THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014 • hometownlife.com



GET READY FOR SPRING

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Vietnam vets walk on July 4 parade

By Matt Jachman

Staff Writer

The local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter is bowing out of Plymouth's Fourth of July parade over its placement in the parade lineup.

Ron King, president of VVA Chapter 528 in Plymouth, said

the hours-long wait to begin marching that a position at the rear of the parade requires, coupled with marching in the July heat, has made it difficult in recent years for some members of the chapter's color guard to participate and that some veterans view the placement as a sign of disrespect.

"We just felt that we should be given an honorable position in the front of the line," King said last week.

The chapter sought to be slotted within the first 10 entries this year, but was denied, King said, and members voted last month to not participate. The chapter has more than 250 member veterans and all of the more than 80 who showed up at the meeting voted to not participate, he said.

They didn't want to march again ... if they were going to be way back in the back," King said. The chapter was in the 51st position last year, toward the back, and has been given a

similar position this year, he said. The chapter has marched in the latter part of the parade for several years, he said.

Fred Hill, who organizes the July 4 Good Morning America Parade for the local Kiwanis Club, declined to comment

See PARADE, Page A2

Price says he will run again for county commission

Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price announced Tuesday he will seek re-election to the 10th Dis-

trict seat that represents Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth



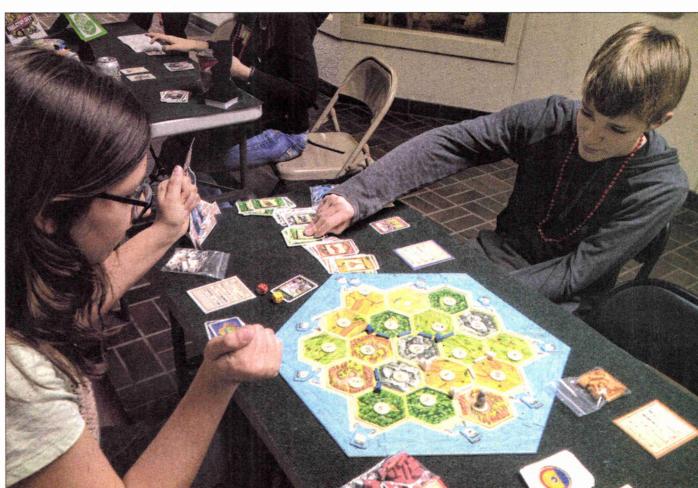
Township. Price, R-Canton, first won election in November 2012

when he defeated Democratic rival James

"Over the past two years, I have been honored to represent the residents of the 10th District," Price said in a statement. "Whether it was pushing to halt construction on the failed (Wayne County) jail project, trying to rein in the out-of-control spending or pushing for more transparency, I am proud of my record and my efforts to bring more accountability to county government."

Price, in his first two-year term, teamed up with Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, to lead an effort to shed more public light on the county's budget by improving information that is available online. Their efforts helped move the county from a D-minus to an A-minus

See PRICE, Page A2



Mikaela Cesario of Plymouth does battle with Henry Dare of Lake Orion in a game called Settlers of Catan.

Genuine Toy helps players get 'board'

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

lle Dare knows tabletop game sales are growing at Genuine Toy Co. in downtown Plymouth.

So when the website International Table Top-Day.com started promoting a day to celebrate the tabletop games, Dare and her husband Charles, who together own Genuine Toy, jumped joyfully at the

And response was good, with people streaming into the store Saturday to not only set up the games they were pitching, but to play a variety of different games, as well.

"We got a lot of re-sponse," Elle Dare said Saturday, while dueling Emily Crandall of Ply-

See GAME, Page A2



Broken concrete from the demolition of I-96 will be ground into gravel for the reconstruction. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Local officials: Traffic following freeway closure not as bad as expected

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid could not believe the level of traffic along Schoolcraft and several surface streets he saw while driving early Monday morning near Interstate

The roads were nowhere near as full as he and other officials expected, a sign that drivers took the state's recommendation of detours seri-

"Í was driving around Schoolcraft and I expected it to be bumper-to-bumper," he said. "I was surprised that it appeared people heeded the warnings.

This week was the first of the shutdown of I-96 as the Michigan Department of Transportation works on the seven-mile stretch of the freeway from Telegraph in Redford to Newburgh in Livonia. The freeway closed early Saturday morning, forcing traffic onto alternate freeways and surface streets.

Caid said additional police

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PRICE: \$1

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Plymouth officials OK railroad quiet zone study

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

Plymouth officials took steps Monday toward quieting freight-train horns at the city's seven railroad crossings.

The city commission voted 5-1 to spend up to \$18,200 to gather data that would aid in studying the feasibility and the cost of installing extra safety technology at the railroad crossings that would qualify the crossings for federal "quiet zone" status. That status would prohibit the use of train horns at the crossings except during emergencies.

Planning for quiet zones is a 2014 goal of the city commission, which acted after resident Neil Lobron gathered several hundred signatures on

a petition calling for quiet zones and brought a standingroom-only crowd to a commission meeting last fall. Lobron has done extensive research on quiet zones and contends they would increase property values and improve the quality of life in Plymouth.

The technical work is being handled by the city's engineering consultant, Wade Trim, and engineer Sean Keough told commissioners a study of each crossing, with involvement by the city, Wayne County, CSX Railroad, the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration, is key among the next steps to take. Keough told commissioners he had already requested such a study, called a diagnostic field review.

Funding questions

Commissioner Dan Dalton voted against the measure after saying he researched federal grant monies available for quiet zones and found none. Citing reports from several larger communities around the country where quiet zones are being considered, Dalton noted cost estimates for the required safety technology have run into the millions.

"We were under the impression that federal funding was available to pay for quiet zones," Dalton said. "That does not appear to be the case, based on my research."

Commissioner Meg Dooley, however, said that while there are not grants for quiet zones

specifically, there are monies available for installing the kinds of extra safety measures that are needed in quiet zones.

"We set a goal and committed to doing this preliminary research," Dooley said. Joining her in voting for the measure were Commissioners Mike Wright, Oliver Wolcott, Diane Bogenrieder and President Pro Tem Ed Hingelberg, who chaired the meeting. Mayor Dan Dwyer was absent.

Commission review

The commission's resolution calls for its review of the first phases of the study before any further work is approved. In a memo, Keough said he expects results from the data collection and diagnostic field review by mid-

Safety regulations normally require railroad engineers to sound train horns as their trains approach railroad crossings, in order to warn drivers who might be nearing the crossings. Quiet zones, made possible under a 2006 Federal Railroad Administration rules change, allow alternative safety measures for motorists.

Such alternative measures could include extra crossing gate arms, concrete median barriers in the roadway to keep motorists from driving around gates and track-side warning horns that would alert drivers without the sound carrying into neighborhoods.

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GAME

Continued from Page A1

mouth in a game called Scopa. "We are big board game fans. Tabletop introduces people to board games they may not have seen be-

And she wasn't talking about more traditional games, like Monopoly or Scrabble, mainstream games of years past. Now, Dare said, games like Scopa, Settlers of Catan and Ticket to Ride are "becoming more main-

stream. William Meyer of Livonia set up a table to push Movie Mashups, a game he designed where the last word in one title is the first word in the other title. For instance, one clue involved someone saving a whale so it could inherit a large candy store. The "Movie Mashup" title? "Free Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.'

Meyer, like the Dares, believes the tabletop games help pull people out from in front of their video gaming systems and into a social interaction.

"It's a teen-based game that helps people interact with each other," Meyer said. "Board games are social faceto-face action. With all the video games and iPads, there isn't as much socializing. These games encourage you to get to know people."

Joshua Slominski of Farmington Hills figures he owns some 30-40 board games of all kinds and he meets weekly with friends to play them, often on the expensive gaming table he recently purchased from Geekchic.

He said board games often require more mental acuity and make the players think, rather than just reacting to what's on a video

screen. "There are a lot of decisions to be made. ... It keeps you sharp,' Slominski said. "I find board games much more stimulating, just with the social aspect

Carol King and Paul Hoke of Plymouth set up a table where people could play a deck-building game called Dominion, which actually comes with about eight different versions, they

"Our thing to do as a family is play games," said King and Hoke, who have two daughters. "We like games with luck and strategy and this game has

The Dares can help families like that who might not be able to find non-traditional board games. If a customer can't find it, chances are the Dares

"Board games are still popular, (but) I think it's the games that are a little different that are becoming more mainstream," Elle Dare said. "Tabletop games are one of our best sellers. People can't always find them somewhere close, so we've got that niche."

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Plymouth Rotary Club celebrates 90th anniversary

The Plymouth Rotary Club marked its 90th anniversary March 27 with a gala at the Mayflower Meeting House in downtown Plymouth.

Club president Thomas Adams welcomed more than 100 club members and their guests for a night that celebrated the many accomplishments and civic activities in which the club has been involved over the years. The event included fellowship time, a presentation of the club's recent successes, a gourmet meal and more discussion of upcoming events and the club's future.

It was March 6, 1924, that George "Pop" Smith, the Plymouth schools superintendent, and several businessmen met with Edward Lee of the Wayne Rotary Club to

learn what Rotary is all about. They decided to form their own club under the sponsorship of the Wayne club. Twentythree men signed up and, four days later, Rotary International accepted their application. District 18 governor Paul King presented the charter to the club April 19, 1924.

Meetings were first held in the basement of the Penniman-Allen building, then moved to the Masonic Club dining room in the new Masonic Temple. As membership grew, the club moved to the auditorium of the high school and then to a Lutheran church, where it met weekly until the Mayflower Hotel opened in 1927

By 1967, the club had outgrown the Mayflower and meetings were

moved to the newly refurbished Meeting House. In 1999, after 72 years of meeting in the Mayflower Hotel and Meeting House, the club meeting place was changed to the Plymouth Cultural Cen-

"We're one of the oldest and largest Rotary clubs in Michigan and we've been very involved in the community since our inception," Adams said. "The main objectives of Rotary are service in the community, the workplace and throughout the world. Rotarians build goodwill and peace, provide humanitarian service and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations.

For more information about the Plymouth Rotary Club, visit www.plymouthrotary.org.

PARADE

Continued from Page A1

Tuesday.

Parade history

A parade entry for many years, Chapter 528 typically has its color guard marching the route at a half-step with flags and a chapter banner, plus 20 or more veterans walking behind them, enjoying the parade and waving to the crowd.

The parade begins in the area of Main and Theodore streets every July 4 and travels through the center of town to South Main, a route of about a mile. King said the veterans'

wait in the staging area takes a toll on them before they start and that it would make a big difference to start marching earlier.

Veterans last year showed up between 7:30 a.m. and $\bar{8}$ a.m., King said, and didn't start marching until 10:45 a.m.

Vietnam veterans are in their 60s and 70s, King said, and some chapter members suffer from medical conditions.

"We're just at that age," said King, who served in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force. "We're not young and agile anymore like we used to be.'

King said he has respect for Hill and didn't want to become adversarial over the chapter's

parade slot, but also felt that he had to act on behalf of the membership. He announced the decision in a letter recently published in the Plymouth Observer.

The chapter, King said, is open to reviewing its decision, if it can be moved up in the parade order.

"We enjoy it and the community enjoys it and it's an honor for us to represent the communi-

ty," he said. The Good Morning several Fourth of July events in the Plymouth

America Parade, part of area, typically draws hundreds of onlookers to downtown streets.

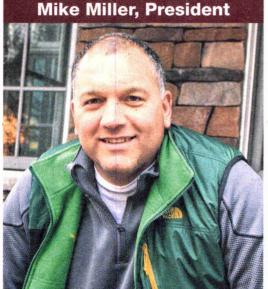
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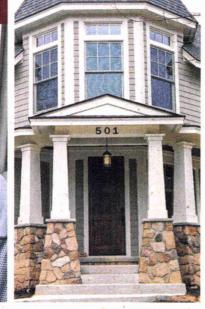
This map shows some of them.

People often ask if I built that home

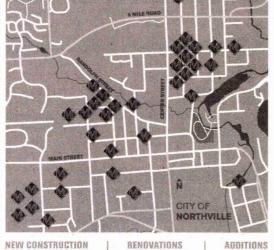
and I usually have the same answer:

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PRICE

Continued from Page A1

rating by an outside agency that analyzes so-called sunshine ef-

"The best way to prevent fraud and abuse is to put sunshine on the process," Price said. 'Today, taxpayers can

download full copies of the county's budget, audits, meeting minutes and much more.

During his campaign two years ago, Price also pledged to fight to bring more tax dollars back to the 10th District for roads and park projects. He said he is proud of his role in getting the county to restore funding for a Canton-based therapeu-

tic recreational program, which serves specialneeds residents across Wayne County. He also noted his efforts to support new road projects for Beck Road, Cherry Hill and Mill Street.

Price said he is seeking a second term because "there is still a lot of work to do to get Wayne County where it needs to be."



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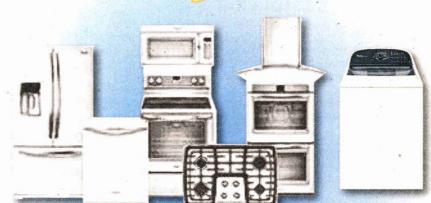
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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Felonious assault

Canton police arrested a 21-year-old woman following accusations she made threats at knifepoint while she was involved in an argument with her ex-boyfriend and his roommate, a police report said.

The incident happened about 5:30 p.m. Saturday in the 5900 block of Sandhurst, northwest of Ford and Lotz roads.

The 23-year-old ex-boyfriend said the argument started after the woman, who was still living with him, was confronted about not paying her share of the bills. He told her that he wanted her out of the apartment, prompting her to become angry, the report said.

The ex-boyfriend said he and the woman pushed each other and she broke his television before taking his phone and trying to throw it in the toilet. He said she then went to the kitchen and got a knife before his roommate tried to take it from her, prompting her to wave the knife toward him and threaten to kill him, the police report said.

The woman then threw the knife in the kitchen sink, the report said.

The woman gave a conflicting version, saying her exboyfriend had pushed her and begun removing her belongings from the apartment. She said he threw a roll of garbage bags at her. She said she got a knife, but didn't threaten anyone.

Police placed the woman under arrest for felonious assault.

Home invasion

A 27-year-old man reported a home invasion that occurred between 7 a.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m. Saturday at his residence in the 1100 block of Stacy, northeast of Palmer and Haggerty.

The man told police items taken from his home included a 14-carat gold ring with diamonds worth \$1,300 and a sterling silver ring with a

black stone valued at \$200, along with a laptop computer, an iPad and a container where he had placed \$300.

All the items were taken from the second floor of the home, a police report said. The man said he didn't notice any signs of forced entry to the home, leaving open the possibility he hadn't locked the residence.

Defaced door

A 53-year-old woman told police someone wrote the word "slut" on the door of her apartment at The Crossings, an apartment complex near Joy Road and I-275

She told police she was away from home 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday when the incident happened. She said she has had no problems with anyone in the complex and hasn't been involved in any relationships that turned sour.

Police advised her to report any further problems.

Vehicle stolen

A 40-year-old Canton man reported his 2013 Chevrolet Equinox was stolen while it was parked in the 40000 block of Cambridge, southeast of Warren Road and I-275, between 4 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday, a police report said.

The man told police all of the keys had been accounted for and there were no immediate signs at the scene that any windows had been smashed out. The man told police he was not behind on his payments and the car therefore wouldn't have been repossessed.

Hit and run

A 30-year-old woman told police a black SUV struck her vehicle and then fled the scene while she was turning onto southbound Haggerty from westbound Ford Road about 3:30 p.m. Saturday, a police report said.

The woman said the other driver pulled out of a private driveway, sideswiped her 2014 Lincoln MKZ and kept going.

- By Darrell Clem

Canton man who drove toward crowd pleads guilty

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

A Canton man has pleaded guilty to charges that arose after police say he backed a car toward a crowd and injured two people during an altercation outside the Shell gas station near Michigan Avenue and

Jesse James Winchester, 20, could face penalties ranging from probation to four years in prison when he is sentenced April 23 for two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, failing to stop at the scene of a personal injury accident and assault and battery, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.



Winchester

decision to plead guilty averted a trial that was set to begin this month in Judge Cynthia Gray Hathaway's courtroom. He had

Winchester's

earlier maintained his innocence and indicated he was fearful for himself and a female companion who was with him.

Winchester was charged Dec. 26 for an incident that police have said occurred in early December. He was accused of getting into an argument after someone in a crowd of people had a conversation with a woman who was with him, Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh

Winchester has described the woman as the mother of his child, according to police reports. After the argument escalated, police said Winchester got into the vehicle and drove in reverse toward the crowd, hitting two people before driving off.

Baugh has described the injuries as minor.

The incident happened in early December, but Baugh said Winchester was arrested after police went to his residence in Canton last Christmas Eve for an unrelated disturbance.

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Retail fraud

A 71-year-old Livonia woman faces a retail-fraud charge after her arrest April 2 in the theft of \$650 in jewelry from Carl's Golfland, on Five Mile, at the Inn at St. John's golf

course.

Police were called to a shoplifting in progress about 4:30 p.m., according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, and when a woman who fit the description of the shoplifter exited the store, an officer approached. The woman immediately pleaded with the officer not to take her to jail and offered to pay for the jewelry, police said.

A Carl's employee reported witnessing the theft, police said. The woman had reportedly been in the store two weeks earlier and had taken jewelry from the same display and was not seen putting it back, police said.

The suspect was arraigned on the charge, with a notguilty plea entered, the next day, then released on personal bond pending her next court hearing.

Funny money

A counterfeit \$20 bill used at the Taco Bell on Ann Arbor Road was turned over to police April 1, a police report said. Police used a special light to verify the bill was counterfeit; the eatery manager said it had been used there recently.

The bill was sent to the U.S. Secret Service, which investigates counterfeiting. It was the second time in recent weeks a phony \$20 bill had been used at the Taco Bell.

Tax fraud

A Plymouth Township woman reported April 2 that her Social Security number had been used on tax returns that were not hers.

The woman told police she got a letter from the state the day before telling her that her tax return was being investigated, but that she hadn't yet filed a state return. Upon investigating the matter, she learned that her Social Security number had been used on both state and federal returns without her knowledge, she

Larcenies

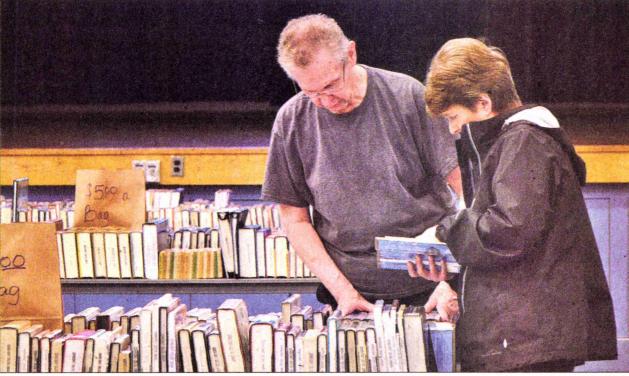
» Two debit cards were reported stolen April 2 from a Ford Focus that was parked in the driveway of a house on Plymouth Lake Drive, in the area of Ann Arbor Road and Napier. The complainant was uncertain if the car had been locked.

» Three navigation devices were reported stolen Sunday from two Pontiac GTOs that were parked in the driveway of a house on Amherst Court, in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and Beck. The thefts occurred March 28 or early the next day, a police report said.

Two of the devices were stolen from one Pontiac and one from another, the report said. One car had been locked, and it was not clear how it had been opened, while the other had been left unlocked, police said.

- By Matt Jachman





Rick and Adele Armbruster browse the book sale at Schoolcraft College's Garden City campus. The couple are residents of Plymouth. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Radcliff Center makes big book donation to GC Public Library

By Sue Buck Staff Writer

It was a win-win situation this week at Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center in Garden City.

The college donated 7,000 slightly used books from its library for the Friends of the Garden Public Library used book sale because after it recently renovated its media center.

The three-day, \$5-abag sale offered buyers a chance to stock up on

"It has been going very well," Sarah Falzon, vice president of the Friends of the Garden City Public Library, said Tuesday.

"More people buy books by the bag than by the book."

Falzon found time to help out during her busy schedule, Expecting her second son in July, she had her 41/2-old-son Nolan by her side, who was also willing to assist with the

Did he help? Did he greet the customers?

'Yeah," Nolan said. Carol Elliott, a longtime Friends member who joined the original group, anticipated interested customers. Falzon said that about 20 of the 40 Friends members are active.

Shopping for eight

There was an ebb and flow of customers and one shopper who didn't want to be identified said that he was shopping for eight people.
"Yesterday we did

better than anticipated," Falzon said. "There are all kinds of genres. There's fiction, non-fiction, biography, etc."

Novels and fiction books went quickly Monday, the first day of the

"We just had a man

come back today for a bag full," Falzon said. "He left yesterday with a bag full."

