$140,000	19646 Brady	\$44,000
14089 Brookfield St	\$50,000	9344 Columbia	\$55,000
36225 Club Dr	\$285,000	8914 Dale	\$62,000
14016 Cranston St	\$150,000	20556 Denby	\$32,000
14304 Farmington Rd	\$85,000	11388 Fenton	\$48,000
28400 Gita St	\$115,000	26154 Grove	\$33,000
15725 Green Lane Ave	\$65,000	11394 Leverne	\$52,000
11763 Hartel St	\$19,000	20481 Lexington	\$27,000
15507 Knolson St	\$150,000	9301 Marion Cres	\$78,000
35877 Leon St	\$85,000	18513 Wakenden	\$11,000
11315 Milburn St	\$112,000	9023 Winston	\$56,000
37788 N Laurel Park Dr	\$160,000	19147 Woodworth	\$25,000
29653 Orangelawn St	\$110,000	Westland	
38157 Summers St	\$135,000	39346 Avondale St	\$65,000
32628 Vermont St	\$120,000	35731 Booth St	\$10,000
32705 W Chicago St	\$87,000	148 Carson Dr	\$65,000
Northville		32129 Hazelwood St	\$55,000
46615 Crystal Downs W	\$385,000	38386 Maes St	\$96,000
16317 Mulberry Way	\$20,000	5719 N Berry St	\$50,000
16394 Mulberry Way	\$20,000	6013 N Dowling St	\$25,000
41896 Sunnydale Ln	\$167,000	2466 S Brandon St	\$86,000
42620 Waterford Rd	\$209,000	8510 Shari Dr	\$55,000
44506 White Pine Cir E	\$425,000	31243 Stephen Ave	\$77,000
		38175 Warren Rd	\$165,000
		2130 Wilmer St	\$53,000



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mummy

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33 Uh cousins

38 Finicky

32 Jr. naval officer

34 Groan causers

35 Scroll cabinets

36 Distance apart

24 Kind of pump

Grant 9 Not sociable 12 Remove uncer-

emoniously 13 In the buff 14 Sigma follower Ad Call: 15 Thin crisp fabric 17 Hall or Hannah

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41 Spice tree

43 Le Car

producer 47 Trotted

means (2 wds.) 51 Unfold, in verse 52 Without help

DOWN

1 Bossy's comment 2 Not just my

additive Looked hard

6 Very, in Veracruz 8 Entices

39 k.d. of country music

40 Microwave

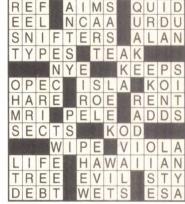
48 Row of seats 50 What "video"

53 Violent anger

Chow mein

5 Garcia or Warhol

7 Fabric meas. 9 Colanders



Answer to Previous Puzzle

2-3 © 2011 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

10 Dried clover 11 Mongkut por-

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surface

16 Velvety

21 Fiber plants 22 Commandeer 23 Doesn't bother 18 CPA's sum (2 wds.) 24 Bringing

> 25 Barnyard sounds 26 Loch denizen, maybe

31 Upright pianos

action

20 Mongol

dwellings

35 Nanny from abroad (2 wds.) 37 Cleveland

28 Threw

38 Groupie 40 Aught or naught 41 — -Magnon 42 Relay seg-

cager

ment 43 CSA monogram 44 Mex. neighbor 45 Trip part

46 Pipe joint

Jupiter

49 Moon of



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Word Search — Automotive

drive

engine

highway

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6

car

cruise

doors

R

accelerate

automobile

brakes

7 8 4 6 2 3 5 9 2 6 5 9 1 7 8 4 3 8 6 1 4 2 6 7 3 2 3 8 7 1 8 2 9 6 4 Sudoku 8 9 1 6 8 4 9 7 7 9 7 3 2 6 8 4 1 5 6 3 2 7 2 8 1 8 9 1 6 8

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Complete job description dfcufinancial.com See description for MRR Team Lead.

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Branch Office good standing required

Equal Opportunity Employer

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Good pay. pply in person ONLY: 39115 Warren Road Westland, MI Between 3-4:30PM PHONE CALLS!

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Dental Assistant III-time position for an dividual with a minim of 1 yr. exp. Our office is fast paced, team spirited, patient care oriented and a great place to work! Benefit

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Partial Denture Dental Technician Experience preferred.

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> **Clinical Care** Coordinator

Facility is currently recruit the preferred candidate vill be RN: Minimum 3 - : years progressive experi-ence in clinical setting with current experience relevant patient population served. Computer exper ence preferred. Exceptiona written, oral communication and organizationa skills necessary. Must be flexible, self-motivated, and capable. Demonstrated eadership abilities in work ing with clinical teams and

OPTICAL ASSISTANT, FT Must be exp'd. Belleville location. Great hours. Call: 734-284-2020

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physicians.

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neutered. Distinctive black

"helmet" on head, black shel<mark>l on back, black tail, ,el-</mark>

ow/green eyes. Last see:

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Home and Family, Snack bar bring kids, no mark-ups CLARKSTON 17th Annual Church Rummage Sale - Saturday, May 21, 9 am 5 pm. Antiques, household glassware, books, tools, smal brown good cond. You pick appliances, kid's clothes, fur niture. From 4-5pm is our \$5.00-A-BAG Sale. Clarkston up. Call: (248) 740-1311

Cnr. of Lone Pine/Church Rds No entry fee, Quality goods

United Methodist Church located at 6600 Waldon Rd.

htwn Sashahaw and M-15

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE May 19, 6pm-9pm. 1st Choice Night! May 20, 9am-2p, 1/2 Off! May 21, 9am-Noon \$5 A Bag! Universalist Unitarian 25301 Halsted Rd., Farmington Hills 1/2 Mile North Of Grand

River Ave.

with something for everyone

CANTON ESTATE SALE:

All must go! Fine furniture

artwork by Neiman, Rockwell

Dali, Waterford crystal, crystal chandeliers, household goods. tools, etc. Sat-Sun, May 21-22, 8-4pm. 1973 Ashbourne, Ford Rd. W of Beck. **ESTATE SALE:** 4401 Fourth St, Wayne. Wayne Rd & Annapolis St. Fri. May 20. 10-5: Sat. May 21. 10-5 &

goods, wild assortment, etc. LIVONIA 28912 Hathaway E of Middlebelt S of W Chicago - Sat. 9:30-4om See pictures at: v.garvshouseholdsales.co

Sun. May 22, 10-2. Household

MOVING/ESTATE SALE - NOVI All contents of a 1 bdrm apt. must go! Fri. - Sun., 10-5pm, 44855 Grand River Ave., Apt 2B, Btwn Taft & Novi Rd. REDFORD ESTATE SALE:

15087 Fenton, take Grand West off Telegraph, just S of 5

Mile or E off Beech just South

of 5 Mile. May 19-21, 9-4pm.

No early sales.

hold, antiques, clothing, jewlery, ballroom dancing items crystal, lots of collectibles. WESTLAND

man. Thurs., 10-4pm, Fri. 10-4pm & Sat., 10-2pm. LIVONIA 39324 Lyndon, S of 5 Mile Rd, btwn Haggerty & New-burgh. Thurs., 9-4pm, Fri.

& Sat., 10-4pm, (No signs

are allowed in Livonia)

8642 August, off Joy Rd, Btwn Middlebelt & Merri-

www.iluvantiques.com 586-344-2048 WESTLAND ESTATE SALE Fri., 5/20 & Sat., 5/21 10-5pm. 5652 Morley, 1 blk W of Newburgh, N of Ford Rd.

Antiques, collectibles, furni-

ture, tools, craft & sewing

supplies, household goods. lousehold Goods

BEAUTIFUL Oak Wallunit

75" tall, 55" long, 17" wide. Leaded glass doors (4), holds up to a 27" TV. Excellent con-

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ottoman & chair. Patterned. with decorative cushions & shades of grays, plums & browns. Bought as a set 1 y ago, willing to sell as sepa 313-806-7826

RX chest- white, glass doors

\$50. Wooden nightstand w/glass doors, \$35. 3 shelf

stand, solid oak, round, \$35

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36' GE TV, & wood grain TV stand, \$150. prices negotiable. 734-558-6717

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With bench, oak finish excellent cond., \$400

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Fire arms & old knives

782D irds & Fish

BIRD FAIR Sat., May 21st, 9am-4pm. Livonia Elks Lodge #2246. 31117 Plymouth Rd., Livonia. Adults \$3, children under 12 FREE. Birds & related items or sale. Vendor table & space lable, \$35 ea. For more information call: 313-247-5900

7830 CAT - Orange & White. 3 yrs. old, male, needs a home. Neutered, has shots

ome. 810-844-3996 7340

friendly cats. 248-561-8827

FREE TABBY CAT

DACHSHUND/BEAGLE PUPPY male, Black/Tan, 7 mos old Moving, needs good home! shoulder, will stay small! Excellent with children 248-305-5638

(586) 218-7057

MISSING 5/7 Heartbroken Family needs back friendly 4-5 HAVANESE PUPPIES yr. old small, gray/black Tabby AKC, shots, wormed, non-shedding, parents on sight with yellow under belly 10/Middlebelt. Nice Reward 248-477-3339, 248-514-2413

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girl. Good home. Vet reference required. \$250: 248-240-6382 STYLIST CATTLEDOG 1-1/2 yr. old female needs great home (too exuberant for owner). Exactly 1/2 her face dark red, other gray. Call Sandy: 248-545-5127.



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7100 7100 7100 Estate Sales 7100 Estate Sales **BLOOMFIELD HILLS** BLOOMFIELD HILLS: ESTATE SALEM- 7410 Salem Rd. just CONTEMPORARY fabric sofa **SALE**. 2635 Rambling Way. 5/20 & 5/21 (Fri. & Sat.) 10-**WEEKEND RUMMAGE SALE** N of 5 Mile. 5/19-5/21; 9-7pm. Fri, May 20, 10-4pm Sat, May 21, 10-2pm Over 80 yrs accumulation: new & vintage items, house-4pm. LOADED from A to Z Christ Church Cranbrook

7110

REDFORD

Church being sold! 9 AM - 5 PM on May 20 & 9 AM - 2 PM

on May 21 @ St. John's Lutheran Church 13542

Mercedes, 1 blk E of Inkster, 1

blk S of Schoolcraft. Come browse our quality items! No early sales. Cash only please.

REDFORD: May 20-21, 9-3pm.

26802 Lyndon, btwn Beech Daly & Inkster Various house-

ROYAL OAK

1307 McLean Ave.

5/19 - 5/20 (Thurs. & Fri

Buck & Try Your Luck! All

clothes, books, music & movies are \$1! We also

have furniture, housewares

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SOUTH LYON: Gar/Sub Sale

Multi-family. May 19-21, 9-5. 9543 Beach Park Dr (near

Silver Lake). Antique radio rocker. Hide-A-Bed, house-

hold, great stuff! Check us out!

SOUTH LYON: May 19, 20, 21, 9-5pm. Salem Farms Sub, 6807 Sunset Dr., E of Pontiac Trail, N of 7 Mile. Household,

furniture & much more!

of Haggerty off Maple.

0)

Only!), 9am-4pm. Bring

hold items & much more!

7110

GARAGE SALES

Ha METOWN *life.com*

Garage Sales

Beverly Hills - Nottingham Forest Sub-wide Sale Toys, furniture, etc. 5/19 & 5/20 9-4pm. 32035 Cross Bow btwn 13 & 14 Mile off Lasher. RIRMINGHAM: Sat-Sun, May 21-22, 9-6pm, 10% of proceeds go to Troy Historical 1115 Brookwood, cor-

ner of Raynale & Brookwood. **BLOOMFIELD HILLS** 3140 Middlebury, S. of Maple, btwn Cranbrook & Lahser, from Lasher enter Berkshire. Thurs-Sun, 9am-? Ralph Lauren, Coach, collectibles

kid's stuff, lots of furniture. CANTON- Antiques, Blue Willow platter, punch bowl. MUCH MORE! rototiller, & more! 5/19-5/20 9-4pm. 4630 Denton Rd, S. of Geddes & N. of Michigan Ave.

CANTON - Bridgemont Park May 19-21, 9am-4pm. Canton Center Rd. & Warren, 6824 Bridgemont Dr. 734-453-1496 CANTON Covington Square Sub-Wide Garage Sale - May 19-22, off Lilley, btwn Cherry

CANTON Fairways West Subdivision Garage Sale (Beck & Cherry Hill). Thurs., Fri. & Sat. May, 19, 20 & 21, 8am-4pm

Hill & Palmer

CANTON: Large Neighborhood Garage Sale Buckingham Place W. of Beck. N. of Warren

CANTON LEXINGTON SQUARE - Sub Garage Sale. Thurs-Sat, May 19-21, 9am-5pm. South of Cherry Hill & East of Sheldon

CANTON Multi-Family Tent Sale - Many unique items! Wed.-Fri., 5/18-5/20, 9-5pm. 2306 Hannan Rd, just S of Palmer.

Garage Sales

CANTON MULTI SUBDIVISION GARAGE SALE Pheasant Run Golf Club ommunities (700 + homes) -Pheasant View, Fairway Pines and Fairways at Pheasant Run. Thurs-Sat, May 19-21, 9-5pm. Btwn Beck & Canton

Center, just S. of Cherry Hill, N. of Geddes. CANTON WHOLE HOUSE SALE! 42050 HANFORD RD. MAY 19, 20, 21, 9am-5pm. Living, dining, bedroom, patio furniture. Wurlitzer spinet piano, housewares, tools, baseball cards and comics lamps, lawn care, treadmill framed prints and

FARMINGTON -2 Family Clearance! NW of 11 Mile Drake on Quakertown, Thurs Sat, 9-4. Puzzles, books, etc.

FARMINGTON HILLS: 4 fam fomestead (Independence Commons). Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Baby furniture, toys, pictures, books, pots, household items, clothes. Many items new ir box. Lots to choose from.

FARMINGTON HILLS- 5/19 & 5/20, 9-5pm. 28453 Quail Hollow, 12 Mile & Farmington Rd. Garden carts, yard equip. children's bikes, sporting goods (lacrosse, golf, fishing) racuums, electronics lectibles, antique cedar chest.

FARMINGTON HILLS CHURCH OF GOD EXTREME YARD SALE! 25717 Power Rd, btwn 10 & 11 Mile. May 19-21; 9am-5pm, Thurs-Fri; 9am-2pm, Sat. 10 + families! Misc items incl: organ & full electronic piano, knife & scissor sharpening on site - nominal fee. To support our Costa Rica Missions Team New items arriving daily!

Garage Sales

FARMINGTON HILLS: Forest Park Subdivision Garage Sale. 20+ Homes. May 19, 20 & 21, 9am-5pm, S. of 9 Mile, W. of Inkster, E. of Middlebelt

(7110)

FARMINGTON HILLS GARAGE SALE FEATURING: \$10 Evening Gowns, Prom Gowns, Black Tie, Bridesmaid, Hundreds 2 choose from, size 2-22 \$25 Wedding Gowns, Kid Stuff, Furniture, Must SEE! Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 10am-5pm. 35232 Quaker Way, Farmington Hills 48331 FARMINGTON HILLS - Green

Hills Sub. 5/19-5/21, 8-4pm. S. of 9 Mile, btwn Halsted & Drake. Lots of misc. items! FARMINGTON HILLS: Huge! Antiques, furniture & house-hold, etc! 31600 Trestain, S of off Orchard Lake, 5/19-

FARMINGTON HILLS Hunt Club Sub Sale. Sat-Sun, May 21-22, 9-5pm. 20 homes. E. of Halsted, S. of 11 Mile. Household items, toys scrapbook supplies, furniture.

5/21, 9-5pm. No Early Sales!

FARMINGTON HILLS: May 20-22, 9-5pm. Lots of scrapbook supplies, household. Coach purses, books & . 25526 Hunt Club, E of Halsted, S of 11.

FARMINGTON HILLS: Multihomes Farmington Green Sub, N/12 btwn. Farmington & Drake. May 19-21st, 9am-Household clothes, furniture, books, etc.

HARTLAND Sub Sale Melody Acres 2031 Birch Hartland MI. Eight plus families! May 20-22. LIVONIA: 15500 Oporto and 3 other homes. May 19-21, 9-4. Furniture, camping, Thomas the Train set & table. Vintage outdoor. Craigslist.org. N. of 5 Mile, W. of Middlebelt.

LIVONIA: 15522 Alpine Dr. Thurs-Fri. May 19 & 20, 9-4. Floor carpets, designer women's clothes, sizes 10-14, collectible items & dolls.

Garage Sales

LIVONIA- Big 2 family sale Thurs., May 19 thru Sat., May 21st 9am-5pm, 15951 Oporto Btwn 5 Mile & Puritan, W of Middlebelt

LIVONIA BLOCK SALE: May 21-22, 9-5pm. Furniture household goods, misc. N of 5 Mile, btwn Middlebelt & Inkster. Cash only.

LIVONIA GARAGE SALE: 19859 Melvin, S of 8 Mile, W of Middlebelt. Thurs-Sat May 19-21, 9-5pm. Household misc.

