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ENTERTAINMENT, B6



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Lots of coffee

The Plymouth Coffee Bean celebrates its 20th year in Plymouth on Saturday, May 18, with a party.

Visitors should look for a tent on the vacant lot next to the Bean, a bounce house, burgers and hot dogs, as well as live music outside from noon to 6 p.m.

The Plymouth Coffee Bean is located on Penniman, next to the U.S. post office in downtown Plymouth.

Last open mic

The Baseline Folk Society hosts its final "open mic" night of the season Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts.

The society promotes the fine art of traditional acoustical folk music. Open mic performers should sign up between 6:15-6:45 p.m. Host (and Baseline regular) Tony Tocco welcomes featured artists Stephanie and Chris Sorenson and featured guest Wayne Sorenson, Chris's father, on the Upright Bass.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. The center is located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

Senior athletes

It still seems like a long way off, but seniors thinking about taking part in the ninth annual Western Wayne County Senior Olympics might want to start their "training" now.

The event is set for Aug. 12-16, and registration forms and brochures are now available at the Plymouth Community Council on Aging office, 201 S. Main, Plymouth.

Host communities this year include the city of Belleville and Sumpter and Van Buren townships.

Deadline for registration is Friday, July 3. For more information, call (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

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Trustees clash; others call for calm

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The tone at Plymouth Township Hall grew testy Tuesday evening as Board of Trustees members clashed over issues that weren't on the published meeting agenda.

Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, during the portion of the meeting reserved for trustee comments, pressed for the disclosure of how much the township has on

deposit at the financial institutions that handle its money. That prompted Clerk Nancy Conzelman to accuse Doroshewitz of making insinuations of wrongdoing, which prompted Doroshewitz, in turn, to deny that and seek an apology.

The discussion settled down when Trustees Mike Kelly and Kay Arnold called for more professionalism.

The township has roughly \$15 million on hand, officials said,

at 10 banks and credit unions, which are approved by the board on an annual basis.

'Not prudent'

When Doroshewitz said he wanted to know how much money was at each, Treasurer Ron Edwards said he would tell Doroshewitz privately but that he didn't want to make the specifics public.

"To put the amounts out there is not prudent," Edwards said.

Doroshewitz ridiculed the idea that someone would rob a bank and demand the township's money only.

"I want to know which banks our money's in. I pay taxes in this community," Doroshewitz said. "I think the public has a right to know."

When Edwards resisted and Doroshewitz persisted, Conzelman told Doroshewitz: "Every-

Please see TRUSTEES, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lou and Scott LaRiche got ready for their close-up before filming a commercial.

LaRiche completes switch to new look

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A sunny showroom with nearly twice the capacity, an enlarged customer waiting area and sleek glassed-in sales offices highlight the recently completed remodeling and expansion at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth Township.

The dealership, located at the corner of Plymouth Road

and Haggerty since 1970, began the project just over a year ago and completed it in December. Now, with warmer weather and some drivers' thoughts turning to buying cars, they're introducing it to the public.

"It's very, very nice. It's just wonderful how things turned out," founder Lou LaRiche said in his new office at the dealership. "We built this for them, our customers."

The remodeling — which adheres to a design scheme, from the light fixtures to the floor tiles, that General Motors Corp.'s Chevrolet division prescribed for its dealers — comes three years after LaRiche won its case to keep selling direct-from-production Chevys. The then-struggling GM, in the midst of its 2009 bankruptcy proceedings, had

Please see LARICHE, A3

Commission election is a four for four

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

There isn't going to be much drama in this fall's race for the Plymouth City Commission.

Only four candidates — two incumbents and two newcomers serving as appointees in city government — had filed nominating petitions for four commission spots as of Tuesday's deadline.

The candidates are Mayor Dan Dwyer, Commissioner Diane Bogenrieder, Downtown Development Authority chairman Oliver Wolcott and Daniel P. Dalton, a member of the Economic Development and Brownfield Commission. The election is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

With three four-year terms and one two-year term expiring, the biggest election question is likely to be who wins the longer terms and who wins the fewest votes to gain the two-year term. A competitive write-in candidacy is possible, but unlikely.

Dwyer is serving a four-year term to which he was elected in 2009, and also serving his third two-year term as mayor. He previously served for eight years on the commission beginning in 1999, and was mayor from 2005-2007 before sitting out the 2007 election because of term limits. The mayor is chosen from among fellow commission members after every election. Dwyer is the admin-

Please see COMMISSION, A2

Postal effort fills food pantry

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Postal carriers in Plymouth, Canton and Belleville had their usual assortment of mail, magazines and packages to haul around, like they do on any given delivery day.

But in addition to the usual weight they manage, carriers on Saturday lugged the additional burden of

nearly 50,000 pounds of food donated in the annual Postal Carriers Food Drive to benefit the Plymouth Salvation Army food pantry.

This year's food drive collected nearly 5,700 pounds more than a year ago.

"We are so grateful to the mail carriers for supporting our food pantry

Please see PANTRY, A3



Travis Smith and Shelby Smith were among the many volunteers offering their services for the annual postal carrier food drive to benefit the Plymouth Salvation Army food pantry Saturday.

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TRUSTEES

Continued from page A1

thing you're asking for comes with an insinuation that someone's doing something untoward."

Not true, said Doroshewitz. "Yes you did, Bob, and you've done it consistently," Conzelman replied.

"I make no insinuations, and you owe me an apology," Doroshewitz said. Conzelman did not respond; later, she said some issues raised during trustee comments should be put on the agenda in order to avoid "meeting by ambush."

During his own comments, Kelly said he supported Doroshewitz's request for disclosure, and called for peace.

"It's just a request, and I'd like to see us not quickly turn around and hack each other," Kelly said.

Arnold wrapped up trustee comments in a similar vein. "We're all adults and we should be acting like adults, and we're here to conduct business," she said.

Soccer, picnic issues

Doroshewitz had also questioned other officials about the use of soccer fields at Lake Pointe Soccer Park, which, Supervisor Richard Reaume and Edwards answered, had been reserved last fall for use by higher-skill youth teams after a field maintenance company advised

that wear on the fields should be limited. That situation was temporary, they said, and the fields are now open to teams of all skill levels.

In addition, Doroshewitz's February resignation as the organizer of the township's annual Fourth of July picnic was revisited when his wife, Tammy, who helped him with the event for three years, spoke in defense of their handling of it and provided spending records.

Doroshewitz resigned after board members rebuffed his requests for measures that he said would improve picnic fundraising and spending accountability; Edwards said assurances are already in place and that Doroshewitz was ultimately responsible for the spending.

On Tuesday, Edwards said he would seek, through a Freedom of Information request, emails from Doroshewitz that pertain to township business. Some emails regarding the picnic, he said, contradict Doroshewitz's public statements on the issue.

Doroshewitz shrugged off the remarks.

"I don't think I have an email that I wouldn't be happy to share with everybody in this room," he said.

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Going — and growing — bald for a cause

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A fun annual benefit that gets volunteers to have their heads shaved for donations has mushroomed into a major local fundraiser in just a few years.

The Claddagh Irish Pub in Livonia will host more than 60 "shavees," and their family members and friends, from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday during the fundraiser for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which raises money for medical research aimed at curing childhood cancers. The benefit raised \$12,000 in 2011 and is on track to pull in \$30,000 or more this year, said Eric Bacyinski of Plymouth Township, one of its co-chairmen.

Bacyinski, Plymouth Township's former deputy clerk, took over the event in 2011 along with Robb Drzewicki of Livonia. They've been able to enlist more community support and more than quadruple the number of participants, from 14 in 2010 to the 61 who have signed up to meet the clippers so far this year.

Word of mouth

"We have a better idea of what we're doing now," Bacyinski said. "We've really been able to just reach out." Word-of-mouth — people, becoming aware that family members and friends have participated — has also helped, he said.

This year's event will include financial support from Blackwell Ford and Kohl's, stylists from the Fantastic Sam's in Plymouth Township to do the hair-cutting, and an on-site photo booth from Simply Photo Booths. Muhi Khwaja of Canton Township is donating the services of his company, Focus Photography, to take official photos — and is also getting his head shaved.

"People struggle in



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Megan Hepp buzzes Damion Burton, a mixed-martial arts fighter who turned out to get his head shaved in support of Sunday's St. Baldrick's Foundation Fundraiser at the Claddagh Irish Pub in Livonia.



Jamie Espinoza, Ethan Jordan, Mike Wion, owner Todd Wells, Jason Fischer, Javier Cardenes and Damion Burton were out in support of the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

different ways, and it's always good to support those who are going through hard times," Khwaja said.

In addition, several mixed martial arts fighters got their heads shaved for the cause last week, and will be touting the St. Baldrick's fundraiser during their fighting event Saturday at Joe Louis arena. A portion of the gate receipts will go to St. Baldrick's.

Bacyinski, Drzewicki

and other volunteers rounded up donations that will be raffled off during the event, including a basketball signed by Michigan State University coach Tom Izzo, a football signed by University of Michigan coach Brady Hoke, a hotel stay, gift certificates from Plymouth and Canton businesses and more.

"Shavees" ask for donations in person and on line, and donations will be accepted through Sunday.

Volunteer shavee

Bacyinski said he found St. Baldrick's in an on-line search a few years ago when he was looking for a way to get involved. He was a "shavee" in 2009 and 2010 before joining Drzewicki to co-chair the 2011 event.

"I didn't have to train for a marathon, and I didn't have to train for a three day-walk. All I had to do was shave my head," he said. But his involvement has grown significantly since then, he said.

Khwaja is a first-time "shavee" for St. Baldrick's, but joked that the short look was a normal haircut for him while growing up, until he was in high school.

"My dad would line me and my brothers up, and then one by one we'd come out of the bathroom with a buzz cut," Khwaja said.

For more on the St. Baldrick's Foundation, visit the website www.stbaldricks.org.

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COMMISSION

Continued from page A1

istrator of the Washtenaw County Trial Court.

Bogenrieder is in her first term on the commission, a two-year term to which she was elected in 2009. She is retired from a career in the human services field.

Dalton, an attorney, formerly served on the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Wolcott had planned to run for the commission two years ago but with-

drew. He is an account executive and political marketing consultant for CBS Radio in Detroit.

The seven-member commission is Plymouth's primary legislative body. The terms of Commissioners Ron Loiselle and Gerald Sabatini are also expiring in November, but both have served three consecutive terms and are barred by the city's term limits from seeking re-election this year.

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United Way seeks help with survey

The local United Way is reaching out to the Plymouth and Canton area to identify issues in the community and develop a collective vision for the future.

Results of the Community Impact Survey will be used by Plymouth Community United Way officials to introduce new programs that advance the common good and improve the lives of all residents. The goal is to create measurable results within the areas

of basic needs, education and stability.

In the last several years, PCUW has focused on providing emergency food, rental and utility assistance as well as other crisis services in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County because of the downturn in the economy.

PCUW's Community Impact initiative aims to prevent problems rather than just treat the symptoms. In an effort to address issues, grants

were awarded last year to organizations attempting to make lasting change. Among the recipients were Plymouth Canton Community Schools (reading and math summer academy for 300 elementary students) and Wayne Metropolitan Community Action

Agency (energy education classes to help low-income residents).

Surveys are available online at www.plymouthunitedway.org and at the office, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth. For information, call (734) 453-6879, Ext. 2.

CORRECTION

A recent story about a partnership between First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth and a church in Malawi, Africa, incorrectly identified First Presbyterian's associate pastor, the Rev. Emily Campbell.

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Dems pound pavement for women's health

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

State Rep. Dian Slavens of Canton was among three Democratic female lawmakers Monday who say they're open to working with colleagues across the political aisle, but they want action on a number of measures to improve access to women's health care in this legislative session.

"We look forward to getting these proposals passed," Slavens said. "We are willing to work across the aisle. And we are urging women to contact their state legislators."

Slavens joined state Rep. Vicki Barnett of Farmington Hills and state Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton of Huntington Woods at a press conference Monday at the Farmington Community Library in Farmington Hills.

The women announced their support for a package of four bills and three resolutions that would improve access to women's health care, educate women about health care options, support rape survivors and address the health care inequities that women face.

Barnett, Slavens and Lipton are co-sponsors of the bills.

"Women don't live in a vacuum," Barnett said. "Women have special health care needs. And a woman's health matters

to an entire family."

The trio's support of women's health care issues was driven home when the Michigan House Democrats took a "Listening Tour" earlier this year. "We heard many people say that making sure women have access to quality care matters to them," Lipton said. "These bills and resolutions are a response to what we heard on the tour and we look forward to helping women receive better health care."

A new state law requires that facilities at which women may have legal abortions must now, depending on the number performed annually, be licensed as freestanding surgical outpa-

tient facilities.

"The same conditions don't apply when a man wants a vasectomy or wants his PSA levels checked," Barnett said. "Legislators believe they should invade the space between women and their doctors."

In addition to co-sponsoring the series of women's health bills, Barnett, Slavens and Lipton are working to spread awareness. Press conferences, they said, are being held throughout the state.

"We want to make this a larger conversation on women's health," Lipton said.

Slavens continued to urge women to contact their legislators to act in favor of the bills

that would:

- Require all health facilities and agencies to offer emergency contraception to rape survivors.
- Direct the Department of Community Health to create and distribute information about the availability of emergency contraception.
- Require age-appropriate, medically accurate and objective sexuality education in public schools.
- Require physicians to give women information about breast density and to encourage such women to discuss other screening options.

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LARICHE

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cut off LaRiche, among hundreds of dealers across the country, from obtaining new cars, but LaRiche won an appeals process in 2010, remained with the automaker and is adding to its work force of 67 after a depths-of-recession low of 45.

"We're fortunate to have the opportunity to do it," general manager Scott LaRiche said of the expansion and remodeling.

Grand reopening

Scott LaRiche and his father were shooting parts of a 30-second television spot on a recent morning, and although the spot's setting showed off the new look, it was not designed specifically around the remodeled building. That could come later, he said, and LaRiche is also planning a public grand reopening, probably for mid-June.

The construction project took office cubicles that were in the front of the showroom and moved



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lou and Scott LaRiche go on camera during the filming of a promotional spot for their dealership.

them to the back and side, opening up the showroom space and making it appear larger. The showroom can now accommodate 12 vehicles, Scott LaRiche said, whereas only seven could fit in the old showroom.

Additional space was added to the southwest corner of the building, built over what had been a parking lot, for more offices and an employee lounge. A new conference room was built — the old one was shared with Lou LaRiche's office — the customer waiting area

enlarged and the customer restrooms completely redone. A new employee entrance in the back and a safe room with a combination lock for storing customers' critical information were among the other additions.

"Locking it in somebody's desk drawer's just not enough," Scott LaRiche said.

Chevy-approved

The Chevrolet division oversaw the design and provided a list of approved finish materials, including ceiling tiles

and floor tiles, as it is doing with every Chevy dealer planning a renovation, Scott LaRiche said. There was some leeway, however, such as four different types of GM-approved light fixtures from which to choose.

"It was our job to make sure the pieces fit," Scott LaRiche said.

Previously, he said, Chevy had only weighed in on exterior renovations; new interiors were up to the dealers.

Scott LaRiche would not reveal how much was invested in the work. He said 90 percent of the planning and labor that went into the project came from Michigan firms; Joe Philips of Plymouth was the architect and Shaw Construction & Management of Livonia was the general contractor.

Scott LaRiche said Chevy models attracting the most attention lately are the Cruze, Equinox, Malibu and Impala.

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PANTRY

Continued from page A1

once again this year," said Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Salvation Army's director of family and community ministries.

"They really worked hard to make this such a success, which is evident as we collected more than 5,600 pounds more than last year. To those who donated food, boxes, manpower and money, to the residents who left food by their mailbox and to the countless volunteers who worked at the post offices and sorted all the food — thank you."

Plymouth carriers brought in 19,227 pounds of donated food, while the Canton effort produced 15,746 pounds and the Belleville drive garnered another 14,201. The donations were left near mailboxes by generous residents eager to help. They used a cadre of volunteers (family members and others) who helped carry, sort and package the donated food.

One Plymouth carrier

HOW THEY DONATED

	2012	2013
Plymouth	17,962	19,227
Canton	13,532	15,746
Belleville	12,000	14,201
Total	43,494	49,174

had so much food stuffed into his truck, it covered half the loading dock back at the post office when it was unloaded.

"His truck was full top to bottom, back to front," said Barb Mitchell, who with Tammy Bosman coordinated Plymouth's effort. "He couldn't have fit another bag into that truck."

Canton used some 75 postal carriers, plus their own cadre of volunteers. The army of volunteers picked up more than 2,000 pounds more food than they collected a year ago.

Some 60 carriers in Plymouth took part in the event.

"We're blessed we all have jobs, and not everybody is that blessed," Mitchell said. "It's a good cause."

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PUBLIC SAFETY

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Rowdy party

Canton police reported finding 30-40 teenagers, some involved in underage drinking, after receiving reports of a loud house party Friday night in the 45900 block of Larchmont, northeast of Ford and Beck roads.

A police report indicated teens from Canton, Romulus, Plymouth and Livonia were at the party, with some vehicles parked in the fire lane, a police report said. Police could smell marijuana as they arrived, and teens who were outside quickly went inside the house, the report said.

Police noticed beer cans on the front porch, and after going inside the house officers found more beer and a fifth of liquor.

One teen who said he lived there with his mother had produced

identification indicating he lived in Redford, but he also showed mail sent to the Larchmont address with his name on it.

Police issued a citation for an open house party. Moreover, three teens were cited for being minors in possession of alcohol.