Three members of Schoolcraft College helped set up the books at 7 a.m. Monday, two hours prior to the book sale. Because the Friends didn't have the manpower to transport the books to the other used book sale being held this week at Maplewood Center, Schoolcraft College offered its facility for the

"You can't beat the bargain," Elliott said, adding that students have come to the book sale before and after

"We had a senior citizen take home bags of books on his bike.

New media center

Frank Ruggirello, director of marketing and communications for Schoolcraft College,

called the new media center, "a natural progression."

"Books are available electronically and computer space is at a premium," Ruggirello said.

The media center has 3,000 books. This type of transition from books to electronic access can be seen in the kindergarten through 12th-grade districts, he said.

Ruggirello is the former spokesman for the Plymouth-Canton School District. When the third high school, Plymouth High School, was built there were very few books in the high school library.

"The need was more electronic," he said. "This is how students get their information. It is very different from how we did it."

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Americans for Prosperity holds Tax Day Rally

Americans for Prosperity-Michigan is holding a Tax Day Rally from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The rally will feature speeches by radio personalities Tony Katz and Frank Beckmann.

After the presentation, attendees will be participating in phone banking and learning how they can become

more effective citizen activists.

Americans for Prosperity is a nationwide organization committed to promoting individual productivity and prosperity by reducing the size and intrusiveness of government.

For further information, contact Katie Hendrickson at KHendric kson@afphq.org or 248-494-0285 or visit www.americans forprosperity.org

Celebrate a special woman

Help us celebrate Mother's Day with a

special salute to women. Send in your favorite photo of mother and son, mother and daughter or a photo of you and your grandmother, aunt, niece or any other special woman who has made a difference in your life. Send the photo to bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Send the photo in jpeg format only as large as possible. Attach it to an email with your name, address and contact number. Identify who is in the photo (first and last names, please) and briefly state why this



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woman is special to you. Deadline to submit photos is 6 p.m. Monday, April 14. All photos and information must be submitted online.

Look for a photo album salute to women in the May edition of Hometown Life Woman.



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More Great Events:

Outstanding Jazz Vocalist Wednesday, April 2

1:30 p.m.

Sheila Landis is a seven time winner of Detroit Music Award's "Outstanding Jazz Vocalist". Sheila will perform her unique style of jazz, Latin and blues. Join us for great music and refreshments.

RSVP by March 31.

Grand Piano Dedication Thursday, April 10 1:00 p.m.

The Village Joy Singers, IVP's own Resident Choir, under the direction of Charlotte Worthen will dedicate our 100 year old grand piano. Join us as we celebrate this exquisite addition to our community.

Mingle with Marilyn Friday, April 25 1:30 p.m.

Entertainment provided by Marilyn Monroe and Debra Jimmerson, a phenomenal mother/ daughter duo. Don't miss this great performance. Refreshments provided.

RSVP by April 23.

Stay and Play

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At 6:44 a.m. Saturday, all eastbound traffic exits onto the Newburgh Road exit. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CLOSURE

Continued from Page A1

were out Monday, expecting to see more traffic as motorists tried to maneuver around the shutdown. While Plymouth Road was congested over the weekend, Caid said the projected problems that prompted more police haven't existed a few days into the work.

"The fear we had of traffic crashes, road rage, all the commuting drama ... so far has been minimal," he said. "We may see more traffic and adjustments going forward."

justments going forward."

Jeff Horne, an engineer
with MDOT, said the agency
has received some calls regarding traffic signals on several of the east-west mile
roads, including Five Mile, Six
Mile and Seven Mile. He said
the department is working
with Wayne County, which has
control over those signals, to
better time them for travelers.

"It's a jurisdictional issue," he said.

The closure has affected some of the busing routes Livonia Public Schools uses along or near Schoolcraft. Eleven stops were moved several weeks ago and the transition has been smooth, said Stacy Jenkins, administrator of district communications.

She said buses cross the freeway more than 500 times a day and several schools have students who live on the opposite side of the freeway, including Frost Middle School, Cooper Upper Elementary, Webster Elementary, Johnson Upper Elementary and both Franklin and Churchill high schools.

"The district has been in close communication with MDOT and the city of Livonia to prepare for increased traffic congestion throughout the area. Delays could occur, particularly during the first weeks of the closure, as motorists settle in to their detour routes," she said. "We're encouraging our parents to carpool, give themselves extra travel time and to be patient with the expected delays at the bus stops."

MDÔT's official detour routes include I-94, I-696, the Southfield Freeway and the Lodge Freeway. Caid said it appears many drivers who typically take I-96 have diverted onto those detour routes.

Farmington Hills Deputy Chief Pat Comini said as of Tuesday that there had been no traffic incidents resulting from the I-96 closure reported in the city. He said he noticed slower traffic on eastbound I-696. Farmington Public Safety Director Bob Schulz said officers have noticed increased traffic on M-5, but no impact on the city's local roads.

Sgt. Joe Boitos, who oversees the traffic division in Livonia, said it appears most drivers have taken the detours to heart and traffic hasn't been a problem so far.

"It's been heavier than normal, but there hasn't been any major backups," he said. "I think the public was well-informed and prepared, as well

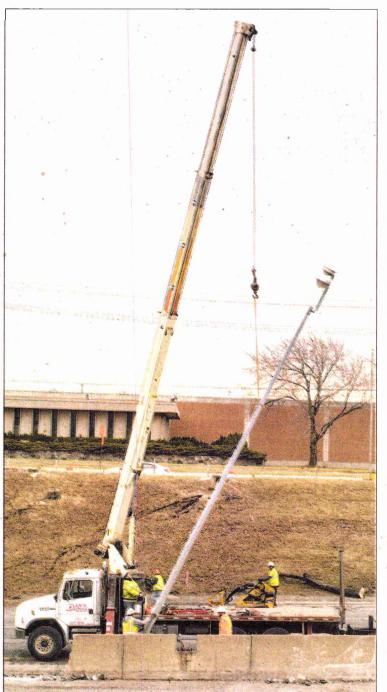
we were."

Staff Writer Joanne Maliszewski contributed to this report.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com 313-222-5379 Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



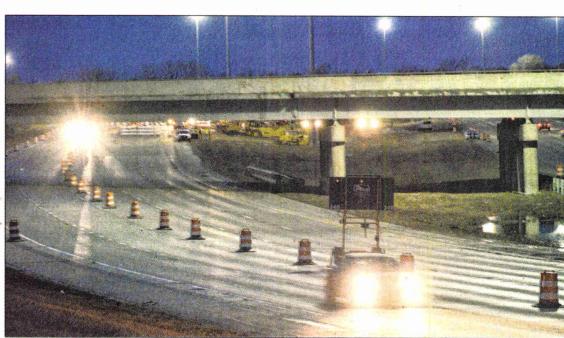
Broken concrete, piled high, will be ground into gravel for the reconstruction.



Freeway lighting comes down.



Workers secure steel from demolished bridges.



Eastbound vehicles will exit at Newburgh until the freeway reconstruction is complete.

Local school one of few to teach rare martial art

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Write

Modern Arnis has only seven masters in the world - and one of them teaches the martial art at his school in Westland.

"I trained with the grand master who passed. He was sharing Modern Arnis around the world," said Chuck Gauss, owner of Gauss Martial Arts Center. "There are not too many Modern Arnis schools. It's eclectic and usually

secondary.' A retired Taylor police officer, Gauss has spent much of his life training in martial arts, beginning as a youngster in 1965. As an adult, Gauss said he has practiced martial arts daily since 1980.

"My uncle was a police man, he was in martial arts. That was my motivation," Gauss said. "I did judo and competed while I was in college.'

Having nearly earned his black belt in the Korean martial art tang soo do, Gauss said he began seeing holes in the training when it came to selfdefense.

Gauss went on to study the small circle iujitsu developed by Grand Master Wally Jay. Then in 1990, Gauss said he drove to Joliet, Ill., for training with Remy Presas, who developed Modern Arnis and was its grand master.

"He (Presas) was a little Filipino guy. We broke into smaller groups. He picked me out of the group and asked if I wanted to learn something. I said sure," Gauss said. "He told me to

Thrivent offers free economic update meeting

Thrivent Financial is al event to offer an economic update to the community. The 60-minute presentation will be held at 10 a.m. and repeated at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5885 N. Venoy, Westland.

The event is being presented by Jeffrey S. Long, CFP® of the Huron Valley Group with Thrivent Financial in Plymouth. The Huron Valley Group local financial representatives are Jeffrey S. Long, Jay P Kempf, Jeffrey R. Myers and Matthew R. Crenshaw.

The event will offer important updates about changes in the economy and markets, what they mean to participants' financial strategy and help answer many important questions, including:

» Should I react to economic headlines? » Could my invest-

ments be doing better? » Is it time to change my financial strategy?

"Paying attention to financial and economic news is important," Long said. "However, we want to help people understand how recent events can impact them and how they can keep their financial strategy on course.

The event is available to the public, but seating is limited. To register for this free event, call the Huron Valley Group at 734-455-9272 or visit thrivent.com/findaworkshop. Complimentary refreshments will be

served during the event. Thrivent Financial is the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, Wis. It is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com/why. It can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

throw a punch. Next thing, I'm on my back."

World traveler

Presas traveled the world as a sports ambassador for the Philippines. Gauss said he followed him, including annual camps at Michigan State University.

"I was in love with it (Modern Arnis). It fit with law enforcement. It was close-quarters selfdefense," Gauss said. "I was going all over the world with (Presas)."

By 1998, Gauss earned a fourth-degree black belt in Modern Arnis and Presas was looking to make a change.

"He wants to back off and retire. He hand picks guys to take on Modern Arnis and promotes seven people to the highest rank," said Gauss, a master of tapi-tapi, which



Chuck Gauss, in his Westland martial arts studio, is one of seven masters in Modern Arnis worldwide. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

means counter for counter. "It's the highest achievable rank in Modern Arnis.

Since Presas died in 2001, Gauss said he has done Modern Arnis seminars all over the world.

At the school, his students range from 8 to 74 years old.

'This is one of the only schools that teaches strictly Modern Arnis in a five- or six-state area.' said Gauss, who opened

his school on North Hix three years ago.

Hall of Famer

Last year, Gauss was inducted into the Modern Arnis Black Belt Hall of Fame and recently was

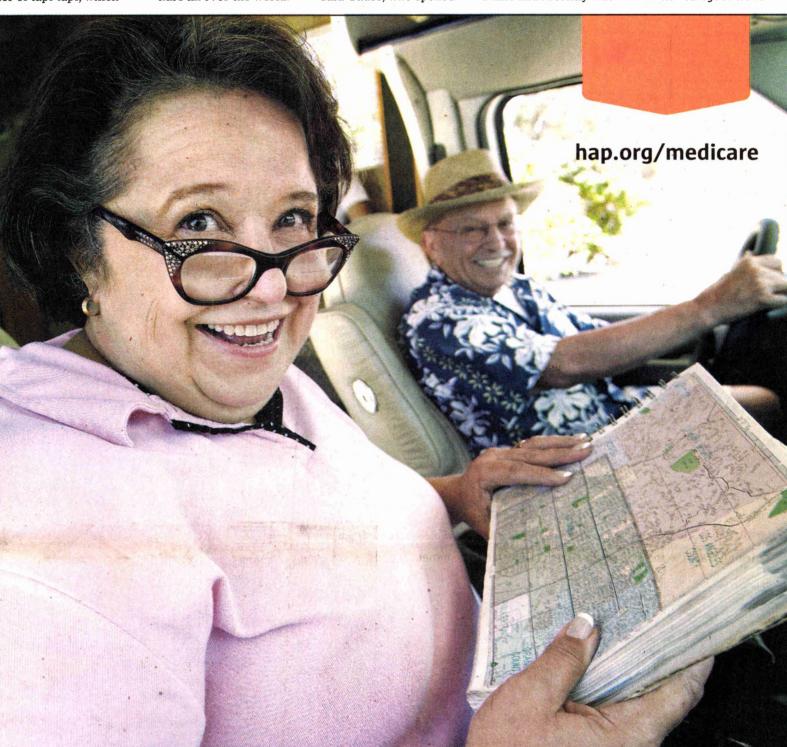
included in a Hall of Honor at an expo held at the Gibraltar Trade Center.

'A lot of people want to train with a grand master. This isn't like other schools, where they just worry about belts,' Gauss said. "It's an art. You focus on skills and dedication to the art, the belts will come. The color on the belt doesn't matter, it's what is in your heart."

Gauss teaches selfdefense classes at his school and also as part of CPL training at the Firing Line, working with retired Westland police officer Tommy Vaughan.

Visit gaussmartialarts.com or mastergaussmartialarts.com for more information.

Irogers@hometownlife.com 313-222-5428 Twitter: @LRogersObserver



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Y0076_HMO PPO 2014116 AA CMS ACCEPTED 10/14/2013 IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Jim Zandee is the owner of CertaPro Painters in Canton.

Canton painter touts service, dependability

about your business, including the products and services you offer.

CertaPro: All types of residential and commercial painting.

Observer: How did you first decide to

open your business? CertaPro: I wanted to

open my own business. **Observer: Why did** you choose Canton? CertaPro: Because I

live there **Observer: What** makes your business unique?

CertaPro: Certainty and dependability. We show up on time and do what we say we'll do.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

CertaPro: It's growing fast.

the recent economy affected your busi-

CertaPro: The painting business is booming. There are a lot of opportunities for a dependable, professional com-

Observer: Any advice for other smallbusiness owners?

CertaPro: Go for it. It's fantastic having your results in your own hands and not dependent on decisions from a fickle boss

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

CertaPro: We're continuing to add crews. Currently, we're at about a dozen. We're also growing commercial (work).

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Diva Day

Ladies are invited to attend the sixth annual Diva Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 12, in downtown Plymouth.

The first 500 divas will get a free hot pink boa if they come and do some spring shopping and get pampered. Little divas and diva dogs are also welcome.

Downtown Plymouth boutiques, salons and restaurants will present special offers, unique refreshments and chances to win Diva Day prizes. Shoppers can bring their mother, daughter, aunt, sister and all of your diva friends.

Participating shops include Agio Spa, Alpine Chocolat Haus, Basket Kreations, Beauty Haven, Bella Mia, Bohemian Home, Candy Trail, Creatopia Pottery, Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth, Genuine Toy Company, Gigi's Mode, Home Sweet Home, Kilwin's of Plymouth, Lolaryan, Magnolia Fresh Flower Shop, Old World Olive Press, Opn Dohr, Plymouth Yoga Room, R.S.V.P., Simply the Best Boutique, Sun & Snow Sports and TranquiliTea.

The event is free. Look for the balloons. For more information, call

734-453-1540 or visit www.plymouthmich.org/ events.

Showcase and Taste

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Showcase and Taste of Plymouth is set for April 14 at The Inn at St. John's.

The event generally draws more than 90 exhibitors, including 20 restaurants, and attracts more than 600 people. This year's event will be held in the main ballroom and adjoining garden gallery at the Inn at St. John's.

Major sponsors include Community Financial and Hines Park Lincoln.

The chamber is now taking exhibit space reservations. The cost is \$110 (plus \$10 if you need electricity) and includes a 6- by 3-foot skirted

Anyone interested in exhibiting should email teri@plymouthmich.org or call 734-453-1540.

After hours

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts an after hours 7-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at 336 Main in Plymouth.

The event is a great night with fantastic food and networking with fellow members. There will also be a cash bar available.

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

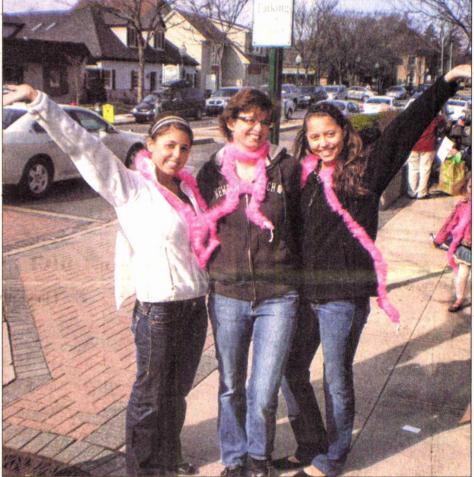
Golf outing

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual golf outing and auction Monday, July 21, at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Club.

The event is a scramble that will include lunch, dinner, plus open bar throughout the day and on the course. All company foursomes receive a sign on the course. Registration and lunch are from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with tee-off at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$205 per golfer or \$820 per foursome.

Hole sponsorships are \$150 and all other remaining sponsorships are \$300. All sponsors will have signage, be listed in the program and on the website. There are sponsorships available for on-course games and other high-profile parts of the outing to give sponsors maximum exposure.

For sponsorship information, contact Wes Graff at wes@plymouthmich.org or call 734-453-



The sixth annual Diva Day takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday in downtown Plymouth.

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- Willing to commit to both sessions
- Willing to do homework

Class size is limited to ensure confidentiality ~ Advance registration is required

To register, call: 734.838.6290 or email to: lawrence.fisher@lpl.com

T LPL Financial

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

New sales manager

Dietz Trott Sports & Entertainment Management has hired Plymouth rseident Scott Rourke as sales manager. Rourke will be responsible for developing new business and maintaining client



services for the sponsorship sales division of the firm. 'Scott will be a

great addi-

tion to our team," said Michael Dietz, president of Dietz Trott. "His professional background and strong sales skills will be an asset as he develops new business and

vice in our sponsorship division." Prior to his new position, Rourke was an account executive with the Detroit Tigers. He also worked as a season ticket and group sales associate for the Toledo Mud Hens and served as an opera-

strengthens client ser-

2008 PGA Championship. Rourke earned a marketing degree from Michigan State University in 2008. He resides in Plymouth with his wife Caitlin.

tions assistant for the

Fractured Prune

Michigan welcomes the next doughnut revolution - Fractured Prune Doughnuts, which has a

cult following for offering consumers always hot doughnuts, handdipped and topped to order. The first Michigan location will open in Canton at 7 a.m. Tuesday, April 22.

Fractured Prune Doughnuts began in Ocean City, Md., in 1976. Rather than featuring rows of pre-conceived doughnuts, the doughnut shop developed a cult following for its always hot doughnuts, available all ways.

"This is the doughnut Michigan has been waiting for. Words don't do it justice. There's just nothing like the taste and texture of a truly hot doughnut glazed and topped to your exact specifications," said Lori Wigler, Fractured Prune Michigan franchisee.

Michigan's first Fractured Prune is set to open at 47192 Michigan Ave., in Canton. The first patrons will walk the purple carpet for their chance at incredible giveaways, including free doughnuts each month for a year, free T-shirts and free dozen doughnuts on your next visit. The first 100 customers in-store will each receive a scratchto-win card revealing their prize.

Software honor

On March 18, Electrical Construction and Maintenance magazine announced that Facility

Results' FlashTrack product won the publication's "2014 Product of the Year" award in the Software Design cate-

FlashTrack is a software tool used by electricians and engineers to help ensure the safety of workers who come into contact with electrical components that can cause dangerous and sometimes deadly arc flash incidents. The EC&M Product of the Year contest, which was established in 2000, aims to "recognize excellence in new product development for the electrical industry." In this year's competition, more than 200 entries were evaluated by 16 judges who are electrical professionals in the engineering, contracting, plant facilities and plant maintenance industries.

"After 15 years of overseeing this competition, it never ceases to amaze me how many pioneering products are introduced to the market each year," said Editor in Chief Mike Eby from EC&M magazine. "Congratulations on being included among the 'best of the best' and thank you for your ongoing commitment to developing products that help those of us in the electrical industry perform our jobs faster, more efficiently, more profitably, and -- most important — safer."

\$50,000 in EVIP funding

would have to commit 5

percent to road mainte-

nance and 5 percent for

unfunded accrued liabil-

Judy Allen, director

of government relations

for the Michigan Town-

ships Association, said

level the playing field

among townships and

service levels.

Poleski said.

tually.

cities providing similar

The allocation bill

likely will head to the

House Appropriations

Committee next week,

Research Council also

has been studying the

plan and will submit its

recommendations even-

He said the Citizens

Poleski's proposal would

ities under Poleski's

proposal.

Pending bill could fetch more money for townships

By Beth LeBlanc Gannett Michigan

Townships could get more state-shared revenue under an allocation bill headed to the state House Appropriations Committee. But the new funding for townships would mean a smaller increase in funding for cities and villages

House Bill 5301, introduced by Rep. Earl Poleski, R-Spring Arbor Township, would distribute excess Economic Vitality Incentive Program dollars to townships based on their populations.

Currently, all cities, villages and townships receive constitutional state revenue sharing, but most cities and villages — about 486 also receive EVIP dollars. The funding was created in 2011 to reward municipalities for sharing services.

The state usually has about \$200 million to \$230 million in EVIP money to disburse to cities, villages and 34 townships, Poleski said.

This year, the state has an additional \$35 million to add to those receive no EVIP fund-

His plan would allow for a 1-percent increase for communities currently receiving EVIP dollars.