Multi family LIVONIAlousehold, collectibles, craf supplies, hockey equip. 5/19-5/21 9-4pm. 9834 Mayfield. S/Plymouth, E/Farmington

LIVONIA: Plants, Pottery & Misc. Sat. & Sun., 5/21 & 5/22 9-5pm. 17550 Mayfield, 9-5pm. 17550 Mayrielu, 6 Mile & Farmington Rd

LIVONIA SUB SALE Thurs., 5-19, , 5-20 & Sat., 5-21. S. of Plymouth Rd., btwn Wayne & Levan. Furniture, Appl inces, Hammond Organ Bikes, Go Paintball Equip Kimona, oosball Table, Snowblowe

LIVONIA- Thurs-Sat, May 19-1st (weather permitting); (weather permissing), Tons of toys, clothing, misc 17428 Park Ln, N of 6 Mile, E of Levan

& much more!

MILFORD- Estate sale. Furniture, TV, crib, toys. 5/20 & 5/21; 9-5pm. 2858 Katie Hickory Ridge Rd, S of M-59. Hickory Pond Sub

7110 Garage Sales

MILFORD May 19-21 Milford Heritage Hills Sub - 520, 550, 575, 440 Heritage & 1157, 1159 Eagles Nest. Furniture, generator, tools, Wii, sports, kids' items & more! Priced low!

MILFORD SUB SALE River Oaks, off Milford Rd. N of town, S. of M-59. May 19-21, 9am-4pm

NORTHVILLE Household goods, furniture clothes, knick-knacks, etc May 20, 9-4pm, May 21, 9-3pm, 49349 Seven Mile Rd., 1 mile west of Beck Rd.

NORTHVILLE Multi-Family Garage Sale 19201 Windridge Dr., off Mile, behind Home Depot, 3rd house on left. Sat. Only! May 21st, 10am-3pm

NORTHVILLE PARKSTONE SUB ANNUAL GARAGE SALE N. of 6 Mile, W. of Haggerty Rd. Fri. & Sat. May 20-21, 9-3pm.

NORTHVILLE QUAIL RIDGE SUB: 8 Mile/Meadowbrook 5/21 8am-5om Antiques, toys, TV, DVD Thomas Train, Home Items Baby/kids/maternity clothes.

NORTHVILLE - Steeplechase Sub Sale. Thurs.- Sat. May 19-21, 9-5pm. 1.5 miles W. of Beck, off 6/7 Mile. Furniture, household, toys, lots of baby clothes, appli, electronics.

NORTHVILLE- Thurs., May 19 & Fri, May 20th, 8-4pm. 366 Welch Rd., 8 Mile & Center St. Household items, furniaccessories, patio, antiques & much more!

NORTHVILLE TWP Neighborhood GARAGE SALE May 19-21st, 9am-4pm. Participating streets: Ripling Lane, Upper & Lower Scenic Harbour, plus Granite & Upland Cts. Btwn 7 & 8 Mile, W. of Haggerty, E. of North-ville Rd. LOTS OF STUFF!

Garage Sales

NORTHVILLE: WOODSIDE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Thurs-Sat., May 19-21, 10am-4pm. Off Haggerty btwn. 5 & 6 Mile on W. side of Haggerty

HUGE 2 Sub Garage Sale Novi, May 19, 20, 21. Two adjacent upscale subs (220 homes) in Novi - Bradford of Novi & Lexington Green subs. SW of 9 Mile & Taff Rds. From Taft enter on Princeton or Galway. From 9 Mile enter on Galway. Don't miss it! http://detroit.craigslist.org/ okl/gms/2373105182.html

NOVI- Huge sale! 2 bdrm sets & other furniture, clothing, brand name bags, men's/ women's shoes, household items, 13" TV, framed prints & collectibles. 5/20 9-3pm, 5/21 9-1pm. 22435 Southwyck Ct N/ 9 Mile, E/ Beck.

NOVI Jamestown Green Sub - 10 Mile, btwn Novi Rd & Taft Antiques, Electronics, Video Games, movies, CDs, Toys clothes (adults & kids'), appli ances & more! Thurs., Fri., & Sat., 9am-6pm.

Multi-Family Garage Sale! Electric range, hood/far style microwave, sterling jewelry, housewares, glass ware, some antiques, Fri. & Sat., 9-4pm. 24636 Picara, MI 48374.

7110 Garage Sales Garage Sales

PLYMOUTH: Garage Sales on Bradford Ct. May 19-21, 9-5. 5 Homes. Ann Arbor Rd. W. of Beck, Furniture, household books, vintage items, tools.

PLYMOUTH Getting Ready To MOVE! May 20-21, 9am-4pm. 48736 Meadow Drive, north of Ann Arbor Rd., east of Ridge. Exercise equip, tools, dishes, holiday tems, furniture and so nuch more. NO EARLY BIRDS! Look for TENT!

PLYMOUTH Large Garage Sale May 20-21. 44841 Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth. 5 Santa, Books, VCR Tapes, Household Items, Much More! Read more: http://www.classifiedads

com/garage_sales-ad4402175. htm#ixzz1MMG1EAls

PLYMOUTH Sofas, chairs, end tables dining and bedroom furnilamps, bar stools patio furniture, grill, almost an entire household must be sold!

Fri & Sat May 20-21st 10:00am-4:00pm 455 Lindsay Dr., Plymouth

PLYMOUTH: Tools, men's & women's clothing, pool filter, art work, furniture, sofa recliner & more! Fri-Sun, 9-5pm 358 Maple. Off Ann Arbor Tr.

PLYMOUTH TWP RIDGEWOOD HILLS ANNUAL ALL SUB SALE The RIGHT STUFF at GREAT prices.

N. side of Ann Arbor Rd.

1/2 mile W. of Beck.

WEST BLOOMFIELD- Toys old and new, puzzels & games, household items & furniture, whicker set, iron patio set, washer. 5/20 & 5/21; 9-7pm. 6364 Silverbrook West, just E

> WESTLAND: Berry St N. of Ford, E. of Wayne. May 20 & 21, 9-5pm.

7110 Garage Sales

PLYMOUTH-WILLOWBROOK WESTLAND- Lots of women's Multi-Family - South off 5 Mile, West of Haggerty fashionables, lawn & garden, holiday decor, electronics, futon, washer & dryer. 5/21 & 5/22, 9-5pm. 8621 Haller, 2 blks E of Middlebelt off Joy Rd. Flectronics. Household, Toys Misc. Thurs.-Sat., 9am-4pm.

> WESTLAND Multi-Family Sale WESTLAND Multi-Family Sale Furniture, TVs, collectibles & a variety of everything! May 21-22nd, 9-5pm. 817 Fairlane St., btwn Wayne & Wildwood

Moving Sales

7130

BIRMINGHAM Estate/ Moving Sale

Furniture, Art, etc. Sat urday, May 28, 2011 11am 1495 Southfield Road, Birmingham NOT A GARAGE SALE No Small Items For Sale!

CLAWSON MOVING SALE! Fri-Sat, May 20-21, 9-4pm. 1226 Marc, off School St, 2 blks S of 15 Mile, W off Main. Jewelry, collectibles, furniture.

COMMERCE TWP- Furniture, piano, collectibles, Longa-berger baskets, tea rose false craft dishes, crafts, craft books & supplies, yarn, porcelain dolls, dishes, big screen TV, bikes, and more! May 21

& 22nd., 9-5pm. 3594 Clark Cir., Benstein & Bass Lake Rd. FARMINGTON HILLS: Furniture, accessories & much more! 36900 Carla. 9 Mile & Halsted. Fri May 20,

9-4 & Sat May 21, 10-1

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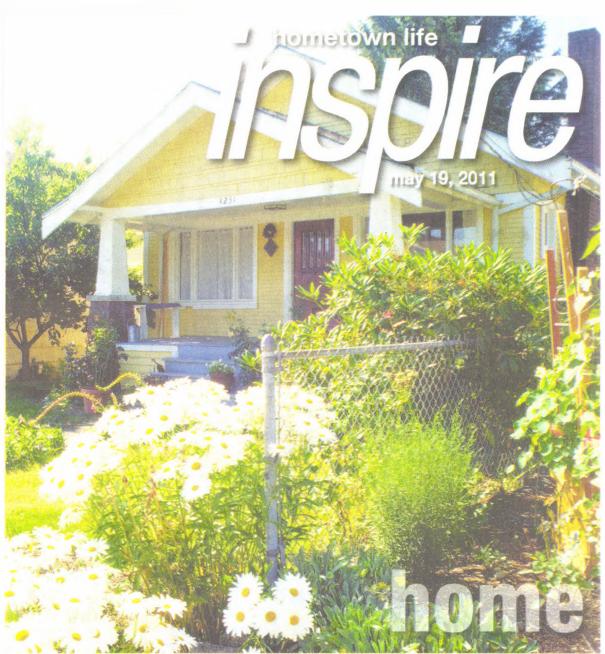
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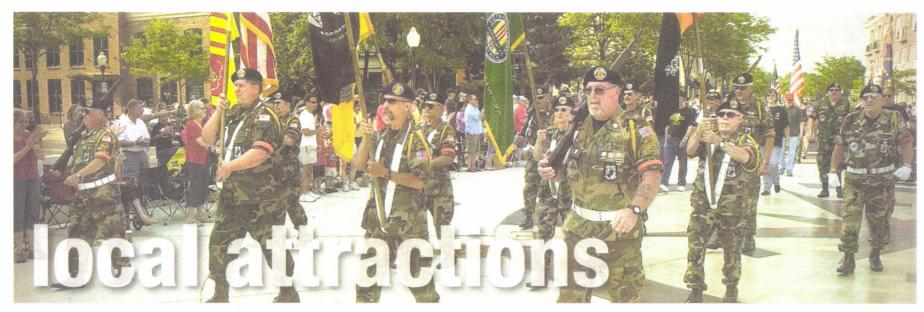
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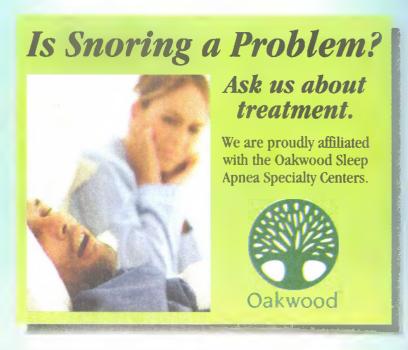
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Memorial Day: Grill, garden, but take time to honor those in service

Finally, spring really feels like spring and our minds turn to all things warm and sunny.

Inspire has May things on its mind — mainly great Memorial Day experiences and shifting into full throttle for outdoor DIY projects.

Memorial Day means our grills will be getting a workout.

But Memorial Day is more than just a long weekend. It's a time to remember and honor those who have died in service to our country.

Our readership area offers lots of parade and special ceremonies marking this day of remembrance. To participate in a parade, ceremony or other special event, see today's roundup of special Memorial Weekend events. "Because of the Brave," a tribute to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country, will be presented by the BeckRidge Chorale, on Monday, May 30, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Last year's concert was standing room only so see www.beckridgechorale.org for details and ticket information. You are sure to be inspired and moved by any of these special events.

Inspire is all about helping and inspiring readers with home projects. Whether you are a DIYer or you prefer to seek professional help, today's section provides lots of suggestions for that special project. This month's edition features a special section focused on gardens and homes.

Now that spring is really here it's time to plant those tender annuals and vegetables. Peruse the pages of this section for ideas on creative gardens, beautiful lawns, replacement windows, building a backyard shed and more. Then shop at

our local businesses for the supplies and services you need.

A recent study conducted for Local First in Grand Rapids found that \$68 of every \$100 spent at a locally owned business stays in the community. The amount for non-locally owned businesses is \$43 for each \$100.

The money that stays tends to be reintroduced into the local economy through employee wages, professional services to run that business, supplies, local taxes, wages and community donations.

Remember, shopping local is good for customers, communities and businesses.

I welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions.

Susan Rosiek

publisher/executive editor

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Susan Rosiek



Beer: A little Sumpin Sumpin special

Travel: A trip to adult fantasy land

11

Tech savvy: How to save money

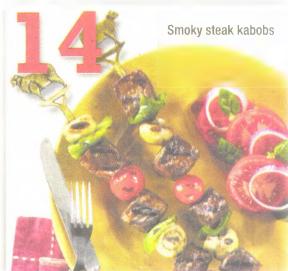




Memorial Day: We love a parade



Garden glory: Rich soil, rich history



Food: Get your grill on



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A Little Sumpin Sumpin special



India Pale Ale — Let me first state there is no movement to outsource our beloved beer industry to India for lower margins and higher profits. IPA refers to a beer style, which like most great achievements, was developed out of necessity.

The British Empire was expanding in the 1700s, shipping beer to the warmer outlying regions of the

world, which wreaked havoc on English ales. Making the six-month journey around the horn to India was an impossible task without a double hit of Humlus Lupuulus — hops!

Hops act as a stabilizer in the brewing process, and when used in abundance deliver a flavor reminiscent of fresh squeezed grapefruit garnished with a pinecone swizzle stick. The refreshing blend makes it a



Nate Parsons

favorite among gastronomes when paired with barbecue ribs, spicy nachos or, forgive my Wisconsin roots, a basket of cheese curds.

The beer community is no different than any other, a melting pot of individuals bound together by a particular passion, interest, or thirst. IPA junkies known as "Hop Heads" are a vocal group passionately promoting hoppy deliciousness. And why not? Hops are the backbone of great beer. You will discover craft brewers offer a vast selection of IPAs. Somewhere between the supercharged Bell's Hop Slam and mild mannered Magic Hat *9 you will find a Little Sumpin Sumpin by Lagunitas Brewing Company.

Nate Parsons can be reached at modevin@yahoo.com.

TASTING NOTES

- Beer: Little Sumpin Sumpin
- Brewery: Lagunitas Brewing Company (lah-goo-knee-tuss)
- · Origin: Petaluma, Calif.
- Style: Double IPA
- ABV: 7.5 percent
- Glassware: Snifter or tulip
- Description: The pour ends with a decent head that holds the duration of the drink, leaving
 webbed lacing on an empty glass. The punch-in-the-nose aroma burns of citrus and piney
 resin with hints of cranberry spice. The taste profile complements the bouquet with an
 outburst of herbal hops, citrus, and rosemary, wrapped in a thin layer of sugar cookie dough.
 I anticipate a palate-scraping finish, but am surprised when sweet, malty tones coat the back
 of the throat for a smooth exit.
- Conclusion: The grapefruit personality of Lagunitas might have you drinking beer for breakfast, which truly makes a little Sumpin Sumpin special.

 Where to Purchase
- Hiller's Market, Northville 6pk/\$11.49
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- Super Fine Wine & Liquor, Canton 6pk/\$11.99
- The Wine Palace, Livonia 6pk/\$11.99

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Along the garden fence you will find Amaranth, Sunflower, Tithonia and Joe Pye Weed.

A garden with soil as rich as its history

The Henry Ford

The Henry Ford includes Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, the Ford Rouge Factory Tour, The Henry Ford IMAX Theatre and the Benson Ford Research Center

The Henry Ford 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn Open 7 days a week 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.thehenryford.org By Dennis Zelazny Contributing writer

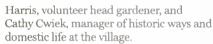
Warm summer days are just a few steps in front of us. Here at the Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers, everyone is talking about spring home improvements and their garden-

ing efforts. Sometimes in order to get motivated we need a little inspiration, so I recently visited The Henry Ford's Greenfield Village in Dearborn. I thought it would be fun to take a close look at one of my favorite spots in the village, the Burbank Garden. It is maintained by the Village Herb Associates who will celebrate their 30th anniversary in August.

You might think that it's a bit early to be working in the garden but this group talks "dirt" and has chores to do all year round, including raising many of their plants at

"dirt" and has chores to do all year round, I cluding raising many of their plants at the Wayne RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) in Wayne. I was more than inspired after I met with Marion

Dennis



The village is impressive with 83 historic buildings on more than 80 acres so your walk to the Burbank Garden will be like having an orchestra accompany you on the walk. Stroll to the end of one of many winding streets and you will see the Ackley covered bridge, a gazebo and a quaint little red painted building with a beautifully crafted arched door. This is where our adventure begins.

It is the office of Luther Burbank. The office is open to the public and it is furnished with his desk and some of his gardening tools. Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and Luther Burbank were all friends and spent many hours discussing their life adventures here. Just past the office you will see a white picket fence containing the 40- by 80-foot plot of land known as the Burbank Garden

Harris called it a "production garden and teaching garden." After volunteers harvest the flowers, the products of their labor are used throughout the village. Members learn about growing and using herbs, not only for cooking, but also for making crafts. The herb associates sell the items they make at the Farmers Market in early autumn.