Hindering police

Canton paramedics took an alleged heroin addict to Oakwood Healthcare Center of Canton Sunday, though the man was facing possible charges for hindering a police investigation.

Police went to the area of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road about 6:20 p.m. Sunday after receiving reports of a man begging for money outside the Target and Kohl's department

stores. Police spotted the man hitchhiking along westbound Michigan.

An initial police investigation indicated the Ypsilanti suspect may have warrants for his arrest out of other communities. Police found Suboxone, a medication used to treat heroin addiction, on the man.

The man initially lied about his identity, a police report said, but he told police he didn't want to go to jail on Mother's Day. He told authorities he would need to go to a hospital for heroin withdrawal.

Neighborhood feud

A neighborhood dispute over damage to a privacy fence brought Canton police to the 44100 block of Cranberry, southeast of Sheldon

and Joy, about 5:30 p.m. Saturday, a police report said.

A 60-year-old homeowner told police damage had been done to his privacy fence after bricks were placed alongside the other side of the fence by a neighbor whose house on Arlington backed up to his. The man said he tried to talk with the neighbor but said a door was slammed on him.

Police advised the man to contact the township's ordinance or building department before removing the bricks in order to determine whose property they were on.

Meanwhile, the man who lives on Arlington told police the Cranberry resident had pounded on his door and threatened to get even with him over the dispute. He

told police he had placed the bricks alongside the fence to keep animals from digging under it.

The resident of Cranberry denied punching the door or making threats.

Identity theft

A 62-year-old Canton man who lives on Cherry Hill Pointe, northeast of Cherry Hill and Lotz, notified police after he learned he had become a victim of identity theft when he filed his income taxes. The man told police last Thursday that he was contacted by his tax preparer that someone already had filed taxes using his information.

Canton police gave the man an identity theft packet.

Fleeing the scene

Canton police issued

a driver a citation for leaving the scene of an accident after another driver called police last Thursday following an accident shortly after 2 a.m. near the Michigan Avenue-Beck Road intersection.

A 59-year-old Ypsilanti man said his Ford truck was struck by another truck after the driver approached from behind at a high rate of speed, striking his truck and then leaving the scene, a police report said.

Police found the suspect in a nearby parking lot. He told police he had pulled away from the scene and thought the other driver would follow him.

The accident caused significant damage, the police report said.

— By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Metal theft caught on video

Security video at Haggerty Metal Co, on Haggerty north of Plymouth Road, recorded a man making repeated trips to the metal yard beginning around 2 a.m. on May 10, police report.

The company reviewed the video, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, after discovering 700 pounds of copper wire missing later that morn-

ing. The video showed a man making seven trips through the yard, carrying something each time, police said.

An employee found copper wire in the yard of a neighboring business, police said, and speculated it had been left there by the thief for later pickup.

In another theft of copper, a \$250 valve assembly was reported stolen May 8 from a house on Edinburgh Drive, in the area of

Five Mile and North Territorial.

The theft had occurred some time since November, the victim told police. The valve assembly had been cut off, he told police.

Larceny from truck

A woman on Crabtree Lane, in the area of Five Mile and Haggerty, reported on May 7 the theft of cash and other items from her pick-

up truck.

The Ford Ranger pickup had been parked in her driveway, the woman said, and \$30 cash, two wallets and a driver's license taken from it. The theft occurred between the evening of May 6 and 4 p.m. the next day, a police report said.

It was not reported whether the pickup was locked. The victim found in the pickup a parking permit for a handicapped driver that

did not belong to her, but police were unable to trace its owner.

Vandalism

A family on Howland Park Drive, in the area of Powell and Ridge roads, returned from a vacation April 8 to find two exterior light fixtures damaged, police report. One light was on the garage, the other on the house, a police report said.

Nearly a month later, on May 6, a crack

in a front window on the house was discovered, and the vandalism reported to police.

A window on pickup truck parked on Franklin Drive, west of Ridge and north of North Territorial, was smashed out earlier this month.

The pickup was parked on the street when the rear driver-side window was broken some time between May 6 and May 8, the victim told police.

By Matt Jachman

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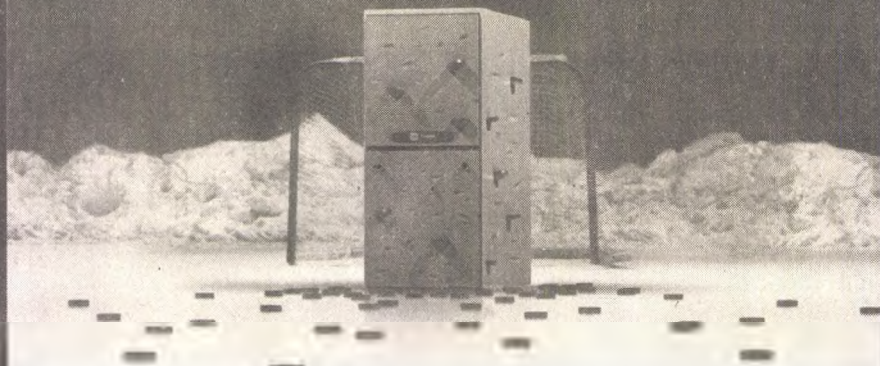


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Community support propels team to top spot in Wish walk

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Make-a-Wish Foundation team members at Gordon Chevrolet propelled themselves to a first-place win at the 15th annual Walk for Wishes at the Detroit Zoo Saturday, May 4.

Competing with other groups from the metropolitan Detroit area, Gordon Chevrolet raised more than \$20,000 twice their goal of \$10,000.

"It was awesome," said general manager Susan Ianni. "We raised more than Quicken Loans, and they had a bigger team."

Ianni is giving a lot of the credit to Sheri Barber, a customer relations representative, who handled much of the organizing. Barber also held a variety of fundraising events at the dealership, including a card party, which kept the interest alive. Employees also contributed through the events.

Barber said that the dealership was flooded with donations after the Observer ran the story about the team.

"We received many, many phone calls and



Susan Ianni, general manager of Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City, enjoyed a day at the Detroit Zoo after winning first place in a fundraising campaign for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She is pictured with granddaughter, Lucy, 2½, who has ALL, a form of leukemia, and her daughter, Susan Smith of Canton.

donations," Barber said.

Fuzzy Faces

Attention was riveted on the effort and drew the attention of children in the Plymouth-Canton area.

"What the Smith Elementary School in the Plymouth-Canton school district did with mustache day was wonder-

ful," Barber said.

The Smith Student Council partnered with Gordon Chevrolet and Ianni to support the Make-a-Wish Foundation. The student council sold mustaches for Fuzzy Faces spirit day. They raised \$273 and Gordon Chevrolet matched the school's donation for a total of \$546.

"So many local business that we work with donated," Barber said. "The support was overwhelming."

Gordon Chevrolet, located on Ford, just west of Merriman, matched donations.

Ianni and her team at Gordon Chevrolet are experienced at fundraising for a variety of causes.

This year, however, the plight of children with cancer hit even closer to home because Ianni's 2½-year-old granddaughter, Lucy Smith of Canton Township, was recently diagnosed with ALL, a form of leukemia, a blood cancer.

Inspiration

Lucy has been an added

inspiration to Ianni and her crew, who worked to form a team to help with the Walk for Wishes.

Lucy, who is not on the list as a wish recipient, was able to attend for a short time at the Detroit Zoo.

"There are currently 400 children with life-threatening medical conditions in Michigan waiting for wishes," Barber said.

Lucy is the daughter of Susan and Austin Smith of Canton Township. Coincidentally, Susan Smith, Ianni's daughter, works for Make-a-Wish as a community development manager. The Smiths also have a 4-month-old daughter, Stella.

Ianni, their grandmother from Plymouth, said that Lucy's prognosis looks good, and she is receiving chemotherapy treatments.

The public took a personal interest in this fundraising.

"One of our customers, Mary Green, hand crocheted hats for Lucy to wear that were just adorable," Barber said.

sbuck@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2249 | Twitter: @SueBuck

Don't fear the IRS in filing an amended return

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I recently discussed some of the new changes to tax laws and in the discussions that followed, two questions arose regarding amended tax returns.

The first issue dealt with someone who made a mistake in filing last year's tax return and hopes that the IRS would not catch the mistake. The thought was if the IRS catches the mistake then they would pay the taxes.

The other issue dealt with someone who made a mistake regarding cost basis on a return they filed a couple years ago. The mistake actually resulted in them paying more taxes. However, there was a fear that filing an amended return would cause more aggravation than it's worth.

After talking with both people my recommendation was file an amended return.

In the first situation, the mistake was that income received on a 1099 was not reported. This is a mistake that the IRS will eventually catch and, when it does, the individual will have to pay the tax plus interest as



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

well as a potential penalty. By filing an amended return, this filer will pay interest, however, there is a good chance he/she will avoid the penalties. In addition, it is our responsibility as citizens to file correct returns and if we discover a mistake, it is our responsibility to file an amended return.

Whether the IRS would eventually catch the mistake is really not the issue. The issue is an incorrect return. Therefore, an amended return should be filed.

In the other situation, the person inherited stock and when they sold the stock, as opposed to taking a cost basis based upon the date of death they took a transfer basis from the deceased. The result was a higher tax liability. They did not want to file an amended return because they were fearful of the IRS.

Commonplace

Amended returns are quite common and since

this individual filed an accurate return other than the cost basis issue they should have no problem with the IRS. This notion that if you file an amended return seeking a refund that the IRS will come after you is just wrong. It's one of those urban legends that has no basis in reality.

If there is a mistake on your return and it is to your benefit, file an amended return and document the issue.

Filing an amended return is not difficult. Complete Form 1040X. Basically, this form allows you to correct the part of your original return that was in error. You have three years after your return was due to file an amended return. After you file your return it will generally take the IRS three to four months to process the return.

If you do file an amended return, where you owe additional taxes or where you get a refund, also look to how that change affects your State of Michigan return. In certain situations, you also would want to file an amended state return. Particularly, in the first situation (where someone failed to report income on a 1099) an amended Mich-

igan state return would be necessary to report that additional income.

The bottom line is taxpayers should not be fearful of filing an amended return for fear of the

IRS. There is no doubt that there are issues where the IRS acts irresponsibly, however, the reality is it's few and far between.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, e-mail rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Madonna University celebrates 66th commencement

Some 1,200 graduates joined the Madonna University alumni ranks during the Livonia school's 66th commencement ceremony on Sunday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

More than 800 students received a bachelor's or associate degree, while 370 earned master's degrees. In addition, there were 20 graduates of Madonna's Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Two honorary doctoral degrees were bestowed — one for Sister Mary Clarette Stryzewski, president and CEO of Felician Services Inc. in Chicago, and the other to Richard Walawender, Miller Canfield principal in Detroit. A third honorary doctorate was awarded to architect Robert Svoboda at the university's 75th anniversary gala in October 2012.

The Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Christine Lees of Grosse Ile, a retired cytotechnologist who worked to identify cancer cells in patients and now devotes much of her time volunteering in hospice care.

Presiding over the commencement ceremony was Madonna University Provost and Vice President for Academic Administration Ernest I. Nolan.



PHOTOS BY ALAN PINON

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna University president, congratulates Laura Jackson of Livonia on her bachelor's degree in business administration.



Madonna University student Autumn Stawecki of Yale hugs a fellow graduate before commencement.



Madonna University graduate Marci Lennox of Plymouth signs the National Anthem during the commencement ceremony.



The graduates line up.



Jillian Gustin of Milford celebrates after accepting her bachelor's degree in forensic science on stage at Madonna University's commencement ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.



Madonna University criminal justice graduate Jasmine Taylor of Roseville waves to the crowd during commencement.

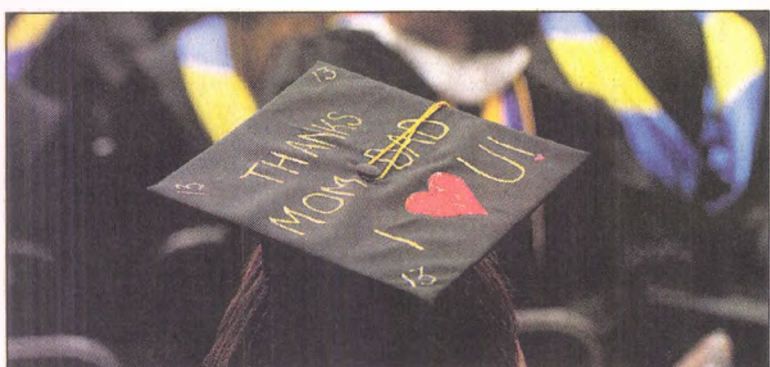


Steve Templeton of Macomb celebrates after accepting his bachelor's degree in sport management on stage at Madonna University's commencement ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth on Sunday.



Emily Graham of New Boston, who received a master's degree in educational leadership, blows kisses to her family in the crowd.

A Madonna University student uses her mortarboard to thank her mom and dad.



Madonna University paralegal studies graduate Dean Herron of Livonia gets help from Emma Massman before the commencement ceremony.

AROUND PLYMOUTH-CANTON

HUG OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 22, 1-4 p.m.
Location: Hug Center for Hearing, 705 S. Main in Plymouth
Details: In celebration of Better Hearing and Speech Month, Hug Center for Hearing will be hosting an open house. There will be free consultations, free hearing screenings and more. Refreshments, raffle prizes and giveaways will be provided.
Contact: Email marybartek@hughearing.com or call (734) 451-0800.

AAUW TRIVIA NIGHT

Date/Time: Friday, May 17 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15.
Location: The Barn at Colony Farms on Colony Farms Dr. in Plymouth (south of Ann Arbor Rd. between Beck and Ridge Roads.)
Details: The Plymouth-Canton branch of the American Association of University Women is hosting Trivia Night. Have fun with friends and family by putting your knowledge of facts and factoids to a good use. Optional games will include Mulligans, Survivor, and Dead or Alive. Refreshments will be available and money prizes will be given for 1st and 2nd place. Proceeds will benefit the AAUW Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$20 per person. For tickets and more information call Sharon at 734-453-5009. Reservations required. Advance purchase recommended as space is limited. There will also be a collection of men and women's toiletry items for Freedom House in Detroit. Appetizers and desserts will be served.
Contact: For more information contact Becky Copenhaver at bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com or (734) 981-6023.

HEISE HOURS

Date/Time: Friday, May 17, 10-11 a.m.
Locations: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main.
Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions. Rep. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.
Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REP-KURT or e-mail kurtheise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times:
 • Friday, May 17, 4-7:45 p.m., Pioneer Middle School
 • Tuesday, May 28, 1:30-7:15 p.m., St. Michael's Lutheran



JULIE YOLLES

Community gala

Canton residents Mary and Rob Wall attended the Community House Gala at the Community House in Birmingham to raise funds for At Risk Youth Development Programs. They also came to celebrate with their mother, Artist Connie McEwan of Birmingham, who received the Culture Pillar Award. The Community House is in full sign-up swing for Summer Day Camps which will start in mid-June. For a complete schedule, go online to www.tchserve.org.

Church
 • Wednesday, May 29, 12:30-6:15 p.m., Tonda Elementary School
Details: The American Red Cross sponsors blood drives during the above times at the scheduled locations. Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are welcome.
Contact: To make an appointment for any of these drives contact Diane Risko at (313) 549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org

JAZZ @ THE ELKS
Date/Time: Tuesday, May 28, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 brings back another fine series of Jazz @ The Elks. The evening features the Terry Lower Trio with vocalist Edey Evans-Hyde, with Terry playing Keyboard, Ray Tini on Bass, and Jim Ryan on drums. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres.
Contact: For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS
Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: West Middle School, Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Crafters wanted for Delta Kappa Gamma's 29th Annual Craft Show. Proceeds from the show will be used to support college scholarships for local students focusing on careers in education.
Contact: Call or email Judy at (734) 347-1001 or jbstone716@comcast.net or Alice at 248-348-9610 or dachrenko@hotmail.com

MEDICARE/MEDICAID COUNSELING
Date/Time: Wednesday, June 5, 1-3 p.m.
Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 Canton Center, Suite 250 in Canton
Details: United Home Health Services offers free counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) Counselor. The counselor can help understand Medicare/Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D drug Insurance, understand Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse issues, and explore long term care insurance options. No reservations necessary.
Contact: United Home Health Services at (734) 981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmmapinc.org/pages/about.html

Cops, schools partner for safe grad season

In a cooperative effort between the Canton Police Department and the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park staff, several end-of-the-school-year procedures are being implemented on the high school campus to ensure the safety of students and staff.
 "We would also like to

remind residents that police officers will be utilizing a zero tolerance approach to minors consuming and/or being served alcoholic beverages at parties," said Special Service Lt. Deb Newsome. "There are adults who think it is acceptable to let minors consume alcohol if they

stay on their property, but it is unlawful in Michigan, and the adult/property owner will be charged along with the minors."
 The Canton Police Department has also notified area hotel owners of key dates throughout the graduation season, and reminded them

that it is unlawful for persons under the age of 21 to consume alcoholic beverages on their property. To avoid being charged, hotel owners are encouraged to adopt a "no room rental to persons under the age of 21" policy, especially during prom and graduation season.

You Owe It to Yourself to Have Your Hearing Checked if...

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• Is it hard to hear people on the phone?		
• Do you need to turn up the television volume?		
• Do you have a hard time understanding and following a conversation?		
• Is it hard to hear in a noisy room?		

Total your "YES" answers.
 If you have 0-2 "yes" answers, your hearing is probably good.
 If you have 3 or more "yes" answers, you may have some hearing loss and should see a professional for an evaluation.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fox Hills first

Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center announced the recent opening of Omni Kinetics, making the course the first in Michigan to open an on-site training facility.