"Let's take and give those 486 units a 1-percent increase and divvy up the remaining \$30 million to communities that don't get EVIP currently," Poleski said.

Poleski's plan would ensure that each township receives about \$7.15 per capita in EVIP funding.

"There are calls for governmental responsibilities everywhere, not just in cities and vil-lages," Poleski said. "We don't divvy up state revenue based on what you need, we divvy it up based on what's equitable."

If a community currently receiving EVIP qualified for more money via the per-capita formula, it could choose the higher of the two.

"In virtually every case, every unit of government gets more under my proposal," Po-leski said. "It's just that some of the cities and villages would have

Do research before hiring contractor

ver the next few weeks, many readers will assess the damage that winter has done to their homes.

You may be surprised to learn that some of the damage that winter may have caused is covered by homeowner's insurance. That is why before doing any repairs, it is important to check your policy.

In addition, contact your homeowner's insurance agent. Remember, your agent should be your advocate in dealing with claims.

Although every company has its own process with regard to claims, it is important to always document the damage. It is not unusual for an insurance company to initially deny a claim. However, every company has an appeal process. Just because the initial



response is no does not mean that's the end of the discussion. In fact, generally, it's just the begin-

Whether your damage is covered by your homeowner's insurance, if you are going to hire someone to do the repairs, be careful. If you are hiring a contractor to repair your home, make sure vou're dealing with someone who is reputable and is qualified to do the job.

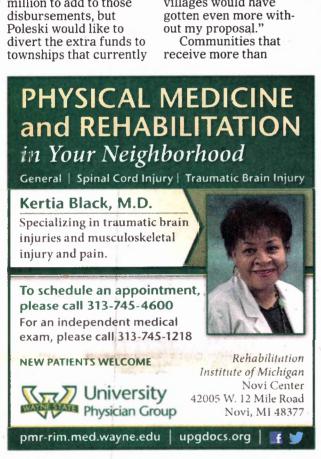
When it comes to hiring a contractor, ask family and friends for a recommendation. Even if you receive a recommendation, check the individual through the Better Business Bureau.

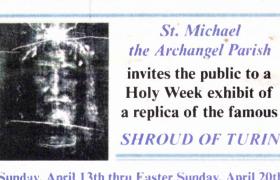
Doing your homework ahead of time and hiring a competent qualified contractor will save you lots of aggravation and money down the road.

In hiring a contractor, get bids from a number of qualified companies. It's always important to remember that it's not necessarily the cheapest bid that you accept. Price is important, however, it is not the only factor.

I recognize that whenever there is damage to your home, you want to make sure that repairs get done as soon as possible. Remember, review your homeowners policy and hire a competent contractor to get the job done.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomasset management.com.





Sunday, April 13th thru Easter Sunday, April 20th

The exhibit of the replica of the purported burial cloth of Jesus Christ will open with a special presentation by Msgr. Todd Lajiness, Rector of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, at 1:15 PM on Palm Sunday, April 13th, in the school cafeteria. Msgr. Lajiness will give a brief history of the shroud, an examination of the wounds, along with some contemporary debate points about its authenticity.

> Please see the parish website for the complete exhibition schedule & map: www.livoniastmichael.org

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Marine veteran Joe Fenech salutes Lew Bartlett, also a veteran of the Marine Corps and World War II, at Bartlett's 90th birthday party at the Island Lake Boathouse in Novi. LONNIE HUHMAN

Novi man celebrates 90th birthday with salute from friends and family

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Lew Bartlett turned 90 years old recently and his birthday party was made that much more special with a visit from a group of U.S. Marines.

"This is all a very pleasant surprise," Bartlett, a Novi resident, said as he was surrounded by family and friends at his party, held March 29 at the Island Lake Boath-

Four veteran Marines showed up to the party after getting a call from Derek Atkinson of the Ann Arbor VA Hospital telling them that a fellow veteran Marine was celebrating a momentous birthday. They all still have their uniforms looking crisp and clean.

'We're excited to be here for a fellow Marine," veteran Sgt. Dave

They, along with those gathered, sang the Marine Corps Hymn to Bartlett, who stood with tears in his eyes. Some of Bartlett's friends on hand also served and felt the magic of the moment. One was Francis Haney, who also served in the Marines.

Both Bartlett and Haney fought at the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. Haney said he hit the beach around the same time Bartlett did during that fateful battle in the Pacific. He felt proud to be standing with his longtime friend all of these years later.

"He's a good guy," Haney said with a smile. Bartlett grew up in Detroit and was thinking of a life in the priesthood, but ended up joining the Marines at the age of 18

and serving with the 5th

Marine Division. He was

sent back to the States after being shot in the shoulder during the battle and was later awarded the Purple Heart for his duty.

He went on to live a long life and has been married to Dorothy for 64 years. Bartlett spent his career as an insurance salesman and free time as an avid golfer and family man. They raised eight children in Farmington Hills before moving to Novi.

He and his wife now live at Meadowbrook Commons.

The celebration was attended by more than 100 people and it was one to remember.

"This birthday was one of the finest compliments I've ever received," Bartlett said.

Ihuhman@hometownlife.com 248-437-2011, ext. 255

Spotlight Players to present production of 'Drowsy Chaperone'

Spotlight Players presents The Drowsy Chaperone starring Redford resident Alan Highe as the character Man-in-Chair. The production runs April 10-13 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

It marks Highe's first production with Spotlight Players. He said he is excited to work with the cast and crew.

According to Lia de Biasi, president of Spotlight Players, Highe joked that the Man-in-Chair character was his "spiritual animal" possibly because of their shared loathing of people who talk on cellphones at theaters.

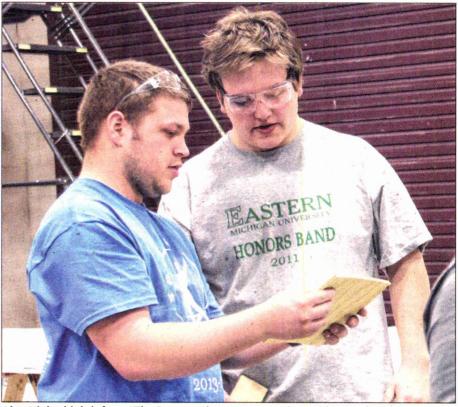
The plot involves the longstanding myth that it's bad luck for a groom to see the bride on the wedding day, with other things thrown in such as monkeys, a little brandy and an exaggerated example of Murphy's Law - all narrated by a single man living in a ramshackle New York apartment.

Highe describes his character as a single gentleman in his mid-20s to early 30s whose guilty pleasure is listening to old records of musicals and hiding away from the real world, among other plot developments.

The Drowsy Chaperone takes the Main Stage for five performances April 10-13 with Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances at 8 p.m. and additional Saturday and Sunday performances at 2 p.m. Running time is one hour and 50 minutes.

Tickets are \$12 to \$18 each. They can be purchased by calling the box office at 734-394-5300 or going to www.spotlightplayersmi.org. Tickets also are available at the Village Theater box office an hour before show time. The theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Other than Highe, others involved in the production are Nan Walters and co-producer Lia De Biasi of Plymouth; co-producer Paul Wingar of Canton; music director Paul Bowling of Ann Arbor; and choreographer Amber Lawson of



Alan Highe (right), from "The Drowsy Chaperone," confers with Daniel Pocock, who

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6% Sales tax & 18% gratuity will be added to all parties

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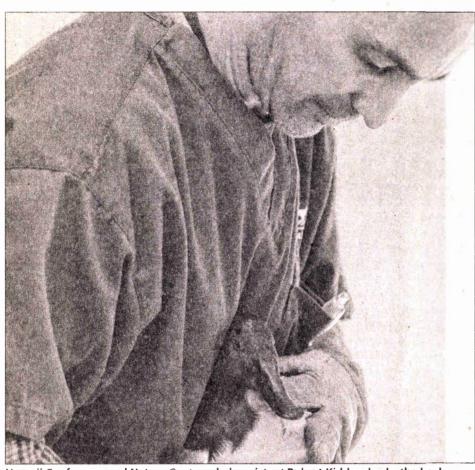
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Howell Conference and Nature Center rehab assistant Robert Kidder checks the keel, or breastbone, of a rescued male canvasback duck being nursed back to a weight that will increase its chances for survival when released to the wild. GILLIS BENEDICT | GANNETT MICHIGAN

Cruel winter: Wildlife 'exhausted and emaciated'

By Amanda Whitesell Gannett Michigan

The harshest winter in decades not only affected Michigan residents, but its furry and feathered inhabitants, too.

The season included near-record snowfall in metro Detroit, the second-most days below zero in a winter in the Flint area and a Great Lakes system that reached 92 percent ice cover this month, the most in 34 years and the second-most ever.

Howell Conference and Nature Center Director Dana DeBenham said the center saw an increase in intake numbers, as well as the amount of differing species in residence. The center is just now releasing animals back into the wild, as cold temperatures and ice delayed releases.

"Just because it's a natural phenomenon doesn't mean we should just let nature take its course, sne said. we believe it's our duty to help our wild friends."

An unusual number of fish-eating diving ducks and grebes came to the center "exhausted and emaciated," DeBenham

said The birds migrate to the Southeast in the fall and are signaled to return to nesting grounds in the Northwest and northern Canada by lengthening daylight, she said. Frozen inland lakes as well as the Great Lakes left them with no source for food to continue their migration. Last year, the center took in only one grebe.

Some birds, like grebes, can only swim or fly but not walk, DeBenham said. The creatures will sometimes mistake parking lots for bodies of water, leaving them with no way of getting airborne again, as they must take flight from water.

Last week, the center still had two ducks in rehabilitation, a male canvasback and a redhead. Workers and volunteers have been tasked with cleaning up the birds and helping nurse them back to a healthy weight, but it wasn't easy. Many of the birds would only feed on live minnows, 120 to 180 grams per day at the least.

'The live minnows were very costly to the rehab program," DeBehnam said.

The redhead came to the center March 12 at 728 grams, 322 grams under its recommended body weight, wildlife infirmary manager Max Biwer said. By April 2, the bird weighed a healthy 1,044 grams, or about 2.3 pounds.

Rehab assistant Robert Kidder said, "For every bird that was brought to the center after being found in a parking lot, think of all the birds that weren't

recovered from a field." The center also took in close to 15 opossums during one two-day period this winter. The animals, which DeBenham said aren't well-suited for winter due to lack of fur on their ears and tails, arrived with black toes, half tails and missing ears due to frostbite.

Kidder said some had to be euthanized.

Russ Mason, chief of the state Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, said a deer die-off is expected in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula. How bad it will be is still unknown by biologists, he said

It could mean fewer or no antlerless deer licenses in the U.P. and northern Lower Peninsula next deer season, Mason said.

Also expected are severe impacts on turkeys throughout the Lower Peninsula. Mason said residents have reported the creatures at their bird feeders for the first time, which is a sign that they're "highly stressed."

Fish die-offs in shallower lakes are likely, Mason said, as prolonged ice cover prevents oxygenation of the water.

It won't be such a sour story for scavenging animals like coyotes and bears, however. He said they re expected to thrive with the increased number of animal carcasses in the woods.

DeBenham said the local center does not rehabilitate adult deer, as they're a "prey species' terrified of humans." The center is prepared to handle any orphaned fawns and other offspring during its busy spring season, however.

"It will be an interesting year to see how many adults survived the brutal winter to mate this spring," she said.

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'PEACE, LOVE & PLANET'

Earth Day-inspired film series to be shown at Genitti's

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Gina Adams-Levy is a woman on a mission. She's the founder of Peace, Love & Planet, which will celebrate Earth Day by launching the nationally recognized environmental film series "Be the Solu-tion." The films, shot locally using area teen actors, focus on raising awareness about Michigan's environmental issues to inspire teens to make eco-friendly

The premiere of the films will be 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Genitti's, 108 E. Main, Northville.

The "Be the Solution" premiere will double as a benefit for PLP. The party will include a viewing of films, live entertainment, silent auction and hors d'oeuvres. Guests are encouraged to reduce, reuse, or recycle their wardrobe by coming dressed in "Trash with Class." Space is limited to 200 guests. To register, go to www.Peace LoveandPlanet.org.

'We wanted to jazz it up a bit and have a premiere," said Adams-Levy, who lives in Farmington Hills with a Northville address. "We anticipate about 120 as our goal."

"We encourage kids to make eco-friendly choices," she said of PLP's programs in schools.

The nonprofit emphasizes recycling, including cafeteria sorting "and highlight all the different materials we can recycle. That, of course, trickles down to the home as

"We wanted to jazz it up a bit and have a premiere. We anticipate about 120 as our goal."

GINA ADAMS-LEVY founder of Peace, Love &

well." Her family is good about recycling and other eco-friendly practices. They'd lived in Colorado and found people there were good about such things as

reusable grocery shop-

ping bags.

Her daughter was in kindergarten a few years back, and Adams-Levy wanted to improve environmental awareness among her classmates.

"People have just become so dependent on convenience," she said. She's found elemen-

tary-age kids are good about recycling, with it dropping off in middle school. Most of her work to date has been in the Farmington Public Schools, although they're reaching out to other nearby districts. A focus group with

middle and high school students found they often didn't have access to recycling bins, a problem that was easy to solve

Doing that led to a spike in recycling, Adams-Levy said.

The film series includes a look at energy, transportation and handling waste, and incorporates humor.

"Everybody's proud to be living in our beautiful state," she said. She's found in a community of some 400,000 even recycling trash or turning off lights and powering down electronics will help.

'Sometimes global issues just seem too big for kids to understand," she added. "We're tackling a pretty big initiative.

The films complement earth science curriculum and can be used in many ways; to launch a lesson plan, to celebrate holidays such as America Recycles Day (Nov. 15), Earth Hour (March 29), or Earth Day (April 22) or by PLP to introduce its programs. "Be the Solution" films are available on YouTube at Peaceluvplanet.

PLP's mission is to nurture appreciation for nature and promote environmentally responsible choices resulting in healthy, sustainable communities.

The nonprofit reaches over 7,000 Michigan children annually by conducting engaging programs and assisting schools and businesses implement sustainable waste reduction strategies.

Due to budget constraints, environmental programming is unavailable at many schools.

Sponsorship enables PLP to work with underserved schools throughout Michigan to help develop an understanding of "why" it's important to reduce consumption of resources.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

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A GANNETT COMPANY

Enter to win Detroit Lions football summer camp

Nine boys and girls ages 4-14 will win a scholarship to the 2014 Detroit Lions Summer Youth Camps

The Detroit Lions, in cooperation with Observer & Eccentric Media, will award two scholarships to the following camps:

June 7-8, Beverly Hills **Detroit Country Day, 9** a.m. to noon (QB-WR Academy for youth ages 8-14).

June 12-13, Brighton Scranton Middle School, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Fundamentals Camp for youth ages ages 6-14).

July 19, 26, Aug. 2, Southfield Inglenook Park, 10-11 a.m. (Lil' Lions Academy for youth ages 4-8).

July 21-23, South Lyon Volunteer Park, 6:15-7:15 p.m. (Lil' Lions Academy for youth ages

One scholarship will be offered for the June 30 through July 3 Plymouth Central Middle **School Camp** from 8:30



The camps offer age-appropriate, high-energy football instruction.

a.m. to noon (Fundamentals Camp for youth

ages 6-14). The camps offer ageappropriate high-energy

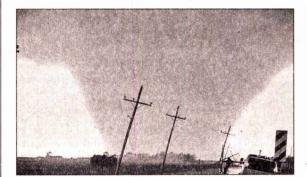
football instruction and technique training by high school and college football coaches and interactive drills, chalk talks and skill competitions.

More than 30 camps are scheduled from June through August. For a complete list of summer camps and academies, visit DetroitLions.com/ vouthfootball.

To enter the O&E Media's Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights Football Camp Contest, tell us in 50 words or less why you want to attend the camp. Have your parents email a photo of you (jpeg format only and as large as possible), along with your name, age, phone number and community where you live, to cbjordan@hometownlife.com. Subject line is "Football Contest.'

Deadline to enter is April 30.

OUR VIEW



The average lead time for a tornado warning is 13 minutes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. That's not much time to get to safety, especially if you don't get the warning right away.

Make sure you're prepared for severe weather

After a long and brutal winter, it's nice to see warm temperatures, but with the change in seasons comes a change in the type of severe weather that can occur. Last year, we were reminded that severe weather can strike at any time.

While most Michigan tornadoes occur from May to August during the afternoon and evening hours, a November 2013 severe weather outbreak hit Michigan with three reported tornadoes. There were no deaths and only two injuries in Michigan from severe weather in 2013, according to the National Weather Service. The injuries resulted from severe thunderstorm winds; however, flooding, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes were responsible for about \$277 million in damages in 2013, compared to \$210 million in damages

Surprisingly, the most widespread severe weather damage across the Lower Peninsula didn't occur in the spring, but Nov. 17-18 as the result of a combined severe thunderstorm and wind event that included several small tornadoes. The combination of the tornadoes, severe thunderstorm winds and winds left more than 775,000 homes and businesses without power and about \$70 million in damages.

That's why the state of Michigan is again observing this week as Severe Weather Preparedness Week. With the shift to outdoor activities, it's important to keep an eye on the sky and be prepared to take cover when severe weather strikes.

The Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness recommends that you check the weather forecast before leaving home and check for the nearest shelter when you arrive at your final destination. It also recommends that you:

» Seek shelter when you first hear thunder or see dark threatening clouds developing overhead

» Count the seconds between the time you see lightning and hear the thunder. You should already be in a safe location if that time is less than

» If you can't find a shelter, get into a fully enclosed vehicle. Put your head down below the windows, covering it with your hands or blanket.

» Stay inside until 30 minutes after you last hear thunder. Lightning can strike more than 10 miles away from any rainfall.

It is also important to be familiar with severe weather alerts. A tornado watch or severe thunderstorm watch simply means that severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are possible. A tornado warning means that a tornado has been sighted or is indicated on Doppler radar. Go immediately to the basement or a small interior room on the lowest level. Keep away from chimneys and win-

sturdy building. The average lead time for a tornado warning is 13 minutes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. That's not much time to get to safety, especially if you don't get the warn-

dows. Leave mobile homes and find shelter in a

When a thunderstorm warning is issued for your area, get indoors immediately and do not use the telephone or electrical appliances. Keep away from windows. Do not take shelter in sheds or under isolated trees. If you are out boating and swimming, get to land and find a sturdy shelter immediately.

To prepare for severe weather, the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness suggests that you:

» Plan ahead. Be sure everyone in your household knows where to go and what to do in case of a tornado or thunderstorm warning. Know the safest location for shelter in your home, workplace and school. Load-bearing walls near the center of the basement or lowest level generally provide the greatest protection.

» Have emergency supplies on hand, including a battery-operated radio, a flashlight and a fresh

» Know the location of designated shelter areas in local public facilities, such as schools, shopping centers and other public buildings.

» Have emergency supplies on hand, including a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio, flashlight and a supply of fresh batteries, first-aid kit, water and cellphone.

» Create an emergency plan for your pets. Even with the most sophisticated meteorological equipment, predicting the weather isn't easy. But being prepared for the worst can take the guesswork out of what to do. Don't wait until the sirens sound - make your plans. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Brad Kadrich, Community Editor Susan Rosiek.

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

We salute our carriers for their extraordinary efforts

Twice a week, a cadre of people delivers the *Plymouth Observer* print editions to the homes and businesses of our valued newspa-per subscribers. They're like the mail carriers, out there making their rounds in all kinds of weath-

At one time, before the advent of the Internet, people got their local news from their local newspapers and the delivery of such important news was left to youths who made their rounds pulling wagons full of newspapers or riding bikes with laden with bags of newspapers.

Newspaper carriers date back to the early 1800s and today's celebration commemorates the very first paper boy! On Sept. 10, 1833, 10-year-old Barney Flaherty delivered the first newspaper. He had been hired by Benjamin Day, the publisher of the New York Sun, to sell papers for his penny press. The only job requirement was to show that he could throw a newspaper into the bushes. Today, few kids deliver papers

anymore, but the tradition lives on. The job today is done mostly by adults, many delivering the paper from their cars.

One of those carriers for the Plymouth Observer is John Boughton, who has delivered the paper for some 25 years. Bought-on said the job is a "perfect" parttime job for a retiree.

"It's a great retirement job," Boughton said. "I enjoy the people, love the customers."

There is a Newspaper Carrier Day that is celebrated Sept. 4 and an International Newspaper Carrier Day, established by the Newspaper Association of America, that this year will be observed

But we don't want to wait that long to show our appreciation to our carriers for their service, especially this winter.

In spite of the near recordbreaking snowfall, polar vortexes, ice and poor road conditions, our carriers made sure the newspaper came through. Certainly, it's easy to read our product online, but there's something about sitting down to a cup of coffee and the hometown newspaper that a screen and a keyboard can't ever replace.

We have many fine carriers who stuck with it and delivered excellent service in January, February and March for our readers and our advertisers. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedicated service.