The garden was dedicated to Mary Thompson Gerathy in 1986. Gerathy taught wreath making to village visitors

Please see GARDEN, 16

PLANTS IN THE HENRY FORD VILLAGE GARDEN

- Akebia Vine (Akebia quinata) Easily grown in most soils. Foliage is semi*evergreen in warm winter climates.
- Scented Geraniums (*Pelargoniums*) Scented pelargoniums are mainly grown for their aromatic foliage.
- Loveage Plant (Levisticum)
 Lovage also known as Old English
 Lovage. Italian Lovage. Cornish Lovage,
 Sea parsley or love parsley. Can be used
 as a substitute for celery in soups and
 stews. The "love" part of the name may
 date back to the Middle Ages, when its
 seeds were used a part of a love potion.
 Grown in old monastery gardens.
- Lavender (*Disambiguation*)
 Lavender is used for health and beauty. It is one of the most highly regarded plants for its soothing and healing properties.
- Eyeball Plant (*Spilanthes oleracea*)
 A novelty annual, with olive-shaped blooms of golden and rich burgundy just begging to be put in bouquets.
 Great for cutting and irresistible in a large garden planting.
- Love-In-A-Mist (Nigella damascena)

This old-fashioned plant is at home in cottage gardens. The foliage adds a delicate touch to hanging baskets, it is the seed pod that is the attractive part of the plant, although the blue flowers are pretty — not many flowers are a true blue like this one.

• Easter Egg Plant — (Melongena esculentum) — that's Latin for eggplant

Easter Egg Plant (Solanum ovigerum) is a member of the night-shade family which includes eggplant, tomatoes, bell peppers and potatoes, with wide, lush green foliage protecting the fruit. It is an uncommon delight for the late summer garden.

• Blackberry Lily or Leopard Lily (Belamcanda chinensis)

Blackberry lilies have 10-inch long, sword-shaped leaves that give rise to two-foot stems. Flowers last for a day, drying with a twist into tight spirals, then falling as pods develop.

- Gomphocarpus cancellatus wild cotton Gomphocarpus (*Asclepias physocarpa*) is a member of the milkweed family and is a host plant for the Monarch Butterfly.
 - $\bullet \ {\bf Amaranthus} (amaranth)$

A traditional food plant in Africa, amaranth has the potential to improve nutrition, boost food security, foster rural development and support sustainable land care.

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The Villages of Florida: A trip to adult Fantasyland

By Jay Young CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The baby boomers have landed, over 80,000 of them, in a master planned, age-restricted (55 and older) community located in the rolling hills of central Florida about 20 miles south of Ocala called simply, The Villages.

Ranked as the fastest growing micropolitan area (a U.S. Census term used to describe a small city — an area with a population between 10,000 and 50,000) in the country according to a 2008 Census Bureau report, The Villages is the brainchild of a Michigan developer named Harold Schwartz, who began selling mail order land tracts in the area in the 1960s, until the practice was banned by the feds in 1968.

Stuck with considerable portions of Florida land, Schwartz began development of a mobile home park, Orange Blossom Gardens, in the 1970s. With only 400 units sold, Schwartz bought out his partner and in 1983 brought in his son, H. Gary Morse, to run the business.

Copying other successful retirement communities like Del Webb's Sun City in Arizona, which offered residents a large number of well-maintained amenities, sales improved dramatically and Schwartz bought large tracts of land for future expan-

Morse changed the development name to The Villages in 1992, and its growth has spread like wildfire ever since, with a planned population of 105,000 when completed.

I had heard glowing reports about the place from Canton baby boomers who own or have rented homes in The Villages, so my wife, Linnea, and I decided to rent a home there in April to see for ourselves.

Upon arrival, our first impression was that we had entered some sort of parallel universe. The place was immaculate, with well-maintained town squares, beautifully landscaped public areas, well-planned streets, with periodic traffic circles, gorgeous shops and beautiful homes. Golf carts whizzed (15 mph top speed) along special lanes on their way to numerous golf courses or recreation centers. It seemed too good to believe.

However, after a while the idiosyncrasies of the place began to appear. We saw numerous golf carts (there are 50,000 in The Villages) tricked out to look like little roadsters or hot rods, some costing upward of \$25,000. We witnessed 60-year-old women dressed like high school cheerleaders leading cheers at a polo

Music from the The Villages radio station wafted through the trees and scrubs from hidden speakers in the town squares. Standing in a certain place in the square, residents could wave to their grandkids on a live web cam. All the various villages were gated, with attendants and neighborhood watch vehicles at the ready. It seemed Big Brother was everywhere and watching.

In fact, the development is still controlled in all major aspects by descendants of Schwartz and Morse, with Morse's daughter serving as director of sales and spokeswoman on the sales video sent out to prospective buyers.

To be fair, it is a very safe community and residents have willingly ceded some individual choices (home styles, landscaping, required identity cards and passes to all recreation facilities) to preserve this lifestyle. And what a lifestyle it offers.

There are over 1,800 organized clubs and activities available ranging from an Air Gun Club, Belly Dancing, Baton Twirling, Clogging, Dulcimer and Harmonica playing, to Mah-jongg,



Nightly "happy hour" provides music and dancing. Contributing Writer Jay Young is dancing with granddaughters Lauren, 6, and Lilley, 4.

Mexican Train Dominoes, Tai Chi, woodworking, water volleyball and Zumba, to name just a few. If a person can't find an activity or club they like, they're invited to start one.

And then there's pickleball. At nearly all of the 57 recreation centers, at least eight outdoor Pickleball courts have been established. To the uninitiated, Pickleball is played on a badminton court, with a low net and service areas like tennis. A plastic whiffleball is struck with a hard paddle, with a non-hit zone ("kitchen") on either side of the net being the only area where one may not strike the ball in the air.

It's addictive, and male and female Villagers alike line up every morning to get a court.

Of course, there are also large bowling leagues, softball leagues and golf, with nine championship courses and 29 smaller ninehole executive courses, where Villagers can play for free if they walk. In addition, there are 65 recreation swimming pools, some reserved for adults only; others designated for families, where visiting children and grandchildren are welcome.

There's much to like about this place, but not every Villager has bought into this self-indulgent, second childhood lifestyle. Many volunteer to help others and participate in numerous fund raisers for area schools or charities. A recent article in The Vil $lages\ Daily\ Sun\ listed\ 92\ volunteer\ opportunities.$ On balance, everyone is very friendly but it took us a while to get used to everyone being roughly the same age — old.

There are a number of great destinations within an hour's drive, if one wishes to escape the manicured confines of The Villages

We visited Homosassa Springs State Park on Florida's nature (west) coast with our grandchildren and saw manatees and other native birds and animals in a lovely park setting. We enjoyed a boiled shrimp lunch in a converted cold storage locker on the coast, which doesn't get much more authentic.

We toured the charming town of Mount Dora on Segways, those self-balancing transporters invented by Dean Kamen in the early 2000s. It was a great way to see this quaint town with its many shops and restaurants set amid the orange groves and lakes of central Florida.

Another day off the reservation we visited Winter Park, Fla., an upscale community and home of the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum, containing the largest collection of Tiffany art and glass in the country.

A couple of hours, but a world away, from The Villages is Cedar Key, a historic artist community located off the banks of the Gulf of Mexico, where we sampled some of the best clam chowder we have ever tasted and interacted with local artisans as they prepared for their annual art fair.

Of course, the big attractions for grandchildren near the Villages are the Disney World and Universal theme parks, only about 45 miles south, which we'll save for another time.

Whether your idea of Florida is sandy beaches, fishing villages, theme parks or quaint towns, they are all readily accessible to the Villages — a fascinating place and a great real estate bargain in this economy.

Jay Young is a retired educator. Jay and Linnea Young have lived in Canton for







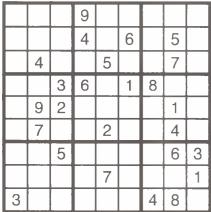


Sudoku

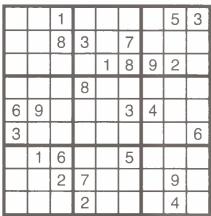
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

	1		4	8				
	4	3			1		8	
2				3				5
3					7	6	5	
	2			4	6	7		9
4				5	3		2	
	9		1				7	
8	5	1	3	7			6	2
	3					8		1

Level: Beginner



Level: Intermedial



Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 16

pets

Travel with your pet the smart way

Individuals often view their pets as extended members of the family. People want to bring their pets along on vacations or while traveling to visit family and friends. Until recently, it was more difficult to travel with dogs and cats. But as more and

travel with dogs and cats. But as more and more hotel chains recognize the strong connection between people and pets, those chains are growing increasingly flexible in hosting four-legged guests. For those who will be traveling with pets, there is a right and wrong way to do so. Having a plan of action is essential to safeguard the safety and comfort of all involved. Follow these tips to ensure everyone enjoys their R&R as much as possible.

• Establish the travel method and route in advance. Go online or scour travel maps to determine the best route to your destination. Depending on the length of travel, layovers may be needed to sleep, refuel and simply stretch the legs. Determine which areas will be safe for walking a dog roadside, and look for rest stops with areas to exercise pets. Experimenting with different routes virtually also enables travelers to choose the most direct, most scenic or another route that fits with their travel plans. Some GPS devices can also alert to lodging and traffic conditions.

• Stock up on supplies. Much as parents would bring along essentials while traveling with children, the same concept should be applied when traveling with a pet. Be sure to pack food, treats, toys, bedding, and any of the other creature comforts from home. It also may be a good idea to bring along a recent copy of the pet's immunization records to ensure that he or she is up to date on all shots. Bringing records can also serve as a safeguard if the pet needs to be seen by a veterinarian while away from home.

• Purchase bottled water. While on the road, take the time to give pets the opportunity to drink water to stay hydrated. Keep in mind that once a pet grows acclimated to a certain type of water at home, a change in that water may cause temporary digestive upset. To avoid accidents or discomfort, travelers may want to bring water from home or purchase bottled water.

• Contact pet-friendly hotels. Many hotels

allow guests to bring along a pet, provided a security deposit is given. Some may have requirements, such as the dog must be caged at night or when left alone in the room. Some pet-friendly hotels can also recommend restaurants that allow leashed dogs.

• Travel safely. When a cat or dog is riding along in a car, it is always best to have the pet restrained. This protects the animal in the event of an accident and also protects the other occupants of



Safe traveling with pets means keeping them properly restrained while in the car.

the car from injury. Pet seat belts or harnesses can be used. For motorists with SUVs, there are pet gates that can be installed to keep the animal secure in the back part of the vehicle. Traveling with pets can be an enjoyable experience if proper precautions and planning go into the trip. Be sure to heed the requirements of the establishment where the family will be residing, and inquire as to the pet laws of cities, towns and provinces to act in a responsible manner when out exploring.

— Metro Creative

How to save money technolo

Jon Gunnells

By Ion Gunnells

It used to be that the best way to find a deal was by opening up the newspaper and sifting through the coupons. While you still can save money by sorting through the ads in the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers — there's a number of new ways you can get deals online including visiting hometownlife.com.

Try these sites from the comfort of your computer, tablet or smartphone, to start saving on goods, services, restaurants and

Foursquare — This online application offers users the ability to check in to locations. More importantly, users can search for deals nearby their location. In the past year, I've spotted Foursquare specials from half off wings at a sports bar, to two-forone drinks at a local bar. If you check in to a venue enough you can qualify for further deals such as free shirts or free coffee at Starbucks.

Facebook Places - Similar to Foursquare, businesses give coupons and discounts to those who check in to their location on the popular social networking site. You can find many deals by browsing "place pages" on Facebook. From \$10 off coupons for oil changes at your car dealer to buy one get one free meals — you can save money on a gamut of things.

Restaurant.com — Offers discount gift certificates for bars and restaurants in virtually every city. Certain exclusions apply — for instance: a \$25 certificate to a steakhouse may only cost you \$10, but it may require a minimum purchase of \$50 and 18 percent gratuity. Of course, Restaurant.com also uses coupon codes, and if you are lucky enough to find a code through a site such as slickdeals.net, or retailmenot.com, you could save additional money. Earlier this year, I found a code and was able to purchase three \$10 gift certificates to a local conev island for \$1 each. The coneys were delicious, by the way. Thanks for asking.

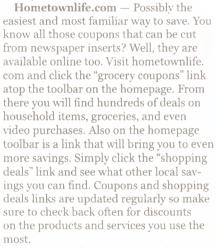
Slickdeals.net - One of thousands of niche sites dedicated to helping you find deals on electronics, cereal, Tupperware, clothes and more. You can post deals you find in forums, but the best deals are voted on and get prominently displayed on the site's homepage. This site is full of rebates, freebies, sales and low cost items.

Retailmenot.com — The Internet's unofficial home of coupon codes. Grab a code and use it to save money at stores, on hotels, or on flights. It's been my experience that you won't save a ton of money

using this site, but \$10 off per night at a hotel never hurt anyone.

Woot.com — One of the most creative sites on the web, Woot sells items online each day. They sell wine, they sell T-shirts and they sell electronics at prices that you would find on other sites. The real fun is when they have a "Woot-Off," a random, occasional, ultra low cost sale for one item at a time. Once an item sells out, another block of items gets put up

for sale. OK, if you're buying something random, you probably aren't really saving money, but Woot.com is a fun site.



If you are looking for more niche sites that include links to rebates, free stuff. contests, sweepstakes and other deals, Google, Facebook and Twitter may also help. You can like pages of contests or sweepstakes on Facebook, and follow similar users on Twitter. You can also use Google to pin down reputable forums and websites devoted to coupons, contests and more. Just be careful — and don't turn into those people from Extreme Coupon-

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnShOw.









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Show off your personality through your garage door

(ARA) — An old adage says that if you live with a spouse or even a pet long enough, you may begin to look like your significant other or precious pooch. While it seems a stretch to some, there's a fair amount of truth in the notion that people tend to surround themselves with other people and things that capture their own looks and personalities.

It's fairly common to see one well-toned person on a treadmill at the local gym alongside his or her equally well-toned spouse. A feisty international traveler might enjoy a kindred spirit with an eager, well-groomed poodle. And a couple of warm-hearted grandparents who like an occasional afternoon nap probably pair well with a basket of happily purring cats.

Some people may even look like their homes. Like the people and pets in our lives, our surroundings say a lot about who we are, what we like and how we strive to look. If you're the cutting-edge type, you probably fit well with a sleek, modern dwelling. For those with more traditional personalities, you would be right at home in a Victorian, Craftsman or other historical home.

Your home, its furnishings and exterior style probably are more reflective of your personality than anything else in your life. Only the clothes on your back would come close to matching the relevance of your home in terms of making a visible statement about your style and personality.

Even the style of garage door that you select is reflective of your personal tastes. That's right — you may look like your garage door. Think about it. Your garage door is probably the largest accessory you'll ever select. With the enormous variety of garage door styles available today, there's a look for every distinctive personality.

"A generation ago, most garage doors were fairly plain and largely reflected their functionality. Flat white doors with occasional windows were about all that you saw on Main Streets across America," says Vickie Lents of Amarr Garage Doors. "Around 1990, it all changed when garage door manufacturers began offering a much wider range of garage door styles, colors and options. Suddenly people began caring about the design of their garage door and how it fit in with the rest of their personal and architectural leanings."

For those who have an old soul, garage doors with a European Old World design and wrought iron decorative details are a perfect fit. People with more traditional, rustic personalities often find themselves accenting their homes with solid wood garage doors made of mahogany, Douglas fir and Spanish cedar.

For all the non-conformists out there, Amarr recently introduced a residential full-view garage door. Full-view doors have the modern, glass paneled look of a door you might more commonly find on an auto showroom or fire department. Lents says that non-conformist personality types often take it a step further by using the glass full-view doors to divide rooms inside homes, particularly downtown lofts.

Who says you have to select a sleek, glass-paneled or decorative wrought iron garage door to make a statement about your personality? If you're the quiet, no-frills type, there's no need to worry. There's a garage door for you, too. Garage door manufacturers still make the durable, plain white garage doors that do their functional jobs day in and day out almost without notice.

"In fact, time-honored plain garage doors continue to be one of our best sellers," says Lents.

Want to find a garage door that matches your unique personality? Spend a rainy afternoon with your significant other or family pet at your side perusing the scores of garage doors styles available at www.Amarr. com to find one that is reflective of your own flair.



Garage doors often reflect the homeowner's personality.

Memorial Day parades, events

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Officially proclaimed in 1868 by Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, the first Memorial Day was observed May 30, 1868. As a sign of honor flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873.

In 1915, Moina Michael, a teacher, conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans organization to nationally sell poppies.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed in December 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, all Americans "voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to "Taps."

Memorial Day Service will take place at 1 p.m. Monday, May 30, at Heritage Park behind Canton Township Hall on Canton Center Road. The veterans group has been doing this service since 1989. For more information, call (734) 394-5100.

"Because of the Brave" a tribute to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country presented by the BeckRidge Chorale, at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday, May 30, in the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Visit www.beckridgechorale.org for details.

Tickets are \$10 per person.



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The parade starts at 10 a.m. Monday, May 30, from the Farmington Plaza on Grand River Avenue and travels west on Grand River and ends at Oakland Avenue where a memorial service will take place at the War Monument in Memorial Park. The city of Farmington and Farmington Hills Police Officer, Firefighter and DPS Officer of the year will be recognized. For more information, call (248) 919-6917.

Memorial Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday, May 30, on the front lawn of City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, between Ford and Warren roads. Guest speaker is retired Air Force Maj. Rick Briggs. Amber Grand will sing the national anthem. For more information, call (734) 793-1600.