"Fox Hills is very excited to partner with Omni Kinetics. It will be a great facility for our clients and the public to utilize," said Julia Grelak, director of Sales & Marketing. "We know people are itching to get back on the golf course as the weather is starting to break and we can't wait for them to see this new gym and put it to good use to improve their golf game."

The facility is approximately 2,500 square feet, housing a fitness and instruction area as well as a private evaluation room in the basement of the Fox Hills Administration Building. Omni Kinetics is a restorative movement and fitness company that focuses on providing clients with a strong foundation to improve their movement efficiency. The program combines strength and conditioning, sports medicine, massage, pilates and yoga to help clients maintain a healthy momentum and improve their golf fitness handicap.

Fox Hills offers over 50 course programs through their Learning Center, from beginner leagues to junior golf camps and women's instructional leagues. All course information is located online at www.foxhills.com and are now open for enrollment.

Coffee time

The Canton Chamber of Commerce offers its free networking coffee 7:30-9 a.m. Thursday, May 23, at Scrambler Marie's, 43225 Ford Road in Canton.

Participants can take advantage of this free opportunity to network with fellow chamber members from local businesses.

RSVP by calling the chamber office at (734) 453-4040.

Grub crawl

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is offering members the opportunity to sponsor the annual Grub Crawl, which takes place Tuesday, July 16, from 6-10 p.m.

There are four sponsorship levels available and three of the sponsorships include tickets (T-shirts) to the event:

- Transportation/Fun Bus, \$500 (six T-shirts);



Tattoo time

Owner Chris Guinen and his team of artists bring fine, hand-crafted tattooing to their new location at 614 S. Main (just south of Wing) in Plymouth. Pictured at the grand opening is Chris Guinen and his staff, family and friends along with Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

- Menu Sponsor, \$500 (six T-shirts);
- T-shirt Sponsor-Plus, \$135 (Two T-shirts); and
- T-Shirt Sponsor, \$75.

For further information, call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040, ext. 4

Speed networking

The Canton Chamber of Commerce sponsors a "speed networking" event 7:45-9:15 a.m. June 6 at Buffalo Wild Wings, 41980 Ford Road in Canton.

Speed Networking is like Speed Dating for businesses. Chamber members will have the opportunity to meet approximately 15-20 business contacts in one hour. This structured networking event will allow you to meet most of the people in the room and within two minutes learn about each others companies.

The purpose is to meet potential customers or develop new referral partners. The event will start with everyone having the opportunity to enjoy coffee, juice and a light breakfast.

To RSVP email admin@cantonchamber.com or call (734) 453-4040 by Monday, June 3.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Oakview Party Store, on Palmer in Canton, features a variety of Michigan beers and other craft beers, along with wine, lottery sales and other party store fare.

Party store counts on 'great customer base'

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Oakview Party Store: It's a convenience store, featuring liquor, beer, wine, Lottery, Michigan Craft beer and beer from all over the world.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Oakview Party Store: My father has been in the business for 30 years.

Observer: Why did you choose the Plymouth-Canton area?

Oakview Party Store: It's a safe, great community with great people.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Oakview Party Store: Making all my customers feel right at home.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Oakview Party Store: We've made great relation-

OAKVIEW PARTY STORE

Business name: Oakview Party Store
Business address: 2256 Palmer, Canton
Your name: Mario Aljarbo, owner
Your hometown: West Bloomfield
Business opened: 2004
Number of employees: 3
Your business specialty: Convenience store, liquor, beer and wine shop.
Business phone: (734) 397-3630

ships with lots of people.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Oakview Party Store: Not much at all. We have a great customer base that has been very loyal to us.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit to share with other business owner?

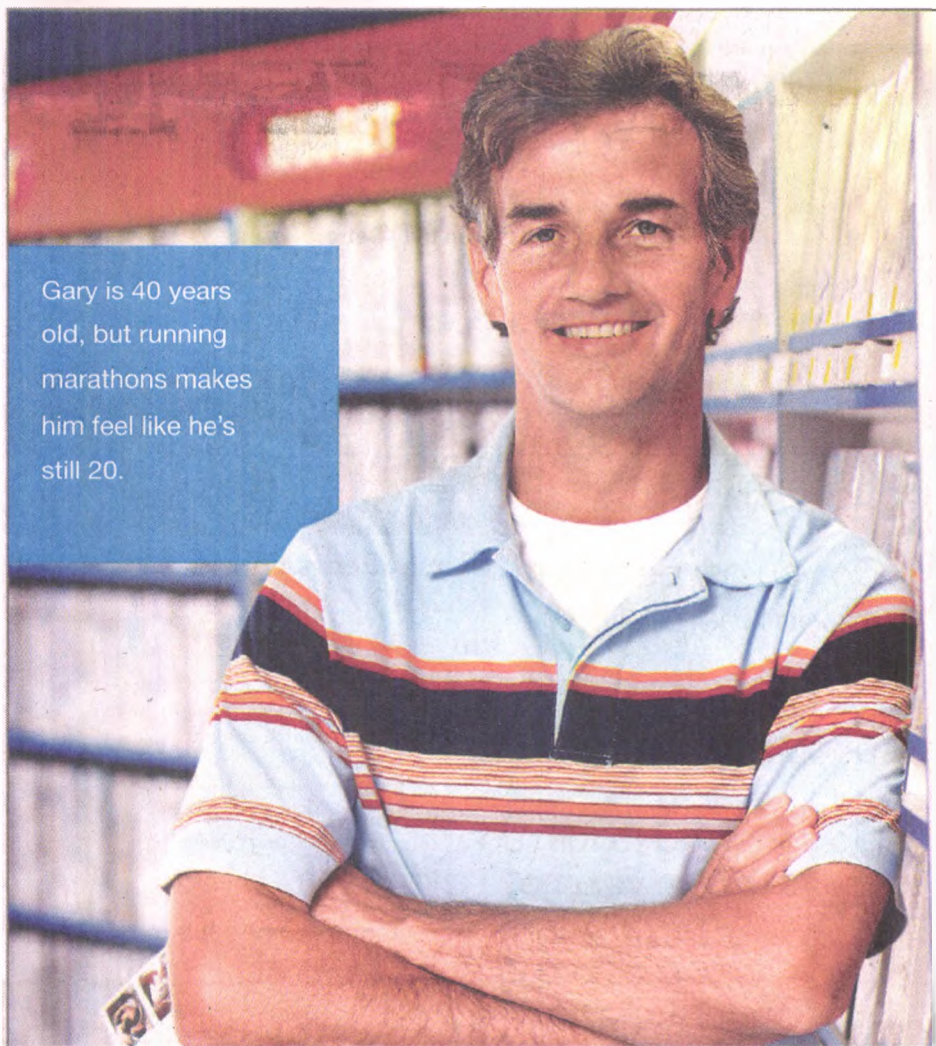
Oakview Party Store: Since golfing with lots of my customers, they have all been teasing me about beating me when we go golfing.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Oakview Party Store: To enjoy their patrons and people they work with for a friendly environment.

Observer: What's in store in the future for your business?

Oakview Party Store: We have added lots of local Michigan beers and are adding lots of new craft beers and also a website with friendly email-type advertisements with great new deals.



Gary is 40 years old, but running marathons makes him feel like he's still 20.

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Tech guy test-drives Verizon Jetpack

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

Finally an electronic device that even the most unsophisticated tech user can manage. The Verizon Jetpack may be one of the simplest, yet necessary pieces of equipment I've tested over the years.

I used the Verizon Jetpack extensively during the month of April courtesy of Verizon Wireless and now it is hard computing without it. I'm one of those people who is constantly connected — it is not only my job to be connected, but part of my lifestyle. The Verizon Jetpack makes that lifestyle easier.

The Jetpack was easy to connect to just about any device. I tried it with my laptop, iPhone, Samsung Galaxy tablet and a pair of Android phones, one new and one old. The connection was seamless. When you turn on the device the personal identification code is available so you can get connected quickly. It remembers your devices and can provide mobile Internet service for up to 10 devices at a time.

There are no bells and whistles on the Jetpack and the black and white screen looks like something off of an early 1990s computer. But that's the

beauty of it: with a simple touch screen to change settings, and pin numbers and a power button — that's all you need.

The device is also incredibly convenient as it is about the size of a box of raisins. Its small size makes it ideal for travel — and although it won't work during flights, it is great for layovers and delays.

My favorite part about the Jetpack was that it even paired with my AT&T iPhone. A Verizon Wi-Fi connection with an AT&T phone is probably the most controversial connection since the Montagues and Capulets.

In fact, sometimes I wonder when AT&T will read one of these reviews and wonder why one of their customers is always discussing Verizon. You may be wondering the same thing. Believe it or not, the fine folks in the PR department are long-time Tech Savvy readers and their product demos allow for a nice variety of device reviews. (I hope you find them valuable).

Jetpack costs

When deciding if a Jetpack or mobile hotspot is right for you, first consider how much you would use it. Would the device help you save money by eliminating your traditional home internet set up? (That's a definite option.) Or, could it help you avoid nasty overage charges by helping you connect when you are at work or on the road? Even though a subscription added to a Verizon plan costs \$20 dollars per month, it could still add up to savings for the right person or business.

Consider this: I recently spent a week in Las Vegas at a business conference and in true Las Vegas fashion the internet was an astounding \$19.99 per day. At that rate, I could have paid for a Jetpack Wi-Fi subscription for many months. Combined with the ability to connect up to 10 devices, a Jetpack could be a great way to save money on internet costs for families, small businesses, large businesses, or work conferences.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? Email jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com or follow him on Twitter at @GunnSh0w.

Little League celebrates season opener

Plymouth-Canton Little League hosted 400 league families Saturday at its opening day celebration at Canton Softball Center.

The festivities included introductions of each team in the league, the Detroit Tigers mascot Paws, presenting of colors by Chapter 528 Vietnam Veterans of America and members of the P-CEP Marching Band.

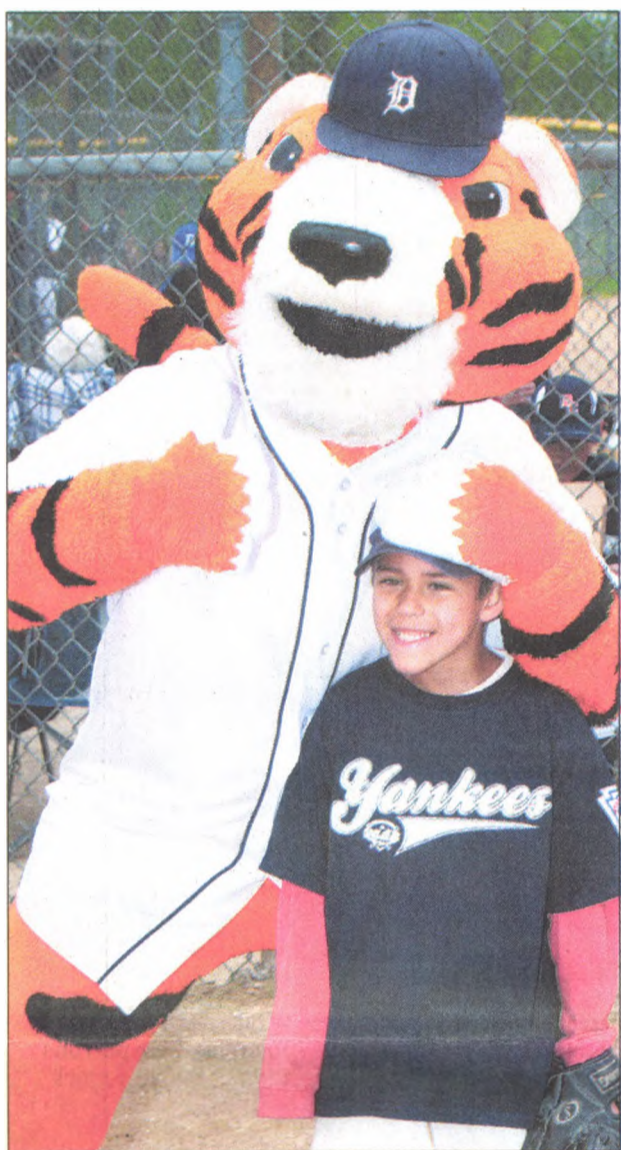
PCLL officials were honored to have other special guests join the celebration. The league donated \$250 to the Miracle League of Plymouth, represented by MLP deputy commissioner Glen Kordick. The Domzalski family (Mike, Leanne, Caden and Peyton) of Plymouth attended so sons Caden (player in PCLL) and Peyton (player in MLP) could throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Larry Fix, District 16 Administrator for Little League International, honored PCLL for winning Little League International's 2012 first-place ASAP Safety Award in the Midwest Region, a testament to PCLL's commitment to the safety of its players and volunteers.



PHOTOS BY NORMAN TERRY

Taking part in the ASAP Award presentation were (from left) Jason Stombaugh, vice president of Safety, Plymouth-Canton Little League; Don Lohrmann, first president of Plymouth-Canton Little League; Larry Fix, District 16 administrator, Little League International; and Kevin Koshowsky, president, Plymouth-Canton Little League.



Detroit Tigers mascot Paws clowns around with Joey Grenillo, 8, of Canton.



Chapter 528 Vietnam Veterans of America and PCLL player Tommy Salinger of Canton present the colors.



Brady Kraft, 9, of Canton takes the mound on opening day.



Everyone wanted in on the action with Detroit Tigers mascot Paws, including the Major Division Pirates.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for **Natural Gas Supply Services and Electric Choice Supply Services**. Specifications of the Request for Proposals (RFP) and bid forms are available by contacting Tiffany Brindza, Purchasing and General Ledger Associate, Plymouth Canton Community Schools at tiffany.brindza@pccsmail.net or (734) 416-2975. Technical questions should also be directed to Brodie Killian, Executive Director of Business Services at brodie.killian@pccsmail.net or (734) 416-2740. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals in person at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI or may be submitted via email to tiffany.brindza@pccsmail.net or fax to (734) 416-4898 on or before **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2013**. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Adrienne Davis, Secretary

Publish: May 12, 2013

0608798378 3x3

Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Eight seats are open to students entering 1st or 2nd grade for the 2013-14 school year. Limited Registration window: May 8 - 22, 2013

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2013-2014 school year.

This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.

Registration will be open from May 8-22, 2013 at Webster Elementary, 32401 Pembroke, Livonia 48152 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. All candidates MUST meet the ACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, visit www.livoniapublicschools.org or contact Webster School at 734-744-2795.

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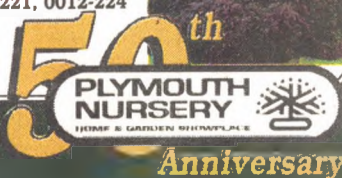
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OUR VIEWS

Bond approved: Now hard work begins

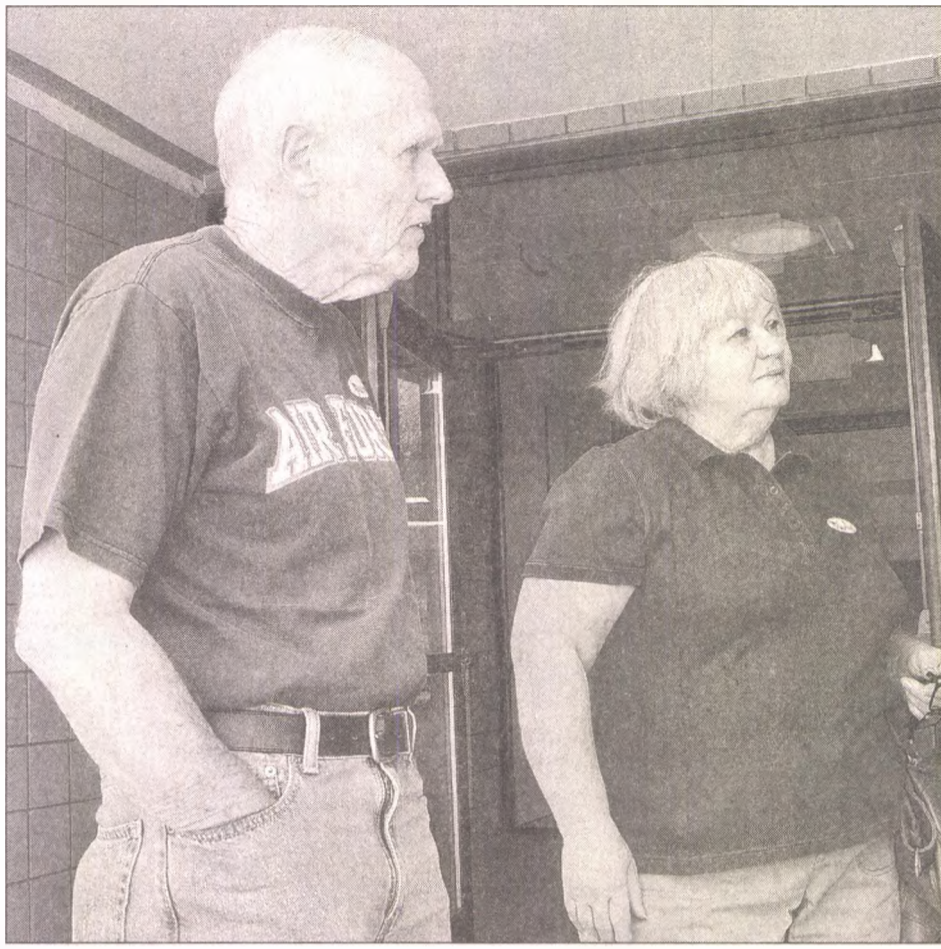
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are understandably pleased with the result of last week's election, in which the district's \$114.4-million bond proposal was approved by a whopping 65 percent of the voters. And they should be.