Our thank you goes out to Plymouth carriers Brian Martin, Nancy Fehlig, Kristen Gonzalez, Heidi Kavanaugh, John Kester, Joan Kopchia, John Boughton and Bev Machniak.

It may not be official, but for you, we're declaring today, April 10, as Observer Newspapers Carrier Day. To every one of our carriers who have a paper route, today is for you.

STAFF COLUMN

More secure future depends on breaking our oil addiction



he Detroit Free Press ran an interesting story a couple of weeks ago detailing the failings of the state's infant battery industry, despite the injection of \$861 million in Obama administration stimulus grants and \$543 million in Michigan tax credits awarded by former Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration in

One of the local companies that received money was A123 Systems, which secured a \$249 million U.S. Department of Energy grant and more than \$100 million in state tax credits. After collecting about \$132 million of its U.S. grant, the company filed for bankruptcy in 2012 and was acquired by Chinese auto supplier Wanxiang Group. Despite promising to create 5,000 jobs, the company, while still operating, has delivered a fraction of that.

Conservatives around the state were almost giddy after hearing the news, which they believe validates their conviction that government shouldn't "pick winners and losers." It's up to the free market, they say, noting the battery program has been a big waste of taxpayer money.

I can't even tell you how many times I've heard the "you'll be blown away" joke about Granholm's time as governor. And I have to say, it was kind of funny the first 500 times I heard it from some of my conservative friends. I happened to be at the State of the State address when Granholm used that phrase, which she probably wishes she had never uttered. When she made that statement, she was actually discussing a future Michigan where its battery manufacturing would lead

It was a grand vision. But, as the Free Press story points out, politicians can't just snap their fingers and speed up the technology necessary to move America from its reliance on oil to more sustainable sources of energy like batteries, or wind and solar pow-

Some people say Granholm and President Obama simply wasted taxpayer money to fund green projects - in this case, trying to jump-start lithium-ion battery manufacturing in hopes of making electric vehicles more affordable.

But that is just one component of the president's green initiatives. The Brookings Institute, after extensive research, estimated the federal government, from 2009 through this year, will have spent \$150 billion to prop up the renewable energy industry and other green initiatives.

No doubt, that is a vast amount of money.

But, as I like to remind my more conservative friends, it is drop in the bucket compared to the money the federal government spent to invade Iraq, which the more cynical among us say had a lot to do with securing an oil

Whether that is true or not will be for historians to debate. However, what is not debatable is how much the Iraq War has cost this nation. Despite initial estimates from Bush administration officials that the invasion of Iraq would only cost between \$50 billion and \$100 billion, it has cost us infinitely more - and continues to cost us. But then again, most claims the Bush administration made about Iraq turned out to be nowhere near reality (remember the claim about us being met as "liberators"?).

By some estimates, the Iraq War, when all is said and done, will have cost us more than \$1 trillion. That's trillion with a 'T'. The Christian Science Monitor estimated we have spent on average \$9.5 billion a month in Iraq, including more than \$60 billion for reconstruction efforts.

But I would think most of us would argue the bigger treasure we sacrificed in Iraq was our military personnel.

More than 4,800 Americans were killed in Iraq, with thousands more suffering injuries, some so debilitating that they will never be able to lead a normal life. How many countless families were impacted by this war?

Maybe the next time my conservative friends use their "blown away" jokes, they will think of the American soldiers that were sent to Iraq. It's not so funny, is it?

Most sane Americans must ask

themselves why. And that's also the question I think we should be asking ourselves about the Obama administration's decision to spend so much money on renewable energy and trying to get ourselves off of our reliance on foreign oil. Even George W. Bush, who orchestrated the Iraq War, said we were addicted to oil.

Some people still think oil and other fossil fuels (like coal and natural gas) are the answer. We just need to allow oil companies to tap into our own oil reserves here in America. Others believe we should build the Keystone pipeline to allow more Canadian tar sands oil to cross our country so it can be refined in the southeast

Those people are ignoring the evidence about what our reliance on fossil fuels is doing to the planet. Despite the dire warnings from the vast majority of climatologists about global warming, many in America choose to believe it is a political issue.

Perhaps it is. I'm no scientist; I can only listen to those who are. But I have certainly seen some dramatic, destructive weather in recent years.

Even if one thinks these weather patterns are normal and global warming is an Al Gore-inspired conspiracy, how can one ignore the other forms of damage oil is doing to our planet? A couple weekends ago, which oddly enough was the 25th anniversary of the disastrous Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, an oil barge collided with a ship in the Houston (Texas) Ship Channel and spilled nearly 200,000 gallons of oil near a wildlife refuge. Of course, that is just a small fraction of the 10 million gallons spilled by the Exxon Valdez in 1989 or the estimated 210 million gallons of oil dumped into the Gulf of Mexico by BP's Deepwater Horizon leak

Those of us in Michigan, who should be most worried about such calamities due to our proximity to the precious Great Lakes, may think this kind of thing only happens in other places. Guess again. Last week, BP admitted that its Whiting refinery in Indiana (just a few miles from the Chicago city limits) spilled an unknown amount of Canadian tar sands crude into Lake Michigan. And does anyone remember the Enbridge Energy pipeline disaster in 2010 that spilled more than 843,000 gallons of tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River? I can promise you the people of western Michigan sure do. It was the largest and costliest inland oil spill in U.S. history.

It seems every week there is a new story about another major spill around the country. How long is this sustainable?

Despite all the criticism directed toward President Obama for spending so much trying kickstart the renewable and green energy industry, the fact is we are starting to make progress because of that investment. Renewable electricity generation has nearly doubled since Obama took office, as more homeowners and businesses change over to solar energy. Wind turbines are popping up all over the country, including right here in Michigan.

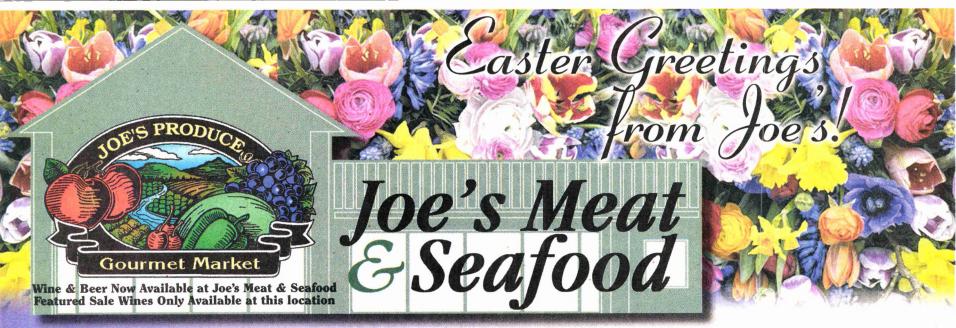
Personally, I would rather we spend our money on these projects than continue going down the oil-slicked road we're on now. And before you start shouting "Solyndra," yes, some of these projects may fail, some even be-

cause of fraud. But we are slowly making progress. Technology is improving. Perhaps a generation from now, our lithium battery industry will be the pride of the world. Without the government infusion of capital and incentives, there is little chance of this happening. The fossil fuel industries are just making too much money - they have no incentive to change.

Hey, I drive a Ford pickup truck and am as dependent upon the fossil fuel industry as the next

But I also realize the damage such dependency is doing to our planet. If you choose to ignore all the evidence and want to roll the dice on your grandchildren's future, that is your prerogative. I don't hold it against you. Yet, I think my generation does have a responsibility to future Americans. Instead of doubling down on our addiction to fossil fuels and almost assuredly becoming entangled in future wars, I would rather we as a nation bet on American ingenuity and our ability to adapt for a cleaner, more secure, future.

Kurt Kuban is editor of the Northville Record. He welcomes your feedback at 734-716-0783 or kkuban@ hometownlife.com.



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SECTION B (CP)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

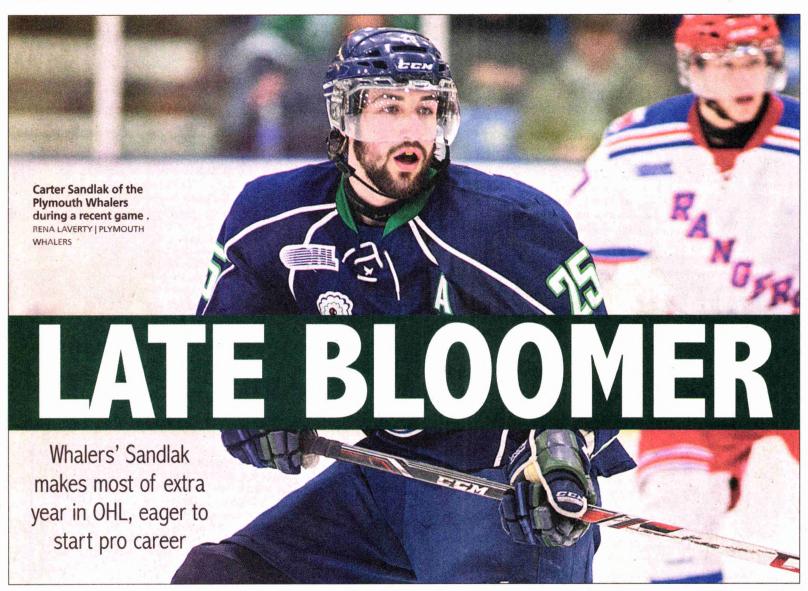
SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

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READY FOR NEXT STEP



By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Not every Ontario Hockey League player gets his name called at the podium during the NHL draft weekend.

Sometimes, players have to pay their dues and wait for a

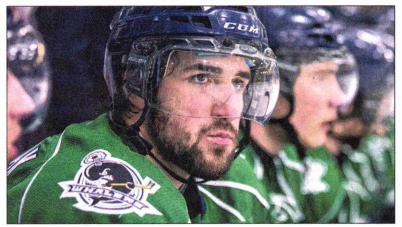
The latter certainly applied to Carter Sandlak, who in 2013-14 was an overage player who made the most of his fifth season in the Ontario Hockey League — his only year with the Plymouth Whalers.

Sandlak sparked the Whalers' offense with 24 goals and 24 assists in 61 games, helping the team make the OHL playoffs for the league-record 23rd season in

Along the way, the 20-yearold Sandlak caught the attention of Carolina Hurricanes scouts and was signed as a free agent

by the NHL team. 'I don't know if I was frustrated, but it just was a 'When's it going to happen?' kind of thing," Sandlak said. "I knew it was going to be a big year."

With Plymouth's recent playoff run a brief one (losing in five games to Western Conference



Intently focused on the action while waiting his next shift is Plymouth's Carter Sandlak. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

champion Guelph), Sandlak now will gear up for the 2014-15 sea-

He'll hope to start his professional career with the Hurricanes or with one of the Peter Karmanos-owned NHL franchise's minor league teams (Charlotte, Florida). Karmanos also owns the Whalers.

Now it starts

"It's kind of a relief kind of thing, but the hard work starts now," said the smiling, bearded London, Ont. native about sign-

ing with Carolina. "It's going to be a big difference playing junior and going to play pro. So it's going to be a big summer (of training), and I'm looking forward to the opportunity."
Sandlak said Carolina's fall

camp will be preceded by a rookie camp, for prospects recently signed or drafted. "I'm really looking forward to meeting the guys and just getting down there and having some

If signing with the Hurricanes was the biggest break of

Sandlak's career to date, the second biggest would have to be the trade in June 2013 from the Belleville Bulls to Plymouth.

According to Whalers coach and general manager Mike Vellucci, he knew he needed to bring in a quality, character player to help the team with a transition to a younger squad.

A veteran player such as Sandlak would help ease the sting of losing a number of key players, such as Rickard Rakell, Tom Wilson, Vincent Trocheck, Mitchell Heard, Connor Carrick and Stefan Noesen.

All of those players left Plymouth after 2012-13 and currently are playing in the NHL or American Hockey League.

'Carter was somebody that I was trying to acquire his rights for a long time," Vellucci said. When I traded for him, I said 'You're a typical Plymouth Whaler.' He's a big, strong, physical guy that had some offensive abuitv

"We were excited to acquire him in a trade, and I think it worked out great for him. I know it worked out great for us. He did everything we asked him

See SANDLAK, Page B3

BOYS LACROSSE PREVIEW

Willer heads returning cast for Rocks

Salem boys lacrosse team looks to enjoy back-to-back winning seasons

> By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Following the best season in school history, the Salem varsity boys lacrosse team is trying to build off that positive momentum in 2014.

So far, it has been slow going for the Rocks, who lost their season-opening matches to Howell and Hartland before finally earning a 14-7 win last week against Grand Blanc.

Still, Salem head coach



Salem attackman Noah Willer, shown from a 2013 contest, scored five goals in the Rocks only win so far this season.

Paul Nemzek remains optimistic, especially having a nucleus of top returnees including junior attackman Noah Willer, all all-state honorable mention selection last year after scoring 39 goals.

Willer already has 14 points this season, and he led the way in the lone victory so far with a five-goal night.

"We have a young team,"

Nemzek explained. "We are replacing most of our scoring from 2013. We will lean on our defense during the early part of this season.

"As long as we continue to improve each day we will be ready to make a tournament run in May.

Joining Willer among top returnees from last season's

See LACROSSE, Page B3

PREP BASEBALL

Dramatic win for Wildcats

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

First-year Plymouth varsity coach Jason Crain is finding out his team has a flair for the dramatic.

And that's fine, as long as the results are like Monday's — a 4-3 walk-off victory against Northville.

After trailing most of the game against the KLAA non-league opponent, the Wildcats scored three in the fifth to make it 3-3 and then won in the bottom of the seventh thanks to a hit by Cameron An-

Setting up the winning run was senior Cameron Jones, who had a lead-off single and moved around to third with aggressive base-running.

"He really set the tone for that last inning," Crain said. "It was something our team really needed. ... We feel fortunate to get a solid win (against) a great team and program so early in the year."

See WILDCATS, Page B2

'Super Jess' 5K run

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's National Honor Society will host its fourth annual "Super Jess" 5K run at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 4, on the high school campus.

The event was created in 2011 in honor of 16-year-old P-CEP student Jesse Lindlbauer, whose sinus infection turned into an abscess which ruptured, causing a traumatic brain

injury.
This year, the race will support one present P-CCS student and one P-CCS alum: Salem senior Jerrica Fitzgerald and Salem alum Amy Ladenberger.

» Jerrica Fitzgerald was diag-nosed with hydrocephalus, a rare medical condition in which fluid builds up in the brain. Jerrica has undergone more than 30 surgeries and countless nights in the hospital since she was diagnosed in 2009. She attended Smith Elementary and West Middle School. Jerrica is now a senior at the Park and is excited to graduate this spring.

» Amy Laden-berger is a 25-yearold Park graduate who attended Hoben Elementary and Discovery Middle School.

She was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, a disease which causes thick, sticky mucus to build up in the lungs, digestive tract and other areas of the body, when she was 3 months old. Within the last year, Amy underwent a double lung transplant and many other surgeries prior to that.

Registration will continue until race day; registrations received prior to April 16 will include a race shirt. Signup forms can be found on the SJ5K Facebook page, P-CEP website or in Canton, Plymouth and Salem main offices. Event fees are \$25 for adults over 18 and \$20 for all others. For questions about the race or volunteering, contact the student coordinator of this event, Shannon Perry, at SJ5Kcommunity@gmail.com.

S'craft hoop tryouts

Schoolcraft College first-year men's basketball coach Abe Mashhour will hold tryouts noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the main gym.

For information, call Mashhour at 734-523-9101 or email amashhou@schoolcraft.edu.





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FINALLY!

Plymouth softball gets belated start with 6-2 victory; Chiefs win big

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Pitching and defense is a surefire recipe for success on the ball diamond, and the Plymouth varsity girls softball team followed that script to a tee Monday afternoon.

Led by the pitching of southpaw Mikayela Marciniak and sparked by diving plays in left field by Alex Rakovitis and shortstop by Lindsay Lutton, the Wildcats

WRAP

earned a 6-2 victory over visiting Northville. The game was called in the sixth inning.

"We saw a lot of good things tonight," said Plymouth co-coach Dave Senkbeil, "especially tonight being the first time the team has actually played outside this season, practice or a game.

Plymouth's offensive attack got started early. In the first, Brooke Senkbeil walked and

moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Rachel Zerona. Brittney Miller (2-for-3) then doubled Senkbeil home to make it

Also collecting multiple hits was Rachel Ring, who had two doubles in two at-bats, while six other players tallied

Plymouth (1-0) was looking to keep the positive momentum building on Wednesday, when the Wildcats squared off



Plymouth outfielder Alex Rakovitis makes a sliding catch Monday against Northville.

against Livonia Churchill in a KLAA South Division doubleheader.

CHURCHILL 17, SALEM 7: Victoria Lupher went 3-for-4 with three RBI and Julia Cavagnini went 3-for-5 with three RBI Monday as host Livonia Churchill (2-0, 2-0) downed the Rocks in a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover.

Conference crossover.

Also contributing to Churchill's 17-hit
attack was Julia Twigg (3-for-4, three runs);
Mellanie Richardson (2-for-4, three RBI);
Katie Shereda (2-for-3, two RBI); and Reagan Payton (2-for-4, RBI)

Richardson, despite giving up 16 hits and two walks over six innings, got the victory. **CANTON 12, STEVENSON 2:** On Monday, the host Chiefs (2-0, 2-0) scored seven times in the fourth inning to roll to a Kensington Conference crossover win over Livonia Stevenson (2-1, 1-1). Stevenson starter Erika Randall, who allowed four hits, took the loss in going the

distance.

Senior Alex Knorp collected two of Stevenson's four hits.

"We played a little sloppy in the rain and that led to a bad inning, no excuse," Stevenson coach Mike Reilly said.

GIRLS SOCCER

Wildcats blank Rocks,

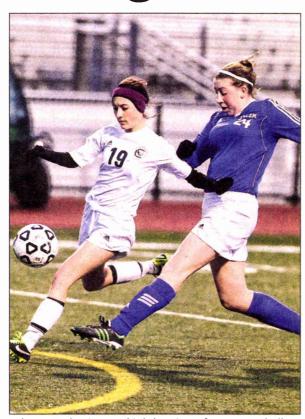
The rain, muddy conditions or Salem Rocks couldn't stop Plymouth's varsity girls soccer team Monday night in a KLAA crossover matchup at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity soccer stadium.

With an all-around performance, the Wildcats defeated the Rocks 3-0 to improve to 2-1 on the young season.

"Strong defense for our back four out there tonight," Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich said. "Our offense was dangerous the whole night.'

Scoring twice and adding an assist for the Wildcats was Maria Farmer, with Hope Scheffield adding the other marker. Collecting an assist was Lauren Babcock.

Going for it



Salem's Hayley Rogers (right) sprints after a 50/50 ball last Thursday night with a South Lyon East player. Rogers scored a goal to help the Rocks earn a 4-0 KLAA Central Division girls soccer victory. Morgan Siterlet paced the Salem attack with two goals and an assist while Emilie Hawks also scored. The Rocks improved to 2-0 with the win before dropping Monday night's 3-0 decision to Plymouth. JOHN KEMSKI J EXPRESS PHOTO

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COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Madonna wins pair

Crampton leads WHAC

In the opener, the Crusaders' Erin Mayes' RBI single drove home Morgan Kaiser with the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh. Emma Cook also went 2-for-4 with an RBI for the victorious

Winning pitcher

Losing pitcher Bec-

walked two and struck out five.

In Game Two, MU rallied from a 1-0 deficit with three runs in a sixth and one in the seventh. Mayes doubled twice and had an RBI, while freshman Nicole Salloum (Livonia Churchill) also drove in two runs. Ka-

sey Trierweiler also went 2-for-3 with an Winning pitcher Erin Combs (8-2) worked the first five innings allowing one run on eight hits. She

struck out four and did not allow a walk before giving way to Crampton, who pitched two scoreless innings to pick up her third save of the year as MU improved to 20-5 overall and 6-0 in the WHAC

3-for-4, while Sadie Stowell added two hits and an RBI for the Saints, who slipped to 10-9 overall, 2-2 in the conference.

in twinbill vs. Saints

sweep against Aquinas

Some late inning theatrics led to two more victories Wednesday for the Madonna University women's softball team, which swept a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference double-header from visiting Aquinas College, 2-1 and 4-1.

Crusaders.

Bree Crampton, the NAIA National Pitcher of the Week, improved to 11-3 with a four-hitter. She struck out nine and did not allow a walk in seven innings.

ca Shineldecker (5-3) allowed seven hits,

Kala Foerster went

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS PLYMOUTH 7 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 2 **April 1 at Franklin**

No. 1 singles: Carolyn McCullen (LF) defeated Keerthi Chekuri, 6-0, 6-0; No. 2: ne (LF) def. Sarah Gamble, 6-3, 6-2; No. 3: Swetha Duraiswamy (P) def. Madison Eisenhauer, 6-3, 6-1; No. 4: Amber Tseng (P) def. Carla Yanez, 6-3, 6-1.