Livonia Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 28, at Veterans Memorial Plaza, corner of Five Mile and Farmington. Held at Veterans Park Memorial Plaza will be a tribute to our veterans — complete with military salutes, a wreath-placing ceremony, special guests and music

performance. For more information, call (734) 466-2418.

MII (ORD)

Milford American Legion Memorial Day Parade will take place at 11 a.m Monday, May 30, on Main Street in downtown Milford. The parade is expected to have thousands of attendees and is making room for 1,000 veterans to attend. As an added bonus there will be military aircraft overhead during the parade. For more information, visit www.milfordlegion216.org.

Parade begins at 10 a.m Monday, May 30, in downtown Northville. The annual parade is both solemn and joyful as it remembers those who died in military service, yet kicks off the summer season. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, strollers and four-legged friends to watch the procession, highlighted by the Northville High School Marching Band. For more information, call (248) 349-1300.

The annual parade begins at 10 a.m. Monday, May 30, and travels west along 10 Mile Road

from Karim Boulevard to the Novi Civic Center. Local businesses and civic organizations are encouraged to participate by marching, displaying a specialty vehicle, or building a float. Veterans will have a designated float in which they are invited to ride upon.

Immediately following the parade, a ceremony will be held on the grounds of the Novi Civic Center. American Legion-Post 19 will host a luncheon for veterans and their families. For more information or to receive a parade entry form, visit cityofnovi.org or contact, Rachel Zagaroli, senior services manager at (248) 347-0414.

PLYMOUTH

The parade begins at 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 30, at Main and Wing streets and ends with a ceremony 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park at Main and Church streets. The Lions Club and the Plymouth Veterans Organization put on the event. For more information, call (734) 812-8724.

-4-14-01-4

Redford presents its 61st Annual Memorial Day Parade, Sunday, June 5. The parade begins at 1 p.m. and travels from Five to Six Mile on Beech Daly and will end at Township Hall. The Redford Parade Authority organizes the event which includes floats, various bands, bicycle riders and lots of marchers. For more information call (313) 768-6858.

Organized by VFW Post 2502, the Memorial Day Parade begins at 9 a.m. Monday, May 30, from Bartlett Elementary and makes its way down 10 Mile (also known as Lake Street) through downtown. The parade ends in the South Lyon Cemetery with a ceremony that commemorates the contributions and sacrifices of all veterans.

ON TAP IN JUNE

LYON TOWNSHIP KITE FEST

The third annual Lyon Township Kite Festival is set for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 4 (Rain date is June 5) at James Atchison Park, 58000 Grand River Avenue in New Hudson. Opening ceremonies and parade include The United States Veterans Color Guard accompanied by South Lyon East High School Band Drum Line, and the Kite Festival Marshal, Chris Edwards, meteorologist at WXYZ-TV (Channel 7). The festival features kite flying of all types for all ages. Free kite kits to decorate and assemble will be available for children. Kites from vendors will be available for purchase. Part of the fun includes concessions, classic cars and cartoon characters. Admission and parking is free. For more information, call (248) 437-2240 or visit www.lyontwp.org/kite.

AR" ON THE GREAD

More than 115 booths filled with paintings, photography, jewelry, pottery, and more along with entertainment and family fun for all ages from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 4, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 5 on Grand River Avenue, from Farmington Road to Grove Street, in downtown Farmington.

Live concerts by a variety of bands during the two-day festival along with a large children's area with hands-on projects, face painting, and entertainment in Riley Park. Riley Park will also host the Farmington Artist Foundation tent, filled with artwork by local artists, and potters from Oakland Community College, demonstrating the interesting process of wheel turning with clay. Also included will be strolling performers, an amazing live statue, and food booths. The festival opens with the Friday night "pre-glow" party in the downtown pavilion as the "Grapes on the Grand" wine/beer tent officially opens to the public from 6-11 p.m. and is open both Friday and Saturday nights. The pre-glow band is the popular "Killer Flamingos." On Saturday night, visitors will be able to combine their enjoyment with a visual/musical performance by "Empty Canvas," multi-talented entertainers who sing favorites from many eras while actually creating an artwork on canvas. Admission to Art on the Grand is free. For more information, call (248) 473-1848

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CAJUN BURGERS

Makes 4 hamburgers

1½ pounds lean ground beef

½ cup finely chopped red or green bell pepper

4 teaspoons Red Devil™ Cayenne Pepper Sauce 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves, crushed (optional)

½ teaspoon Ac'cent Flavor Enhancer

½ teaspoon salt

In large bowl, combine all ingredients; shape into 4 patties. Grill or broil until beef is no longer pink. Serve, if desired, on hamburger buns and top with shredded lettuce and cheddar cheese.

GRILLED SALMON

Serves 6-8

1 6-ounce salmon fillet per person

2 tablespoons Ac'cent Flavor Enhancer

2 tablespoons paprika

2 tablespoons cayenne pepper (or to taste)

1 tablespoon fresh ground black peppercorns 2 cloves of garlic, crushed

3 tablespoons onion flakes

2 tablespoons dried oregano

Oil

Mix all dry ingredients together with a mortar and pestle until powdery. Rub all over salmon fillets on both sides and leave for 1 to 2 hours.

Heat a ridged grill pan, chargrill or BBQ until hot.

Spread some oil over the salmon fillets and place on the grill.

Cook for 5 minutes. Turn over and cook until done. Test by poking a knife into the center of fillet and look inside; the fish should flake easily. Serve with a mixed pasta salad.

SMOKY STEAK KABOBS

Serves 6

2 tablespoons Wright's® Natural Hickory Seasoning

½ teaspoon Ac'cent Flavor Enhancer

1 cup coffee

cup chopped onion

cun oil

2 pounds steak (rib-eye or sirloin) cut into 1-inch cubes

1 large green pepper, cut into chunks

pound fresh mushrooms

Cherry tomatoes

In a bowl, combine hickory seasoning, flavor enhancer, coffee, onion and oil. Add steak cubes and stir occasionally. Marinate 45 minutes. Drain.

Using long skewers, alternate steak cubes, green pepper chunks, mushrooms and cherry tomatoes. Place skewers on grill over hot coals. Grill 6 minutes, turn and grill additional 4 to 6 minutes.

MEMPHIS-STYLE BBQ SAUCE

Makes about 2 cups

The secret to this sauce is Grandma's Molasses – it adds extra zest to the juicy ribs.

1 tablespoon butter

¼ cup finely chopped onion

1% cups ketchup

a cup chili sauce

4 tablespoons brown sugar

4 tablespoons Grandma's Molasses

2 tablespoons yellow mustard

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce 1 tablespoon Wright's® Liquid Smoke

½ teaspoon garlic powder or granulated garlic

½ teaspoon salt

h teaspoon Ortega Chile Seasoning Mix

Dash cayenne pepper

Saute onion in butter until soft. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer about 15 minutes. Adjust seasonings to taste.

BBQ RIBS

Serves 6-8

4 slabs (about 10 pounds) pork spareribs

Dry Rub:

2 tablespoons kosher salt

2 tablespoons black pepper

2 tablespoons onion powder

2 tablespoons garlic powder

Rub on both sides of ribs and refrigerate 2 to 4 hours, or overnight.

Heat oven to 250°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil. Add 2 cups water to baking sheet. Place ribs on rack on baking sheet. Bake 4 hours or until very tender, adding water to pan as needed.

While ribs are baking, make BBQ sauce.

Preheat grill to medium. Place ribs on grill and baste with sauce, turning frequently, for 15 to 20 minutes.

- Courtesy Family Features



- Let meat rest for several minutes before slicing or serving. This lets the juices redistribute throughout the meat, which keeps it nice and juicy.
- Slice flank steak diagonally across the grain, otherwise it will be too tough.
- Know your ribs. Pork spare ribs come from the outer edge and tend to be leaner. Baby back ribs are shorter and are cut from the back. Country style ribs come from the shoulder area and are meatier than the other cuts.
- When buying shrimp for grilling, make sure you get at least jumbo sized (12 to 15 per pound), or colossal (about 10 per pound). If they're much smaller, they will be harder to handle and will cook more quickly than the other ingredients on the skewer.



Ribs are a great addition to any grilling event.

areen livina



Make your own laundry soap

Crystal Melton likes getting her family's clothes clean and saving money.

She modified this homemade laundry recipe from one for the Duggar family of 19 kids shown on TV's TLC.

Melton's brother, Joe Legato, is owner of Bill & Rod's Appliance on Middlebelt in Livonia. "He was wondering how it would do in high-efficiency front loaders," Melton said.

Store-bought detergent "doesn't last very long when you have a lot of kids," said Melton, whose family (husband and two kids ages 6 and 5) lives in Nashville, Tenn. Melton tweaked the recipe, and noted you can add lemon extract or others "to make it smell the way you want it."

Melton's done comparisons with name brands. "I feel the clothes get cleaner with the stuff that I make," at a lower cost.

HOMEMADE LIQUID LAUNDRY SOAP

— FRONT OR TOP LOAD MACHINE

4 cups - hot tap water

I Fels Naptha soap bar I cup — Arm & Hammer Super Washing Soda (not the same as Baking Soda)

- Grate bar of soap and add to saucepan with water. Stir continually over medium-low heat until soap dissolves and is melted.
- Fill a 5-gallon bucket half full of hot tap water. Add melted soap, washing soda and Borax. Stir well until all powder is dissolved. Fill bucket to top with more hot water. Stir, cover and let sit overnight to thicken.

- Stir and fill a used, clean, laundry soap dispenser half full with soap and then fill rest of way with water. Shake before each use (will gel).
- Optional: You can add 10-15 drops of essential oil per 2 gallons. Add once soap has cooled. Ideas: lavender, rosemary, tea tree oil.
 - · Yield: Liquid soap recipe makes 10 gallons.
- Top Load Machine = % cup per load (approximately 180 loads)
- Front Load Machines + cup per load (approximately 640 loads)

Melton said her startup cost was \$7-\$9, including the bucket, with only the Fels Naptha bar to keep buying frequently. She puts the cost at 67 cents for a 5-gallon bucket.

"It just depends on what you feel your washer does best with," she said of the many modifications that can be made.

Her brother is impressed with the homemade soap.

"It actually takes permanent marker off of carpet," Legato said of trying the product. His nephew had accidentally drawn on the carpet with a marker.

"We used it on there and it cleaned the carpet," said Legato, a South Lyon resident.

"I think it would be a good, cost-saving option," he said. "It lasts a long time. If you are looking to save, that would be worth trying."

He uses regular soap from the store. "It's just my wife and I, so we don't do a whole lot of laundry."

- By Julie Brown







GARDEN

FROM PAGE 6

and was a major influence in establishing the garden, as it is known it today. A founding member of the Village Herb Associates, she also taught classes on herbs from growing to cooking to crafts in the adult education classes at the Edison Institute, now the Henry Ford.

Her enthusiasm for herbs spread to her students and together they formed the Village Herb Associates. Gerathy also was instrumental

> CREAMY SUCCOTASH

1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen lima beans

c. water tsp. salt

tsp. suit

1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen corn ½ c. milk

4 tsp. flour
1 tbsp. butter

Cook lima beans covered in the water seasoned with salt and pepper for 10 minutes. Add corn. Return to boiling. Reduce heat and cover and cook 5 minutes more. Do not drain. Gradually stir in milk into flour, stir into vegetables in saucepan. Add butter. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly, then cook about 2 minutes more. Makes 6 servings.

motto is "Each One — Teach One," which is also the motto of the Village Herb Associates. In 1994, Jean Anderson designed and planned for

in organizing

the Michigan

Herb Associ-

ates whose

designed and planned for many of the plantings now in the Burbank Garden. The garden was dedicated in 1996. The garden is divided into 18 beds. This working garden is filled with scores of differ-

ent herbs, from the commonplace to the unusual. Some, like marigolds or lavender, you've probably seen before. But others, like gomphocarpus and amaranth, are complete mysteries to most visitors.



Lots of color, is what you see in the Burbank Garden when it is in full bloom.

The beds are lined with bricks for edging and the walk paths have been filled with coarse wood chips from last autumn's tree trimmings. All paths lead to the center of the garden and a white arbor which the group describes as the main focal point. It is a symbol of 17 years of labor and hosts the garden's dedication plaque in memory of Gerathy.

The arbor is covered with an akebia vine that will play host to millions of little peach colored flowers in spring. Under the arbor is a place to sit alone or to share a moment or two with a friend. The view is unforgettable. At your feet will be several potted scented

geraniums, tended to by the founding members of the Greenfield Village Herbal Associates. Graceful patches of blackberry lilies are nestled in with this incredible herb collection.

Some of the beds to watch this year include: butterfly bed, the lavender bed — one of the best smelling herb beds in the village — and the edible bed by Ranka Mulkern. New this year is the three sister bed, created by Margaret Ritter and Virginia Capaldi. It will host corn, squash and pole beans.

Over the years, the garden has had a rich history of volunteers and has influenced many want-to-be-gardeners. One of them

Gardens at The Henry Ford Village

- Josephine Ford Plaza Gardens
- Henry Ford Home Kitchen Garden
- Wright Brothers Home Garden
- Mulberry Grove Garden
- Susquehanna
- Train Station Gardens
- Cotswold Cottage Herb Garden
- Greenfield Village
- Herbal Associates Garden
- Mattox House
- Dr. Howard's Office
- Medicinal Herb Garden
- Martha-Mary Chapel Garden
- Garden of the Leavened Heart (near Martha-Mary Chapel)
- A Taste of History Restaurant Garden
- Oxbow Island Garden
- Liberty Craftworks District Gardens

The Village Herb Associates, a volunteer group, maintains the Burbank Garden, the Doctor Howard Garden (a medicinal herb garden), and the Garden of the Leavened Heart.

took his ambition to the top of the chart.

Jim Adams, a charter member, started volunteering with the group while in high school. He served as curator at the National Herb Garden, then horticulturist at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. He is now the National Parks Service supervisory horticulturist to the White House.

Come for a visit and find the inspiration for your garden needs.

Next issue: Back roads, destination unknown.

Sudoku Answers

Beginner								
5	1	7	4	8	2	3	9	6
9	4	3	5	6	1	2	8	7
2	6	8	7	3	9	4	1	5
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1	2	5	8	4	6	7	3	9
4	7	6	9	5	3	1	2	8
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CELEBRATE THREE SISTERS: CORN, BEANS, SQUASH

According to Iroquois legend, corn, beans, and squash are three inseparable sisters who only grow and thrive together. This tradition of interplanting corn, beans and squash in the same mounds, widespread among Native American farming societies, is a sophisticated, sustainable system that provided long-term soil fertility and a healthy diet to generations. Corn, beans and squash also complement each other nutritionally. Corn provides carbohydrates, the dried beans are rich in protein, balancing the lack of necessary amino acids found in corn. Finally, squash yields both vitamins from the fruit and healthful, delicious oil from the seeds.

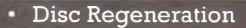
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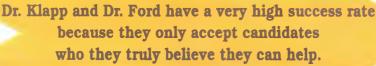
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Gardening:

America's new favorite pastime

More than 41 million Americans planted vegetable gardens in 2009 — a number expected to increase as food costs climb, according to a recent Gardening Trends Research Report. When you factor in flowers, herbs and fruits, it's difficult to find a home where people are not working the soil on a warm sunny day.

Aside from the obvious benefits of fresh flowers and produce, gardening provides low-impact, calorie-burning exercise. One hour of gardening burns about 375 calories. While love of gardening has not changed, methods continue to evolve — and one of the

top trends is raised-bed gardening.

Tending a raised bed requires less bending and stooping, and is ideal for yards with poor soil. Rather than working to improve heavy clay soil or adding body to sandy soil, you're starting with a clean slate. Raised beds are particularly useful for community gardens and urban gardens in areas with compacted or root-bound soil.

"Ninety percent of success is the prep work done ahead of planting," says Mark Dwyer, director of horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin. This includes finding a location that gets six to eight hours of direct sun each day.

Once the site is chosen, determine the size of your garden. A first-timer should start small — don't overwhelm yourself with a massive plot. Start with one or two raised garden beds measuring 4 feet by 8 feet. Select a location that offers room to grow, should you choose to expand your garden in subsequent years.

No matter what size raised bed you choose, the frame needs to be structurally sound and attractive. Helping to fill this niche is the durable, decorative M Brace raised garden bed bracket from Outdoor Essentials. The patented, corner bracket, sold in sets of four, lets you create an attractive, sturdy raised garden bed in just minutes using common 2-by-6 and 2-by-4 lumber and no tools. The M Brace's sturdy, recycled metal frame keeps boards seated securely at the corners. It's available in eight cut-out designs, and two finishes — steel that will rust gracefully over time, or powder-coated in an antique bronze finish.

Once the frame is in place, fill the raised box with quality soil. Garden centers offer bulk and bagged soil mixes. Or create your own blend, using equal parts peat moss, coarse-grade vermiculite and blended compost.

To keep deer, rabbits and other critters at bay, consider a decorative enclosure using end caps and lattice. Fence posts 4-by-4 inches or 6-by-6 inches are ideal. Once fence posts are set, enclose the garden with decorative lattice, leaving a narrow opening or a hinged gate for access.