But now comes the hard part. The district made a lot of promises while selling the bond at presentations around the area, some 40 or more in all to hundreds of voters.

They promised the board was never going to raise the debt millage past the 4.1 at which it currently sits. Some opponents made the point that this board can't make that commitment for future boards and that future boards could raise the debt levy as high as it wants. That's true, especially since three seats are up on the board next year, and all three of them — Vice President Judy Mardigian, Secretary Adrienne Davis and newcomer Kimberly Crouch — belong to board members who supported the bond.

They promised an open, responsible stewardship of the bond proceeds. That one has history behind it; the board beautifully managed the 2004 bond, during which every project finished on time (or early) and under budget. That fiscal responsibility actually resulted in several extra projects being paid for out of the bond proceeds.

That's the kind of stewardship



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The support of voters such as Ed and Lynn Gruenwald helped carry the \$114.4-million bond question to a 65-percent approval last week.

this bond will need. It's easy to see trustees Mark Horvath and Mike Maloney, neither of whom supported the bond nor did much to help

get it passed, keeping an eagle eye on expenditures. But care must be taken not to let personal differences deter good leadership. The

bond created a split vote, but it passed with 65 percent of the vote. That's an overwhelming mandate that even the non-supporters must heed.

And the biggest question still looms for board members and district officials: What to do with Central Middle School. Under the bond plan, it will be finished as a school with the start of the 2015/16 school year. What becomes of it after that will be up to the Board of Education. Mardigian has said she's adamant about selling the property for enough money to repay the Durant fund the \$2 million they borrowed to buy the land in Canton on which the new middle school will be built.

But other things should happen, as well. Of course, the district should make the best possible fiscal deal possible, and the board should start by talking to City of Plymouth officials. However, two things should absolutely be preserved in their present form: The Veterans Memorial Park (which was built on the front law of Central Middle School) and Bilkie Family Field, where the Miracle League of Plymouth runs its baseball league for special-needs players. Any deal the district cuts should, at a minimum, save those two nuggets.

District officials — rightly so — felt like they worked hard to convince voters the bond was necessary. Now that they've done that, the hard work is about to begin.

GUEST COLUMN

Affordable Care Act debate is over

By Dan West
Guest Columnist

A business manager dealing with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is sort of like a couple that needs to prepare a will. You don't want to think about it, but you have to deal with it. And if you don't act in



Dan West

a timely fashion, there will be consequences. Health care reform is complicated, it is not complete, and it will use up a lot of time and energy for business managers. But it is not going away. The ACA is no longer a political debate. It is the law which will require all businesses — large and small — to make some significant decisions by Oct. 1.

These were among the key messages shared by a Livonia Chamber of Commerce Health Care Reform Forum at part of the Livonia Business Expo May 9, at the Marriott Hotel. Some 40 business people listened to three experts discuss the impact of the ACA on businesses.

The experts said recognizing the ACA as the law is half the battle for most businesses. Based on recent surveys, many managers are ignoring the new world of health care reform and how it will affect employees. In one survey, 19 percent of Americans believe the Affordable Care Act was made illegal by the U.S. Supreme Court (the High Court affirmed the ACA and its individual mandate last June). Another survey indicated that 42 percent of the country does not realize the ACA is in effect.

"Whatever you do, don't do nothing," said Michael Burdo, a benefits consultant from Aon Hewitt. "Some think this will go away, but it's not."

Most of us have heard about the Affordable Care Act primarily in a political

context in the debate over "Obamacare," but spent little time learning the details of how reform will impact individuals and businesses.

This brings up the Oct. 1 deadline for companies to declare their intentions to continue providing their own health insurance for employees, if they are going to enroll them in exchanges, and whether companies will pay fines for not providing coverage to their employees. What makes it more complicated is the fact that exchange programs are still being developed. Also, some current health care providers will not be involved in exchange programs. That means those impacted companies will have to find new health insurance carriers by the end of the year.

"Since the Act was signed into law, most of the mandates have impacted carriers, and that's the easiest part," said Jason Shirk, a benefits consultant from Mid-American Group. "It is kind of like having the dessert before the liver and onions."

The hard work is engaging all companies and individuals to make their own decisions in an effectively and timely manner. In most cases, companies are going to need help so they can figure out options and new subsidies to provide employee health coverage — and managers should begin now to make an informed decision by Oct. 1.

"If you want help, start now," said Scott Young, a benefits consultant from E-InsureLink. "It will be hard to find help in the fourth quarter of this year."

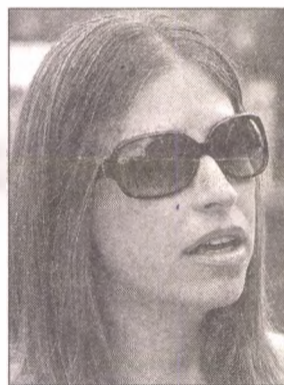
This process is not fun, easy, or quick, but it is necessary and required by law. If you don't get started, it will make a challenging situation even more daunting next year when the law takes full effect.

Dan West is the president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

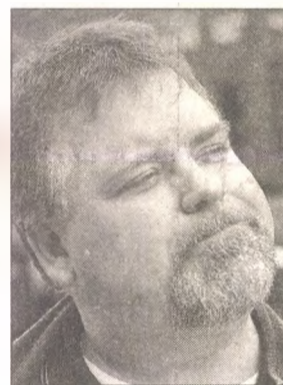
COMMUNITY VOICE

What warm-weather event in Plymouth are you most looking forward to?

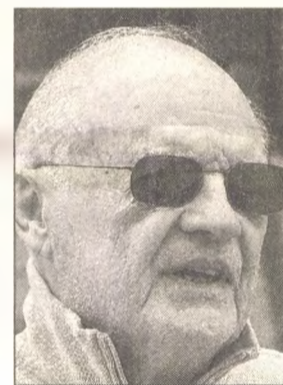
We asked this question outside the U.S. Postal Service's postal station on Penniman in downtown Plymouth.



"I like it all. I've always enjoyed downtown Plymouth."
Theresa Merta
Plymouth Township



"Art in the Park is great. We like coming to that."
David Merta
Plymouth Township



"Working in my yard, of course. ... I go to Music in the Park, yeah. I enjoy that."
Marvin Stempien
Plymouth Township



"There's not a particular event. ... Just being here today: People are out, the weather is nice."
Patty Bodnar
Livonia

LETTERS

Grateful for 'right to work'

I am losing one half of my children. At least that is what it feels like. Like so many parents in Michigan, my wife and I have worked hard to help put our four children through college. They have succeeded in gaining their respective degrees but two of the four have or soon will have moved to other states to pursue their careers. Many of my children's college graduate friends have left the state as well.

As we are very family-oriented, the loss of frequent face to face contact is distressing. According to the 2010 Census, Michigan was the only state in the country to have lost population over the past decade from 2001 through 2010. I am hopeful that one day, soon, the jobs that Michigan has been losing will return to Michigan and in doing so, bring our children back home.

It is for this reason that I am very glad that Michigan has passed the "workers' choice" aka "right to work" legislation. I believe that the growth of good jobs in Michigan will increase and eventually help to bring our children home. National statistics clearly show that states with

right to work laws have a higher influx of population and higher expendable income.

Even though Michigan's right to work law has only been in effect for one week, the initial indications of companies considering moving their operations to Michigan are very encouraging. I am grateful that Sen. Pat Colbeck and Rep. Mike Shirkey took the time and effort to champion this "freedom of choice" legislation for Michigan's workers.

Bob Cushman
Northville

'Islam is root of terror'

It is time that we stop being "politically correct" and finally come out and verbally state the simple truth that many of us have only whispered to one another.

The shock and disgust of the Boston bombings has finally brought to light one single fact: the true enemy of our society is Islam. In the history of our country our enemies have all been political ideologies. Our current enemy is a religious ideology; a religious belief that supposedly espouses love and peace, but continuously contradicts these attributes.

The Boston mosque where the two Tsarnaev brothers wor-

shipped is known for its inflammatory and hateful preaching. A former trustee of the mosque appeared in videos advocating that husbands should sometimes beat their wives and call on Allah to kill Zionists and Jews. (USA Today, April 25, 2013). How many other mosques and Islamic schools in this country are doing the same thing? And we just sit back and wait for the next atrocious act.

Oh, but the press claims these two brothers were "radicalized." But before you are determined to be a "radicalized Islamist," you first have to believe in Islam. How many other Islamic believers in this country are gradually being radicalized? It seems the more devout Islamists are, the more radical they become. Therefore, who in the Islamic community can we now trust?

It is time for us to wake up and admit that Islam is the root of terror. It is so unfortunate that in this country we must now be vigilant and skeptical of those around us. How sad that we are forced to live with such distrust and scrutiny of others because Boston has taught us that our friendly Islamic neighbor could be our worst enemy.

James M. Koster
Northville



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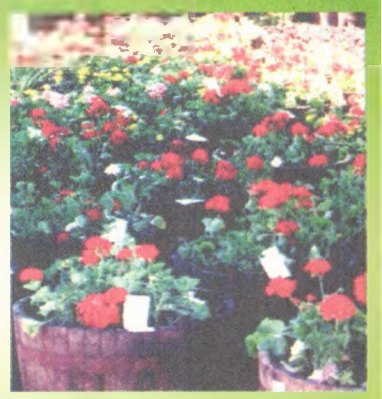


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DIAMOND GEMS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Demetrius Dunlap is as smart as they come on the baseball field and off. Here, he opts not to offer at this inside pitch during a recent sacrifice bunt attempt.

Rocks' Dunlap plays baseball only way he knows how to — all out

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Demetrius Dunlap can hit screaming line drives over the fence, lunge to snare liners off the grass and then find time to grab a rake to help Salem teammates manure their field following a ballgame.

It's all another baseball day at the Park for the Rocks' talented senior outfielder.

Dunlap, who is batting in the vicinity of .400, is putting the finishing touches on a standout high school career and is looking forward to playing his favorite sport at Saginaw Valley State University next season.

"Yes, I think I'll start a couple games in center (next year at SVSU), hit 1 or 2 (in the lineup)," said the 17-year-old Dunlap. "We have some kids from Canton, Ryan Bazner, and from Plymouth, Richard Guglielmi. They said it's the same as high school. "The guys are great, just got to play the way you play. Don't play out of

yourself, play within your bounds."

Opponents in the KLAA won't be too upset to see Salem's premium center-fielder take his skills to Saginaw Valley.

Grand statement

Consider Saturday's "Strike Out Prostate Cancer" doubleheader against the Wildcats.

Dunlap spearheaded Salem to a sweep, ripping a grand slam in each contest.

Such performances are rare in high school baseball and, in fact, it had never been done before at Salem High School.

Indeed, longtime Salem head coach Dale Rumberger knows that he has a rare gem in Dunlap.

"Demetrius is an outstanding player, a great teammate and is a better person than he is a player," Rumberger emphasized. "(He) plays with a smile on his face every day. I shall miss him very much when he graduates."

Please see DUNLAP, B4

Salem soccer camp set

Boys and girls going into grades three-eight in 2013-14 are invited to attend the Salem Soccer Camp. The camp will take place 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday, June 17-20, in front of Phase 3 at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

For more information, contact coach Scott Duhl at elduhl@yahoo.com.

Honors for Whalers

The Ontario Hockey League announced that Plymouth Whalers center Vincent Trocheck was Player of the Year for the 2012-13 season and that Trocheck was named to the First All-Star Team. Trocheck led the circuit in scoring with 109 points.

He joins Whalers coach Mike Vellucci (OHL Coach of the Year) on the top squad.

• Speaking of the Whalers, forward Tom Wilson (who attended Plymouth High School) was called up by the NHL's Washington Capitals during the team's first-round playoff series against the New York Rangers. Wilson played in two contests.

Blazers rule league lax

Senior Christina Riga and junior Jessica Snyder combined for eight goals as Livonia Ladywood repeated as Catholic League girls lacrosse champions Saturday with a 13-11 win at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep.

Goalie Stephanie Mackley made 12 saves as the Blazers improved to 10-0 overall.

Caroline Wood scored four goals and Meghan Kelly added three for the Fighting Irish.

Goalie Marin McInerney made two saves.

'Cats skill camp set

The Plymouth Wildcats football skills camp is set to take place Monday through Wednesday, June 24-26, at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity turf field.

Sessions are as follows: 5-7 p.m. for youngsters entering grades five-nine; 7-9 p.m. for those in grades 10-12 this fall.

Go to www.plymouth-wildcatsfootball.com to download a camp brochure or for more information. Questions can be directed to Plymouth coach Mike Sawchuk at (734) 765-1766.

Canton's Hazergian is baseball 'bulldog'

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Nick Hazergian probably falls out of bed in the morning with a chew of bubble gum in his mouth and eye black smeared all over his face, pumped up to play baseball all day long.

He loves to play baseball and he lives it, too, bringing a winning attitude and determination to the field on a daily basis, where he is tearing it up with Canton's varsity team.

"I just have that instinct to win, do whatever it takes to win," said Hazergian, the Chiefs' power-hitting co-captain who is a good enough athlete to be the team's No. 2 starting pitcher. "I've always had that kind of mind-set."

According to Canton head coach Mark Blomshield, whatever success the Chiefs are having this year (the team is in the race for the KLAA South Division championship) has a lot to do with the lefty-swinging Hazergian.

"He's a real tough kid with real good work ethic," Blomshield said.

"When you put those two traits together, you get a real good baseball player.

"Nick's a bulldog, one of the hardest workers on the team. He hits with a lot of power, he's a leader offensively and our No. 2 pitcher. He's a pit-bull, he's the kind of guy you want up there."

Told about the coach's characterization of his style of baseball, Hazergian didn't flinch. He doesn't mind being a player who needs to carry the load and set a positive example for younger teammates.

It's all because he relishes getting out on the baseball field and doing whatever it takes to help his team get a 'W.'

"I love the game," said Hazergian, who is leading the Chiefs with an average north of the .400 mark. "I've been playing ever since I could walk (with the Canton Cardinals all the way up). What I love about it is

Please see HAZERGIAN, B4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Adjusting his batting gloves in anticipation of another key at bat for the Canton Chiefs is senior co-captain Nick Hazergian.

'Cats blank Chiefs, clinch division

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Even teams tracking toward a long postseason run need some good fortune.

Such was the case Tuesday, as the Plymouth varsity girls soccer team parlayed a fortuitous bounce into the first goal against Canton — sparking a 2-0 victory.

With the win, the Wildcats clinched the KLAA South Division championship with a record of 14-0-1 overall and 8-0-1 in the division. The Chiefs could have tied Plymouth with a win.

The ultimate winning goal was netted with 35:25 left in the second half by Plymouth scoring machine Madi Lewis.

On the play, teammate Zoe Foster pitched the ball into the 18-yard box, where Chiefs' senior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Jatczyk — stellar in a losing cause — came out to try and snare it.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Vying for the ball Tuesday night are Plymouth's Anna DeBiasi (No. 8) and Canton's Tracy Moore (No. 2).

But the ball took a tough hop and got behind Jatczyk, where Lewis was ready to hit the vacated cage.

"I think Zoe just sent it in and the goalie mishandled it

and I was just able to tap it in," Lewis recalled. "From a young age I was taught to follow the ball, no matter what.

"Because sometimes it can hit the post, the goalie can bobble it. It's just kind of luck, usually."

Insurance tally

Plymouth didn't need another goal, because the Chiefs were not able to get much of an attack going against the Wildcats' defense and junior goalkeeper Kylie Robb (who posted a team-record 12th shutout).

Yet that's what happened as freshman forward Olivia Janke scored with 20:25 remaining.

On the play, senior midfielder Stephanie Dillon rushed into the box and sent a short, crisp pass to Janke — who punched a high shot

Please see SOCCER, B4



Poster 'Cats

Celebrating 'Senior Night' Monday were Plymouth senior softball players (from left) Lindsey Grynowicz, Kayla Rebain, Elaine Gerou and Bri Giordano. For the story, turn to B3.



Steve McEvilly (seated, right) recently signed his national letter of intent to run men's cross country and men's track and field at DePaul University. Standing behind him are parents Donna and Dan McEvilly. Seated next to him is Salem varsity coach Steve Aspinall.

DUNLAP

Continued from page B1

Rumberger is a baseball man through and through. His praise of Dunlap might have something to do with how the youngster also eats, sleeps and drinks baseball.

He has ever since his formative years playing for the Canton Cardinals, his initial experience in travel ball. In those days, he played shortstop.