No. 1 singles: Alyssa Lopez-Katie Wevers (P) def Samathan Voss-Morgan

Witherspoon, 6-2, 7-5; No. 2: Teahn Writerspoon, 97, 73, NO. 2, Tearni Horton-Emma Mullenax (P) def. Stefani Hudy-Chelsea McWilliams, 6-2, 6-2; No. 3: Lauren Conley-Nisha Patel (P) def. Kaity Swenson-Ashlee Mahoney, 6-1, 6-3; No. 4: Justin Ko-Sindhu Borra (P) def. Blake Newberry-Snigda Thyagaraj, 6-1, 6-4; No. 5: Malone-Janki Patel, 6-4, 6-1

Dual match records: Plymouth, 1-0 overall, 1-0 KLAA South Division; Franklin, 0-1 overall, 0-1 KLAA South.

WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

The big hit in the game-tying rally was a bases-clearing double by Andrew Hejka.

Plymouth's Cameron Stella earned the win after closing out Northville's top half of the seventh.

Stella followed starter Josh Sulak (four strong innings) and Patrick Downing.

'Cats split twinbill

Plymouth couldn't quite pull off the feat of sweeping two straight doubleheaders, but the Wildcats did earn a split Saturday at Milan.

After the Wildcats took an 8-4 victory in the opener, Milan bounced back for a 5-2 win in the nightcap. That left Plymouth with a record of 3-1 overall.

"We are still ironing out all of the wrinkles," Crain said. "We just haven't been outside long enough to work on everything we need to but the guys played a strong first game as the bats never let us down.'

Pitching four strong innings for the victory was Kevin Anthony, who did not allow an earned run.

Following Anthony on the mound were freshman Josh Janovsky (two strong innings) and closer John Kochan, who took care of the seventh.

At the plate, Sulak went 2-for-3 with four runs batted in while Andrew Jossey went 2-for-4 with a RBI. Crain cited the

strong game behind the plate by Anstess as a key factor to the victory

Plymouth led the nightcap 2-1 in the fifth but allowed the game to slip away, spoiling five solid innings by starting pitcher Derek Ebeling.

Stella had a big game at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a double, triple and two RBIs.

"We lost a little focus late in the game and Milan capitalized on opportunities.' Crain noted. "Milan is a well-coached team and they took advantage of the opportunities we gave them."

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GIRLS LACROSSE

Canton extends hot streak with victory

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Canton's early season offense continues to roll, as the Chiefs pummeled host Northville 13-8 in Monday's varsity girls lacrosse matchup.

The Chiefs improved to 3-1 overall and 3-0 in the KLAA Kensington Conference.

'We played a tough Northville team that refused to quit when we had them down 6-2 at the half, and 9-2 midway through the second half on a cold and rainy night," Canton head coach Dave Bower said. "Northville scored three straight to tighten the score to 9-5 before we got back on track, scoring three out of the next four goals to take a 12-6 lead

with just over two minutes to play."

The next game is another big one, as the Chiefs face No. 1 ranked Grosse Pointe South in a road contest.

Next week will be games against Plymouth and Novi.

'We're looking forward to some nice weather finally to practice in after we had to cancel two practices last week due to weather and no gym space available," Bower noted. "We have yet to have a practice on a lined field with goals to shoot at, so it'll be good to work on some areas of concern as we move forward into the season."

Backstopping Canton to the win was senior captain Melissa Neal,

while junior midfielder Kelsey Tucker scored six goals on eight shots.

Other contributors were Annika Nuler (three goals), Jordan Church (two goals) and Sarah Davenport and Katja Nuler (one goal each). Senior attacker Alexis O'Flynn chipped in with two assists while Casey

Bower added a helper.
SALEM 12, NORTHVILLE 8: Salem improved to 4-1 on the season with Friday's victory over the Mustangs. The Rocks rallied from an early 4-1 deficit

to lead 7-5 at halftime. "Heading down the stretch with about eight minutes left we took our final time out, backed off the aggressive attack and went to a ball control attack with the idea we could push them to come after us," Salem head coach Dave Medley said. "The strategy worked as we drew a couple of yellow cards

for fouls on the Mustang players forcing them to play two players down." them to play two players down.

Spearheading the win was Rose Krasofsky
(four goals, one assist) with Jenna Carter
and Bridget Kerwin each scoring two goals.

Rounding out the scoring with one marker
each were Kiersten Vala, Lauren Britton,
Joslyn Longe and Leah Tardiff. Earning the victory in goal was freshman

CANTON 7, SALEM 6: The first matchup between Plymouth-Canton Educational Park girls lacrosse rivals Canton and Salem did not disappoint, with both teams engaged in an intense, see-saw battle on April 2.

But after the Rocks rallied to tie the game in the second half, Canton senior captain Annika Nuler scored with 5:43 left to give the Chiefs a 7-6 KLAA Kensington Confer-

ence victory.

Preserving the win was senior captain and goalie Melissa Neal, who made six of her

nine saves in the second half.
It was Salem's first loss of the season after three victories while the Chiefs improved to 2-0 overall.

Salem started strong, building a 4-2 lead (two goals by senior Rose Krasofsky) before the Chiefs bounced back to make it a 4-all contest at halftime on late goals by Kelsey Tucker and Jordan Church.

Canton scored the first two goals of the

second half, with senior captain and attacker Sarah Davenport and Church each garnering their second goals of the night. Tucker also notched a pair of markers.

Salem bounced back, however, and tied

the game 6-6 when Jenna Carter scored with 7:20 remaining. Other Salem goals were scored by Kiersten

Vala, Lauren Britton and Joslyn Longe. Stopping 12 of 19 shots for the Rocks was freshman goalie Maddie Johnson. Both coaches said they are looking forward to the rematch, slated for April 30.

LACROSSE

Continued from Page B1

12-6 record are senior midfielder Austin McKee, senior defenders Paul Sommerville and Vince Troher and junior attackman and face-off specialist Joey Krause.

McKee, Sommerville and Troher are co-captains and will be called upon to provide leadership along with clutch performances as the Rocks look to duplicate or improve upon the 2013 season.

McKee, who will play college lacrosse at Lawrence Technological University, "does everything for us, ground balls, face-offs, mandown defense," Nemzek

Also headed to LTU in 2015 will be Troher. while Sommerville is

slated to play lacrosse at Aquinas College.

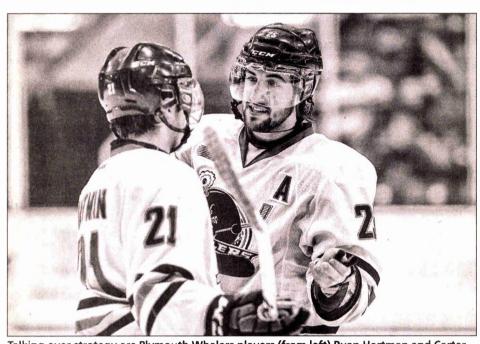
The team also has players ready to step up, including junior goalkeeper Mack Baker (who saw limited action

in 2013). "He's much improved, stops the ball very well, (his) clearing has improved dramatically," Nemzek said. "Our team's success will be directly tied to our goalie play this season.'

Meanwhile, sophomore attackman Lucas Martin could complement Willer on the offensive side.

"He's a great inside scorer," said Nemzek, about Martin. "He worked very hard during offseason conditioning to get bigger, stronger, faster. No fear, he plays on the crease with confidence.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Talking over strategy are Plymouth Whalers players (from left) Ryan Hartman and Carter Sandlak. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

SANDLAK

Continued from Page B1

and I'm really proud of

Trust factor

Sandlak said he was put at ease about coming to the Whalers as soon as Vellucci called him about the trade.

"Coming in here as a OA (overage player), Velluch called me in the summer when he traded for me and said 'You're going to be a big part of this team and you're going to be a leader.'

"And so coming in to the year I knew it was going to be a big year, and I just tried to do my best every day, get better every day on and off the ice. Velluch has put a lot of faith in me as a player, puts me out in key situations. He trusts me and I trust him, I have a good relationship and that helps.

OHL teams are permitted to carry three overage players (age 20) each season. Sandlak joined team captain and defenseman Nick Malysa and forward Zach Lorentz as the team's allotment of OAs for 2013-14.

Vellucci stressed that younger players can only glean positives from seeing how veterans such as Sandlak, Malysa (recently honored as the Whalers' all-time leader in games played with 294) and Lorentz go about their business on and off the ice.

They also can figure out pretty quickly that playing in the OHL often called the "pipeline to the NHL" - sometimes isn't as straightforward as a shootout attempt.

"It makes you understand that there's different things that can happen," Vellucci noted. "If you stay with it and you compete hard and you try to get better every day, it's not what happens to you it's how you deal with what happens to you.

"He (Sandlak) could have gotten really upset that he wasn't drafted in the NHL when he was supposed to. But he stayed with it, he competed hard every day, he tried to get better every

day."

He'll bring it

Concurring was Sandlak, a 6-2, 200-pounder who gave opposing OHL defensemen fits around the blue paint.

"I feel like everything happens for a reason," Sandlak said. "I came here and things worked out. Coming in to the league as a 16-year-old and then playing as an OA, it's not easy.

"But some guys develop a little later, and I think it helped me coming back to junior for (an extra) year.

And now that the OHL is in the rear-view mirror for Sandlak, what kind of pro does he envision

being? "You know I'm not going to be a goal scorer obviously," he said. "Just going to be a big power

will be felt back at Compuware Arena, where Vellucci and everybody with the Whalers will be following Carter Sandlak's professional career with pride.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Salem girls finish strong to win Patriot Relays

Plymouth solid with 2nd-place showing

> By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Salem girls track and field coach Dave Gerlach knew the team that lost its opening dual meet to Northville wasn't what he expected to see the rest of the season.

And it didn't take long for the Rocks to back that stance as Salem topped the field at Saturday's Patriot Relays at Livonia Franklin with 103 points - outdistancing runner-up Plymouth (91 points).

After a tough opening loss, this team showed some resolve and moved forward on Saturday," Gerlach said. "These girls showed that they will be a team to be reckoned with by scoring in every event.

'We are very encouraged by our performance today and took a

big step in the right direction by beating some very good teams."

Salem won the 400, 800, 1600, 3200 and 6400meter relays as well as the shuttle hurdle.

The lineup of Shekinah Johnson, Brynne Samuals, Lauren Ogarek and Isabel Rodriguez took the top spot in the 400 and 800 relays with times of 52.5 seconds and 1 minute, 50.8 seconds, respectively.

Johnson and Rodriguez also were part of the victorious mile relay (with Anya Cho and Kayla Kavulich), finishing in 4:13.5.

The tandem of Kavulich, Elizabeth Tripp, Lauren Arquette and Cho also led the way in the two-miler (10:19.7).

Salem's entry in the 6400 relay won with a time of 23:33.9. In the event were Kayla Hughes, Arquette, Cho and Natasha Stevenson.

Victorious in the shuttle hurdle in 1:13.5 were Rachel Falzon,

Brianna Essien, Talia Edgar and Madison Fairchild.

Meanwhile, Plymouth's high jump relay tandem of Katherine Harris, Lauren Clemens and Emily Freiburger captured first place in that event with a total of 13-feet, nine-inches.

The Wildcats also came in second in the discus, long jump, 400, sprint, 800 and 1600

After Salem and Plymouth at the top of the 12-team field, placing in a tie for third with 78 points were host Franklin and Warren Regina.

In fifth was Livonia Stevenson (43) followed by Allen Park, Dearborn, Redford Union, Garden City, Wayne Memorial, Dearborn Heights Crestwood and Lincoln Park.

Salem was looking to take the positive momentum from the Patriot Relays into KLAA action Tuesday against Livonia Stevenson.

GIRLS TRACK RESULTS

PATRIOT RELAYS

April 5 at Livonia Franklin **GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS: 1** Salem, 103 points; 2. Plymouth, 91; 3. Livonia Franklin, 78; 4. Warren Regina, 78; 5. Livonia Stevenson, 43; 6. Allen Park, 24; 7. Dearborn, 22; 8. Redford Union, 17; 9. Garden City, 15; 10. Wayne Memorial, 10; 11. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 2; 12.

Lincoln Park, 0. FINAL RELAY RESULTS

Shot put: 1. Franklin (Kayla Carwile, Sophia Modes, Alexis Browning), 84 feet, 8.5 inches; 2. Plymouth, 84-7; 3. Allen Park, 79-7; 4. Garden City, 79.45; 5. Stevenson, 77-11; 6. Salem, 74.8.

Discus: 1. Stevenson (Audrey Stahrr Morgan Waters, Maddy Petipas), 258-2; 2. Plymouth, 253-0; 3. Salem, 230-1; 4. Franklin, 228-7; 5. Allen Park, 219-7; 6. Regina, 215-6.

High jump: 1. Plymouth (Katherine Harris, Lauren Clemens, Emily Freiburger), 13-9; 2. (tie) Dearborn and Regina, 13-5 each; 4. Stevenson, 13-4; 5. Franklin, 13-3; 6. Salem, 8-11.

Long jump: 1. Franklin (Brianna Gutkowski, Jasmine Crowley, Cierra Davis), 40-4; 2. Plymouth, 40-1; 3. Salen 39-11; 4. Stevenson, 39-2; 5. Regina, 38-6; 6. Dearborn, 38-4.

Pole vault: 1. Franklin (Sheila McKinley, Tasha McKinley, Helen Moore), 28-9 (Sheila McKinley, 11-3, breaks Emily Quint's 2009 school record of 11-2); 2 Plymouth, 27-6; 3. Stevenson, 22-0; 4. Garden City, 20-0; 5. Allen Park, 12-0; 6. Salem, 11-0.

6,400-meter: 1. Salem (Kayla Hughes, Lauren Arquette, Anya Cho, Kayla Kavulich), 23:33.9; 2. Regina, 23:47.0; 3. Stevenson, 24:01.1; 4. Franklin, 24:41.1; 5. Plymouth, 25:13.7; 6. Garden City, 26:13.5.

Shuttle hurdle: 1. Salem (Rachel Falzon, Brianna Essien, Talia Edgar, Madison Fairchild), 1:13.5; 2. Franklin, 1:13.52; 3. Regina, 1:13.86; 4. Plymouth, 1:13.89; 5. Redford Union, 1:19.58; 6. Dearborn, 1:20.1.

3,200: 1. Salem (Elizabeth Tripp, Kavulich, Arquette, Cho), 10:19.7; 2. Regina, 10:40.5; 3. Plymouth, 10;53.0; 4 Stevenson, 11:07.3; 5. Franklin, 11:16.5; 6 Crestwood, 11:37.1

400: 1. Salem (Shekinah Johnson Brynne Samuels, Lauren Ogarek, Isabe Rodriguez), 52.5; 2. (tie) Plymouth and Redford Union, 53.9 each; 4. Garden City, 54.0; 5. Franklin, 54.5; 6. Wayne, 55.7.

Sprint medley: 1. Franklin (Aubrey Mavin, Bryah White, Crowley, Julie Wonch), 1:56.3; 2. Plymouth, 1:58.9; 3. Salem, 2:03.8; 4. Allen Park, 2:07.5; 5. Wayne, 2:07.8; 6. Regina, 2:09.4.

Distance medley: 1. Regina (Diehl, L. Bloch, Ponkowski, C. Bloch), 13:29.1; 2. Salem, 13:31.7; 3. Franklin, 14:12.8; 4. Stevenson, 14:30.1; 5. Dearborn, 14:38.3; 6. Cerchyold, 14:39.3 6. Crestwood, 14:38.3. 800: 1. Salem (Johnson, Samuels,

Ogarek, Rodriguez), 1:50.8; 2. Plymouth, 1:51.3; 3. Dearborn, 1:55.0; 4. Wayne, 1:55.6; 5. Garden City, 1:56.7; 6. Stevenson, 1:58.8 son, 1:58.8.

son, 1:38.8.

Co-ed 400: 1. Allen Park (Fish, Gamble, Kobik, Andrade), 49.5; 2. Salem, 50.2; 3. Franklin, 50.6; 4. Dearborn, 52.7; 5. Plymouth, 53.6; 6. Regina, 53.9. Throwers 400: 1. Regina (Bre

merkamp, Reno, Capoferri, Oles), 1:01.1; 2. Redford Union, 1:01.7; 3. Salem, 1:03.3; 4. Plymouth, 1:03.8; 5. Stevenson, 1:05.6; 6. Wayne, :107.4.

1,600 relay: 1. Salem (Johnson, Cho, Rodriguez, Kavulich), 4:13.5; 2. Plymouth, 4:20.2; 3. Regina, 4:22.5; 4. Franklin, 4:31.4; 5. Wayne, 4:37.6; 6. Dearborn,

ROYAL OAK SHRINE OPEN April 5 at Livonia Ladywood

Shot put: 1. Kristy Smrcka (Lutheran South, 33 feet, 6.½ inches; 5. Krystyna Kitlinski (Ladywoad), 25-9½. Emily Brown (Ladywoad), 25-9½. discus: 1. Smrcka (Luth. South), 107-5 (meet record); 2. Kitlinski (Ladywoad), 64-8; 6. Brown (Ladywoad), 64-8; 6. Brown (Ladywood), 64-8; **high jump:** 1. Clare Romano (Shrine), 4-8; 4. Emily Fairbairn (Lutheran Westland), 4-6; 6. Molly McClorey (Ladywood), 4-4; long jump: 1. Elaine Haggard (Oakland Christian), 14-5; 3. Callan Tigani (Ladywood), 13-0; 5. Elisabeth Ivey (Luth. Westland), 12-9; 1**00-meter hurdles:** 1. Irene Peaslee (Shrine), 18.69; 3. Sabrina Morrison (Luth. Westland), 18.8; 4. Hannah Gove (Ladywood), 19.09; 6. Shala Murray (Luth. Westland), 20.91; **300 hurdles:** 1, Gove (Ladywood), 51.93; 3. Morrison (Luth. Westland), 55.68; 4. Margaret Harrington (Ladywood), 55.84; 5. Eleanor Storck (Luth. Westland), 58.62; 6. McClorey (Ladywood), 58.68; **100 dash:** 1.

Madison Jerome (Liggett), 14.08; 2. Amber Riethmiller (Ladywood), 14.21; 6. Ani Ramon (Ladywood), 14.25; 200: 1. Taylor Kilgore (Shrine), 27.87; 2. Ramon (Ladywood), 10.6.79; 3. Riethmiller (Ladywood), 10.6.79; 3. Riethmiller (Ladywood), 10.8.88; 800: 1. Michelle Partipilo (Rieryview Gabriel Richard), 2:42.15; 2. Hill (Ladywood), 2:45.0; 4. Furlong (Ladywood), 2:45.0; 4. Sarah Wilson (Ladywood), 2:45.9; 6. Sarah Wilson (Ladywood), 2:48.09; 1,600: 1. Tess Fornari (Waterford Our Lady), 5:37.73; 2. Jenna Wisner (Luth. Westland), 5:42.75; 3. Catherine McLaurin (Ladywood), 5:42.99; Catherine McLaurin (Ladywood), 5:42.99; 5. Wilson (Ladywood), 5:50.91; **3,200**: 1. Fornari (Our Lady), 11:55.72 (meet record); Formari (Our Lady), 11:53, 22 (meet recol.) 2. Wisner (Luth. Westland), 12:21, 96; 3. McLaurin (Ladywood), 12:26,72; 800 relay: 1. Bishop Foley, 2:06.81; 3. Ladywood, 2:41,52; 1,600 relay: 1. Ladywood, 1:01.79.

DUAL MEET RESULTS DEARBORN DIVINE CHILD 80 LIVONIA LADYWOOD 44 April 7 at Ladywood

Shot put: 1. Rachel O'Neill (DDC), 31 Shot put: 1. Nachel O Neill (DDC), 31 feet, 7 inches; 3. Krystyna Kitlinski (LL), 27-11½, discus: 1. Mariah Fuquad (DDC), 83-2; 3. Kitlinski (LL), 80-10; high jump: 1. Hannah Gove (LL), 5-1; long jump: 1. Sharnon Rice (DDC), 14-2½; 3. Callan Tigani (LL), 13-10; 100-meter hurdles: 1. Hannah Koroics (DDC), 18-38: 2. Gove Hannah Korpics (DDC), 18.38; 2. Gove (LL), 18.57: 300 hurdles: 1. Korpics (LL), 18.57; 300 hurdles: 1. Korpics (DDC), 51.06; 2. Gove (LL), 52.63, 100 dash: 1. Kelsee Kinder (DDC), 13.54; 2. Amber Riethmiller (LL), 13.7; 200: 1, Ani Ramon (LL), 28.53; 2. Riethmiller (LL), 19.51; 400: 1. Erin Drabicki (DDC), 1:04.35; 3. Allyson Hill (LL), 1:06.32; 800: 1. Liz Jullen (DDC), 2:31.09; 3. Pilar Furlong (LL), 2:47.84; 1.600: 1. Liz Jullen (DDC), 2:31.09; 3. Pilar Furlong (LL), 2:47.84; **1,600**: 1. Ella Lawson (DDC), 6:02.79; **3,200**: 1. Catherine McLaurin (LL), 12:30.36; 3. Katherine Gaffka (LL), 1:30.36.