The key to a bountiful harvest — be it fruits, vegetables or flowers — is successful pollination. Brightly colored flowers attract bees and hummingbirds, as will fresh water. Add a luminous green birdbath in serpentine jade to attract birds all summer and to provide an architectural focal point inside your garden.

"Think outside the box," says Dwyer. Add a few herbs — or anything you want — to make the garden uniquely yours. And don't discount edible landscape ornamentals: "Many fresh herbs and vegetables can contribute their own charm to an informal border or container," he adds.

Whether for a relaxing hobby or for the desire to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables for you and your neighbors, now is the perfect time to start a garden of your own.

— Courtesy of ARA content



Good garden soil, light and proper pH levels make a garden beautiful from the ground up

By Dennis Zelazny Advertorial Writer

It takes just a little bit of planning and imagination to make a garden a thing of beauty and joy. Your garden should be enjoyed throughout the year and during all the seasons, even if you are not an avid gardener.

All it takes is to assess the plans for your garden before getting too ambitious and planting all sorts of plants. Whatever the size and location of the garden, it may be a small patch in the front of your home, or a roof top terrace or even a large and luxurious plot, the key is start small and with a good sound feasible plan in mind.

Start with three basic checks to ensure that your new plot is in good condition. Avoid a sad looking garden with listless plants later by doing these steps first.

The type of soil

Check the type of soil you have, is it silty, or sandy or are you lucky and have loamy soil?

If it is lumpy and sticky, you have clay, grit makes it sandy. Loam has the greatest amount of nutrients and plants love it.

The direction of your garden

Does your garden face north or is it facing south. A southern-facing garden has more sunlight than the northfacing garden that is damper and darker. Do you have trees that block sunlight?

The pH

It is advisable to purchase a kit for soil testing. You can then decide on the kind of plants you can plant as per the alkalinity and acidity of the soil. For example azaleas and rhododendron like acidic soil but will not thrive in alkaline soil.

Now that you have done your groundwork, literally, you can buy the plants that match the kind of soil you have in your garden. If you are a new gardener, maintain a notebook that will help you remember the chores, like pruning, fertilizer etc.

Get started

Spring is a good time of the year for planting since your plants will have the opportunity to get well established before the weather gets harsh again. A nice place to start is to consider dressing up your borders and pathways. Select perennial favorites that will give you year round color and also live longer. Verbascum or Delphinium have elegant long stems and produce flowers in clumps. Annuals like primroses, sweet peas, and pansies have to be planted annually and unlike the perennials have only a one season life cycle. Check with your neighborhood nurseries they will have a variety of plants to choose from and more than likely they will have someone on staff that will be able to answer any questions that you might have. Remember to check to see how large the plants will be when mature and also check to see what they will look like when dormant. Sticks and twigs will help shape and form an all season garden.

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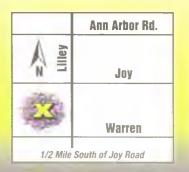




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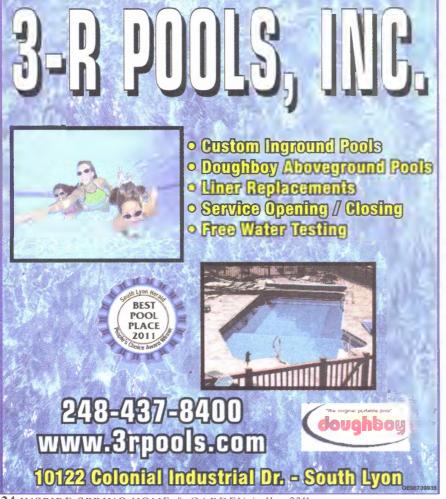
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A greener season begins with electric tools

With grass finally starting to grow, its time to get your lawn ready for spring. Spring means cleaning tools, replacing equipment and sprucing up the yard. To start your season off greener, consider using electric or cordless lawn care products.

"Electric products have become a reliable and eco-friendly way to do yard work," says Coey Genuise, product marketing manager for Remington, a leading manufacturer of cordless and electric power tools. "They are virtually silent, lighter, more energy efficient and don't require any gas or oil, which avoids mess and hassle and saves you money."

Mowing is an important step in keeping your lawn healthy. In order to keep it as green as possible, use an electric or cordless mower. These mowers are less expensive to maintain and operate because there is no need for gas and oil. A cordless push mower also allows emissions-free power without the hassle of a cord. One model from Remington features a removable 24-volt battery that can last approximately 30 to 50 minutes from one charge depending on mowing conditions, which is more than enough time to mow a small-sized lawn.

When finishing your lawn, another way to help keep the grass and the environment greener is to use an electric string trimmer. Electric trimmers are lighter, so your arm doesn't get tired; and they're quieter, so ear protectors aren't necessary. However, you should always wear safety glasses and heavy duty gloves whenever using any out-door power equipment.

Consider these tips to help keep your lawn looking great and your equipment running smoothly.

· Make sure to clean your mower and

other tools before doing any work in the yard to keep them running longer.

- To avoid accidental startup, always remove the power source before doing any maintenance work on your trimmer, mower or other outdoor power equipment.
- Sharpen or replace mower blades at the beginning of each season. This ensures you'll have a full season of great lawn cuts.
- Know the battery type of your cordless equipment. If your equipment operates on NiCad batteries, run the battery down before recharging it. NiCad batteries have memories, which means if you have a 30-minute battery and continually recharge it after 10 minutes, you'll end up with a 10-minute battery. If your cordless equipment is powered by a lithium-ion battery, charge it whenever you're done. If your mower has a battery, make sure you don't run it down completely because that could ruin it. Keep the battery in charge mode so it stays powered up.
- Clear your yard of rocks, twigs, wires, and other debris to keep from damaging equipment.
- Make sure to rake the lawn, which may have excess leaves from fall, before pulling out the mower. Raking also helps remove any grass that may have died over the winter and can detangle any grass that has become matted and stuck together.
- When using a string trimmer, make sure the tip of the spinning line does most of the cutting so as not to overload the motor. Try a Remington electric string trimmer that has an 18-volt motor, 12inch cutting swath and straight shaft.
- Never cut any branches, twigs or shrubbery with a string trimmer, as they are too thick for the nylon string to cut.
 - Courtesy of ARA Content

Learn how-to save money by saving on energy

With demand for electricity and natural gas rising along with energy costs, American homeowners can easily spend hundreds of dollars a month on utility bills.

"From air conditioning larger homes to powering today's high-tech electronics, we are using more energy than ever and that is certainly hitting many homeowners in their pocketbooks," says Victor Gonzalez-Maertens, an energy efficiency expert with Lennox Industries — a leading manufacturer of home heating and cooling equipment. "But there are ways to stretch your dollar further by evaluating how you spend money on energy and learning how to control those expenses."

Gonzalez-Maertens explains that there are four key areas of energy consumption for the typical household: heating and air conditioning, appliances, water heating and lighting. Here is his advice for getting the most bang for your energy buck in these areas:

Heating and air conditioning

Heating and cooling accounts for about 46 percent of the average home's utility bill and is typically the largest energy expense. To cut down on climate control costs, be sure to schedule annual routine maintenance on your heating and cooling system to ensure it's running as efficiently as possible.

If the air conditioning system is more than 10 years old or the furnace is more than 15 years old — the average life spans of cooling and heating units — consider replacing them with a new, Energy Star-qualified system that will be more energy efficient and can help lower utility bills. For example, by replacing an old 10 SEER (seasonal energy efficiency rating) cooling system with a Lennox 21 SEER system, which is twice as efficient, homeowners can save more than \$1,500 over a five-year period.

Programmable thermostats are another way to maximize energy efficiency. These devices automatically control the temperature to use less energy at certain hours of the day, such as nighttime or when homeowners are away from home.

Household appliances and electronics

Household appliances and electronics, such as refrigerators, clothes washers and computers, are responsible for about 28 percent of a home's energy bill, according to Energy Star. Make sure appliances are



clean and free of dust and lint to ensure proper ventilation and to increase their efficiency. In addition, check refrigerator and freezer doors to ensure they are sealed tight to prevent cool air from escaping.

When washing dishes, use the air-dry setting on automatic dishwashers rather than heated drying to conserve energy.

Water heating

Heating water is another major energy expenditure and accounts for about 14 percent of a household's energy bill, according to Energy Star. Consider insulating the water heater with a water heater jacket that can be purchased at most hardware stores. Homeowners also can lower the temperature setting on the water heater to save energy. Some water heaters come from the factory already set at 140 degrees or higher, but a setting of 115 degrees can provide comfortable hot water for most uses. Finally, consider replacing a water heater if the existing one is more than 10 years old, as the average life span of a water heater is 10 to 15 years.

Lighting

Twelve percent of the energy budget for an average household goes to lighting, according to Energy Star. Switching out traditional incandescent lights with more efficient fluorescent lighting is a quick and easy way to save on utility bills. In fact, by replacing 25 percent of lights in high-use areas with fluorescents, the California Energy Commission says homeowners can save about 50 percent on lighting-related energy expenses. Energy Star-qualified fluorescent lamps also last six to 10 times longer. For exterior lighting, be sure to use compact fluorescent or high-pressure sodium fixtures — which are more efficient — and consider motion sensors that operate lights automatically.

For more information about how to stretch your energy dollar further, visit www.energystar.gov

- Courtesy of ARA Content.









A garden shed takes on the look of a miniature house in the yard

Home gardeners and lawn enthusiasts generally accumulate a number of tools of the trade in order to successfully manage their gardening needs. As a result, many homeowners build a garden shed to store all their tools and lawn care accessories.

A garden shed presents an ideal way to store all of the tools and appliances needed for the weekend hobby. Plus, it enables homeowners to clear out clutter from the garage or basement. A locked garden shed can be a safe place in which to store sharp tools, fuel and some chemical products.

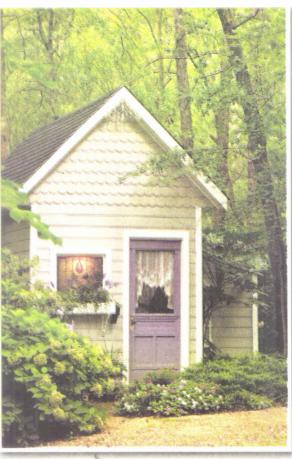
Just because the shed will have utility doesn't mean it has to be an eyesore on the property. There are ways to create or purchase garden sheds that are aesthetically appealing and will blend in with the landscape or the main house.

Do-it-yourselfers who have decided to build a garden shed and want to

do so affordably can shop around for lower-priced material. It may be a good idea to purchase a framing kit from a home-improvement store or online retailer and then shop around for exterior materials. Individuals can also find used sheds from auction sites or newspaper classifieds and simply retrofit these structures to meet individual needs.

Although sheds will be exposed to the elements, because of what these structures are they don't require the same level of construction as a home or addition, like a garage. This means that a homeowner is able to save some money with materials. Pressboard may be durable enough and less expensive than plywood. There's little need for insulation or expensive windows. In fact, unless it is for a decorative standpoint, windows are unnecessary altogether.

It is likely that people who have had recent upgrades made on their homes may have leftover materials that can be



This decorative garden shed can be the ideal place to store garden tools and equipment. It can also be used as a child's backyard hideaway.

put to use on a garden shed. Roofing shingles, extra aluminum siding and wood trim can be used on the shed. Even leftover latex paints and stains can be use on the shed.

Homeowners should visit a retailer of prefabricated sheds to see how they are made. This can provide insight as to the size and structure and the type of construction that will be needed.

If budget is not a concern, homeowners may want to purchase pre-made sheds that can be customized to mimic the architecture and color of the person's home. Stained glass and cottage features can make a shed seem like an intimate retreat nestled in the yard.

In addition to being a fine place to store garden tools, a shed can also be constructed to serve as a child's play space. A miniature home in the yard can be a fun play zone for kids and be the centerpiece for hours of imaginative outdoor fun.

— Courtesy of ARA Content

Home & Garden

Building plans for outdoor kitchens: Tips and must-have gadgetry

Building outdoor kitchens can be a DIY project, if you have some help, basic know-how and a wellstocked toolbox. Barbeques and outdoor kitchens go hand in hand, but there is a lot more to them than a grill flanked by two countertops.

Drafting plans for outdoor kitchens:

Let money be your guide

Determine a workable budget for the project and work backward from there. Bare bones kitchens are little more than a grill, countertop and perhaps a sink. Advanced models feature stovetop burners, refrigerators, built-in storage for cutlery and cookware, a roasting spit, wine cooler and perhaps also baking oven — in addition to any barbeques. The costs can range from \$3,000 to \$30,000 or more.

Choosing the frame and finish

Frame and finish go hand in hand. Outdoor kitchens featuring a stone-veneered base require the use of heavy-duty plywood. This Old House showcases the need for 34 inch plywood sheets attached to 2x4 posts, only those with only stainless steel coverings may be built over flimsier skeletons.

It is interesting to note that modular frame kits are now on the market, which also support the veneer but will not hold up actual masonry work. On the upside, modular outdoor kitchens have the advantages of the mix and match approach that makes it possible to switch around components without material waste and re-cutting.

Barbeques and Outdoor Kitchens

The barbeque grill is the centerpiece of many outdoor kitchens. Do not forget that building plans should allow enough counter space for making the use of the grill easy and user-friendly. Placing too many components into too little room is sure to transform building plans for outdoor kitchens into plans for an RV kitchenette!

Choose wisely those items that are wants and those that are needs. For example, for me the optional stovetop burners are a definite want but a sink is a need. For you, this design might be the exact opposite. Work within the spatial confines of your patio and avoid cramping too much into the space.

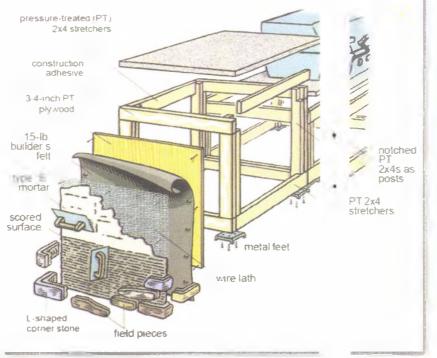
Likely pitfalls

Building outdoor kitchens opens the door for a number of likely problems. First and foremost, structural deck or patio problems will not become apparent until you attempt to anchor the frame. At that time you may find that it requires a bit of repair work to ready the surface.

Next is the problem associated with water, electricity and natural gas hook-ups. This job should be undertaken by a professional. Be aware — especially if you own an older home — that code updates only grandfather in your home's wiring and piping until the walls are opened to reveal them. At that time you cannot simply close up and leave outdated wiring in place. Thus, be prepared to incur the additional expense of rewiring more than is necessary to just hook up electricity to an outdoor kitchen.

Last but not least, one of the greatest problems associated with building plans for outdoor kitchens is the DIY worker who starts out with a full weekend dedicated to the task but soon loses interest and motivation. It is not unheard of for such a project to linger for months, while materials gradually disintegrate and become useless. Unless you are a diehard, it may be wiser to hire professionals to get the job done right the first time — in a weekend.

— Courtesy Sylvia Cochran, Yahoo! Contributor Network



Shown here is a typical counter constuction plan, yours should look s



A well constructed outdoor counter will last for years and protect outdo



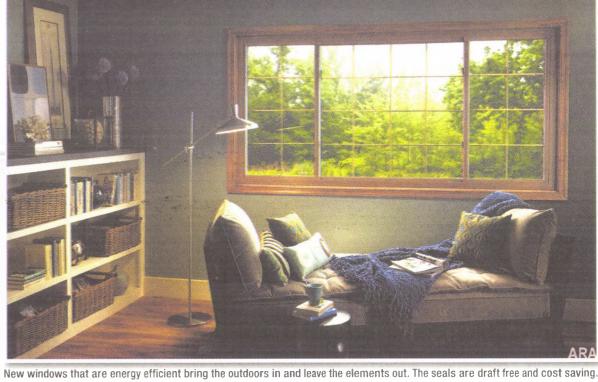
Seeing green through new energy efficient windows

Now that spring is here, many homeowners are thinking about remodeling projects that will improve their home this season and year-round. Whether you're planning a few do-it-yourself improvements or a major renovation, it's important to think "green." One way to enhance the beauty and comfort of your home while saving on energy is by installing highly energy efficient windows.

Energy efficient windows with high insulating values, such as R-5, can result in significant savings on energy needed to heat and cool a home. Up until now, such windows have been cost prohibitive to most consumers. But thanks to programs like the Department of Energy (DOE)'s High Performance Windows Volume Program, homeowners can now purchase energy efficient R-5 windows at a more affordable price.

"The ultimate goal of such initiatives is to increase the awareness of R-5 windows and make purchasing more attainable for home and commercial building owners," says Terry Mapes, energy efficiency engineer and principal investigator, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). "R-5 windows are some of the most insulating available on today's market, and with so many manufacturers now producing such windows, it's getting easier to find prices that suit every need and bud-

So, what exactly does R-5 mean and why is it beneficial? An "R" value of a window means greater resistance to weather - making it ideal in winter to keep warm air in



the home and cold air out and vice versa in the summer. This compares to common Energy Star windows with an R-value of 3. Increasing the R-value from 3 to 5 reduces average heat loss through the windows by more than 30 percent, according to the DOE.