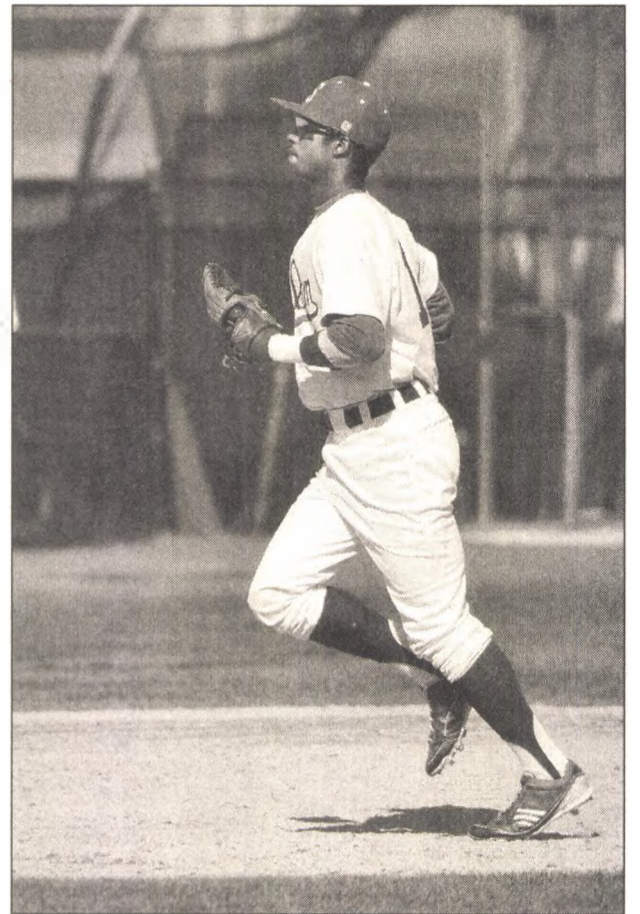
"Growing up I played my first travel league when I was in sixth grade with the Canton Cardinals, with a lot of guys on the (Salem) team now — Jack Driscoll, Aaron Moore, Austin Silletti," Dunlap said. "I played a little bit with Kyle (Penn). Eventually moved to the Blue Jays, then last summer I played with the Travelers and this year I will be playing with the Michigan Bulls."

It was after he started with the Rocks, where other players were ensconced in the infield, did Dunlap move to the outfield.

He's been there ever since and made such a seamless transition that he has made the all-conference and all-district teams with Salem.

Action This year, although Salem fell short in its bid to contend for the KLAA Central Division title, Dunlap still sees the Rocks being a threat once the districts get going in late May.

"For the team, we're looking to make it through districts and play well into the regionals, maybe make it into the state (tournament)," Dunlap said. "For myself, I'd like to hit



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Demetrius Dunlap, work done in the outfield for the inning, trots toward the Salem dugout to gear up for his next trip to the plate.

Rocks' McEvilly to run at DePaul

One of the best runners ever at Salem High School, Steve McEvilly will get the chance to take his skills to the collegiate level.

The senior distance runner recently committed to DePaul University, where he will run on the men's cross country and men's track and field squads, said Rocks' head coach Steve Aspinall.

McEvilly, whose parents (Dan and Donna McEvilly) attended his signing ceremony, will

join former Salem runner Zack Gaskell at DePaul.

"For the past four years, Steve has been one of the top runners in the area and his leadership and work ethic will be missed in the future," Aspinall noted. "This past fall, he ran a personal best of 16:06 and is No. 9 in Salem history in cross country. I have no doubt Steve will be a successful college runner."

Aspinall added that although McEvilly did

have the opportunity to speak with Gaskell about DePaul, "I do not think it impacted his decision much. I am extremely proud of guys who run at the next level and love to see their hard work and dedication pay off."

The final chapter in McEvilly's Salem career has yet to be written.

Friday, he will participate in the Division 1 regionals and could also reach the state championships on June 1.

MU falls in NAIA playoffs

The Madonna University baseball team came up one run short in Saturday's elimination round of the NAIA National Championship's Cleveland (Tenn.) Bracket.

In a game that was delayed by rain for 62 minutes in the bottom of the fifth, the Crusaders fell 3-2 to Avila (Mo.) to end their season at 37-11 overall at Olympic Field.

Jason Leone's single in the top of the second scoring Jordan Byrd staked Avila (30-21) to a 1-0 advantage.

It remained scoreless until the top of the eighth when Kyle Ford's 2-run single off MU reliever Robert Fraser (Westland John Glenn) put Avila up 3-0.

The Crusaders got a pair of runs back in the bottom of the eighth when pinch runner Mike Tibbits scored on an error and Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) brought home Shane Dokey on a single with no outs.

But with the tying and go-ahead runners at second and third, Avila reliever Steven Johnson got out of the inning when he got Justin and Matthew Cook on infield groundouts followed by a shallow pop fly to right by Steve Pelletier

(Farmington Harrison) to end the game.

The 18th-ranked Crusaders, the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season champions, then went down in order in the bottom of the ninth.

MU starter Evan Piechocka (Livonia Stevenson), who slipped to 6-1, allowed three earned runs on 10 hits. The freshman right-hander walked two and struck out four in 7.1 innings.

Avila starter Jake Johnson (3-1) pitched the first seven innings allowing just one earned run on five hits and three walks. Steven Johnson got the save.

Host Lee defeated Avila, 14-0, to advance to the NAIA World Series in Lewiston, Id.

Postseason honor

A total of 13 MU players were honored recently by the WHAC led by two-time Pitcher of the Year Jeremy Gooding, a senior right-hander from Livonia and Dearborn Divine Child High who went 5-2 with a 2.26 earned run average.

Senior third baseman Justin Cook (Dresden, Ontario), senior right-hander Matthew Cook

(Dresden, Ontario) and senior right fielder Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) joined Gooding on the All-WHAC first team.

Junior shortstop Victor Barron (Fowlerville), junior catcher Donny Holland (White Lake Lakeland) and senior pitcher Josh Vandemark (Hicks-ville, Ohio) all made honorable mention All-WHAC.

Earning All-WHAC Gold Glove awards were Shane Dokey (Howell), John Lauro (University of Detroit Jesuit) and Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison).

Ryan Lech (L'Anse Creuse North), Tyler Schofield (Windsor, Ontario), Justin Cook, Lineberry and Pelletier all carried grade-point averages of 3.25 or better to earn All-WHAC Academic honors.

Holland was also named to the WHAC Champions of Character Team which best displays the NAIA's Five Core Values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

And for the 10th time, MU's Greg Haeger was named WHAC Coach of the Year after the Crusaders finished 20-1 in the conference, including a 17-game winning streak.

HAZERGIAN

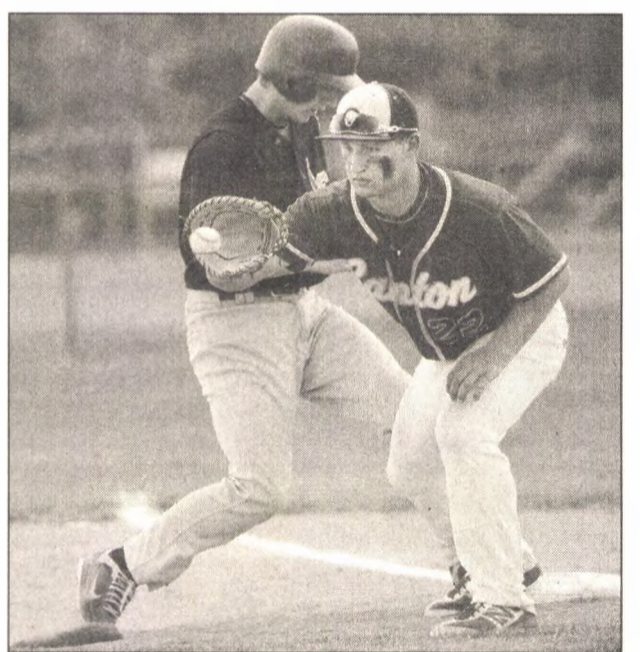
Continued from page B1

when you're helping your team out, when you get that big hit or that game-winning save."

Blomshield also noted Hazergian is a big role model even though he physically isn't the biggest person.

"Because he's not a real big guy, it gives the average person some type of inspiration that they can achieve some type of goals that he (Hazergian) was able to do though hard work," the coach said. "He's a leader in the weight room, he's a leader on and off the field. He works his rear end off on the field. He is probably the first one here and the last one to leave."

Hazergian, a scholar-athlete (3.67 grade-point average) who lives in Plymouth with parents Steven and Kathy Hazergian, never stops working because he wants his team to win some hard-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holding a Livonia Churchill runner at first base during a recent KLAA South Division baseball matchup is Canton's Nick Hazergian.

ware this spring. "We're hoping to win some championships this year," Hazergian said. "We drew Plymouth in the district, for the first round of districts. Hopefully, I can help my team out by keeping my aver-

age up, getting runs across and pitching well."

He'll also help by continuing to be the consummate baseball player.

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (734) 469-4128

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

from short range into the top-right corner.

"It (the Lewis goal) was unlucky for Kaitlyn Jatczyk, it hit her in the chest and just kind of flew off," Canton head coach Jeannine Reddy said. "Sometimes that can just bring a team completely up or bring it down. I don't think it did either."

"And then they had a second goal where we kind of just left her (Janke)."

According to Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich, he talked to his players at halftime about taking the time to be creative in the Canton end of the pitch.

"I think we needed to be a little more patient in the attacking third, take that extra touch," Neschich said. "We

seemed to rush things in the first half. I thought we created a lot more opportunities but didn't capitalize."

Although Neschich liked how the final 40 minutes unfolded, he knows the team cannot get complacent if it is to experience bigger and better things than the division crown.

"We just have to try and improve all the little things to get better," he emphasized. "We need to sharpen up some things and get better every day."

Bigger fish

Lewis added that the Wildcats know the mission they want to take, and it isn't merely winning the KLAA South.

"Winning the Division is definitely an accomplishment but we just got to keep looking past it," Lewis said. "Our goal for the season is to win the state championship,

so we can't forget that.

"We'll remember this win for the night but then we have Churchill on Thursday and the conference championship on Monday."

For Canton (now 6-2-1 in the division), it was a costly loss. With about 15 minutes left, two players went down to injury in separate collisions.

Defenders Gabriela Epelman and Natalie Schmidt had to leave the game with apparent knee and shoulder injuries, respectively. Schmidt was attended to on the field for several minutes before finally being helped off the field.

"My defense played well and then I had two of my best defenders go down," Reddy said. "The main thing is just to get those two healthy for districts."

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth's Madi Lewis (left) gets control of the ball and goes in to score Tuesday's first goal, while Canton goalkeeper Kaitlyn Jatczyk tries to intervene.

RELIGION CALENDAR

May

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 19
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All-you-can-eat pancake and French toast breakfast with ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club

Contact: (734) 425-4421

CAMP ENROLLMENT

Time/Date: Now through May 31

Location: Consuming Fire Christian Center, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland

Details: Enrolling kids and teens, age 5-15, for six-week Bible/Homework Enrichment Camp that will run July 8-Aug. 16. Full day sessions are \$700 and a half-day is \$480. Families get a \$25 discount for added siblings for the full day rate; \$10 discount for the half-day rate. A non-refundable \$100 registration fee at the time of enrollment secures a place. Cost includes the registration fee, snacks, materials for class, tutoring in most subjects and assessment testing

Contact: Melanie Staten or Sylvia Brown at (734) 266-2293

MOM2MOM

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 18

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: Early bird admission from 9-10 a.m. is \$2. Admission from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. is \$1. Strollers are welcome

Contact: (734) 513-4121

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Kindergarten through eighth grade classes and preschool will be in session, giving visitors an understanding of a typical day as they watch youngsters learn and interact with staff. The Young 5's program director will be available to answer questions regarding this new program. Visitors will be able to take a guided tour through the school. The adminis-

tration will be available to answer questions

Contact: (734) 425-4420 or e-mail to atonissen@stgenevieve.org; www.stgenevieve.org/school

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. May 19

Location: Community room, Prentiss Apartments, located on 10 Mile east of Greenfield, Oak Park

Details: Stitch and kvell session. Bring any newly-finished or in-progress projects to show off or get help with.

Contact: Judy Galperin at (248) 661-5337

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Friday, May 16-17 and 8:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 18

Location: St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School, 5885 Venoy, south of Warren Road, Westland

Details: \$5 bag sale on Saturday

Contact: (734) 425-0260

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. May 18

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile in Livonia

Details: Gently-used furniture, household items, clothing, children's books, toys and more will be sold. Lunch will be available. Rent a table for \$20 or two tables for \$30. Tables are 8 feet long and the deadline for reservations is May 15. Proceeds from lunch and table rental go toward mission projects. The event is sponsored by United Methodist Women

Contact: Jane Welton at (248) 417-9077 with questions or for table rental

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: Sale is 9 a.m.-2 p.m. May 18; donate items to the sale, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, May 17

Location: St. Valentine's School gym 25875 Hope Street, Redford

Contact: (313) 533-7149

TRUNK SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 18

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia

Church seeks public help with veterans projects

Kenwood Church of Christ in Livonia seeks community help with upcoming projects involving veterans and active duty service members.

The church, 20200 Merriman, Livonia, will collect thank you cards for active service members through June 2. Cards from the public will be bundled with those from Kenwood members. The church will provide note cards or participants can use or make their own. Note cards are available in the collection drop box at the front entrance of the church.

The church also will collect items through June 2 to support veterans at the VA hospital in Ann Arbor. Kenwood will accept new items such as any size of men's boxers, T-shirts, socks, model cars or ships or planes, word searches, craft items, crossword puzzles, gas gift cards, and lap blankets. It also will accept cray-

ons, coloring books, and unopened, new, packaged Happy Meal toys for visiting children at the hospital. Other acceptable items are gently-used men's blue jeans, men's long sleeve shirts, men's sweat pants and sweat shirts, men's Dockers' casual pants, men's polo shirts, men's colored T-shirts, men's shoes, men's coats, paperback books, hand-held game systems and games, magazines no older than six months, and CDs.

A Veterans Appreciation Celebration will be held at 9:30 a.m. May 19 at Kenwood. Veterans will receive a certificate of appreciation. To reserve a certificate for a veteran, e-mail information to kenwood@kenwoodchurch.org or call (248) 476-8222 and give the information to the church secretary or leave a contact phone number. All information regarding the certificates must be received by Thursday, May 16.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

ALOE, LEONILDA G.

May 10, 2013, age 95. Visitation Friday 3pm-8pm at the Schrader-Jowell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Eulogy and Rosary Service 7pm. Committal Service Saturday, 10am at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 25800 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield.



HEIN, ROY M., JR.

Age 66, May 11, 2013 of Canton. Beloved husband of the late Joan. Loving father of Cindy (Ray) Kelm, James Hein, Lori (Kevin) Wright, Tina L. (Justin) Laborde and Michael Hein. Proud grandfather of seven grandchildren. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd (between Ford and Cherry Hill) Westland. Funeral Service Friday 11 AM at the funeral home. Interment Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park.

To share a memory, visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



STROMBECK, LOWELL R. "BUD"

81, of North Webster, IN passed away May 12, 2013. www.owenfamilyfuneralhome.com.

please visit:
www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

HODGES, RICHARD ALLEN

Age 78, passed away May 11, 2013. Beloved husband of the late Thelma. Dear father of Mike (Cheri) and Steve (Kim). Grandfather of Brad, Bryan and Emily. A wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend, he will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

KELLY, KAREN ANN

Age 51, of Farmington Hills. Passed away May 11, 2013. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.

PEEL, GERALD D.

May 11, 2013 age 66 of Grayling. Loving father of Lisa (Al) Kozler, and Nancy (Erik) Sheehan. Beloved son of Patricia Peel. Brother of Patty Peel. Proud Grandpa of Chris, Kyle, Zach, Graham, and Rory. Private services were arranged by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Memorials may be made to M.U.C.C. (Michigan United Conservation Club), 2101 Wood Street, P.O. Box 30235, Lansing MI 48909



Church in Livonia forms Catholic singles group

St. Michael the Archangel Church of Livonia is looking for Catholic adult singles — single, divorced, or widowed — between the ages of 30-60, from throughout the northwest suburban area who are interested in getting together regularly to share some fun and faith. Called Faith Uniting Neighbors, (f.u.n.), the group is sponsoring its first event on Saturday, May 18, beginning with 5 p.m. Mass at

St. Michael's. Dinner at Sheehan's on the Green in Plymouth and miniature golf at Oasis will follow. Reservations are required for the dinner portion of the evening. Interested singles should RSVP to catholicisingles@livoniastmichael.org.

The group plans to rotate these group-attended Masses regularly throughout the Northwest Wayne Vicariate, to be followed by dinner or brunch and

some fun social activities, usually on a monthly basis. Plans include a Tiger's game in June and a group picnic in July.

St. Michael's is located at 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road between Farmington Road and Merriman.

For more information call the parish office at (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or see the website at www.livoniastmichael.org.

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Contemporary Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m.
The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, Just north of I-96
www.christsaviorsavior.org
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am
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Thursday: 6:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulsivonia.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Services held at: **Saint Andrews Episcopal Church**
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road
Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
1343 Penniman • Plymouth
Church: (734) 453-3393
School PreK-8: (734) 453-0460
Website: www.spplp.org
WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Worship 9:30am

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

Sisters share spotlight in senior troupe's production



Sisters Linda Trygg (left) and Sally Dixon play siblings in Still Got It Players' upcoming production.

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Sally Dixon of Canton and Linda Trygg of Westland portray sisters in Still Got It Players' upcoming comedy, *The Gangster Priest*.

The relationship comes naturally to the women, who are siblings off-stage, too.

"I thought it was perfect casting," said Trygg, who plays Dixon's older sister on stage. She's 13 years older than Dixon and has two younger brothers in real life.

"We're the bookends. I'm the oldest and she's the youngest," Trygg said. "When we were growing up, because we were the bookends, I was going into high school when she was a child. We never had that connection because of the distance in ages — not until she grew up and had a family of her own.

"This made us even closer."

Trygg got her first taste of theater in kindergarten, when she was chosen to sing a lullaby to baby Jesus during a Christmas play.

"In junior high I was an ugly duckling, a misfit kid, and being part of the drama department gave me an outlet. I've been doing it ever since," she said.

Dixon was active in choir as a student at Wayne Memorial High School and sang with



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Linda Trygg (left) and Sally Dixon play sisters Ellie and Baby Tremaine, with Jack Galazka, as Lucky, the gangster priest.