400 relay: 1. Divine Child, 53.87; 2. Ladywood, 57.04; 800 relay: 1. Divine Child, 1:56.1; 2. Ladywood, 2:01.97; 1,600 relay: 1. Ladywood (Furlong, Hill, McClorey, Wilson), 4:37.19; 3,200 relay: 1. Divine Child, 10:38.73; 2. Ladywood, 10:57.59.

Dual meet records: Divine Child, 2-0 overall; 2-0 Catholic League Central Division; Ladywood, 0-2 overall, 0-2 Central Division.

BOYS TRACK RESULTS

PATRIOT RELAYS April 5 at Livonia Franklin **BOYS TEAM STANDINGS: 1.**

Livonia Stevenson, 84 points; 2. Salem, 62; 3. Dearborn, 57; 4. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 48; 5. Lincoln Park, 41; 6. Ply-mouth, 40; 7. Livonia Franklin, 38; 8. Allen

Park, 30; 9. Wayne Memorial, 22; 10. Garden City, 21; 11. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 12; 12. Redford Union, 10. **FINAL RELAY RESULTS**

Shot put: 1. Dearborn (Cargill, Daajara, Yacoobi), 140 feet, 0.75 inches; 2. Stevenson, 127-11.75; 3. Catholic Central, 126-1.75; 4. Salem, 120-6; 5. Plymouth, 116-5.5; 6. Lincoln Park, 113-10.5. Discus: 1. Stevenson (Jalen Jones, Nick Hitchcock, Danny Pocalujka), 404-10; 2.

Catholic Central, 376-9; 3. Dearborn 357-2; 4. Salem, 340-0; 5. Lincoln Park, 332-2; 6. Plymouth, 304-4. High jump: 1. Lincoln Park (Edison,

DeCoster, Atwater), 18-0; 2. Plymouth, 16-8; 3. Salem, 16-0; 4. Stevenson, 15-11; 5. Franklin, 15-9; 6. Dearborn, 15-8.

Long jump: 1. Allen Park, 57-7; 2. Salem, 55-7.5; 3. Stevenson, 55-2.5; 4. Garden City, 55-1.5; 5. Catholic Central, 50-5; 6. Lincoln Park, 50-4.

Steve Loba, Matt Boris), 33-6; 2. Dearborn 32-6; 3. Lincoln Park, 30-6; 4. (tie) Garden City, 26-6 each; 6. Salem, 17-0.

6,400-meter: 1. Catholic Central (Smith, Felty, Clark, Mulcahy), 19:54.7; 2. Franklin, 19:545.0; 3. Wayne, 20:02.7; 4. Plymouth, 20:13.6; 5. Stevenson, 20:14.6; 6. Salem, 20:59.6.

Shuttle hurdle: 1. Catholic Central (Yassay, D'Amore, Marchie, Schultz), 1:06.7; 2. Stevenson, 1:08.1; 3. Allen Park, 1:08.4; 4. Dearborn, 1:11.3; 5. Franklin, 1:11.9; 6. Garden City, 1:13.2.

9:01.2; 5. Salem, 9:02.1; 6. Crestwood,

Stevenson, 47.0; 4. Dearborn, 47.3; 5 Garden City, 47.4; 6. Crestwood, 48.2. Sprint medley: 1. Crestwood (Young, Wilczewski, Slim, Abduljami), 1:41.5; 2. Lincoln Park, 1:42.1; 3. Steven-son, 1:43.8; 4. Franklin, 1:45.2; 5. Garden

City, 1:45.6; 6. Catholic Central, 1:48.2. Distance medley: 1. Stevenson (Kevin Callow, Mike Jaafar, Erik Grisa, Stephen Fenech), 11:27.4; 2. Franklin, 1:30.8; 3. Catholic Central, 11:35.8; 4. Plymouth, 11:36.7; 5. Wayne, 11:37.2; 6. Garden City, 12:05.0.

800: 1. Salem (Traylor, Miller, Sherrod, Homrich), 1:34.9; 2. Wayne, 1:35.5; 3. Franklin, 1:36.0; 4 Garden City, 1:39.0; 5. Dearborn, 1:39.2; 6. Lincoln Park, 1:39.7. 400 co-ed: 1. Allen Park (Fish,

Gamble, Kobik, Andrade), 49.5; 2. Salem 50.2; 3. Franklin, 50.6; 4. Dearborn, 52.7; 5. Plymouth, 53.6; 6. CC-Regina, 53.9.

Throwers 400: 1. Redford Union, 50.9; 2. Salem, 52.4; 3. Stevenson, 53.3; 4. Lincoln Park, 53.3; 5. Franklin, 54.3; 6.

with 42 assists for 78 points in 29 games for

hockey IQ. The puck follows him around the grab the loose puck and go with it."



and then added five goals with five assists for 10 points in six games in

the Jr. 67's

the OHL

'Nicholas has made huge strides forward this season in all aspects of his game," scouts

opined. "He is playing with a lot more confidence with the puck and is trying to do more things than he did at the beginning of the season." Whalers coach and general manager Mike

Vellucci spoke enthusiastically about his top picks. "I think he (Bitten) plays way bigger than he is, and I think he has that chip on his shoulder that

will prove it doesn't mat-

forward, an energy guy."

That energy certainly

tsmith@hometownlife.com

OHL PRIORITY SELECTION

Whalers go on offensive in OHL draft

The Plymouth Whalers went for offense with their first choice at Saturday's Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection draft. With their first pick

center William Bitten from the Ottawa Jr. 67's. Bitten scored 36 goals with 42 assists for 78 points in 29 games for the Jr. 67's and then added five goals with five assists for 10 points in six games in the OHL

and seventh overall, the

Whalers selected skilled

Bitten was named Minor Hockey Player of the Year for the Ontario East Minor Hockey League. Central Scouting de-

Cup Tournament.

scribed Bitten as a "very tenacious" player who "doesn't play like he's 5-foot-8. ... He is a very smart player with a high ice and he always seems to be in the right spot to

Bitten scored 36 goals



Cup Tournament. In the second round (27th overall), Plymouth picked right wing Nicholas Caamano from the Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs.

Caamano scored 22 goals with 22 assists for 44 points in 40 games last season.

you can play, you can play," said Vellucci, who expects Bitten to step in next season and be a top six forward. "(Caamano is) another good skill player who plays with grit and passion. The Whalers dedicated their picks to the late Pat Peake Sr., a longtime

ter how big you are - if

Whalers scout who passed away in 2013. Other picks Later in the draft, Plymouth selected the

following players:

» Left wing Jacob Collins (fifth round, 99th overall) from Ottawa Valley minor midgets.
» Left Wing Rylee St. Onge (sixth round, 107th overall) from the Niagara North

» Defenseman James Greenway (fifth

round, 87th overall) from the Shattuck St.

Stars midgets.

» Goalie Tyler Johnson (seventh round, 127th overall) from Northern Cyclones. » Defenseman Alec Semandel (eight) round, 147th overall) from Chicago Mission Center Dane Johnstone (ninth round,

167th overall) from Elgin Middlesex Chiefs

midgets.

» Defenseman Brett Callahan (10th round, 187th overall) from Chicago

» Center Noah Lalonde (11th round 207th overall) from Honeybaked midgets.

Defenseman Vasili Kolias (12th round, 227th overall) from Chicago Mission U-18s. » Defenseman Brendan Devane (13th round) from Toronto Red Wings. » Right wing William Hunter (14th round) from Toronto Marlboros. » Goalie Carleton Boothe (15th round)

from Toronto Red Wings.

Pole vault: 1. Stevenson (Ryan Cole,

3,200: 1. Plymouth (Rogowski, Dalton, Patil, Mema), 8:28.6; 2. Dearborn, 8:42.0; 3. Stevenson, 8:53.5; 4. Catholic Central,

400: 1. Salem (Jordan, Miller, Sherrod, Homrich), 44.3; 2. Lincoln Park, 46.6; 3

Plymouth, 54.6

ALL-AREA BOYS BOWLING TEAM

All-area boys bowl over the competition

FIRST TEAM Steven Cadwell, Sr., Salem: The Rocks' senior captain once again demonstrated

his ability to come through in the clutch. Cadwell was the anchor

bowler as Salem rolled to a 15-0 regular season record, including 11-0 in the KLAA Central Division to win the

At the Division 1 individual regional at Super Bowl in Canton, he finished seventh overall with a total of 1,196 enabling him to again qualify for the state finals.

"He bowls very well under pressure," coach Kathie Hahn said. "He proved to be a good captain leading his team to an undefeated season in the KLAA. As Steven is a senior, he will be greatly missed."

Cadwell registered an aver-

age of 211 and tallied a high game of 279 and high twogame series of 475.

Josh Pozan, Sr., Canton: The Chiefs' co-captain was dependable and often stellar during his senior season, averaging 209.

Pozan, an all-conference selection, qualified for the D1 individual finals with his third-place tie at the regionals (1,248).

At the state finals, he registered a total of 1,232, good for 37th place overall.

Other highlights included a high game of 267 and a high series of 492.

"Josh is a true leader for the Canton team, always there to rally the troops and always doing what is best for the team and his teammates, coach Karl Brubaker said. "When you have a young man like this on your team you never want to lose him but he will be missed and will be a leader in the next phase of his life.

Nolan Rudis, Jr., Salem: Another strong season for Rudis nearly concluded with a spot in the D1 state finals.

But the junior came up just 28 pins short when he finished 14th with a 1,140 tally at individual regionals. He also averaged 212 per game.

"Nolan had an exceptional season," Hahn said. "He had his first 300 game and also bowled a 557 series, which was the third highest in the state

"We look forward to having him return next year as a senior."

Nick Bell, Jr., John Glenn: The junior, voted team MVP, averaged 208 this season for the Rockets while reaching the Division 1 state singles tournament and the round of 16 before losing to eventual state champion Josh Kukla of Grandville.

Bell took 10th in the regional with an 1,167 total including a high game of 244. At the state singles qualifying block



Steven Cadwell Salem



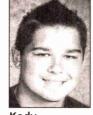
Canton



Nolan Rudis



Nick Bell John Glenn



Kody Wojewski Wayne



Tyler Snyder Salem



Aaron Madsen Canton



Mike Russom

John Glenn

season bowling mostly

in the fourth position, Hahn said. "Brandon will be successful in whatever he chooses to

He wrapped up his final year with an average of 203, and enjoyed a high game of 246 and high series of

Conner Weber, Soph., Wayne: The

10th-grader averaged 204 for the season and teamed up with Kody Wojewski for a second-place finish in the Clarenceville Doubles Tourna-

Weber took 17th overall in the regional with an 1,136 to-

"Connor has had a solid first two years at Wayne and he is just starting to reach his potential," Jawor said. "I predict the next two years will be

great seasons for him."
COACH OF THE YEAR Kathie Hahn, Salem: Although Salem did not make the D1 team finals for the second year in a row, the Rocks enjoyed another outstanding regular season under the guidance of coaches Hahn, Glenn Clark and Crystal

Webb. Salem — state champions in 2013 — rolled over the competition in the KLAA Central Division, finishing first with a 15-0 record.

According to Hahn, Observer Coach of the Year for the second straight year, a key factor to the Rocks' continuing success is team camarade-

"One of my kids put it the best way," Hahn said. "He said We are more of a family than a team.' The team will go out to breakfast before tournaments and out to dinner after tournaments. The families are close, the kids are close.

"... Ever since I've been doing this, for six years, my teams have always clicked and have always been close."

Hahn added that there is a pretty good chance the 2014-15 team will be very competitive,

group of boys, and I'm glad I only lost two (to graduation)," she said. "I have three coming back."

lineup made the All-Observer



he finished 13th with a

1,325 (257 high game).

ways went against the

Glenn coach Ron Sta-ples said. "Many times

Nick needed to strike

to get us a win, or just

as he did when he

threw two strikes in

the team for the state

tournament. We look

next year."

finish.

ment.

forward to see him bowl again

Kody Wojewski, Sr.,

Wayne: The senior averaged

202 this season and qualified

after a third-place regional

for the individual state singles

At the state finals, Wojew-

ski placed 12th in the qualify-

Wojewski also teamed up

with teammate Conner Weber

for a second place in the Clar-

"Kody was an outstanding

addition for us after his trans-

fer from John Glenn where he

was one of the team leaders in

Tyler Snyder, Jr., Salem:

Another Salem junior with plenty of individual and team

success under his belt is Sny-

der, who averaged 210 with a

At the individual regionals,

high game of 256 and high

Snyder came in 20th with a

"Tyler is a great team

bowled in several positions in

tently helped keep his team in

Aaron Madsen, Jr., Can-

KLAA selection finished with

a high game of 287. He aver-

At the D1 individual region-

aged 209 per game and 498

als, the junior finished 27th

for the team and is a steady

"Aaron is my anchorman

performer, always around the

pocket and always working on

his game to get better," Bru-baker said. "He will be a part

of next year's team that looks

to be strong again. A great

teammate and leader.

with a score of 1,084.

ton: The co-captain and all-

SECOND TEAM

member," Hahn said. "He

the lineup this season and

the game throughout the year."

perfected them. He consis-

total of 1,124 pins, including a

series of 488.

220 game.

per series.

average every year," Wayne

coach Bob Jawor said.

ing block with a 1,330 total,

including a 264 high game.

enceville Doubles Tourna-

the tenth to qualify

opponents' best guy,"

chor bowler and al-

"Nick was our an-





Tyler Ridgeway Salem



Michael Richards



Brandon Allison Salem



Conner Weber Wayne



Salem coach

ALL-OBSERVER BOYS BOWLING

2014 ALL-OBSERVER **BOYS BOWLING** FIRST TEAM

Steven Cadwell, Sr., Salem Josh Pozan, Sr., Canton Nolan Rudis, Jr., Salem Nick Bell, Jr., John Glenn Kody Wojewski, Sr., Wayne Tyler Snyder, Jr., Salem SECOND TEAM Aaron Madsen, Jr., Canton

Mike Russom, Sr., John Glenn Tyler Ridgeway, Jr., Salem Michael Richards, Sr., Canton Brandon Allison, Sr., Salem Conner Weber, Soph. Wayne THIRD TEAM

Matt Mikulec, Sr., Wayne Nick King, Jr., Farm.-Harrison Steve Brusseau, Sr., John Glenn Billy Wicker, Sr., John Glenn Clark VandenBossche, Sr., North Farm. Garrett Sockow, Jr., Farm.-Harrison **COACH OF THE YEAR** Kathie Hahn, Salen **HONORABLE MENTION**

Jordan Orzech, Jr., Plymouth

Canton: Mitchell Zelenak, Trent Montgo-mery, Nick Blain, Plymouth: Charlie An-derson; Salem: James Campeau, Zachary Gonyea, Mitchell Rusinek; Farmington-Harrison: Matt Helisek; North Farming-ton: Adam Gould, Terence Robinson; West-land John Glenn: Dante Fischer, Jared Stevens: Wayne: Brandon June, Creby Gilber Stevens; **Wayne**: Brandon June, Cody Gilbert; **Clarenceville**: Samuel Moore.

Mike Russom, Sr., John

Glenn: The senior posted a team-best 209 average for the season as the Rockets finished third in the Division 1 regional and 10th in the team qualifying block.

"Mike throws the ball with two hands and it works very well for him," Staples said. "He has the instinct to adjust as he moving toward the approach line and find the pocket. Mike is a 4.0 student and his mental toughness really shows. Mike was calm under any circumstances and it was a pleasure to have gotten to

know him." Tyler Ridgeway, Jr., Salem: In just his first season with the Salem varsity, Ridgeway proved to be a great addition, averaging 201 pins per game.

He finished second at the individual regional at Super Bowl with a six-game series of 1,258, featuring a 267 in his sixth game.

With that, he qualified for the D1 finals at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights, where he finished 43rd overall with a tally of 1,199.

"He made an instant impact on the dynamics of the team." Hahn said "He works very hard to improve his game. He has another year with us as he returns as a senior next season."

Ridgeway threw a 276 game and 491 series for his best showings in those two categories

Michael Richards, Sr., Canton: The senior came very close to making the cut for the D1 individual finals, finishing 15th at regionals with a tally 1,139 (28 pins short), but that did not diminish his final season with the Chiefs.

He finished strong with an average of 249 per game and 493 per series.

'Michael was the guy on the team that I was hesitant to take out of the lineup," Brubaker said. "Even if the game started bad he was the guy I knew would throw a string of strikes at the end of the game. A great teammate (with) great family values.'

Brandon Allison, Sr., Salem: The co-captain's senior season came up just one spot short of qualifying for the D1 individual finals as he placed 11th at the regionals with a total of 1,153.

That left him just 14 pins behind the 10th and final qualifier, Nick Bell of John Glenn. Allison, a scholar-athlete,

was viewed by Hahn as the "glue" that holds a team together.

"Brandon had a strong

"I just had an awesome

All five of her starting team, including seniors Cadwell and Allison, juniors Rudis, Snyder and Ridgeway.

Canton football camps

Three summer football camps being run by the Canton Chiefs high school program are slated for June and July. All three offerings will take place at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity field.

Go to www.cantonchiefsfootball.com to download a flyer.

» Wing T Camp: The camp is for players entering grades 10-12 in fall 2014. Times are 2-5 p.m. June 16 and 5-8 p.m. June 17-19. Contact Tim Baechler, (734) 455-7691.

» Skills Camp: The camp is for players entering grades 7-9 in fall 2014. Times are 5-7:30 p.m. June 9-12; 5-7:30 p.m. July 14-17. Participants who sign up can get both camps for the price of one. Contact Richard Mui, (248) 229-2738

» Fundamental Camp: The camp is for players entering grades 3-6 in fall 2014. Times are 9 a.m. to noon June 23-26. Contact Enza Lanava, (313) 300-1173.

Think spring golf

PGA teaching professional Tami Bealert is offering a

.

series of spring golf classes and events at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3525 Napier Road, Superior Township.

Among the first sessions for adults include: Get Golf Ready - 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17; or 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 7; Senior Casual Golfer -10 a.m. Tuesday, April 15 or May 6; Senior New Golfer - 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 or May 6; Ladies clinics, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 6.

Among the first sessions for youths include: Junior (ages 8-17) - 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 and 5 p.m. Thursday, May 8; Little Linksters (ages 5-8) - 5 p.m. Monday, April 14 and 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3.

Bealert will also host three open houses, which features free golf games for the whole family, from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 13; Saturday, April 26; and Sunday, May 18, at Hickory Creek. Adult drop-in clinics are

also available including: Golf Enhancement sessions – 6:45-8 p.m. each Monday (locations and times subject to change by season); and Golf Conditioning – 10:30-11:30 a.m. each Saturday (Jan.-Nov.) at Hickory Creek.

reached during the evenings To register for classes, visit at 734-658-0226 (cell) or 734-

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Bealert's Facebook page at TrainwithTamiGolf.com.

For more information, email TrainwithTami@gmail.com or call 734-731-

S'craft hoop tryouts

Schoolcraft College firstyear men's basketball coach Abe Mashhour will be holding tryouts from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12 at the main For more information, call

Mashhour at 734-523-9101 or email amashhou@schoolcraft.edu.

MU cross country

Madonna University will stage its summer cross country base camps for serious high school runners from 8:45-9:45 a.m. July 28 through Aug. 1. The cost is \$75.

MU will also hold long runs from 7:30-9 a.m. Saturday, July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2, at Cass Benton Park. The cost is a \$2 donation each long run.

coach Pat Daugherty at pdaugherty@madonna.edu. Daugherty can also be

For more information, email Madonna cross country

432-5634 (office).

Varsity pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pom pon clinic (grades 3-11) will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the high school fieldhouse (courts Nos. 1 and 3).

The cost is \$25 (includes light snack, T-shirt and CD). You must register by Wednesday, April 2, to be guaranteed a T-shirt. Students must wear gym shoes and workout clothes.

For more information, email Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at lyman@livoniapublicschools.org.

Women's golfers

The Livonia Whispering Willows Golf League will be expanded to 18 holes for \$28 per week (includes greens fees and cart) beginning at 8 a.m. Thursday, May 1.

Non-residents are encouraged to join the 20-week league.

For more information, call Beth at 248-473-9068 or email tbw4boys@aol.com.

Motor City Hoops

The MetroPCS Motor City Hoops Classic, a new 3-on-3

basketball tournament, will be

Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8, on the Detroit Riverfront.

The MetroPCS Motor City Hoops Classic will have divisions for all ages and skill levels with both men's and women's teams invited to com-In addition to team compe-

titions, there will also be a 3-point shootout and free throw shooting contest for prizes as well as free youth clinics for participants in the 4-8 grade divisions. Registration is underway

with the deadline for team registration Friday, May 23. Early bird registration ends Tuesday, April 15.