"We want consumers to know that although window technology has become more advanced through the years, it doesn't mean they have to sacrifice beauty with ordinary-looking windows," says Chris Pickering, vice president, marketing, Ply Gem Windows. "In combination with

other energy efficiency upgrades such as insulated siding, these windows can dramatically improve curb appeal and home comfort in both the warm and cold months."

Qualifying windows within the DOE program are available in different colors and styles to match a variety of home decor. Ply Gem Windows, for example, offers R-5 windows and patio doors for both new construction and retrofit projects that come in a choice of two solid interior colors, three wood grain interior options and four exterior colors. Multiple grille, screen

and frame styles can be selected for a more personalized look.

If you're looking to make a change this spring that will beautify your home while protecting the environment, consider installing energy efficient windows. For more detailed information, visit websites such as www.plygemwindows.com/R5 and www.windowsvolumepurchase.org, which are geared to help consumers better understand the benefits of R-5 windows and select styles that suit their needs.

— Courtesy of ARA content

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The Perfect Fit Finding a contractor requires chemistry

Do you often find yourself completing your spouse's (or your sibling's) sentences? Do you have a good friend whom you don't see very often, yet every time you pick up the phone, it's as if you've never been apart? That intangible connection and natural flow of communication between two individuals is key to a longlasting relationship, but you might not have realized just how important chemistry can be when it comes to selecting a contractor for your home remodeling

After all, you'll be seeing your contractor on an almost daily basis, and he or she will be your voice in communicating your vision to all of the individuals who will work on your project. So ensuring that the two of you are able to communicate well and comfortably from your very first meeting is essential.

Yet selecting a contractor goes far beyond picking someone with a compatible personality. Of course, there are the basics (see Building Blocks of Trust for more details on those). Beyond that, experience is critical. "Being a profes-

sional contractor entails far more than hanging a sign on a truck; it requires a great deal of education (and continuing education) combined with varied handson experience," explains Gary R. Palmer, a North Carolina and South Carolina Licensed General Contractor and owner of Charlotte, N.C.-based Palmer Custom Builders. "There's simply no substitute for having worked in the field for a number of years and having dealt with the challenges that are certain to 'pop up'," notes Palmer, who himself has more than three decades of experience in remodeling, new custom home construction and residential repairs." Your contractor's experience will allow him to implement creative solutions and will give you a comfort level that he has successfully 'been there and done

that' in the past." It's also essential that the contractor you select runs an operationally solid, fiscally sound business. "The financial side is obvious — if it's not a stable company, it might not be around to complete your project, and it definitely won't be there in a few years to stand behind its work,"

Palmer cautions. "What you may not realize is that much of the critical planning, ordering and scheduling work in a project goes on back at the office and is dependent on the contractor's ability to organize and run things smoothly from a business perspective. A professional approach is essential to handling the strategic coordination involved in ordering quality materials and scheduling the right trade professionals to ensure a timely

A good dose of common sense is equally important. For example, while working on one time-critical project, Palmer decided to postpone work for a day because of a predicted torrential downpour. "While we could have done interior work that day, we knew that all the trades people walking in and out would have created a monumental mess that would have stressed the homeowner and which we would have lost even more hours cleaning up. Therefore, a short delay actually saved time and stress. Because the homeowner trusted our judgment, she didn't agonize over the brief stoppage,

BUILDING BLOCKS OF TRUST

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry recommends a number of areas you should consider when selecting a contractor:

Select a contractor with an established area business specializing in your type of project.

Check local references to ensure that past clients are satisfied with their service.

Call the Better Business Bureau to make sure there isn't an adverse file on record for the

Ask to see a copy of the contractor's certification of insurance or for the name of his insurance agency to verify critical coverage, such as worker's compensation, property damage and personal liability insurance.

Check your state licensing board to ensure that the contractor has the proper license and that it is valid for the scope and monetary limits of your project. A higher license ensures a greater depth of financial resources and may also be an indicator of diversity of skills and experience.

If you are getting bids from several different sources, make certain they are all bidding on the same scope and quality of work to ensure a fair compari-

- Courtesy of IE News Service

and we ultimately finished on time."

In the end, once you establish the credibility of the contractor, it's simply a matter of finding that perfect fit. "I was referred to Palmer Custom Builders initially by our Realtor," relates Kimber Morgan, who along with her husband Trey hired the firm to complete an exten sive kitchen and master bath renovation and create an addition. "We did some further investigation, looking at their website and other sources of information Ultimately, we thought they were very thorough and brought a lot of ideas to the table. They were a very professional firm and brought a lot of competence. We immediately felt like these people knew what they were doing," she says. The result of finding your ideal fit in a contractor will speak for itself once your project is complete.

- Courtesy of IE News Service

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Deeply rooted history...

TREE CARE

Here are some tips to ensure that your trees thrive:

Pick the right tree. Verify that you have the proper amount of light, correct soil type and hardiness zone.

Plan for growth.
Know how tall and
wide the tree will get
and make certain it
won't conflict with
wires or gutters
above ground and
utility or septic lines
below ground.

Give it room. Turn up an area three to five times the size of the root ball to give delicate roots room to get established.

Nourish and protect. Water newly planted trees once a week for the first few months. Protect trees with a 4" layer of mulch that doesn't touch the bark of the tree. Finally, keep lawnmower blades and weedwacker strings away to avoid damaging delicate tissue beneath the bark.

As Americans, our history is firmly rooted in our hearts. Wouldn't it be wonderful if a small piece of that history could flourish in our gardens as well, serving as a living reminder of the events that shaped our collective past?

The vibrant pink cherry blossoms that attract more than a million visitors to Washington, D.C. each spring, or the solidity of the American Elm that survived the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City can be right at home in your yard with a historic tree from American Forests' Historic Tree Program.

American Forests is the nation's oldest non-profit conservation group. "We were estab-

lished in 1875 to work against the abuse and misuse of the nation's forests," explains Executive Director Deborah Gangloff, noting the rampant logging and lack of professional forest fire fighters at that time. "Today, we strive to protect our forest ecosystems while educating the public about the services we get from trees. Historic trees are one way to do that. As early as the turn of the century, we began to identify trees that were of historical significance, and we've since become the organization of record of trees with a history."

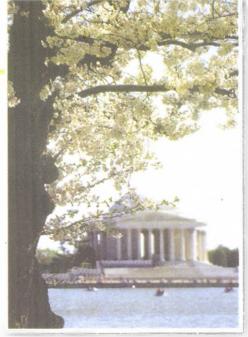
In the early 1980s, the group began propagating saplings from seeds or cuttings of the historic trees as a fun way to increase awareness. "It's wonderful to

plant a tree in your backyard that is a direct descendent of one George Washington planted in Mt. Vernon in 1785. Collectors used to collect calling cards of famous people, because they knew that the famous person had actually touched the card. A tree offers the same sensation, because you know that the famous person planted it and enjoyed its beauty for years," she says. The program expanded about five

think that you can

years ago, when it went online at www.historictrees.org/store.html. Descendents of 50 historic trees — all of which have been meticulously researched and authenticated — are now available for purchase.

Top sellers include descendents of the famous Tidal Basin Cherry Trees that were a gift from Japan in 1912 and now grace the Lincoln Monument and Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. A children's favorite is the Johnny Appleseed tree, which is a Rambo Apple that's a descendent of the last living tree planted by John Chapman in Nova, Ohio, around 1840. There are descendents of the Survivor tree — an American Elm that miraculously survived the blast of the Oklahoma City Bombing. Other trees are linked



O AMERICAN FORESTS

More than a million tourists visit Washington, D.C. every spring to see the Tidal Basin Cherry Trees that were a gift from Japan in 1912.

to presidents, inventors, significant battles and even some propagated from Sycamore tree seeds that were flown to the moon and back by Apollo XIV in 1971.

Whether your passion is a Weeping Willow grown from a cutting of the tree at Graceland or the Southern Magnolia pictured on the old twenty-dollar bill, the program allows you to bring history home. "Trees definitely hold the key to our past as well as our future," Gangloff notes. "Proceeds from these sales are returned to serve our conservation mission, while we make the purchasers members of the organization and teach them how their tree contributed not just to history, but to our overall environment." Visit www.historictrees.org for more information.

- Courtesy of IE News Service



2009, OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

This 80-year-old American Elm now stands at the Oklahoma National Memorial & Museum in downtown Oklahoma City after surviving the tragic bombing there. American Forests has made it possible for the public to purchase descendents of this and other historic trees, bringing a piece of history into their own yards.

Advertising Feature

PLYMOUTH NURSERY 9900 Plymouth Road, Livonia 734-453-5500 www.plymouthnursery.net

The Plymouth Nursery name dates back to 1931. Today Plymouth Nursery is among the largest, most established in the Midwest. They offer over 16 acres of nursery stock, a complete garden center, and greenhouses with annuals, perennials,

groundcovers and roses. Their expert staff includes degreed horticulturalists, master gardeners, Michigan certified nurserymen, along with many passionate lifetime gardeners. They also offer landscape design, installation and delivery. To help clients enhance their outdoor living, Plymouth Nursery offers patio furniture and high-end Weber grills. They are a state-of-the-art Home and Garden Showplace.

Advertising Feature

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In 1986, Ed McIntosh founded a small residential landscaping company, Clippers. They have rapidly established themselves as a quality contractor able to handle a wide

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Spray foam insulation is one of the best solutions for homeowners who are serious about optimizing home performance. Unfortunately, insulating the whole house may not be feasible or within the homeowner's budget. Don't rule out the spray foam option just yet.

By concentrating on certain areas of the home that are most susceptible to energy loss or inconsistent temperatures, homeowners can maximize their budget and minimize energy costs.

Attics — If your energy costs are "through the roof," consider insulating your attic with a two-in-one spray foam insulation and air barrier. Insulating and air sealing the attic floor is likely your best option for increasing energy efficiency and getting the best return on your insulation investment.

To improve home performance and comfort without having to spend money all at once, some contractors recommend insulating in steps, homeowners will notice results from the very first installation. And the very first recommendation the contractor usually makes is to insulate the attic floor because the energy savings can be considerable.

Additions and/or rooms over garage/porch: Bonus rooms offer desirable additional space, but they are often uncomfortable — either too hot



Comfort and energy efficiency in the room over the garage are easily achieved with spray foam insulation.

or too cold. In summer temperatures, an extra cooling zone can be required just to cool the space and remove the humidity. In cold weather, it is common to find floors that are 10 degrees cooler than the room.

The cause is the air leaking through the floor to or from the unconditioned garage below. Unfortunately, the conventional way of insulating the garage ceiling is often inadequate. It is almost impossible to install conventional insulation so that it stays in contact with the floor above. The other challenge is installing it accurately around bracing and bridging between joists. Air gaps

usually exist between the floor and the insulation, compromising its R-value and performance.

The cure — Making the bonus room a comfortable space can be easily achieved using spray foam insulation. Spray foam adheres to the construction material for a continuous air-seal and complete protective barrier. The spray foam also fills and seals all gaps to minimize air leakage, potential condensation problems, and air quality issues. Homeowners can get comfortable in this room without cranking the A/C this summer.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Services

4 ONCE POPULAR TRENDS LOSING FAVOR AMONG HOMEOWNERS

Housing trends come and go. Just think of those avocado-colored stoves from the 1970s or the Formica bedroom sets of the 1980s. The wood-burning fireplace was a must-have home accessory in the early 1990s, but now it is losing ground to pellet stoves and greener options. Here are a few other housing trends that are going out of style and making room for newer designs.

- 1. Kitchen desks: What used to be all the rage a few years back are now being passed over for larger desks in family rooms or bedrooms. Kitchen desks tend to be small and are more likely to collect clutter than provide a viable working space.
- 2. Carpeting: Although a little over half of all homes still have carpeting, wood floors, tiles and vinyl products are gaining ground over the once staple of interior design.
- 3. Skylights: The once desired windows on roofs have continued to decline in popularity. Many new home manufacturers have nixed skylights from their designs. Improperly installed skylights tend to leak and can be maintenance nightmares.
- 4. Living rooms: Homeowners who do not desire a formal living space are eschewing living rooms for all-purpose rooms that provide a better place for the family to gather. If a person prefers the TV be separate from a sitting area, then two distinct rooms still may be needed.

-Courtesy of ARA Content

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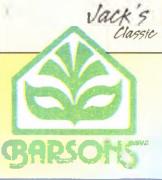
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Planting a Rain Garden



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOTOLIA

Black-eyed Susan's make a colorful addition to rain gardens.

Storm water runoff can be a big problem during heavy thunderstorms. As the water rushes across roofs and driveways, it picks up oil and other pollutants. Municipal storm water treatment plants often can't handle the deluge of water, and in many locations the untreated water ends up in natural waterways. The EPA estimates as much as 70 percent of the pollution in our streams, rivers, and lakes are carried there by storm water.

To reduce the excess water runoff, many towns are encouraging businesses and homeowners to install rain gardens in their yards. Rain gardens are specially constructed gardens located in low areas of a yard where storm water can collect. The idea is to have the water naturally funnel to this garden. The rain garden collects water runoff and stores and filters it until it can be slowly absorbed by the soil.

Sizing up a Rain Garden

The rain garden's size and location depends on the yard. If you're the type of person who likes precise measurements, there are guidelines you can follow for estimating the ideal size of a rain garden for your particular situation. For example, you'd want to measure the area of your roof that will be draining into the gutter leading to the rain garden, as well as the size of any paved areas that will be contributing to runoff into the garden. If your soil is sandy and drains quickly, you'd want your rain garden to be about 20

to 30 percent of the area that will be draining into it (roof plus driveway, etc.) If you have clay soil, your ideal rain garden would be 60 percent of the drainage area. But don't let these numbers intimidate you — any size rain garden is better than none at all.

The ideal place for a rain garden is in a natural depression. You also can funnel water from downspouts or gutters into the garden. The soil should be well drained so the water doesn't sit in the garden for more than two days. A special rain garden soil mix of 50 to 60 percent sand, 20 to 30 percent topsoil, and 20 to 30 percent compost is recommended. You can dig this mixture into the soil to depth of 2 feet before planting.

Choosing plants

The most difficult part of building a rain garden can be plant selection. The plants in a rain garden need to be tolerant of sitting in water now and then, so native plants and wildflowers are good choices because they're so adaptable. You probably already grow many of them — ferns, ornamental grasses, sedges, iris, milkweed, asters, and Black-eyed Susan's, to name a few. The idea is to create a naturalistic planting that's easy to maintain (no fertilizer needed) and welcoming to butterflies and bees and other creatures

For more tips and garden information visit www.garden.org.

— Courtesy of Family Features

'SafeBet Hidden Fencing' keeping pets safe in the yard for over 8 years

These days people don't need a wooden or metal fence to keep their pet out of the pound. In fact the best way to ensure the family dog doesn't become the neighborhood stray can't be seen at all. "The idea when we set this business up was to offer a high quality product at a reasonable price. Something everybody can afford," said Randy Badour, owner of SafeBet Hidden Fencing of Michigan LLC. "With some of the other companies out there, you call them up, have them come out and they give you a price that is usually very, very expensive. We wanted to offer something that everybody could do.

"What Randy's business offers is a safe, economical alternative to chain link fencing. His product, Hidden Fence, is 99.2 percent effective at training a dog to respect the boundaries of a yard. Not to mention Hidden Fence can save pet owners \$1,000's compared to wood or metal fence installation.

There's no guarantees that a chain link fence will work either. Dogs can climb over them or dig under them or someone will make the mistake of leaving the gate open. I've had plenty of calls to go put in an electric fence inside their fence.

"With Hidden Fence, the dog is fit with a collar which emits a warning sound when the animal wanders too close to the boundaries specified at installation. If the animal continues towards the boundaries the collar delivers a mild corrective stimulation.

"Depending on the dog, you are talking about two to four weeks for training. Once they hear that warning tone that is all it takes," said Badour, who uses Hidden Fence to keep his dog, Kramer, from terrorizing the neighbors.



Randy Badour, started SafeBet Hidden Fencing in Michigan 8 years ago. He and his dog Kramer, will help you keep your pet where it belongs.

Hidden Fence's collar interacts with a boundary of wire installed into the ground. The process of settingup the wire takes between two and four hours. Badour and his crew slice open the ground in order to thread Hidden Fence across the yard. The grass makes a complete recovery within days of installation.

"We're a local business. I think we offer a little more personal touch for the customer. We're available when the customer calls and we're there the same day doing whatever they need, from any problems they have with the system to training their dog," said Badour.

All of Badour's packages include up to one acre of Hidden Fence wiring.

As well as keeping pets in the yard, SafeBet also offers solutions inside the home, in the form of small

battery powered units which will safeguard anything from a garbage can or toilet bowl to a computer room.

"If you have something in the house you want to keep the cat away from, these will do the trick," said Badour.

The aforementioned devices and others including training equipment for sporting dogs and other remote training collars are available for purchase online at www.safebethiddenfence.com.

Discipline for a dog is one thing, Badour has pet owners in mind with the newest addition to the SafeBet stable.