Cherry Hill Singers for two years before she performed in a play, *Flapper*, Still Got It Players' first musical, staged last spring.

"I decided I'd rather do plays and I bowed out of Cherry Hill Singers at that point," Dixon said. "I did do *My Fair Lady* with my sister at Spotlight Players, (last fall). We were both in the ensemble. That was a lot of fun. It was a big production

and we had a good time."

Senior troupe

Both sisters enjoy singing and are drawn to musicals, although *The Gangster Priest* is a comedy. Dixon will sing a song in the show because she portrays a nightclub singer.

She said Trygg encouraged her to try out for a play at Still Got It Players, the senior troupe associated with Spotlight

Players at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

"She had been trying to persuade me for quite some time and I was too chicken to try out," Dixon said. "She said, you need to come to the senior group. There aren't as many people and it's not as intimidating. I finally got up the courage."

Dixon auditioned for a small part in *The Gangster Priest*, and was surprised to land a lead role.

"I was a little worried about remembering the lines, but now that I am rehearsing the lines and it's coming along, I'm feeling a lot better."

She said Trygg, who has appeared in many productions at Still Got It Players, Spotlight Players and other theater troupes, has given her suggestions

for interpreting her character and offered acting advice.

"I've never really acted. So, remembering the lines is one thing, but trying to say them in a way that creates a character, I have a hard time trying to do that," Dixon said. "The group of people here are awesome and that helps a lot. This group is very supportive and fun to hang out with."

The sisters say their characters don't resemble their real personalities.

"Mine is the straight role and she's kind of the dumb blonde," Trygg said, adding that both sisters have "similar personalities" in real life.

"She's supposed to play a prudish businesswoman and that's not like her at all," Dixon said.

Humorous story

In the play, which is set during Prohibition, the older sister sends her younger sibling to business school to give her a leg up on life and keep her far away from bad influences. The younger sister drops out of school and becomes a singer in a speakeasy. When the older sister visits, the owner of the speakeasy dons priestly garments and the younger sibling pretends to be his secretary.

"That's when the hijinks ensue," Trygg said.

The sisters also worked on costumes for the play and Dixon created some signs as a part of the scenery.

Dixon, who is married, hopes to continue performing with her sister on stage, although she plans to take the summer off and won't audition for Still Got It Players' August production.

Trygg, the mother of two grown daughters, will switch gears quickly after *The Gangster Priest* ends its run. She'll appear in an improvisation-based, audience-interactive wedding show called *A Like Totally 80's Wedding*, on June 1 at Novi Civic Center.

"I'll go out for anything they'll let me do," Trygg said. "It's great fun."

The Gangster Priest is directed by Debbie Lannen. It runs at 1 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, May 22-23, 7 p.m. Friday, May 24, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 25, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 26, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$13 for seniors and students. They're available at www.spotlight-playersmi.org or www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater.

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The cast of "The Gangster Priest" runs through the play in a rehearsal room at the Village Theater in Canton.

Youth theater gears up for summer camp

Motor City Youth Theatre is registering students for its annual summer day camp for actors.

Sessions are available from July 8-26, with all classes running Monday-Friday each week.

The Theatre's acting camps are open to students of all skill levels and emphasize character development, stage presence, voice skills, and ensemble work.

The "Munchkins Camp," for ages 4-6, will run July 8-12 and costs \$58 per actor. Youngsters in grades 1-4 may attend the "Peanuts Camp." Two sessions — one runs 9:30 a.m.-noon and the other is from 12:30-3 p.m., — are available from July 8-12. Cost is \$93 per student. "Musical Theatre Camp" is aimed at students in grades 4-9. It will run 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

July 8-12 and costs \$186 per person.

Campers will present a play for parents and friends at 7 p.m. July 12.

Summer Stock Players, for students in grades 3-10, will meet from 9:30-3 p.m. July 15-26. They'll also present a public performance of Peter Pan at 7 p.m. July 26-27 and 2 p.m. July 28. Cost to participate is \$365.

Register at mcyt.org.

Music, author, auction event benefits Livonia Symphony

The Livonia Symphony will hold a Garden Party Luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

Tickets are \$30 per person and include a garden-themed silent auction and box auction with fresh flow-

ers, perennials and floral motif items, entertainment by Symphony members, vendors selling specialty items, and a book signing by Julie Cassar, author of the Ruby Blue book series and a Redford resident. For tickets call June at (734) 425-1881.

Arts Crafts

ART ON THE GRAND

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, June 1, and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, June 2
Location: Grand River Ave., from Farmington Road to Grove Street in downtown Farmington
Details: Approximately 100 artists from around the country will sell their works, including sculpture, photography, paintings, jewelry, pottery, fiber, furniture and mixed media. The event will include live entertainment, children's activities and food booths. For visitors, 21 and over, the "Grapes on the Grand" wine and beer tent will be open both Saturday and Sunday during festival hours
Contact: (248) 473-1856; www.downtownfarmington.org

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission
Exhibits: Motor City Muse; Detroit Photographs: Then

and Now, through June 16; Shirin Neshat, includes eight video installations and two series of photos, through July 7; printmaking by Ellsworth Kelly, May 24-Sept. 8 Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through May 18;
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: 14th annual juried Student Fine Art Exhibit features the work of high school and middle school students
Coming up: West of Center Show, which showcases contemporary art work, will run June 7-30. It will be open 1-9 p.m. Friday, June 7, in addition to regular hours Wednesday-Saturday
Contact: (248) 344-0497

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday and one hour before and during public performances at the theater, as well as by appointment, through May 28
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Topher Crowder shows an eclectic collection of paintings
Contact: (734) 394-5300; cantonvillagetheater.org



Heather Dolan, (left) of Livonia is Elle and Jamee Perryman of Clawson is Vivienne in the Farmington Players' production, "Legally Blonde" through May 18.

Film

COMPUWARE ARENA DRIVE-IN

Time/Date: Gates open at 7:30 p.m., with movies starting around 9:20 p.m., May 17-18 and 24-26; the drive-in will operate daily from June 7-Sept. 1
Location: 14900 Beck between Five Mile and M-14, Plymouth Township
Details: Patrons get a sneak preview of the drive-in season with first-run, family-oriented films May 17-18 and 24-26. The shows for May 17-18 are "Iron Man 3" (PG-13) followed by "Oblivion" (PG-13) on Screen 1; "The Croods" (PG) followed by "Oz, The Great and Powerful" (PG) on Screen 2; and "Star Trek: Into the Darkness" (PG-13) followed by "GI Joe: Retaliation" (PG) on Screen 3. Cost is \$10 for adults; \$8 for children, 4-12; kids 3 and under are admitted free of charge. Students with proper ID are admitted for \$8 Sunday through Thursday. Patrons listen to the movies on the FM band of their car radio Contact: (734) 927-3284

PENN THEATRE
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 16 and May 23, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 17-18, and 4:45 p.m. and

7 p.m. Sunday, May 19
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "Love and Honor," \$3
Coming up: "Admission," 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 24-25 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 26; "Oz: The Great and Powerful," 7 p.m. Thursday, May 30 and June 6, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday, May 31, and 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 1-2
Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

SENATE THEATER

Time/Date: 3 p.m., Sunday, May 19
Location: Senate Theater, 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit
Details: Dennis Scott, house organist at Chicago's historic Music Box Theatre, will accompany a screening of Buster Keaton's 1926 silent feature film, "The General," on the historic Wurlitzer theater pipe organ, which came from Detroit's Fisher Theater. Tickets are \$10 at the door
Contact: www.dtos.org or (313) 894-4100

Music

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month. The next show is Saturday, May 18
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Final open mic night of the season will include featured performers Stephanie and Chris Sorenson on fiddle

and banjo, with Wayne Sorenson on upright bass, playing blue grass music. Includes open mic performances and a featured group or musician. Admission is \$5, including performers. Individual and family annual memberships also are available
Contact: Scott Ludwig at BfSpresident@aol.com

JAZZ AT THE ELKS
Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December. The next show is May 28
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Terry Lower Trio with vocalist Edye Evans-Hyde will perform. Musicians include Lower on keyboard, Ray Tini on bass and Jim Ryan on drums. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans.
Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

PLYMOUTH COFFEE BEAN

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. every Monday
Location: 884 Penniman, Plymouth
Details: Open mic for music and poetry
Featured artists: Paper Arrows, Steve Schlaack and Eric the Viking, May 24; Jake Lamond with Joe May, May 31; Ebb Tide, June 7; No Excuses, June 21, Kenneth Michael, June 28. Featured performer concerts start at 8 p.m.
Contact: (734) 454-0178



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Coffee shop adds barbecue, cake to birthday plans

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Yes, there will be cake to go with your cup of Joe, when Plymouth Coffee Bean celebrates its 20th birthday, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 18.

Grilled burgers and hot dogs, magic, games, a moonwalk, and live music by The Pottersfield, Bill Synum & Co., Cold Tone Harvest, SugarSpell and The Social Bones will round out the food and fun at the popular downtown Plymouth coffee house, located at 884 Penniman, just west of Main.

Owner Steve Prokes attributes the Bean's success to its downtown location, with outdoor seating and to "the ambiance of the house itself."

"I used to travel and check out other places and I never found anything quite like it," Prokes said.

Its menu also offers a one-of-a-kind culinary experience that visitors won't find in other local coffee houses — made-to-order and professionally-prepared crepes.

We asked Prokes about the Bean's signature menu item:

Q: When are crepes available?

A: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Q: Are crepes the most popular menu item?

A: On weekends they are.

Q: What's popular during the week?

A: Just regular sandwiches.

Q: What makes a good crepe?

A: The batter. It truly is the batter. And we have close to 35 to 40 items to choose from (for made-to-order fillings).

Q: What are some of your more popular crepe fillings?

A: We have our black bean burger, pepper jack cheese and hummus. We've

got our infamous Nutella, strawberry and banana. We've got chocolate chip, strawberry and banana, and the other would be turkey with cheddar cheese and spinach.

Q: What's your favorite?

A: I stick with turkey ... ham ... bacon.

Q: What's the weirdest combination you've ever made for a customer?

A: I had a guy get a turkey, cheese and chocolate chip. To me, that is weird. Then again, he thought it was the best he ever had.

Q: Anything new on the menu?

A: We're starting to bring in some gluten-free stuff. I'm looking at brownies, cookies, health bars.

Q: Any chance we'll see a gluten-free crepe any time soon?

A: The problem is the batter doesn't last more than a day or two. The last thing we want to do is have waste. We haven't had a whole lot of request for it. In four years maybe we've had a couple dozen. If I get 100 or 200, then we'd look into it.

For more about the Plymouth Coffee Bean call (734) 454-0178 or visit plymouthcoffeebean.com.



FILE PHOTO

Strawberries and other fresh produce are available at local farmers markets.

CITY BITES

Farmers Market

CANTON — The Canton Farmers Market returns for the spring-fall season, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 19, in Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge Road. Events on opening day include a cooking demonstration by chef Paul Penney, 10:30 a.m. to noon; music by Mark Reitenga 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Bartlett-Travis porch; a perennial exchange; garbage graveyard game that teaches children about the fundamentals of decomposing trash; and a hands-on art project for youngsters. Perennial exchange participants should label their plants, including the kind and color of bloom. For more information, visit www.cantonfun.org or call Tina Lloyd, market manager, at (734) 394-5375. Other markets:

- Westland Farmers Market opened earlier this month and runs 3-7 p.m. Thursday, at 36601 Ford Road.

- Farmers & Artisans Market, opened this month and runs 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, through Nov. 9 in downtown Farmington. Because of road construction, the market has moved temporarily from Sundquist Pavilion in George F. Riley Park, Grand River Ave., and Grove, to Orchard Street at Farmington Road.

- Plymouth Farmers Market opened May 4 and runs 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, through Oct. 26, in The Gathering near Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

- Garden City Farmer and Artisan Market will operate 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 5-Oct. 30, near Ford Road and Middlebelt.

- Redford Township Farmers Market runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, beginning June 16 at the Marquee, 12121 Hemingway.

- Livonia Farmers Market runs 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 22-Oct. 12 at the Wilson Barn, located on West Chicago, at Middlebelt.

Beer, wine tasting

FARMINGTON HILLS — The 2nd annual Michigan Beer & Wine Tasting to benefit youth and developmentally disabled individuals run 6-9 p.m., Friday, May 17, at the Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road. Cost is \$30 per person and includes appetizers, entertainment, door prizes and favorite beers and wines of Michigan, along with other select beverages. The event is sponsored by the Xemplar Club of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Farmington Hills Youth and Family Services and Community Living Centers. For reservations call (248) 273-1841 or (238) 478-0870.

Summer flavors

METRO DETROIT — If you are a Slurpee fan, you can look forward to these flavors at your local 7-Eleven: Odball Orange will be the flavor of the month for June and Strawberry Lemonade will cool off those hot summer days in July and August. If you're counting calories, try the Slurpee Lite Sugar Free Sprite flavor in June and Lite Sugar Free Mango Lemonade in July and August. Try a medium Slurpee drink for 49 cents Memorial Day weekend, from Friday-Monday, May 24-27.



Lemon Poppy Cake Balls

Special occasion menu magic

Engagement parties, bridal showers and wedding receptions are blissful, joyous occasions that celebrate the future with those near and dear. However, planning these special events is no small feat, especially when it comes to choosing the menus.

The days of a chicken or beef entrée are long gone — the dietary preferences of today's party guests include vegetarian, vegan, lactose intolerant and celiac, just to name a few. Now more than 21 million households report themselves as gluten free, and, together, vegetarians and vegans total nearly 22 million people. It's becoming more likely that you will receive special menu requests at your celebration.

How do you create a menu that pleases all palates and ensures that every guest can feel like a part of the joyous occasion? These simple tips make it easy to plan a menu that is delicious, safe and satisfying.

- **Gluten-free RSVP** — Include a section for dietary restrictions in the RSVP. This ensures guests will enjoy the meal without worry and can fully participate in the celebration. There's no need to list out the various preferences, simply add an open space for guests to write in their specific diet needs.

- **Be cautious of cocktails** — Thoroughly research wine, liquor and beer before making selections as many are deceptively not gluten-free. However, there are great gluten-free options available that allow guests to drink worry-free.

- **Get creative with options** — Use gluten-free muffins as cupcakes or to create fun and trendy cake balls. It's a treat that is delicious enough for all guests to indulge in.

- **Don't be afraid to ask** — Many caterers and bakers have experience working with gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan requests. Don't be afraid to work with them to figure out the most delicious ways to make an event memorable for everyone.

- **Label clearly** — When offering passed hors d'oeuvres or serving on a buffet, clearly label gluten-free, dairy-free, vegetarian and/or vegan choices



Brownie Bites with Chipotle Buttercream & Candied Jalapeño

es so guests can easily make selections.

These tips will allow all guests to enjoy the festivities and make it a memorable celebration.

For flavorful ideas and more gluten-free options, visit www.udisglutenfree.com.

Lemon Poppy Cake Balls

Serves: 12

- 1 package of Udi's Lemon Streusel Muffins
- ½ cup unsalted butter (1 stick), softened
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 12 ounces white chocolate, chopped
- 2 tablespoons all-vegetable shortening
- Poppy seeds, for sprinkling

Crumble the muffins into a large bowl.

Using electric hand mixer, beat together butter and sugar until creamy and blended. Beat in vanilla and lemon juice until fluffy.

Add half of lemon frosting to crumbled muffins and combine using a fork. If mixture isn't moist enough, add more frosting, a little at a time. Using tablespoon-sized cookie scoop, form cake balls and place on parchment-lined baking sheet. Freeze for 1 hour.

In double boiler set over medium heat, melt together

chocolate and shortening. Working one at a time and using a toothpick, dip cake balls into the chocolate mixture. Sprinkle with poppy seeds and let set on parchment-lined baking sheet.

Salted Crusty Brownie Cookies

- 1 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 Udi's Gluten Free Pizza Crust
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ pound of butter, softened (1 stick)
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ teaspoon gluten-free vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 1½ cups gluten-free all purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1½ cups Udi's Dark Chocolate Brownie Bites (crumbled)
- ½ cup gluten-free chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons coarse sea salt

Brush melted butter onto pizza crust. Sprinkle ½ teaspoon salt on top. Toast crust until golden brown (3-5 minutes). Cool.

When crust is cool it will be cracker-like in texture. Crush crust coarsely into small pieces. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Beat butter and sugars together until creamy. Add vanilla and egg. Beat until just blended.

Combine flour, baking soda and salt. Add to the butter mixture and beat

until blended.

Stir in crushed pizza crust, crumbled brownies and chocolate chips.

Drop by teaspoonful onto non-stick baking sheets. Sprinkle a small pinch of coarse sea salt onto each cookie.

Bake at 375 degrees 9-11 minutes or until light golden brown.

Brownie Bites with Chipotle Buttercream and Candied Jalapeño

Brownie Bites:
• Udi's Brownie Bites
• Butter
• Ganache:
• 2 pounds chocolate
• 4 cups cream
• Chipotle Buttercream:
• 1 pound butter
• 6 cups powdered sugar
• 2 tablespoons milk
• Chili powder
• Candied Jalapeños:
• 1 cup sugar
• 1 cup water
• Pinch of lime zest
• 2-3 Jalapeños, thinly sliced

To prepare brownie bites: Crumble the brownie bites in a bowl. Add melted butter slowly and combine together for a dense consistency.

Once combined, press the mixture into a lightly sprayed baking sheet. Spread as evenly as possible and top with ganache.

Then top with chipotle buttercream and jalapeños

To prepare the ganache: Bring cream to a boil. Pour over chocolate and whisk until incorporated and all chocolate is melted.