To register or for more information, visit motorcityhoopsclassic.com.

Sponsor needed

The 11-and-under Livonia Rockets, a travel baseball team which will play six to seven tournaments this summer, is seeking a team sponsor which includes a banner and company name and phone number to advertise.

Any donation is appreciat-

For more information, call Steve at 734-716-5194 or coach Ed at 734-670-6768.

trained in stress reduction, labyrinth

The Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi has been appointed to serve as the consulting minister for the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington. She will be in the pulpit the second and third Sundays of each month, beginning April 13.

Bugleisi has been an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister for 24 years. She most recently served as the minister at Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Rochester. She holds a bachelor's degree from Oakland University in Rochester and a master of divinity degree from United Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn. She was ordained

Bugleisi has completed Premier Education Solutions Institute train-



Bugleisi

to treatment of post traumatic stress disorder and mindfulness-based

stress reduction. Her continuing education has included labyrinth training, meditation and yoga training, and Heart Sutr' training with the Dalai Lama. She enjoys journaling as spiritual practice and is interested in the philosophy of Buddhism and the history and use of the labyrinth.

Šhe is married and the grandmother of three children.

For more information about the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, visit uuFarmington.org.

APRIL BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 13 Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road,

Details: Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice. Adults pay \$3; children 2-10 pay \$1.50

Contact: 734-425-4421

BREAKFAST, EASTER

Time/Date: Pancake breakfast, 8:30-10 a.m.; Easter activities, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, April

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Free community breakfast; Easter Fair includes crafts. egg hunt, egg decorating, cookie decorating and more. Parents must accompany their children

Contact: 734-522-6830; chris-

toursavior.com **EASTER WEEK**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 17; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Good Friday, April 18; 9:30 a.m., Easter Sunday

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: A free Easter breakfast will be served from 8-9:15 a.m. All visitors will receive a free DVD, "Come Follow Me" Contact: 734-968-3523 or

313-532-8655 **EASTER WEEK**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. April 17, Maundy Thursday worship; 7 p.m. April 18, Good Friday worship; 8 p.m. Saturday, April 19, Easter Vigil; 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 20, Easter worship Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road,

Garden City **Details**: Easter Sunday events include a pancake breakfast at 9 a.m. and Easter egg hunt at 9:30

Contact: 734-427-3660 **EASTER WORSHIP**

RELIGION CALENDAR Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30

a.m. Sunday, April 20 Location: St. Theodore of Canterbury Catholic Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland Contact: 734-425-4421

EASTER WORSHIP

Time/Date: 6:30 a.m., Service of Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, April 20 Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 34175 Farmington Road, Livonia Contact: 734-522-6830; christoursavior.org

LENTEN SERVICE

Time/Date: Noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday through Lent Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Worship followed by a light lunch Contact: 734-522-6830 for additional information

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, April Location: Ss Simon and Jude

Catholic Community, 32500 Palmer, Westland Details: Bishop Thomas Gumbleton: A Prophet Among Us? part 2 screens, following Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: 734-722-1343 **LENTEN REFLECTION**

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Friday,

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill,

Garden City Details: Includes dinner at 5:30 p.m. and concert at 7 p.m.

Contact: 734-427-3660

MEN'S BREAKFAST Time/Date: 8 a.m. April 18 Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton Details: 39th Men's Good Friday Breakfast includes full breakfast and guest speaker, Rev. Sunil Noah, founder of Emmanuel Bible School and pastor of Emmanuel Indian Fellowship. Tickets are \$6 for men, \$3 for boys, 10 and under

Contact: 734-459-3333

Consulting minister Passages Obituaries, Memories & Rememberances

LOCAL NEWS

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

BUERS, PHYLLIS

Age 75, passed away April 6, 2014, at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on July 20, 1938, in South Lyon, daughter of the late Ford & May Smith. Phyllis was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved life and could do anything she set her mind to whether that was roofing a house or baking cookies. She is survived by her loving husband Chuck, of 56 years, her loving children: Doug (Tiffany) Buers and Duane Buers; her grandchildren: Jason, Lauren, Chelsea, Amanda and Kendra and her great-grandchild, Noah. She is also survived by her brother, Norm (Lori) Smith. The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 10, from 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FU-NERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral service will be held on Friday, April 11, at 11:00 a.m. at Salem Bible Church, 9481 Six Mile Rd., Salem. Online guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com

GIBSON-PIERSON

MICHELE Age 58, of Wayne, MI died Thursday, April 3, 2014. Beloved Mother of Charles Law-Pierson, Justin and Saranda (Adam) Silvenis. Dear Grandmother of Alexis Lawrence, Tyler Lawrence, Sebastian Hamilton and Slayton Silvenis. Beloved sister of Roger Gibson, Pamela Adams, the late Douglas (Madline) Gibson, and Kevin (Kate) Gibson. Memorial Service to be held on Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 3:00pm at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Rd, Garden City, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Hope Lutheran

McCLUNG, Madeline M.

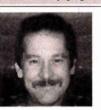
April 6, 2014, age 90, of Plymouth. Loving wife of the late Donald. Beloved mother of (Carley) Easterwood, Marsha and Babe (Terry) Whittaker. Proud grandmother of Paula, Kimberly, Kathy, Annette, Lori and Shannon, and great-grandmother of 16. Visitation and Funeral Service was held Wednesday at Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. Mecontributions may be made to the Plymouth Salvation Army. To share a memory, please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

McCULLOCH,

DANIEL January 6, 2014, age 88. Beloved husband of Dorothy. Dear father of Daniel Jr., Christopher (Con-nie) and Dorothy (Robert) Sawyer. Also leaves grandchildren Shelby & Robert Sawyer. Memorial gathering Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 12 noon until time of eulogy service at 2 pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Share your memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

A loving tribute



JOHN DAVID Of Garden City. April 1, 2014. Age 51. Beloved husband of Dear son of Joyce and Frank Sabo and the late John McDermott. Loving brother of Jim and Jeff McDermott and Tim and Johnny Sabo. Services were held Sunday at Husband Family Funeral Home in Westland. Interment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens.

RYCKEBUSCH,

FRANK April 3, 2014 age 76 of Plymouth, MI. Loving husband of the late Dorothy. Dear father of Michela. Michele (Dennis) Santillan. Proud grandfather of Juliana Santillan. Dear brother of the late Alice (Robert) Flinn. Visitation Friday 3-9 p.m. at Vermeulen Funeral Home, Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn. Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Rosary Friday 7 p.m. In state Saturday 9:30 a.m. until the 10 am Funeral Mass at Resurrection Catholic Parish, 48755 Warren Road (W, of Beck), Canton. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Capuchins. To share memories, please visit:



vermeulenfuneralhome.com

SHAW, JUDITH (formerly Judith Yuschak,

Judith Quayle) Age 58, passed away suddenly

on Thursday, April 3, 2014. Jude was preceded in death by two daughters, as well as her mother, father, and a brother. She will be greatly missed by her surviving family; her husband David, her son Christopher (Anne) Quayle of Kalamazoo, MI, her daughter Kendra Quayle of Mesquite, TX, her beloved grandchildren Phoenix and Harris Ouayle, along with three sisters and one brother and many nieces and nephews Judith was born January 16, 1956 in Livonia. She graduated from Bentley High School and received her master's degree from the University of Phoenix. For the last fourteen years she has worked in HR at Advanced Design and Packaging ta, GA. Visitation will be Friday, April 11, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Edith Church in Livonia, MI, with a service to follow at 11:00 a.m. Please make memorial donations to the American Cancer Society

SILVIS, MARY Of Chelsea, Michigan, age 95,

died Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at Chelsea Retirement Community. She was born August 22, 1918 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of John MacCallum and Mary Elizabeth (Kaiser) Martin, and was a Mayflower descendent. Mary was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth and the Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, and was active in church circles. During WWII, she supported her soldier husband and parents by working in the downtown Chicago Loop. After raising her family, she worked at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. During her retirement, Mary was an avid bicyclist with the Crestview riders in Sun City West. She played bridge all her life, and enjoyed knitting for her family. On November 20, 1941, she married William Barton Silvis, and he preceded her in death on October 29, 2012. Survivors include one son, William (Barbara) Silvis of Ann Arbor; two daughters, Janet (Richard) Weaver of Dexter; Marjorie Lynch of Plymouth; six grandchildren, Rebecca (Timothy) Gilbert of Nashville, Tennessee, William Charles (Lauren) Silvis of Bethesda, Maryland, Benjamin (Kari) Weaver of Rochester Hills, MI, Edward Barton Lynch of Detroit, MI, Richard Weaver of Williamston, MI, and Elizabeth Mae Lynch of Wolverine MI; and six greatgrandchildren, Katherine, Abi-gail and Andrew Gilbert, Samuel and Alexandra Silvis, and Holden Weaver. A memorial service will be held Friday, April 11, 1:00 p.m. at Chelsea Retirement Community, with her niece Rev. Paula Durrant officiating. The family will receive friends from 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Chelsea Retirement Community. Arrangements by Cole Funeral





SIMOS, JAMES **CHARLES "JIM"**

Of Westland, Age 47. March 27, 2014. Jim was born on July 27, 1966 to Thomas and Sandra Simos. He graduated in 1984 from Thurston High School in Redford, served in the United States Navy, and was a respected local business owner. Jim was loved by many and will be missed by all. He is survived by his children Austin and Lindsay, their mother Deanna Faigle, and preceded in death by his parents. Memorial Gathering Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 6-9pm with Service at 7pm at L J Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 N Middlebelt Rd., Westland, MI.



SWAIN, BETTY

View Online www.hometownlife.com

Age 71. Died April 2, 2014. Beloved Wife of William. Loving Mother of Bob (Terri) and Debra Swain, Dawn (Ken) Huntoon and the late Angie and Willie Swain. Dear Sister of Jim (Mary) Owens. Also survived by many grandchildren. Betty Swain will be missed by all. Funeral Services were held Saturday, April 5,



ROBERT JAMES

67 years old, died March 1, 2014 after a long painful battle with head and neck cancer. He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Lynne Hitchcock. His extended Michigan family including Ted and Lois Hitchcock, Cheryl Hitchcock, and Ember, the cat, will miss him. He will also be missed by his siblings: Dorothy (Roger) Clark of Henryville, Indiana, William (Sandy) Townsend of New Albany, Indiana, Richard (Barbara) Townsend of Rock Hill, South Carolina and Shirley (Michael) Riedinger of Louisville, Kentucky and also by his 10 nieces and nephews and their children. He was preceded in death by his parents Chester and Ila (Edna Baker) Townsend and his siblings Steve, Wilma and Barbara Townsend. R.J. (Bob) was born in Jeffersonville, Indiana and graduated from Indiana University, the first in his family to complete college. He loved horse racing, theater, music and dance and Egyptology. A Memorial Service will be held on May 4, in Southfield, MI at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Providence Health Foundation-Cancer Institute, Southfield, Michigan; Wayne State University, Department of Otolaryngology, 4201 St. Antoine, Detroit, Michigan; or the Michigan Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Let others know...

When you have lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages",

a directory located in every edition of your **Observer or Eccentric** newspaper.



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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

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247

or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

SCOOP'S Hound Dog Highlights



Spring is finally here and it's time to have FUN!

READY FOR FOOTBALL & FUN

Fooball Camp

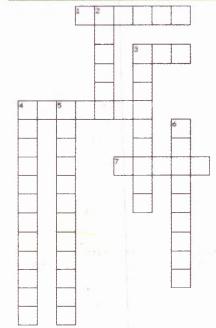
Here is your chance to win a scholarship to Detroit Lions Youth Football Camp.

Nine lucky girls and boys will have a chance to win. Tell Scoop in 50 words or less why you want to attend the camp. Have your parents email a photo of you, along with your name, age, community of residence, and phone number to cbjordan@hometownlife.com with the subject line "Football Camp Contest".



Contest Camp Dates & Locations

Detroit Lions Football camp puzzle



Across

- 1. Wear this for protection
- 3. Number of points for a touch down
- 4. Team trying to stop opponent from scoring 7. Name of Detroit's Professional football mascot

Down 2. Number of players on the field at 1 time for a

- team
- 3. The BIG GAME
- 4. Detroit's Professional League Football Team 5. Summer activity were boys and girls can learn and
- play football
- 6. Stadium Detroit's football team plays in

Detroit Lions, 5: Foot Ball Camp, 6: Ford Field Answers Down: 2: Eleven, 3: Super Bowl, 4:

Answers Across: 1: Helmet, 3: Six, 4: Defense,

March Winner of DVD Frozen How did Preston cope with the

winter blast? He played under the trampoline sliding on ice and collecting icicles. Preston Bognear, 4 years old of Wayne.



Nasir Dais Westland Olivia Darnell Novi 4/1 Garden City Emma Welden 4/1 **Annaclare Brown** Livonia 4/7 Lucas Bridgeford Redford 4/8 Sierra Haran Northville 4/8 Elizabeth Ho Farmington 4/9 **Matthew Tuer** Northville 4/13 Hailey Hagen South Lyon 4/16 Anthony Alexander Inkster 4/20 4/24 Kyle Finley Livonia 4/30 Zachary Johnson Belleville



facebook.com/Scoop The Newshound Coordinator/Contributing Writer: Choya Jordan, Marketing Manager

Design/Layout: Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions? Email cbjordan@hometownlife.com

2 winners for these locations

- June 7- 8: Beverly Hills, 9 a.m. to 12 noon QB-WR Academy for youth ages 8 -14.
- June 12-13: Brighton, 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Fundamentals Camp for youth ages 6 -14.
- July 19, 26, Aug. 2: Southfield, 10 a.m. -11 a.m. Lil' Lions Academy for youth ages 4 - 8.
- July 21- 23: South Lyon, 6:15 -7:15 p.m. Lil' Lions Academy for youth ages 4 - 8.

1 winner for this location

• June 30 - July 3: Plymouth, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon Fundamentals Camp for youth ages 6 -14.

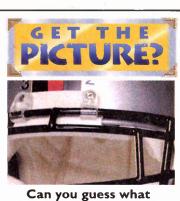
See complete camp schedules at www.detroitlions.com/youthfootball



SPANISH: Juego

FRENCH: Jeu

GERMAN: Spiel



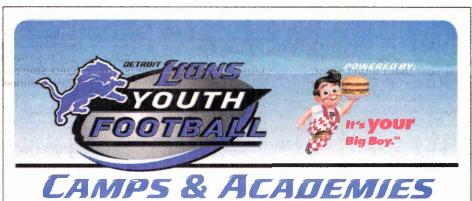
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FOOTBALL HELMET

Courtesy of Metro Creative

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Name: Address: Zip: City: Date of Birth: Boy or Girl: Email: Phone: *Parent's Printed Name: *Parent's Signature: Fill out the form and have your parents fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy! * Required for Birthday Club



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Deadline for submissions: Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit MI 48226 Level 2 All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Media by close of the business day on or email your form to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

KIDS HUNT EGGS FOR FUN, CHARITY AT LOCAL EASTER EVENTS

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Forget the chocolate and jelly beans.

Kids will swap their found Easter eggs for pancake flip-pers, dish cloths and other household goods during Newburg United Methodist Church's second annual Easter Fair, 11:30-2 p.m. Friday, April 18, at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. They'll place the items in buckets bound for young men in a transitional housing program at Methodist Chil-

Sarah Alexander, director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries at the church, says the free fair — which is open to the public — includes crafts, prizes, a photo booth, cookie-decorating, lunch, games, a drama and an Easter egg hunt with a missions-focused twist.

dren's Home in Redford.

"We hide different colored eggs throughout the playground. Red, green, blue, yellow ... they all correspond with a colored table," Alexander said. "If you find a red egg, you go to the table with the red tablecloth. You put the item on that table into a bucket. We have things like cooking utensils and sponges. Our goal is 75 of these transitional buckets.'

The buckets will give the teens the tools they need to learn how to care for their own apartments.

'The Methodist Children's Home started an apartment complex on their grounds ... it gives young men an opportuni-ty to spread their wings while still being cared for.'

Youngsters who complete a Bingo card by visiting all of the activity stations at the fair will receive prizes, including candy and a bracelet.

Alexander said the first annual fair drew approximately 200 individual. Many were not church members.

"There were many more people in the fellowship hall last year that I didn't know. That is the best way for our church to be used," she said.
"We were happy with the turnout. The community loves it. The Hines Drive marshmallow drop is the same day. Some people last year told us they stopped by the marshmallow drop and couldn't find a park-

ing space, so they came here.
"I think parents want something free and fun for their children.

The Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop starts 90 minutes before the church event. Chautauqua Express kicks off the fun at 10 a.m. at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, at Hines Drive, in Westland. At 11 a.m., a helicopter will drop thousands of marshmallows. Youngsters use their own baskets or bags to collect the treats and get a prize. Visit waynecounty.com for more information.

Can't get enough Easter egg hunting? Here's a sampling of other upcoming events:

Canton



Teens, 11-17, can search for eggs at night during Canton Leisure Services' first glow-inthe-dark egg hunt, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, April 11, in Heritage Park, Canton. Participants meet at the B.L.O.C.K., teen center, located in the Canton administration building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

Teens are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring a flashlight," said Stephanie Pavlo, recreation specialist, in an email. Teams will follow clues to find their eggs hidden throughout the park. Pizza and pop included. The fee is \$5. Visit cantonfun.org for more information.

Canton Leisure Services also runs an "Easter Eggstravaganza" 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Heritage Park and in the Summit on the Park gymnasium. Egg hunts in two age categories, for youngsters under 11, run continuously during the event, which also includes carnival games, a performance by the Kerfuffles, the Easter Bunny and a petting farm. Fee is \$5 per family. A food truck will offer lunch items for purchase and D&M Art Studio will paint faces for an extra charge. Summit on the Park is located at 46000 Summit Parkway, west of S. Canton Center Road, Canton.

Farmington

The 59th annual Spring Egg Hunt runs 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12 at Shiawassee Park, 32340 Shiawassee, Farmington. RSVP by noon Friday,



Christian Mumbiro and Bridgette Chick stop at a jelly bean activity station during Newburg United Methodist Church's first egg hunt last year.

April 11, to www.fajc.org for free admission to this event, sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees. Pay a \$2 registration fee onsite if not registered. Includes the egg hunt, carnival games and prizes. Donations of nonperishable food items to benefit Neighhorhood House also will be accepted.

Livonia

Youngsters, 10 and under, can hunt for eggs noon Saturday, April 19, at Rotary Park, located at Six Mile and Hubbard, in Livonia. Registration runs 10:30-11:30 a.m.. The event, co-sponsored by the Livonia Rotary Club and Livonia Parks and Recreation, is

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, will have crafts, stories, an egg hunt, and games for children, 2-12, from 10 a.m. to

noon Saturday, April 12; 734-

Christ Our Savior Lutheran, 14175 Farmington Road, offers a Children's Easter Fair, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 19. The event includes an egg hunt at 11 a.m., egg decorating, crafts, cookie decorating and more. Parents must accompany their children. www.christoursavior.org.
Plumb Line Community

Church, 9435 Henry Ruff will run an egg hunt, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 19, along with games, crafts, face painting, prizes, lunch and photos with the Easter Bunny, for youngsters, 12 and under; 734-522-7916.

Faith Community Weslevan Church, 14560 Merriman, presents an egg hunt, games, crafts for children, 10 and under, and the Easter story, Saturday, April 12. Registration starts at 12:45 p.m. Youngsters should bring their own baskets; 734-466-8694.

Plymouth

Children, 10 and under, will collect eggs in the Plymouth Lions Club egg hunt, 10 a.m. Saturday, April 19, at Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail. They'll hunt in four age categories and are encouraged to bring their own baskets for this free event. Lions collection boxes will be on hand for used or unwanted eye glasses, cell phones and hearing aids.

Milford

Kensington Metropark holds its "Great Egg Hunt," 11

a.m. Saturday, April 19 at Maple Beach in the park, 2240 Buno Road, north of I-96. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photos and the Farmer John and The Barnyard Express Animal Show" runs at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Participation fee is \$5 per child, payable at the event; babies 12 months and under are free; 810-227-8910.

Northville

Maybury State Park's annual egg hunt starts at 11 a.m. for ages 5 and under and at 11:10 for ages 6 and up, Saturday, April 19, at the park, located on Eight Mile, west of Beck. The free event also includes games, face painting, crafts and seed planting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and appearances by Smokey Bear and the Easter Bunny. Vehicles must have a Recreation Passport for entry into all state parks. Cost is \$11; michigan.gov/recreationpassport or call 248-349-8390.

First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, will scatter 15,000 eggs for collection at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 19. Children hunt in five different age groups. The event includes a hot dog lunch, pictures with the Easter Bunny, games, prizes, music and "eggcellent eggsperiments" with Madam Scientist. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs. Registration is required at dfcnazarene.org. Closes after 600 children sign up or on April 16, whichever comes first.