Now, anyone who owns a goldfish, parakeet, cat,dog or any other house pet can go SafeBet Hidden Fencing's website and purchase everything from food to collars. "Order what you want and it's delivered right to your door," said Badour

Customers can either make a one time purchase or schedule regular deliveries of a wide array of high quality products.

People are so busy now they don't want to mess with buying pet food. Whatever they need just comes automatically and they don't even have to think about it," said Badour.

SafeBet is most proud of making pet protection and training products more affordable for everyone. SafeBet Hidden Fencing is available for appointments year round, Monday thru Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please call (810) 653-5300 or visit them at www.safebethiddenfence.com to set up an installation time.



Secrets from the professionals for a lush, eco-friendly lawn and landscape

Want a thick; green eco-friendly lawn and eye-catching landscape filled with beautiful trees, shrubs and flowerbeds?

It's really a lot easier than you think. Just follow these helpful lawn and garden tips from turf experts and you can grow a healthier green lawn full of abundant plants that are the envy of the neighborhood.

1. Take a test. According to Dr. Tom Samples, Ph.D., turfgrass extension specialist at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, "a pH of 6.5 is considered ideal for turf grass."

Since the pH level of your soil can determine the types of trees, shrubs and plants that will do well in your yard, he recommends that you buy a soil tester from your local retail store or garden center and find out the pH level of your soil and then adjust accordingly.

2. Take a walk and pull. Spotty patches and weeds are, literally, easy to

spot. To avoid using harmful chemicals, pull existing weeds. Before you start, soak the soil in the area of the garden you'll be weeding to ensure that all the roots come out to reduce re-growth. And use a claw tool cultivator to make it easy to get at stubborn runners.

3. Lose the spots. If your lawn is blotchy with ugly yellow burn spots where your dog does his business or from winter de-icers, don't tear up the grass and reseed. Instead, the pros use organic SpotGone! From NatraTurf to turn burned-looking patches and high traffic areas into lush green grass again.

The organic, easy-to-sprinkle pellets are chemical free and OMRI-listed by Organic Materials Review Institute and complement any lawn care system, have no foreign grass seed and are safe to use around kids and pets. Just shake on affected spots any time of the year and your lawn will grow back uniformly.



Those yellow burn spots from where your dog does his business can be easily fixed with easy-to-sprinkle pellets which are chemical free.



For a healthier green lawn make sure you fertilize, consider a high quality pelletized gysum product that reduces soil crusting and loosens soil.

4. Go au natural and reduce water use. A natural soil amendment like

use. A natural soil amendment like gypsum saves water and helps reduce your need for chemical fertilizers. Gypsum-treated soils retain moisture over a longer period of time and decrease evaporation on top of the soil. This reduces water run-off, letting you water your grass and plants less frequently. Plus it's an excellent source of calcium — a necessary plant nutrient and removes harmful salts from your soil.

"Calcium bonds to the cell walls and improves cell strength," says Samples. "Gypsum supplies additional calcium and sulfur to lawns and plants without changing the pH level and is essential for plant growth."

Look for a high quality pelletized gypsum product like OMRI-listed

HydroSave Residential from NatraTurf. It reduces "soil crusting" and loosens soil, making it more porous and a better home for earthworms, nature's aerators.

The pay-off is your grass and plants will develop stronger, more vigorous roots for a thicker, greener lawn, more robust flowers and even tastier vegetables

5. Just a little off the top. Remember to use an energy efficient mower when you cut your grass and keep your grass at two to three inches high. Keep your mower blades sharpened for less damage to your grass.

With these quick tips your lawn and landscape will look like you left it in the hands of pros. But only you'll be the wiser. For more information visit www. natraturf.com.

— Courtesy of ARA Content

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Backyard upgrades bring the resort lifestyle home

Maybe the economy really is getting better, but if you're still planning to forego a pricey vacation this summer, you're likely not alone. Rather than dropping a lot of cash on travel, many Americans are choosing to spend their hard-earned money where they'll enjoy it more for longer right in their own backyards.

Upgrading your backyard may work for you on multiple levels. Not only will you increase your enjoyment of the time you spend there, backyard enhancements like decks, patios and landscaping can increase your home's resale value. You can create your own oasis of luxury at home for much less than the cost of a luxury vacation.

From murals to outdoor kitchens, resort-style luxury can be had for less right in your own backyard. To get an idea of where to begin, think of the features and decor that you most loved about your last resort stay and work toward recreating them at home for a fraction of the cost. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Theme park

HGTV star Jamie Durie has elevated outdoor living spaces to an art form by creating each design around a specific theme, whether it's capturing the exotic flavor of Thailand or the dreamy, relaxed style of California. You can borrow Durie's techniques and create a theme in your own backyard.

Do you dream of a vacation to the English countryside? The right mix of flowers, cultured pathways and gracious seating areas can evoke the beauty of an English garden. Is a beachside retreat



How could anyone resist relaxing in a setting like this. Todays backyard trends are leaning towards resort-like settings that offer privacy and comforts that you expect while visiting a resort.

more to your taste? Try potted tropical plants, torches and decorating accents in sand and ocean hues to recreate the atmosphere of the beach.

Dazzling decor

Your outdoor decor can go a long way toward creating a luxury resort feeling. Draw on favorite luxury touches of interior designers, such as luxurious floor coverings and engaging wall murals. An outdoor mural can transform a space from mundane to exotic.

New technology, dubbed SmartStick, can allow you to mount a mural virtually anywhere outdoors. All you need is a flat surface (other than non-painted brick).

The space-age material will withstand all weather conditions, won't shrink or curl, and can even wrap around corners and curves. It's easily removable, peeling effortlessly away from the surface without leaving any marks or residue, and can then be re-used elsewhere. Log on to www.muralsyourway.com to learn more.

A splash of class

For many of us, water play is a key part of a resort experience. If you live in a community that permits pools, you can easily install an above-ground pool for less than you would pay for a luxury vacation. Modern kits include everything from the pool walls and liner to the filter.

Prices range from just a few hundred dollars for basic, modestly sized pools to a few thousand for more upscale versions.

If a pool isn't possible for you, consider adding a different type of water feature. Installing a fountain or building a pond is not only a great do-it-yourself project for the entire family, everyone will enjoy the delightful presence of water in your outdoor living space when you're done. Whatever type of water feature you choose, from a tabletop fountain to a birdbath, the object is to deliver the restful mood and charming sound of flowing water.

Seating that sizzles

For some items, it's worth paying a bit more to get better quality, and out-door furniture is one of them. You'll be spending a lot of time on your deck or patio, and your seating area should be comfortable, inviting and luxurious. A table and at least four chairs is a must, but

think beyond the box and consider incorporating loveseats, lounges and ottomans into your seating design. If you have the space, consider creating seating groupings throughout the yard. Your deck or patio will be the main entertaining area, but a simple bistro set tucked away beneath a tree or beside a flowerbed can make a great spot for quiet chats, or reading a book while sipping your favorite wine.

This summer, consider staying home and keeping your money with you by creating a backyard resort that your whole family can enjoy throughout the season.

— Courtesy of ARAContent

Advertising Feature

CANTON FLORAL GARDENS 8207 Lilley Road Canton 734-453-3363

They have been voted number one for the best looking hanging baskets in Michigan. Canton Floral Gardens and Greenhouses is the "Home of the Superbasket." With over 10,000

porch and patio pots ranging in sizes from 8 to 16" — it's no wonder they get the recognition they have. Watch for them on HGTV programing. They also are offering a wide selection of flowers plus a complete line of vegetables and herbs. They are open 7 days a week, Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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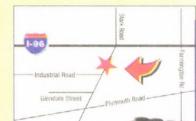
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Spruee up for Spring at Clippers



Successfull planting for your landscape

Spring is a season for rebirth, and for homeowners, that often means bringing their property back to life. Once the winter weather has subsided, it's time to head outside and take inventory of the landscape and see how the vard, trees, bushes, and shrubs fared after another long

One of the best and most eco-friendly ways to bring your yard back to life is to plant around the property. Planting can be a soothing and enjoyable way to spend some time outdoors in the spring air, and it's not as difficult as it may seem. When planting around the home this spring, consider the following point-

• Be aware of depth when planting. It's common for those who aren't used to gardening to plant too deeply. The idea of planting deeply seems to be correct, as homeowners want to be certain their plants or trees will take

root and it seems like common sense that the deeper the plant is planted, the more likely it is to take root. However, planting depth should mirror the depth the plant was grown in at the nursery. When purchasing a plant at the nursery, ask for the planting depth and be sure not to go any deeper than that when planting the plant on your property.

• Stake new trees if necessary. While it's great to imagine spring as a season of warm sun and extended davlight, in reality, most regions still get some wind and cold throughout spring. This can make planting trees a difficult proposition, as new trees might rock back and forth and struggle to establish new roots. To mitigate any strong winds, stake new trees when planting around the property. Not all new trees need to be staked, but for the ones that do, the stakes will act as a stabilizing force during strong winds, enabling the tree to establish healthy roots for years to come.

• Consider container-grown plants. Novice green-thumbers might find it best to go with container-grown plants. Container-grown plants are easy to plant



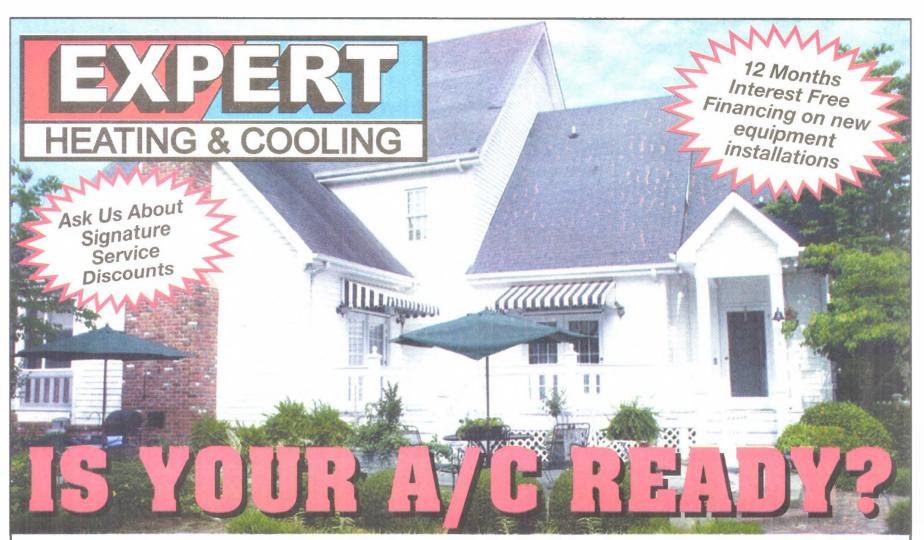
Planting during the spring season is a great way for homeowners to restore their property after a harsh winter.

around the property, and it's also easy to change the look of the property by simply moving the plants around. Also, as the seasons change, it's easy to reposition the plants so they're still getting the sun exposure they need to thrive.

• Get a second opinion. Planting trees around the property can be akin to hanging a painting on the wall. It's always best to get a second opinion to make sure the painting is straight, and the same goes with planting trees. Before backfilling the hole, ask someone to look at the tree from several angles to ensure that it is straight. Once the tree has been backfilled, it's awfully difficult to reposition the tree.

• Give the trees or plants their best chance to grow. It's important to survey the property ahead of planting to be certain the plants will be in the best place to thrive. Call the utility company and ask if there are any buried utility lines you'll want to avoid. Also, a tree's roots spread far beyond its branches, so be sure to plant the tree in a location that allows for that root growth without jeopardizing the property (i.e., roots spreading beneath the home's foundation).

— Courtesy of ARA Content









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Utilize stone beds for texture

Stones in all shapes and sizes are widely available, generally inexpensive (or free) and can be used to create beautiful natural landscaping, walkways, borders, walls and accent pieces for your yard. Here are some ideas for how you can use natural stones in your landscaping and patio designs.

Stones are perfect for covering the soil between plants in flowerbeds or around trees and shrubs. and will improve drainage and inhibit weed growth. Not to mention that stones make for a much more beautiful flowerbed than exposed dirt and will last longer than mulch or wood chips. Using stones, as a ground cover for areas without plants and flowers will also add beauty to your yard while offering the same advantages of inhibiting weed growth, limiting dust and controlling drainage.

Stones offer an eco-friendly, money-saving alternative to lawns. If you have a lot of grass in your front or back yard, consider scaling it down and using landscaping rock to create visual interest and conserve water. This will also allow you to use less fertilizer and toxic lawn care products that pollute the soil and waterways, and can impact your family's health.

Natural stones can also be used to create borders, as steppingstones in walkways, to improve drainage in problem areas and are



A shaded corner of your yard might be an impossible place to grow plants, consider adding interest by creative use of stone and rocks.

a great alternative to railroad ties or wood planks when creating raised gardens. Stones are also a much more appealing material for boundary walls and retaining walls than the more often used concrete.

Larger stones and boulders can be used alone as landscaping accent pieces or, if well shaped can be used to provide seating or as a side table. Benches can be made from stones or from a combination of stones and wood and entire patios can be made out of stone. Stone patios are beautiful and require little maintenance once complete. You can also incorporate natural stones into outdoor living areas by building a fire pit or barbecue, or creating low walls that divide the area and provide additional seating.

Lastly, gravel has, of course, always been a popular, functional material for driveways and walkways, and can be used to create winding pathways between your flowerbeds or around the perimeter of the yard to improve curb appeal and give your yard a clean, well-maintained look.

Whether your goal is to create an outdoor living area for your family, increase the value of your home or to focus on bringing natural elements into your landscaping, natural stones are functional, beautiful, long lasting and easy to maintain.

— Courtesy of Mavyn McDaniels, Yahoo! Contributor Network

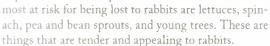
CREATIVE FENCING OPTIONS IN THE GARDEN

Rabbits are cute but not in your garden

Fencing in a garden is vital. Without it rabbits, dogs, cats and other critters can eat your new sprouts, dig up your freshly planted seeds, or gnaw established plants to the ground. If you have a very large garden though, fencing can be a dauntingly

expensive prospect.

If a fence for the entire perimeter of your garden is out of the question, try fencing only those plants that are particularly at risk. In general, onions and garlic, hot peppers and shallots are not the plants likely to be consumed by pests. Identify your at risk plants, and make plans to protect them. The plants



There are different strategies that can be taken for each plant, and they can be used in a mix and match tashion as well. To protect the lettuces, plant marigolds, garlic, and onions around and in between the sections of loose-leaf lettuce. It's the scent that keeps the animals away from the plants.

A dog kennel pen that isn't in use can have a new purpose. The kennel is like a movable fence that will keep the rabbits away from the new sprouts and also provides plenty of support and room for the climbing

Small trees can be protected from rabbits by setting a 6-8 inch diameter cylinder of chicken wire or rabbit fencing in the hole when planting the tree. Tiny, oneplant fences can be used in the garden the same way.

Another trick that works well is to plant in different places around the yard. For example, a few patches of beans were planted in various beds did very well. One bed was discovered by the rabbits, and was eaten down, but the others escaped their notice and a nice harvest of green beans happened despite the backyard critters.

Cheap fencing options abound, and protecting plants with fences or with cunning is entirely possible without breaking the bank.

— Courtesy of Bethany James, Yahoo! Contributor

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Home entertainment networking made easy

In the early days of home television entertainment a consumer had a television with one plug, the power cord and it simply plugged into an electrical outlet. That was all that was needed to get their viewing experience up and running. Today it's an entirely different story, and many people ready to outfit their homes with home entertainment systems and networks do not really know where to begin.

Walk into the local big box store or consumer electronics retailer, and a person will experience a dizzying number of acronyms for the different technology products available. With options like Wi-Fi and Multimedia over Coax (MoCA(R)) to Powerline, HomePlug, HomePNA, among others, consumers may need a little guidance in selecting the technologies that are right for them.

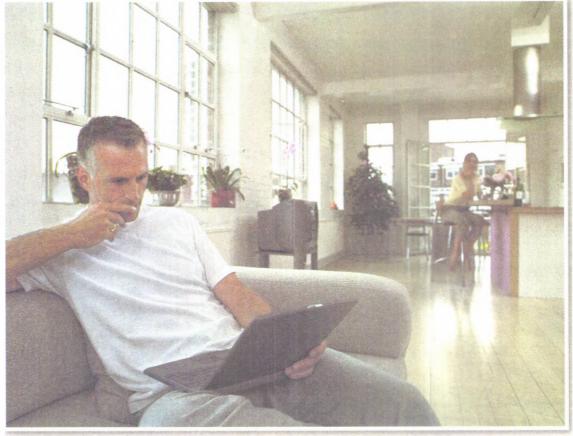
There are a few things consumers need to know before setting up a home network. Here is some information and tips, courtesy of Entropic Communications, part of the MoCA Alliance, an industry standard which uses the coax cable to create a seamless home network.

More than just television

Up until recently televisions and PCs have essentially lived separate lives. One provided movies and shows while the other connected a person to the Internet and enabled him or her to share files and other data. Now they aren't estranged technologies residing in the same house. A greater number of home consumers are realizing the benefits of merging the two worlds of TV and PC into one. With a home network individuals can discover, download, and manage digital media, and enjoy TV, music, movies, or photos on a big screen backed up with a fullbodied surround-sound speaker system.