To prepare the chipotle buttercream:

Cream butter until smooth. Add powdered sugar and whip until light and fluffy. Slowly add milk. Add chili powder to taste.

To prepare candied jalapeños:

Bring sugar and water to a boil. Reduce to a syrup and add lime zest. Slice jalapeños to desired size, removing seeds is optional.

Drizzle simple syrup over jalapeños and allow to dry.

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35 Tarboosh
36 Type of lock
37 Med. staffers
38 Intuit
40 Auto racer
41 Luggage fastener
43 Sidekick
46 Faucet hookups
49 Time to beware
50 Jesse Ventura, once
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Answer to Previous Puzzle
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P I N C E N E Z D A W N
I N S E R T A B E
D I S A B S E N T
A G R E E A R C L O A
I R I S O W S B I R D
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A W H I L E R I A
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DOWN
1 Truck mfr.
2 Boathouse item
3 Potpourris
4 Cellist - Casals
5 Founding
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9 Tease
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11 Home-run descriptor
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23 TV deletion
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Word search grid:
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F D E X E I U D O J R E J C I
T S R X L N I Z V I E U E A C
E K W I I C F X X W T M W J R
W G B E A B D F A P C A I O E
R O A T L S I T I R H T R A X
M F I N G L T L I T Q O F E E
V O D M A B I E I B S I A U Y
N M O V E M E N T T N D C F N
S G D O K A Q O G G Y N U Y A
E H H P U E M Y E I I B M A U
E Q E Z E Y G R E A T D X O T
N U M R D W S P P F W S J P F
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE
Sudoku grid with numbers and arrows pointing to the grid above.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE
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Garden experts offer alternatives to disease-ravaged impatiens

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Choosing the right plant for your flower beds is more important than ever this year.

A disease — downy mildew — has spread across the country affecting impatiens, one of the most popular shade-loving annuals in recent years, forcing gardeners from California to Michigan to find a new alternative for their summer landscapes.

Downy mildew affects all types of standard impatiens (impatiens walleriana), including doubles, minis and hybrids such as fusion.

The fungus-like pathogen invades garden soil and began affecting impatiens last summer causing many seemingly healthy plants to die suddenly, according to Heather Glenday, general manager of Bordine's Nursery in Rochester Hills.

"It comes on very quickly," said Glenday, who added that downy mildew spores are easily spread from yard to yard via

wind or water splash and can travel hundreds of miles.

The fungus causes leaf yellowing, followed by the leaf curling and falling off. It is characterized by a white fuzzy coating on the underside of leaves. It is not the same downy mildew that affects vegetables or other ornamental plants, according to the Michigan State University Department of Horticulture.

As a result, many retailers are opting not to sell impatiens this year, encouraging customers to try other flowers not affected by the disease.

Choose carefully

You may still see some impatiens on the market, but be wary — "most reputable garden centers have chosen not to sell the impatien," said Debbie Barson of Barson's Greenhouse in Westland.

"We don't want any customers having to deal with their flowers dying out halfway through the summer," Barson said,

Please see IMPATIENS, 8

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Ivy: Should it stay or should it go?

By **Lon Grossman**

Guest Columnist

Q: My house has a lot of ivy on the exterior walls. Will this do any damage?

A: I went right to the best source to get the answer to this question — The Brick Institute of America. Over time, it's possible that the tentacles and tendrils of some climbing ivy can, and have, dislodged mortar. This can happen if the walls were not properly constructed with good quality bricks, mortar that was tooled into joints, and good workmanship practices with all joints being completely filled.

It's also true that ivy on the face of brick masonry may tend to keep moisture entrapped and in contact with the masonry.

Ivy, and other plant growth can also become a harbor for nesting insects, birds and other animal life. But keep in mind also that ivy insulates the wall from the hot rays of the sun on the south and west sides, making the house a little cooler.

The view of the Brick Institute of America is that all these facts must be considered when evaluating the beauty and/or desirability of ivy growing on brick masonry walls. Presuming that the wall is known to be well-built with quality materials, it can be expected to last at least 75 to 100 years, or usually more. The growth of ivy on the wall, assuming it is not removed by force, or with chemicals, shortens the life of a well-constructed wall by eight to 10 years or a maximum of 10 percent.

Therefore, you need to evaluate the following:

- Was the wall well-built?
- What is the value, both esthetically and ecologically, of ivy on the wall?

Then you decide if the ivy on your wall has to go. After all, being "off the wall" is something I'm known for.

Q: I have a house with aluminum "thermal" windows. The seals on several of the windows have

broken as well as a door-wall. I would like to replace them but it seems as if no one is making aluminum thermal windows. I can't believe that even a matching color vinyl would look right. Do you know of a company who still makes aluminum windows?

A: No one makes them for a good reason. They were terrible. The aluminum was a conductor of cold and "sucked" heat from your house. At the time they were considered efficient. But today we know a lot more. There are several quality window companies that are also excellent, a few of which are Eagle, Marvin, Anderson and Pella. There are other quality windows (which are a lot less expensive) including some manufacturers right in our area. My favorite is Wallside.

You don't have to replace your windows. The aluminum sash can remain and new multiple seals replaced. But do you want to go to all that expense for older windows that aren't efficient? Are the windows working properly? Are you happy with the look and style? If so, just have the multi-pane seals replaced. But if your "window to the world" is giving you a gloomy picture, this should clear things up.

Q: You performed a home inspection for us and I remembered you said not to fall in love with the hot water heater. Well I am glad I didn't because this morning there was a constant flow of water coming out of the copper pipe. I turned off the valve that you so kindly tagged for us at our inspection stating "hot water tank shut off," and that stopped the flow. Is this a serious problem and time to replace the hot water tank or can it be repaired?

A: That leaking pipe is from the temperature and pressure relief valve. The temperature may be too hot. Turn the water back on but to a lower setting. Hold a meat thermometer under a faucet after the hot water has been on for a while. The temperature should be 120-degrees. Do not spend any money to have it fixed. It just doesn't pay.

Lon Grossman of Bloomfield Hills is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at drdiy@comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website, www.technihouse.com. Follow Lon's Blog at <http://drdiy.wordpress.com/>.

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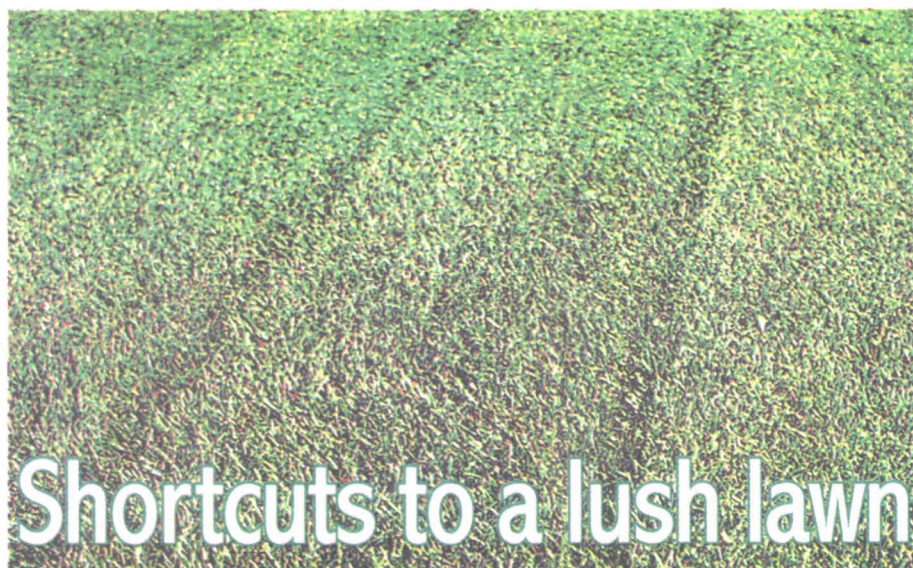
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Shortcuts to a lush lawn

There are one million acres of lawn across the country. Many homeowners aspire to having a lush, green lawn as the showcase of their properties. The front lawn can make a statement and indicate to passers-by the property owners' personalities and design preferences.

Lawn care takes some dedication and hard work, but there are certain ways to cut down on the amount of effort required to maintain a landscape. By employing a few different shortcuts, you can have a healthy, lush lawn without spending all of your free time cutting the grass or pruning the trees.

- Stop weeds at the start. Weeding is one of the most time-consuming parts of maintaining a lawn. Weeds can proliferate throughout the lawn if not addressed in a timely manner. Once weeds take root they can become a nuisance, so it's best to treat weeds before they even have a chance to sprout. Apply a pre-emergent weed control product as soon as possible in the spring and then reapply it about three months later to ensure weeds are eradicated. That equates to much less tedious lawn maintenance during the season.

- Plant a urine-resistant grass.

Having a dog and maintaining a lush lawn has always been a particular conundrum for homeowners. Dog urine is high in nitrogen. While nitrogen, when applied in the correct ratio, can be a lawn-growth stimulant, in the large concentration that occurs in pet urine, it causes the grass to dry up and burn, resulting in bare spots. Replanting with urine-resistant grasses can help cut down on the level of damage to the lawn from your own pet or pets that happen to make potty stops on your property. The grasses most resis-

tant to urine tend to be perennial ryegrasses and fescues.

- Wake up and water.

Watering in the early mornings saves time and energy in the long run by fostering a tougher, more drought-resistant lawn. If you water early in the day, less water will be lost to evaporation. Limit watering to a few times per week, and less if you have had adequate rain. Avoid watering at night, which can expose the lawn to bacteria and attract insects.

- Mow when the lawn is dry.

It's not advisable to mow the lawn when it is wet. Slippery conditions can not only make it more dangerous to push a mower, but also slow down the time it can take to tackle the chore. The mower blades can become clogged and coated with wet grass clippings, necessitating stopping and starting the task. Another thing to consider is lawn diseases spread more readily through wet clippings. Stick to mowing when the lawn is completely dry.

- Let clippings fly.

Mulching mowers, or those that just distribute clippings on the lawn as you go, can be healthier for the grass. They will serve as fertilizer and redistribute nutrients to the lawn as they break-down into the soil. According to *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*, leaving clippings on the lawn will fulfill about 25 percent of fertilizer requirements. Plus, you save time bagging up clippings.

- Mow less often.

Raise the mower's blade so that the grass is longer in between cuttings. The taller grass will shade the soil and block weeds from germinating. It also helps improve soil's moisture retention.



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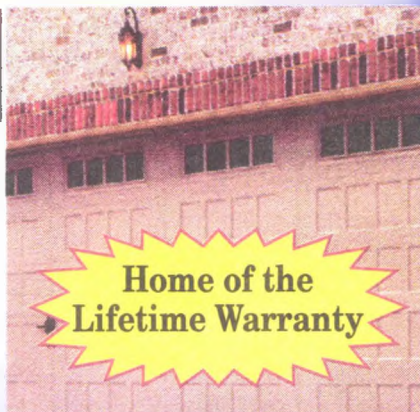
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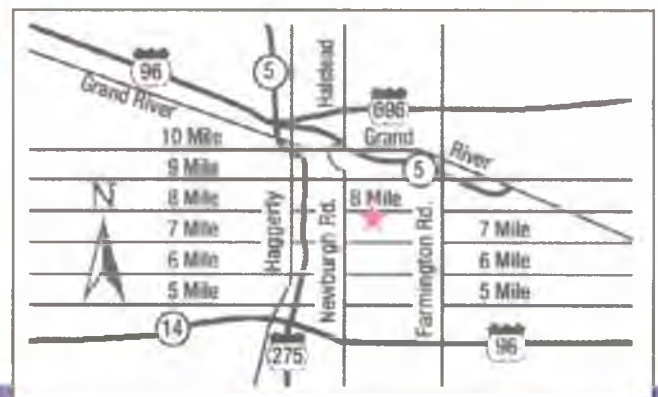
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IMPATIENS

Continued from page 3

adding that her own flowers fell victim to the mildew last summer. “One day the flowers looked great and the next day, they were gone.”

“The upside of this disease is that it only affects impatiens, so there are many other options available both for sun and shade plantings,” said Glenday of Bordine’s Nursery.

“Now is a great time to think outside the box and try some other flowers — maybe even a new color scheme,” she said.

Glenday recommends New Guinea impatiens (resistant to downy mildew), begonias, coleus and caladiums — colorful plants that will do well in the shade.

“Although the begonia colors schemes are somewhat limited to reds, pink and whites, they are drought tolerant and do very well in the shade,” she said.

While different begonia varieties such as the wax begonia provide a wider variety of color options, for colorful foliage, you cannot beat caladiums, she said.

For sunnier locations, Glenday recommends vinca which tolerates a variety of conditions. Vinca’s flowers — in pink, lavender or red — look like tiny parasols “The flower is very similar to the

impatien and comes in a wide range of colors,” she said.

“Expand your horizons,” she advises, “there are really so many alternatives to impatiens.”

However, if you are still stuck on impatiens, try one of the two varieties not impacted by the mildew, New Guinea impatiens and Sun impatiens.

“While the disease has proven fatal to the standard bedding and the double impatiens, these other varieties have not been affected,” she said.

Plant a tree

If you are in the mood for planting more than flowers, now is also a great time to plant a tree, said Glenday.

Planting in the spring and fall when it is still cool outside is the best time to plant trees to avoid additional shock to the tree as it attempts to adjust to its new environment, said LeeAnn Angeloff of Milarch Nursery in New Hudson.

“You want the tree to put its energy into establishing a strong, new root system,” Angeloff said, “The roots need a chance to grow a bit and take hold before it gets too hot.”

According to Glenday, it is a good idea to “give the tree a chance to adjust before it has to begin using energy to accommodate for the moisture it will lose through the soil in the hot weather.”

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Outdoor furniture is an important landscaping detail

Outdoor entertaining areas have always been popular among homeowners. The ability to entertain friends and family or simply relax by yourself is something homeowners cherish, particularly during the warm weather seasons. Finding the right furniture to match your outdoor area, be it a deck, patio or poolside lounging area, is essential to making the most of this special area of the home. When shopping for outdoor furniture, consider the following.

- **Weight:** Outdoor furniture will be moved around quite frequently, such as to protect it from inclement weather or changing seasons. As a result, the weight of the furniture bears importance. While you don't want furniture that's too lightweight and will blow away any time a strong gust of wind comes along, it's a good idea to choose furniture that isn't too heavy. This makes it easier to move should a storm suddenly appear.

- **Comfort:** The whole idea behind an outdoor entertaining area is to have a relaxing place to spend time outside. So be sure to choose furniture that's comfortable and can handle the elements. Metal furniture, for example, might be durable, but such furniture can also get very hot if out in the sun.

- **Versatility:** Many homeowners enjoy changing their home's interior decor from time to time, and it can be just as enjoyable to do the same to a home's exterior decor. That said, look for furniture that can be accented with a variety of accessories.

- **Protection:** Protecting exterior furniture from the elements should be a priority. When shopping for outdoor furniture, figure out if protective covering is available or if it will need to be custom made.

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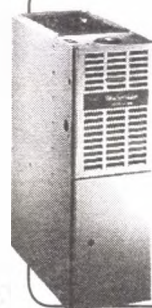
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Are you ready for a self-sustaining garden?



A well-planned garden can almost take care of itself if soil conditions are correct.

Gardening is a rewarding hobby with thousands of devotees. Backyard gardens provide beauty and aesthetic appeal to a landscape, and they can be a source of homegrown food and a natural habitat for outdoor wildlife. A self-sustaining garden can be an efficient addition to any home, but gardens require upkeep and a certain measure of dedication.

A self-sufficient garden is a garden that sustains itself through proper planning and execution. Such gardens can almost take care of themselves so long as the soil is healthy soil, the seeds are reused and organic material is produced.

Self-sustaining gardens also represent a lifestyle where individuals are responsible for producing their own foods, thus sustaining themselves without the need to shop for produce elsewhere. When planting your own self-sustaining garden, consider the following tips.

- Start with soil.

Healthy soil is essential to a thriving garden. The soil must have the right pH, correct texture and composition, and be full of nutrients. Very often, the native soil in yards is not adequate to keep a garden thriving. In such instances, the soil needs to be improved. Adding compost — which can be produced in the yard as well — to the soil will enrich the soil with nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

- Maintain proper soil consistency.

Soil that is the right consistency, meaning the optimum balance of sand,

clay and actual soil, is another necessity for a self-sustaining garden. The ideal ratio should be 40 percent sand, 40 percent silt and 20 percent clay. Having the right balance of soil can secure root formation and promote proper drainage.

- Test the pH. Certain plants need a specific pH in order to grow. A neutral pH range is typically ideal for growing vegetables. A pH tester can be purchased from a gardening center. Amend the soil accordingly to get the soil back to its correct level.

- Know the growing season.

Vegetables should be planted during the season in which they will thrive. Peas, beets and cabbage, for example, are cold-temperature vegetables, while cucumbers, squash and melons thrive in warm climates. Plant accordingly so that the vegetables will have the best chances for success.

- Purchase quality seeds.

Use fresh seeds, particularly ones that have been harvested from your own garden the year before, to have the best chances for germination. Or buy seeds from a reputable source, like a garden center or an online retailer who specializes in vegetable seeds.

- Start seedlings indoors.

You may want to work with seedlings indoors so that you can monitor growth and care for them more easily. Then transplant the seedlings outside when they are stable enough for the elements.

— Courtesy of Metro Creative

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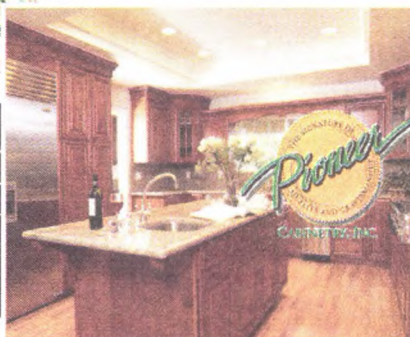
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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR REMODELER

The following checklist is courtesy of NARI (National Association of The Remodeling Industry) Southeast Michigan Chapter.

Among the many questions you can ask during an interview with a remodeler, the most important is the one you ask yourself: "Do I feel comfortable with and trust the person I am about to hire?" Others include:

1. How long have you been in business?
2. Who will be assigned as project supervisor for the job?
3. What is the time frame for starting the project?
4. What is your approach to a project of this scope?
5. How do you operate? How is your firm organized?
6. Is your company a full service or a specialty firm?
7. Do you have design services available?
8. Does your company carry workers' compensation and liability insurance?
9. Are any of your company's employees certified?
10. May I have a list of references for projects that you have completed which are similar to mine?
11. What percentage of your business is repeat or referral business?
12. How many projects like mine have you completed in the last 12 months?
13. Will we need a permit for this project?
14. May I have a list of your supplies?

Homeowners opt to remodel, refresh, stay put

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Homeowners starting to rediscover the value of both good neighborhoods and friendly neighbors are making an impact on the home improvement and remodeling business.

Many factors, including a slowed economy, have homeowners re-evaluating their desires to move in order to upgrade. Many are deciding instead to stay put, said Bob George, a co-owner of Main Street Builders and Remodelers in Waterford.

As part of the process, they are highlighting the importance of comfort and character — as opposed to just square footage — as they begin to make changes to their home.

"Years ago, people renovated purely to add more space; perhaps they had a growing family. Now we see people redesigning and retrofitting their homes to create a whole new living space," George said.

"People are staying in their older homes but they are doing away with the old-fashioned; taking their existing houses and bringing them current and up to date. It is pretty amazing," he added.

Art Grace, president and owner of Clearwater Construction in Livonia, agrees.

"We are seeing a lot of reinvestment into people's primary residence," he said.

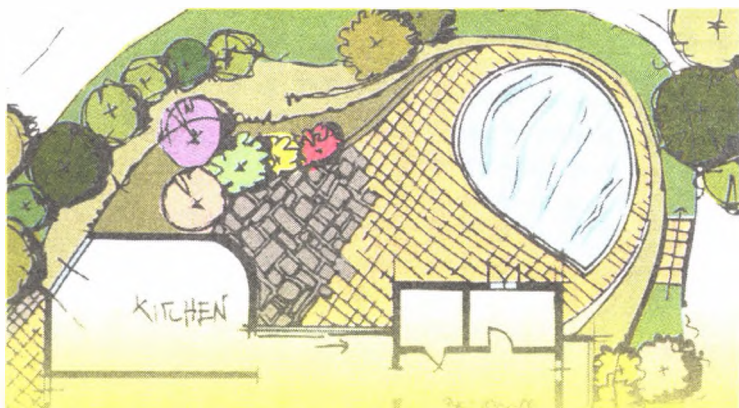
"A big buzz word in a down economy is 'staycation' and that is what we are seeing. People are taking their existing homes and adding new pools, patios and more to upgrade their living space and make it as comfortable as possible."

Porches, said George, are also receiving upgrades as homeowners do away with the dated looks that have been hanging around for the past 40 years.

"There are so many new things out there that you can do to change the appearance of your home — landscaping new pathways and pavers — to make a fresh and current look," he said.



Please see REMODEL, 18



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Create your own yellow brick road

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Homeowners who install their own pavers can save a considerable amount of money. Because installing paving stones can be labor-intensive, landscape contractors may charge a premium for installation. However, this is a project that can be tackled by the do-it-yourselfer.

1. Measure and plot out the area that will become the path or patio. The area of the space can be figured out by multiplying length by the width. This will help you determine just how much material you will need.

2. Visit the home improvement store or a supplier of stone and other masonry supplies to determine the style and color of the paving stones you will use in the project. Some homeowners prefer to have the materials delivered to their home to save the hassle of extra heavy lifting and moving.

3. Using a shovel or a tiller, dig down and remove the grass to a depth of

four to six inches from the area that will become the path or patio.

4. Fill in the area you dug out with a paver base material, using a tamper (either manual or power-driven) to tamp down the paver base until it is level and smooth.

5. Apply about one inch of paving sand to further level out the path or patio. This will be the material on which the paving stones are laid.

6. Begin laying the paving stones. Leave the appropriate distance between stones desired by your pattern. If the paving stones will not have any gap and serve as a continuous patio, leave only the smallest gap between them.

7. Spread more paving sand on top of the paving stones and, using a broom, sweep it over the stones and into the crevices between them to set the stones.

8. Create the rest of the garden design around the patio or pathway using gravel, plants and even edging material to finish the look. Over time, you may need to sweep more paving sand over the stones to keep them secure.

— Courtesy of Metro Creative

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REMODEL

Continued from page 14

Make an impact

Work with your builder/designer to make small changes that have big impact, advises Monica Forward, general manager of Forward Designers and Builders in Ann Arbor and executive director, National Association of the Remodeling Industry southeast Michigan chapter.

Remodeling or renovating to increase space does not necessarily mean that you have to add a bonus room, Forward said, it is very possible to redesign and reuse what you already have to make it more functional.

"A few small things can make a big change," she said.

Changing the configuration of kitchen cupboards or removing a peninsula from a kitchen to change the flow of traffic can make a dramatic impact, she said.

"We have actually done things like reduce square footage and take a sun-room that is only used a few times a year and repurpose it into a kitchen to make a home more functional," she said.

Adding a small amount of space to a kitchen can increase traffic circulation, making the space more comfortable and improving it along the way.

Opening up a kitchen to make for a larger family living space is another way to update your home, George said.

As more homeowners use their kitchen as a primary gathering and entertainment space, new, modern cabinetry with convenient features such as pullout storage and easy-close drawers are becoming more popular, he said.

"They are reasonably priced and not out of range for most homeowners," he said.

It is not necessary to move just to improve, George said.

"There are a lot of memories in people's homes, and it is easy to stay where you are and make it more comfortable," he said.



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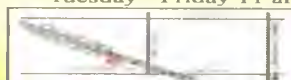
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Power tools make
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Warm weekends are prime time for yard work and outdoor projects. To avoid turning tasks into turmoil, be sure to take a few extra moments to ensure the power tools you use are safe. CSA Group, a leader in electronic product testing and certification, offers tips to help ensure the safety of you and your family while doing yard work this weekend.

General tips

- Ensure products such as electric lawn mowers, barbecues, power tools, ladders, decorative lights, extension cords and safety apparel carry the mark of a recognized or accredited certification organization.
- Protect yourself by wearing protective eyewear and footwear recognized by a certification organization. Hearing protection should be worn when operating loud machinery, vehicles or tools.

Lawn mowers

- Before mowing, take the time to remove objects in your yard that may obstruct your mower or be flung by its rotating blades.
- Never clear an obstruction in a running mower. If the mower is electric, turn off the power and unplug the machine. If it's gas, turn off the power and make sure the engine isn't running and that all safety features have been activated.

Portable power tools

- Never use a power tool that has a cracked casing, loose parts or frayed cords. Ensure all safety guards are in place and in proper working order.
- Make sure the tool is turned off before it's plugged in or unplugged. Always unplug the tool before changing parts like drill bits or cutting blades.
- Use only electric power tools that have either a three-prong plug or double insulation with a heavy enough gauge — or wire size — to handle the electricity load. Use an outlet with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter to protect against electric shock.

Extension cords

- Check extension cords for wear and damage before each use. Discard any cords that are frayed or have damaged insulation.
 - Never connect more than one extension cord together. Instead, use a single cord that is long enough to reach from the outlet to an appliance or tool.
 - When working outside, only use cords clearly labeled for outdoor use.
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Natural fencing options that are pro-green

A backyard can be a sanctuary for some people. It's a place to which individuals can retreat, offering an extension of living space in the great outdoors. Chances are, a homeowner prefers to have his or her yard fenced in to maintain privacy. But homeowners aren't always fond of traditional fencing materials. A natural fence can be an option that offers a bounty of benefits.

The purpose of a fence is to keep things in or out. Fences are often erected to serve as a barrier between properties and offer privacy. To achieve these goals, a homeowner doesn't necessarily have to construct a wooden, plastic or wire fence. Many plants can serve as natural fencing options and be very attractive to look at.

Grasses

Consider the fast-growing bamboo. It is one of the fastest-growing plants on the planet. Some varieties may grow as much as 50 inches per day! This tall, dense grass can be an inexpensive fencing option that quickly fills in on the perimeter of the yard. Just be sure to take inventory of the bamboo because it can spread quickly.

Trees

How about planting trees on the property? Evergreen trees, like Leyland Cypress, may grow quickly. The dense foliage will quickly fill in and can create an attractive border around the house. But evergreens aren't the only options. Deciduous trees can also be planted. The thick leaves will form a privacy screen and in the winter the leaves will drop and let light into the landscape.

Shrubs

Much in the same way that evergreen trees can offer privacy on a larger scale, so can shrubs. There are scores of different shrubs that can be as dense or thin as a homeowner desires. Rose bushes can look very attractive and serve as a deterrent to animals and people trying to get through the thorny brambles. The same can be said for holly bushes, which will be prickly but attractive with their shiny, dark green leaves and bright berries. Certain shrubs are even marketed as natural fencing. A chat with a landscaper can yield many ideas of species that make great fences.

Flowers and plants

Shrubs and trees aren't the only fencing options. Many homeowners like the cottage look of a garden full of wildflowers and other plants. Congregating certain plants on the perimeter of the property can make an informal fence. Trailing vines like ivy or vinca vine can be trained to climb vertically. A thin mesh material or vertical slats can be installed and the vines tied to these items before they fully establish.

Hardscapes

Consider living natural fencing, rocks and boulders or even water features to be used as fencing. This type of fencing may be more aesthetic than practical, however, and can be used intermittently with other fencing options. The possibilities for natural fencing are endless and can be mingled to create a landscape unique to any homeowner.

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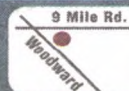
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Enjoy a backyard movie night



Outdoor activities are even more fun when the weather cooperates. Pleasant temperatures and conditions can entice people who are normally content to stay indoors to venture outside and enjoy the fresh air. There are a number of activities, from cooking to entertaining, that are ideal for summer fun. But, what about watching a movie?

Although the number of drive-in movie theaters may be on the decline, that doesn't have to keep movie buffs from enjoying a film with friends and family al fresco. Certain parks, municipal recreation centers and businesses host movie nights under the stars for large groups in the summertime. However, homeowners can host an outdoor movie night right in their own backyards.

Establish the "screen" spot well in advance

A few different scenarios can make watching a movie more enjoyable. You will need a large enough surface to act as the movie screen. If yours is a light-colored home, you can project the image directly on a patch of siding that is not broken by windows or doors. Otherwise, you will need to erect a tarp, sheet, shower curtain, or an actual screen to serve as the backdrop. Test out the movie-watching experience prior to inviting people over to ensure that the movie is clearly visible and is not marred by street lights or obstructions like overhanging branches.

Invest in a projector

In order to project the movie onto the big screen, you will need a projector. Electronics stores sell projectors that can hook up to everything from DVD and Blu-ray players to smartphones. Some are small enough to travel in your pocket. If a friend

has a projector, you can also ask to borrow it. The higher you can mount the projector, the better it will be to avoid picture blockage. Also, keep in mind that the bigger the screen the higher the resolution projector you will need. A high definition projector is your best bet, especially one with an HDMI input.

Have a sound system

Don't skimp on a sound system; otherwise, you'll have a big, impressive movie picture without adequate sound. You can only turn up some projectors so much before experiencing distortion, so it is best to purchase some speakers so you can project the sound to guests who are sitting around the yard. A stereo receiver or an old sound system that you can buy on an auction site or garage sale should suffice.

Create the theater

Theaters are built with staggered seating in which seats are set on a gradually increasing angle. This may not be possible in a yard unless you have a nicely sloping hill. Place a few blankets or sheets down, for children or shorter adults in the front. And have plenty of folding chairs out for the adults. You can also opt for guests to bring their own chairs if you do not have enough.

Have movie snacks on hand

Snack foods, especially finger foods, work best for outdoor movie nights. Give everyone a paper lunch bag they can fill up with snacks from a snack table and then take with them to their seats. Have a cooler filled with beverages in close proximity to your seats. If you're creative, you can tie in the snacks to the theme of the movie. For example, if you're watching a film with dinosaurs, then serve dinosaur-shaped gummy fruits.

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Vinyl siding is trusted by homeowners that are looking to add aesthetic appeal to their home's exterior. Though vinyl siding may seem to be a cut-and-dry type of product, the vast array of vinyl siding colors and styles has created certain trends among consumers.

Made chiefly from polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, vinyl siding is the most commonly installed exterior cladding for residential construction in the United States and Canada, according to the Vinyl Siding Institute. The history of vinyl siding can be traced to Ohio, where it was introduced to the exterior cladding market in the late 1950s by a private company. The process of mixing colors was done by hand, and the product was very inconsistent. New innovations in siding manufacture during the next few decades helped solidify vinyl siding's place among cladding materials like shake, wood and aluminum.

Vinyl siding comes in several different types. Here are the key variations.

- **Seamless vinyl siding:** In the past, siding was created in specific lengths, requiring siding panels to overlap at points, often creating an unpleasant pattern. These points provided spots for insects, wind and moisture to infiltrate, leading to a weaker product. Today there are vinyl siding products that have removed the seams, creating a more visually appealing and durable product.

- **Solid core vinyl siding:** Even the best-made vinyl siding had a flaw: it was not rigid and generally didn't lie flat against the surface of a home. Solid core vinyl siding alleviates that problem by having a solid backing on which the vinyl panels are attached. The core is then attached to the home. These products also boast a higher-than-average insulation rating because the foam core interlocks during insulation. This makes a solid barrier around the home.

- **Vinyl shake siding:** Vinyl shake siding has been designed and colored to look just like real cedar shakes, but without the maintenance, such as power washing or staining, associated with a wood product. Vinyl shake siding offers the same benefits of other types of vinyl siding, but tends to look like it is an expensive cladding material.



- **Vinyl log siding:** Log cabins may seem like an adventure. However, being surrounded by wood can have its disadvantages, most notably maintenance issues surrounding wood. Vinyl siding manufacturers have created vinyl log products molded directly from real lumber, providing a look that mimics real wood, like that used for a log cabin.

As vinyl siding continues to be a favorite among homeowners, certain trends emerge each year. While rich-colored siding was a popular trend just last year, homeowners engaging in siding renovation products are now turning more to warm, earthy colors. Expect to see more gold, clay, and warm red shades with trim colors only one or two shades off, for a monochromatic effect.

Another trend involves a continued interest in renewable materials or siding comprised of some post-recycled consumer content.

Energy conservation is also on the minds of consumers, and some areas of the country have modified building codes to require continuous insulation of home exteriors to prevent heat and cooling losses more effectively. As a result, more customers may opt for solid core vinyl siding to meet demands for home insulation.

For homeowners who prefer a one-of-a-kind look to their homes, mix-and-match siding trends have developed. Mixing and matching siding styles can create instant curb appeal and an interesting backdrop for outdoor gardens and patios. Stone entryways mixed with vinyl siding as well as a mixing of traditional horizontal siding with vinyl shake or board-and-batten are also considerations.

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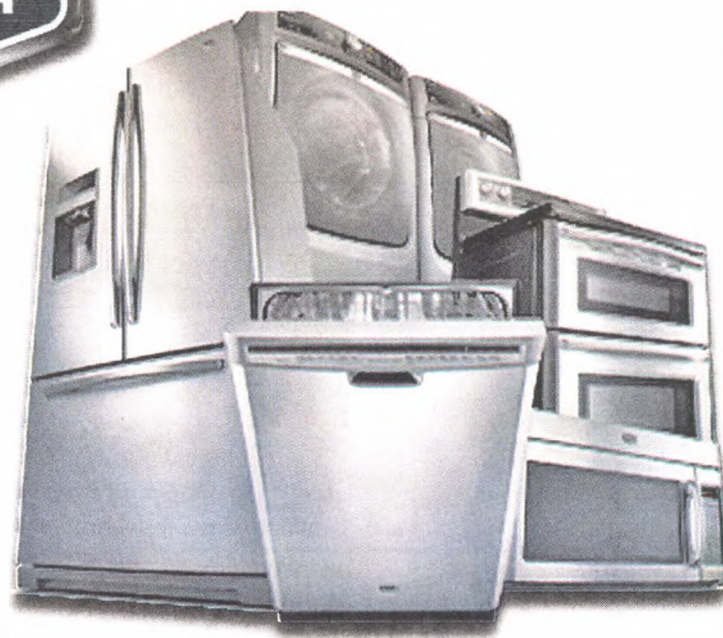
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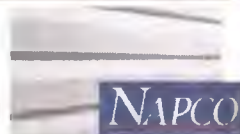
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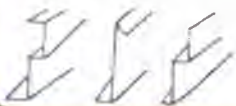
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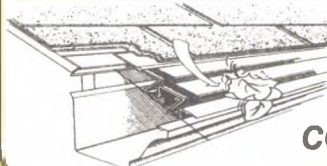
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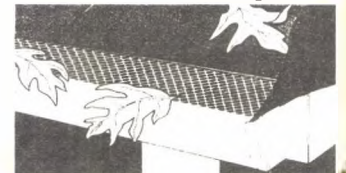
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