Multi-room DVR

Customers who became hooked on the ability of recording and watching mov-



Technology is wonderful and useful if it is working properly. Using the proper coaxial cables and connectors can help to insure uninterrupted service from your provider.

ies and TV content on their own time embraced the technology of DVR. But up until the most recent offerings from many digital television service providers, recorded content could only be enjoyed in one room at a time. Now the advent of Multi-room DVR (MR-DVR) service enables viewers to record and watch stored content anywhere in their home.

Spotty service

The increased interest of sharing content and enjoying different forms of data all over the home have led many consumers on a quest to find the best ways to outfit their homes.

Immediately many homeowners looked to their existing Wi-Fi connection, provided by a wireless router. While this may be a go-to source of distributing content, the inconsistency of this type of service can make it a less-than-optimal way of transferring content.

Firstly, in-home wireless networks often produce dead zones where the signal is obstructed or weakened. (Just think about the last time you tried to upload photos to your social network

page from the upstairs bedroom, far, far away from the basement router.) If this poses a problem, what will be the case when downloading larger movie files to enjoy in the same room? Content may be choppy and picture quality not at its best.



Connecting to the coaxial cable already installed in most homes, allows consumers to create an easy installed home network.

Wired: The right alternative

With so many wireless items on the market, reason would have one to believe that wireless is the best. While it has

its purposes, many experts find that homes equipped with wired networks actually provide a more complete level of service and better signal quality. If consumers are going to pay for premium content and services, as well as high definition (HD)-and 3DTVs, they should also invest in premium way to spread that content throughout the home.

In fact, major operators like Verizon and DIRECTV, Comcast, Cox and Time Warner Cable have set forth on a mission to overcome service degradation by deploying new connected, or hard wired home networking technologies to ensure maximum service levels with high-speed performance to guarantee consumers' quality of experience.

The home networking standard endorsed by the majority of pay-TV service operators is the wired solution known as MoCA (Multimedia over Coax alliance) the industry standard

which uses the coax cable already in installed in nearly every U.S. home. It is the only home network standard that can seamlessly network multiple streams of HD video and multimedia content around the home; creating a high-speed, ultra-performing home networking backbone to guarantee service levels for sharing HD programming from one set-top-box to another. It also enables services such as MR-DVR, powering lag-free online and multi-room gaming, distributing personal content such as videos, photos, and music from a PC to the TV, or extending the Wi-Fi coverage beyond traditional in-home "hot spots."

To learn more about getting next-generation services, including MR-DVR or Wi-Fi/broadband extension, contact your service provider. MoCA ECA Kits are available from NETGEAR, D-Link and Actiontec, and are currently sold online and at leading retailers nationwide. For more information on MoCA, visit www.mocablog.net.

— Courtesy of Metro Creative Service



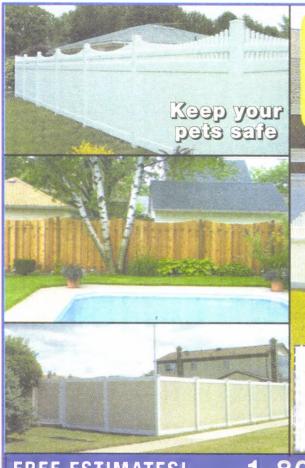


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Ceramic tile makes the green list for home renovation

Are you planning an upcoming remodel for your home? Going green and using sustainable building materials continues to be a top trend in home improvement. Remodeling green isn't just about using products with recycled content, it's also about using superior products that will stand the test of time and reduce energy

You can choose from a number of options when remodeling green, including modern energy-efficient appliances and low-VOC paints. Traditional products can also be environmentally friendly. For example, many homeowners choosing to go green are selecting ceramic tile for a variety of reasons.

Ceramic tile is inherently a sustainable product. It's a great choice because it lasts up to four times longer than carpet and wood flooring. It never needs to be refinished like wood floors do, contributing to a low lifecycle cost. To clean, all you have to use is hot water which means no harsh chemicals are flushed into the ecosystem.

Getting all the great ecofriendly qualities of tile doesn't mean a sacrifice of good design. Tile manufacturers offer stunning options in any size, format, texture, color and pattern. From modern, sleek designs to ornate, classic patterns that will perfectly suit your design personality.

Emerging technology has eliminated some of the concerns people tend to have when it comes to tile. Adding new tile used to be a daunting task. Tearing out



When designing a new kitchen floor it makes good sense to consider oversized ceramic tile. The tiles make a dramatic statement and are easy to maintain.

old layers and disposing of them is messy and time-consuming. New slim tiles are only 3 to 6 millimeters thick and thin enough to be applied over existing tile, offering a new look to walls and floors with less hassle, and saving construction waste from the landfill.

Tile no longer has to be cold. It's an ideal product to use in raised flooring and radiant heating. In fact, technological advances now allow for the tile to work

in tandem with a home's HVAC system. High-tech tiles adopt the temperature of the room and once past a certain temperature use nano energy storage cells to absorb thermal energy and then slowly release it back into the room. This technology alone can save the average home more than 16 percent in electricity bills.

Dry setting tile is now an option for home remodelers as well. Tile can be applied without mortar or grout, which means if you move, you can take the tile with you. Or you can change it in a few years without a lot of work.

If you don't like the appearance of grout lines and worry about keeping these areas clean, there are new options in large format tile, which can lessen the number of joints. Additionally, rectification of tile, a process where the edges of the tile are shaved off for perfect calibration, makes it possible to get a very tight "credit card" joint that allows a more seamless appearance.

If sustainability is a key consideration when remodeling, make sure the products you select are durable, easy to clean and are good for the health of your home and the environment. Ceramic tile helps you accomplish all of the above on

your green checklist.

- Courtesy of ARA Content





There are some ceramic tile choices that are good for outdoor use, be sure to check with your supplier before installing.

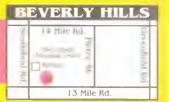


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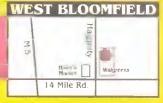
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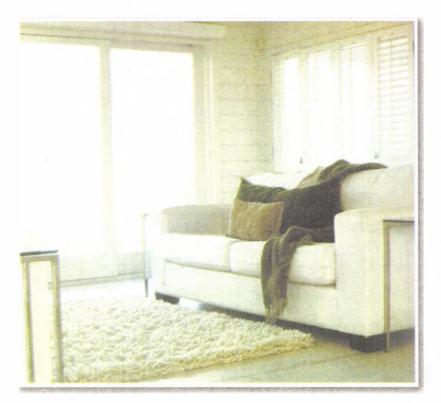
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Beautiful area rugs support many well-decorated rooms

A great area rug can ground the design of a room. To ground its latest collection of area rugs in solid design principles, Capel Rugs turned to internationally renowned fabric designer Kevin O'Brien.

"The architect in me always comes out and demands order, but the artist in me says, "let's toss it and have fun," notes O'Brien, who began his career as an architect and painter. "The results of this process, or rather, the results that lead to surprise and beauty, can be seen in the Capel line. So you get something bold and fun, yet grounded in structure."

The line will feature transitional and contemporary designs constructed using wool and wool/viscose blends. According to O'Brien, the new rug line is aimed at consumers "who have fantastic taste and are looking for stylish yet affordable products."

Refined and chic pieces are a hall-mark of the collaboration. "Our rugs will appeal to customers with great taste who are holding out for something modern and stylish, not necessarily the simplistic, oversized graphics that are commonly seen. "Urban, sophisticated consumers live throughout the country, and they want to spice up their homes with items that express their personality," O'Brien says.

"Kevin's creativity and passion make him the perfect person to collaborate with. His innovative use of color and the



Million Florida (125) (1.176) (42-76)

Droplets, one of the lines Capel has developed with Kevin O'Brien.

imagery of his designs are quite different for us and a wonderful departure from anything we've ever done," says Tami Watras, director of merchandising for Capel Rugs.

Capel rugs are available through independent retailers, catalogs and designers.

- Courtesy of IE News Service

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Making the space for a personal garden

Gardening is rapidly becoming a popular hobby for many Americans, even with an increase in the number of people living in apartments and condos. Getting your hands dirty may seem challenging when faced with a small space, but all the space necessary to have a successful garden is a window, ledge, patio or balcony.

Bountiful produce crops can be found in all sorts of places aside from farms or the market. Fresh herbs and vine-ripened tomatoes can easily be grown in a home or on a patio. Simply find a sunny spot and get growing.

Getting started on a personal container garden:

Location: The first step to growing fresh produce is evaluating the available space and light. A patio, balcony or porch is an ideal place for containers and hanging baskets. Lacking an outdoor space means more creative solutions. Consider some smaller pots, a window box or hanging baskets placed near a sunny window.

Containers: Choosing a container for a garden is a lot of fun. There are really no conventional ideas of what gardens should look like. A personalized garden is an excellent way to express creativity, and virtually any container with adequate drainage can become a garden. Today it is easy to find an assortment of pots in varying sizes and shapes made from terra cotta, ceramic, concrete, wood or even recycled milk jugs. Additional non-traditional options include mixing bowls, toolboxes, 5-gallon pails, discarded sinks, straw bales and the Miracle-Gro Gro-Bag. This bag is a great new product that features durable packaging that acts as the container. Everything needed to plant a small garden is already in the bag. Just peel off the label and place seeds or plants in the three planting areas pro-

What to grow: Once the perfect space and container for a garden are located, it's time to decide what to grow. Herbs for cooking, tomatoes, salad greens and peppers are great choices for a container garden. Consider eggplants, green onions, cucumbers and strawberries for something new. If produce isn't preferred, try growing annuals, perennials or even citrus in containers for a burst of color and a splash of green.

Seeds or plants: Good options for

starting vegetables indoors by seed are tomatoes, peppers, celery, cauliflower, head lettuce and eggplant. Produce that can be started either indoors or out are beans, peas, most lettuce and corn. To save time, nurseries and garden centers carry a wide variety of herbs and vegetables for transplanting as well. Make sure to select short, stocky plants that are not in bloom yet. These will be able to devote more energy to root development, ensuring a healthier start.

Planting: Begin with a clean, welldrained container in a location that receives six to eight hours of sun each day. Place a coffee filter, small piece of screen or some loose pebbles over the drainage hole to ensure adequate water drainage, and to prevent soil from washing out the bottom. Next, add a high-quality potting mix that contains plant food such as Miracle-Gro Moisture Control Potting Mix or Miracle-Gro Organic Choice Potting Mix. Pop in seedlings or plants, making sure to loosen up any roots that appear to be restricted or curled up around the bottom of the starter container. Dig out a small area in the pot for each plant being sure to leave enough room between to allow for growth. A 24-inch pot can hold one tomato plant in the middle and a few herbs or greens around the edge. To cut down on the amount of watering, hide soil and add organic matter to pots; don't forget to add a 1 to 2 inch layer of mulch to the top of the pots — even indoors. Scotts Nature Scapes Advanced Mulch is an excellent choice because it comes in a variety of

Maintenance: Once a container garden is planted, water thoroughly until some seeps out of the drainage hole in the bottom of the pot. Containers dry out more quickly than in-ground gardens, and will require watering daily or even twice a day when it's very warm. Follow up with regular feedings by using Miracle-Gro Watering Can Singles All Purpose Water Soluble Plant Food. Just pour one pre-measured packet into a watering can and mix with a gallon of water every one to two weeks to keep plants nourished.

Large spaces are not essential in growing delicious vegetables for dinner or salads. With a minimal investment and some simple steps, spaces like patios, balconies and porches can be transformed into incredible, edible gardens.

— Courtesy of ARA Content

Controlling the weeds in your vegetable garden is an all out task

When the vegetable garden is all planted, not only are your seeded squash, cucumbers, lettuces, beans and carrots coming up so are the weeds.

Here are 10 steps for controlling annual weeds in your vegetable garden.

1. Don't till - The more you till, the

more weed seeds are brought to the soil surface to germinate. Consider moving to a low or no till gardening system to keep the weed seeds buried.

2. Identify your weed – Know the weed you're dealing with before you start pulling or hoeing. Make sure it's a weed and not one of your vegetable seedlings.

3. Weed early -

If you weed early in the season, you'll have fewer problems later. Remove annual weeds before they reach 3 inches tall. Preferably on a sunny day, using a sharp-edged hoe, gently slice the weeds just below

the soil surface to kill them. The sun will help kill the weeds so they don't resprout.

A bucket of weeds, if it were chickweed you

could mix it with basil and make pesto.

4. Grow weed-smothering crops –

Crops such as tomatoes, squash, melons, potatoes, cabbage, and beans grow quickly in warm soils and can outgrow the weeds. Plus, they are large enough to shade out weeds growing later in the season.

5. Add organic mulches – Once you've weeded a few times and your plants have germinated and are growing vigorously, consider adding organic mulch. Organic mulches such as straw, pine straw, bark mulch, grass clippings from untreated lawns, and chopped leaves will keep the soil cool, moist, and less weedy while

adding organic matter to the soil as they break down. Avoid using hay because it has weed seeds in it.

6. Add inorganic mulch – Another way to mulch is to lay black, green or red plastic mulch down on the beds before planting. These warm the soil by 6 to 8 degrees. By poking holes and plant-

ing right into the mulch, the roots can take advantage of the warm soil and the plants will grow faster. It's best to run a soaker hose or drip irrigation line under the plastic mulch to keep the plants well watered.

7. Mulch pathways – Pathways between rows of crops can be mulched at planting with any material that will prevent weed growth. Cardboard, bark mulch, straw, even old rugs can be used to stop weed growth

8. Don't let weeds go to seed – Weed plants can reproduce prolifically. If

you get behind in your weeding, at least cut them down to prevent weed seeds from forming.

9. Grow cover crops – If you're battling lots of annual weeds in your garden, consider growing a cover crop to smother them and add organic matter to the soil. Buckwheat is a fast growing cover crop that will smother weeds.

10. Eat your weeds – Weeds aren't all bad. After all, the definition of a weed is a plant growing in the wrong place. Many weeds are edible and taste great. Harvest lamb's quarters, purslane, and pigweed when they are young and add them to salads. Mix chickweed in with basil and parsley to make a great pesto.

—Courtesy of Family Features



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Mulch: Get to know the unsung hero of the garden

Gardeners know that mulch is a great-looking layer of topping on the soil in gardens and landscapes, but mulch is so much more than just a decorative cover. Mirroring the leaf layer found on a forest floor, mulch covering can benefit both plants and soil.

There are many different types of mulch to consider. Some mulch contains leaves and bark that decompose and break down over time, while others contain things like pebbles and shredded tires.

Mulch's benefits run much deeper than

- A mulch layer can moderate the soil temperature reducing the effects of extreme heat or cold.
- Soil condition may be improved by the decomposing matter from mulch that provides plants with added nutrition.
- Mulching a garden creates the ideal environment for earthworms and beneficial organisms.
- If heavy rains or soil erosion is an issue, mulch can help reduce these effects. Weeds will find it difficult to become established and grow in a mulched area.

Using mulch in the flower and vegetable garden is always a good idea. Not only does it give a finish to a bed, but it also creates a path through the garden, even during wet conditions. Use mulch to create trails through planting areas or even non-planted areas, such as under a swing set to prevent erosion, or around a bird feeder to prevent fallen seeds from germinating. Mulch is not just for gardens and landscaping anymore. Use a two-inch layer of mulch at the top of indoor plant containers to help cover unsightly soil, conserve water and keep them looking great.

Available varieties of mulching materials are diverse and nearly limitless. Most preferable however, are mulches that break down over time and add to the nutritional make-up of the soil. Most commonly used mulching materials are: bark or wood chips, leaves, grass clippings, straw or hay, newspaper, pine needles, cocoa shells and compost. Each offers unique benefits, depending on use.

• Wood chip or bark mulches offer a nice "finished" look, while providing numerous benefits and requiring very little upkeep. These types of mulch are also readily available nationwide. This also helps use up to 30 percent less water.

- Leaves and grass clippings have the added bonus of being free. However, leaves will need to be chopped up with a mower first and left to compost over the winter for the best value to the garden. Grass clippings decompose quickly and are not as attractive as some other forms of mulch. Both of these materials are better capitalized on if simply chopped up and left on the lawn for a layer of mulch added directly to grass.
- Straw or hay is inexpensive, but may contain seeds that will germinate in the garden.



- Newspaper is also cheap, but will need to be wet down first, and then covered with another type of mulch to prevent it from blowing away.
- Pine needles may drastically increase the soil acidity and are best limited to mulching around acid-loving plants such as blueberries and rhododendrons.
- Cocoa shells are becoming popular in many areas because of the unique look, but this is not advisable for pet owners. When ingested by pets, the cocoa shells may cause illness.
- Compost is always a great idea because it not only adds nutritional value to the soil, but also is an excellent way to recycle waste. For maximum effect, a 3- to 4-inch layer of compost is required. This is often used in conjunction with another form of mulch, such as wood chips or bark.

Mulch may not get the glory in the garden or landscape it deserves, but this often-overlooked cousin of soil has a lot to offer. Even if you just use mulch for its neat appearance, you will still reap all of its wonderful benefits.

— Courtesy of ARA Content

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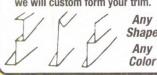
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