Novi

Kids, 3-12, can hunt for eggs, take a hayride, meet the Easter Bunny, make crafts and visit a petting farm at Eggstravaganza, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12, at Michigan State University Tollgate Farm Center, 28115 Meadowbrook Road. Participation cost is \$8 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents. No charge for parents. Registration deadline is Thursday, April 10, at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Clutural Services office inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile. Call 248-347-0400 for more information.

Royal Oak

The 23rd annual Bunnyville runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 18-19, at the Detroit Zoo, located at Woodward Avenue and the I-696 service drive. This family event will include an egg hunt with prizes, games, crafts, face painting, photos with the Easter Bunny, live entertainment, animal enrichment activities, and zookeeper talks. The Bunny Follies, a musical, runs at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Visitors who bring a canned or other nonperishable food item for Gleaners Community Food Bank will receive a reduced admission price of \$8, parking not included. Regular admission to the zoo is \$14 for adults, 15-61; \$10 for seniors, 62 and over and children, 2-14. Children under 2 are admitted free. Parking is \$6.

Drama with Farmington roots brings Easter story to Music Hall

The Cross and the Light, the musical production of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, returns to Detroit's Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts April 10-13.

Kelly Nieto of Farmington is executive producer and co-director.

"Six new songs and 30-minutes of new arrangements by Nashville arranger, John Hinchey, has dramatically improved the show this year, said Brian Leduc, co-director and music director. "New audiences will love it, and returning fans will have something new to experience.

Included in the cast is Capitol Records recording artist Tim Bowman Jr., son of smooth jazz legend Tim Bowman and nephew of Gospel icons CeCe Winans and Vicki Winans. Bowman will portray "Apostle Thomas," alongside Keisia "Kiko" Hardison, who recently opened for Charlie Wilson at the Fox Theater, and Kenny Watson, Detroit vocalist, who will play "Jesus" for the second year.

"I'd never seen Jesus portrayed on a professional stage in skin that I could identify



Kenny Watson (center) portrays Jesus Christ in last year's production of The Cross and the Light. He is cast in the role again for performances April 10-13 at Music Hall in Detroit.

with," said Watson. "The more knowledgeable I became, I realized that I was programmed to view Jesus as

European. The picture that we have of Jesus, in itself is a false depiction."

Nieto created The Cross and

the Light after staging The Living Stations of the Cross for 10 years at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington and for

two years at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit. After its 2012 performance, Nieto decided to extend the story beyond the death of Christ to Pentecost. She changed the name of the revamped show to The Cross and the Light for its debut at Music Hall in Detroit last year.

Nieto said she was called by God to create the live theater experience while praying The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday in 2000.

"I saw his love and sacrifice firsthand. This show is my attempt to give others that same experience. In addition to raising my five children, it's my life's mission."

A student show is set for 10 a.m. with a preview performance at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 10. A show for senior citizens and students is set for 10 a.m. Friday, April 11. Other performances are at 8 p.m. Friday, April 11; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, April 12; and 5p.m. Sunday, April 13. Tickets

are \$25-\$55. Get tickets at CrossAndLight.com, Ticketmaster.com, or call the Box Office at 313-

887-8501.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

FOOD

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR

SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



SIMPLIFY PARTY, ENJOYTIME WITH GUESTS

GRILLED FLATBREAD WITH HUMMUS & MIXED VEGGIES

Prep time: 5 minutes Total time: 30 minutes

1 tablespoon olive

mozzarella cheese, shredded 2 teaspoons dried

Red pepper flakes, optional 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

Heat oil in skillet over medium heat Add garlic, onion bell pepper and mush-rooms. Cook, stirring frequently, for about 8 minutes or until veg-Remove from heat and stir in spinach. Set

Place flatbread on grill or stovetop gas flame; grill for a couple of minutes or until lightly browned, turn-

ing once Place all four flatbreads on baking sheet.

To assemble flatbreads, evenly spread surface with hummus. Sprinkle parmesan cheese on top of hummus. Top with veggies then mozzarella cheese. Sprinkle with oregano and red pep-per flakes. Place in oven and bake for until cheese is melted. Drizzle with balsamic implify your spring entertaining routine with quick, easy-to-make dishes that feature fresh, scrumptious ingredients.

Laid back and lovely, parties call for wonderful friends, flavorful foods and refreshing beverages. But having company over to enjoy the mild spring weather doesn't mean you have to stress over time-consuming meals that can take all day to prepare. Luckily, there are yummy options available.

Keeping it simple and fresh is the key. Make a spring gathering great by incorporating creative dishes. With the temperature outdoors finally beginning to climb, consider firing up the grill. Simple grilled recipes, or those that require no cooking, allow you to cut down on the prep and clean up time. Your guests will love these recipes, which feature hummus, a better-for-you dip. Visit www.sabra.com for more recipes that please guests and save on time while entertain-

LOADED CHOPPED SALAD WITH CHIPOTLE-HUMMUS DRESSING

Prep time: 15 minutes Total time: 15 minutes

Serves: 4-6

For salad: 2 heads romaine lettuce, washed and torn into bite-sized

pieces

1 red bell pepper, diced 2 celery ribs, diced

2 carrots, peeled and diced 10 grape tomatoes, halved

1/2 small red onion, diced 1/2 English cucumber, diced

2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese

For dressing:

½ cup Sabra Chipotle Hummus, including all of topping 1/4 cup reduced fat milk 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar

Place all ingredients for the salad in large bowl and toss gently to combine.

Whisk all ingredients for dressing in small bowl. Pour half of dressing on top of salad and toss well to coat. Add more dressing as desired or serve



MEDITERRANEAN BURGERS

Recipe by Colombe Jacobsen Total prep time: 20 minutes Serves: 8 small burgers or 6 larger

1½ pounds ground beef or lamb

1 medium onion (diced) 1 egg (lightly beaten)

1/4 cup minced parsley

1/4 cup minced mint 1 tablespoon paprika

1/4 teaspoon cinnamon 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 teaspoon salt 1 tablespoon ground cumin Juice of 1 lemon

3 tablespoons olive oil 1 large pickle sliced thinly in

rounds 4 romaine lettuce leaves 1 large tomato (thinly sliced

into rounds) 8 hamburger buns, (split and lightly toasted)

extra on side.

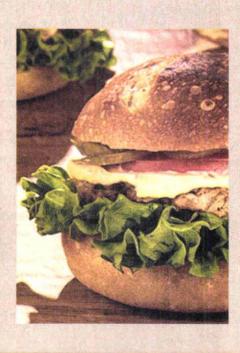
½ cup hummus In a medium sized bowl,

combine ground beef or lamb, spices, lemon juice and egg. With wet hands shape into 8, 3½ inch diameter, patties.

In a large grill pan, warm 3 tablespoons olive oil over medium heat. Grill burgers until nicely browned on each side, about 3-4

minutes. Place the bottom of the buns on plates. Spread a layer of hummus on the bun. Top with burger, sliced pickles, lettuce and sliced tomato. Spread more hummus on top of the bun.

Then press on the bun tops and enjoy.



CHICKEN SKEWERS

Recipe by Colombe Jacobsen Prep time: 30 minutes Cook time: 10 minutes

1 pound chicken squares 1 medium zucchini, cut

1 medium red bell

pepper 1 medium green bell

pepper 10-12 large button

Salt and black pepper

Olive oil 3-5 fresh garlic cloves

3 tablespoons Sabra Roasted Pine Nut Hummus

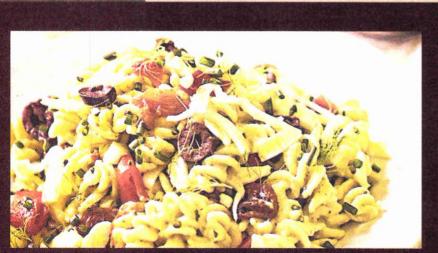
Cut vegetables into 1-inch squares. Whisk salt, pepper and olive oil in a large bowl. Add the cubed chicken,

vegetables and mush-Marinate for 30 min-

utes, tossing occasionally. Prepare a fire in a charcoal grill.

Thread the peppers, mushrooms and chicken alternately. Arrange the skewers, grill until

Serve with grilled mushrooms and 3 tablespoons Sabra Roasted Pine Nut Hummus.



BASIL PESTO HUMMUS PASTA SALAD

Prep time: 15 minutes Total time: 15 minutes

Serves: 4-6 1 pound Fusilli pasta (cooked according to

package instructions) 1 cup pitted kalamata olives, rough

chopped

1 cup fennel (2 small bulbs), finely 1/2 cup sundried tomatoes in olive oil,

drained and chopped 1 (10 ounce) container of Sabra Basil Pesto

¼ cup roasted red pepper (1 whole pre-roasted red pepper)½ cup chives, minced

1 cup pasta cooking water, reserved 2 tablespoons olive oil Fennel fronds for garnish

Cook pasta according to package direc-

tions. Drain, reserving 1-cup pasta cooking

Prepare all of the vegetables. In a big bowl, toss the vegetables with the Basil Pesto

Hummus. Add pasta, and pasta water and stir to combine. Sprinkle with black pepper. Serve at room temperature, drizzle each portion with a little splash of olive oil and sprinkle fennel fronds over top.

FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

'Placemaking' push expands around Michigan, focus on livability

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

For the past few years, the National Association of Realtors has made a lot of money available to state and local associations to help make communities more fun and livable. The Michigan Association of Realtors has gotten a piece of the more than \$1 million pie for an innovative program called "placemaking."

Placemaking is part of the Lighter Quicker Cheaper Challenge pilot grant program open to the Greater Lansing area in 2012. The program was a success, according to Joe Kras, manager of communications and marketing for the

Agreeing is Realtor Gil White, a member of the Greater Lansing Association of Realtors who is doing consulting for Michigan State University's School of Planning, Design and Construction. White has some 25 years of experience in the field and was involved in getting the placemaking project running.

Among other things, the program used \$20,000 in NAR funds to help pay for a farmers market, live music performances in an underused urban park, and the refurbishing of a once-downtrodden neighborhood to attract private investment as part of an effort to turn the area into a mixed-

The pilot project engaged Realtors in placemaking, said White. "I think it succeeded well," he said. "We looked at Realtors as being natural for involvement."

In 2013, the state association got some 23 requests for funding and was able to support about nine, said White, a past president of the Michigan Association of Realtors. The MAR is Lansing-based so our



Reutter Fountain Park weekly entertainment has proven to be a hit.

state's capital seemed a good place to start.

"We had more requests than we had ability to fund. I think what it highlights is the grassroots initiative to make improvements in their daily habitats," White said of people who live, work and play in a community.

Kras cited the following Challenge winners for MAR: \$2,500 for the farmers market expansion, Kathie Dunbar as recipient, with Realtor sponsor Brian Huggler of Coldwell Banker Hubbell Briarwood Realty; Arty Party recipient Greg Frens with Realtor sponsor Mitch Crank of Century 21 Looking Glass Real Estate Co., to create folk art signs for the Downtown Neighborhood Association meetings and website; Reutter Fountain Park Weekly Features recipient Tony Beyers with Realtor sponsor James Pyle of Lana Wagner Realty, weekly entertainment in the park; Neighborhood Art Installation recipients MC Rothhorn and Karen White with Realtor sponsor Nancy Kelly of Tomie Raines, for the Genesee Neighborhood's addition of six sculp-

Also, the Historical Dimondale Walking Tour recipient Lori Conarton with Realtor sponsor Kern Slucter of Gannon Group, sign and bench

installation; Old Town Honorarium Sculpture Park recipient Louise Gradwohl with Realtor sponsor Brian Huggler, in honor of late Old Town Mayor Robert Busby, a sculpture park with flower beds and more landscaping; Trowbridge Village Neighbor's Station recipient Susan Chalgian with Realtor sponsor Sabrina Hagel of Tomie Raines, on Michigan State University's south cam-pus a little free library and relaxation spot; and Fab Acres Neighborhood, Barnes Street Community Garden recipient Chitea Pullman with Realtor sponsor James Pyle of Lana Wagner Realty, leveraging help from local groups and volunteers for a new community garden and gathering

In 2013, the Lighter Quicker Cheaper Challenge opened to eight regions by local Realtor associations and boards: Flint area, Jackson area, Monroe County, Grosse Pointe, Grand Rapids, Greater Lansing area. Southwestern Michigan and Water Wonderland. MAR Senior Vice President Kathie Feldpausch followed up with the additional associations, White

"It's not a top-down approach at all," said White, who believes citizen groups are the "greatest untapped resource" in community improvement.

"There are obviously different success stories around the state," White said, including Ann Arbor and Traverse City. "It's learning how to encourage that type of bottoms-up placemaking." White said citizens are the experts at

"I think the surprise was the demand for the projects," White said. The farmers market, historic preservation efforts, public art and creation of social spaces drew people together - and continue to do

"It runs across the board," White added.

Other states and associations are also getting involved. The Greater Nashville Association of Realtors is using \$10,000 to help fund a citizens' transit council, which is intended to make residents more knowledgeable about land-use issues and get them to think more broadly about how land use relates to quality

All of these projects have something in common. That is, to make communities nice places to live as their population densities grow. That's a key factor in keeping property values and investment returns

Community quality of life is one of the underwriters of property markets and home values, so there's a concrete return on investment as commercial and residential real estate markets respond to improved conditions. It's a key piece to the economic puzzle.

The NAR produced a fourminute video on the initiative. It looks at some success stories and invites you to learn more on the smart growth section of realtor.org.

The National Association of Realtors and Michigan Association of Realtors contributed to this report.

\$415,000

\$335,000

\$396,000

\$108,000

\$211,000

58680 Bridge House Ct

21925 Lyon Meadow Ct

26721 Kentucky Ct

Heed counsel's advice on guest who fell down

Q: One of my tenant's guests fell on some carpeted stairs in my apartment building and is claiming that I violated an alleged statutory duty to keep the premises in reasonable repair. I have submitted the claim to my insurance company, but what do you think?

A: No doubt the plaintiff will argue that you had a

duty to keep the apartment fit for its intended purpose and in reasonable repair, and they will argue that the plaintiff was a licensee. However,

Robert Meisner

if they cannot prove that they were a lessee or licensee of yours, they will more than likely not be successful in their claim, although whether someone is a licensee or tenant is sometimes debatable. Obviously, you are going to get legal advice from your insurance carrier's attorney, but you mav wish to hire independent

Q: Can you tell me what Fannie Mae requires, if anything, with respect to

rentals in a condominium. A: From your general question, I presume that you want to know if you exceed an acceptable level of investors, will the lenders be required to deem the project ineligible for Fannie Mae financing. In that regard, if it is a fully established project, the lender will be looking for 51 percent owner occupancy (meaning 49 percent max investors). For a new project or a newly converted project, Fannie Mae is looking at 70 percent owner-occupant presale, meaning a cap of 30 percent investors, and sales to investors do not count toward calculating the pre sale acceptance. FHA, on the other hand, says that there cannot be a prohibition against leasing units. However, they do permit a cap or limit on the number of rentals a condo will permit. In any event, you should consult with your developer or your real estate-project attorney with respect to obtaining the proper financing through the proper documentation.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of " Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95, plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling, " Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of " Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95, plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

Lathrup Village

17617 Avilla Blvd

\$875,000

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 18-22, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses

and sales prices.	
BEVERLY HILLS	
18555 Devonshire St	\$630,000
20711 Kennoway Cir	\$300,000
30500 Lahser Rd	\$335,000
15830 Reedmere Ave	\$254,000
BIRMINGHAM	
503 Arlington St	\$870,000
222 Aspen Rd	\$1,513,000
1175 Bird Ave	\$540,000
1489 E Maple Rd	\$310,000
1564 Henrietta St	\$525,000
1234 Pierce St	\$330,000
1785 S Bates St	\$160,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
3300 Chickering Ln	\$425,000
1351 Fieldway Dr	\$170,000
6314 Dakota Cir	\$210,000
3753 Darlington Rd N	\$465,000
622 E Fox Hills Dr	\$55,000
5065 Lone Pine Ln	\$1,125,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
211 Eileen Dr	\$175,000
1323 Knollcrest Cir	\$210,000
540 Newburne Pointe	\$197,000
6800 Oakhills Dr	\$677,000
1694 S Hill Blvd	\$148,000
1245 S Timberview Trl	\$322,000
2535 Vhay Ln	\$1,300,000
3487 W Maple Rd	\$236,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP
5766 Bingham Dr
2287 Brigantine
1961 Hampshire Ct
4970 Knollcrest Ct
252 Steadfield St
4907 Whitlow Blvd
FARMINGTON
33253 Kirby St
23541 Loomis Ct
FARMINGTON HILLS
29359 Bradmoor Ct
34290 Commons Dr
23949 Cora Ave
30974 Country Ridge Cir
24248 Creekside Dr
20938 Deerfield
27636 E Echo Vly Unit 237
29564 Gramercy Ct
28211 Green Castle Rd
28221 Green Willow St
30491 Huntsman Dr W
29672 Lochmoor St
29840 Minglewood Ln
30945 N Park Dr
21839 Parklane St
22741 Purdue Ave
29324 Regents Pointe
21624 Tulane Ave
22085 Tulane Ave
29850 W 12 Mile Rd #510

1258 Water Cliff Dr

3650 Tuckahoe Rd

1961 Hampshire Ct	\$34
4970 Knollcrest Ct	\$31
252 Steadfield St	\$15
4907 Whitlow Blvd	\$16
FARMINGTON	
33253 Kirby St	\$13
23541 Loomis Ct	\$11
FARMINGTON HILLS	•
29359 Bradmoor Ct	\$51
34290 Commons Dr	\$23
23949 Cora Ave	\$18
30974 Country Ridge Cir	\$31
24248 Creekside Dr	\$15
20938 Deerfield	\$59
27636 E Echo Vly Unit 237	\$7
29564 Gramercy Ct	\$17
28211 Green Castle Rd	\$19
28221 Green Willow St	\$18
30491 Huntsman Dr W	\$43
29672 Lochmoor St	\$19
29840 Minglewood Ln	\$17
30945 N Park Dr	\$25
21839 Parklane St	\$22
22741 Purdue Ave	\$6
29324 Regents Pointe	\$16
21624 Tulane Ave	\$9
22085 Tulane Ave	\$10
29850 W 12 Mile Rd #510	\$5
28291 Wildwood Trl	\$17
FRANKLIN	*
27170 Gardenway Rd	\$55
zi i i o dai delitta ji ka	455
D/REAL ESTA	TF
D, NEAL LOIA	

	MILFORD
\$295,000	1769 Bristol Dr
\$75,000	2331 Carriage Way
\$340,000	2521 Heritage Oaks Dr
\$315,000	2325 N Labadie
\$155,000	NORTHVILLE
\$164,000	22873 Bentley Dr
	21975 Garfield Rd
\$138,000	42138 Gladwin St
\$117,000	42153 Gladwin St
	22384 Heatheridge Ln
\$515,000	22291 Lujon Dr
\$234,000	NOVI
\$189,000	43100 12 Oaks Crescent
\$310,000	Dr
\$152,000	1980 Austin Dr
\$595,000	25032 Avon Ct
\$70,000	41404 Belden Cir
\$175,000	24460 Borderhill
\$190,000	41650 Clemens Cir
\$185,000	44663 Copland Ln
\$430,000	28331 Declaration Rd
\$192,000	28379 Declaration Rd
\$175,000	23259 Ennishore
\$255,000	24946 Fairway Hills Dr
\$227,000	44620 Gwinnett Loop
\$67,000	21982 Heatherbrae Way S
\$169,000	27876 Hopkins Dr
\$95,000	23286 Mystic Forest Dr
\$100,000	41122 Scarborough Ln
\$58,000	21569 Shadybrook Dr
\$173,000	23689 Stonehenge Blvd
	39543 Westminster Cir
\$550,000	SOUTH LYON
E TR	ANSACTIONS-

		2 1925 Lyon Meadow
	\$511,000	23033 N Fremont Dr
	\$290,000	763 Norchester St
	\$60,000	960 Oak Creek Dr
	\$223,000	58888 Peters Barn Dr
		SOUTHFIELD
	\$100,000	23235 Coventry Woo
	\$443,000	21953 Duns Scotus St
	\$143,000	18633 George
	\$95,000	Washington Dr
	\$320,000	23075 Laurel Valley S
	\$81,000	24350 Martha
		Washington Dr
	\$168,000	19229 Nadol Dr
		28048 Pierce St
	\$155,000	20791 Secluded Ln
	\$300,000	30228 Southfield Rd
	\$127,000	A254
	\$150,000	27160 Spring Arbor [
	\$422,000	29077 Tiffany Dr W
	\$260,000	22123 Twyckingham
	\$97,000	19639 W 12 Mile Rd
	\$117,000	WHITE LAKE
	\$290,000	10700 Bogie Lake Rd
	\$237,000	1375 Caprice St
	\$145,000	1375 Park Dr
S	\$275,000	670 Plainfield Dr
	\$215,000	8009 Wildwood Ln
	\$385,000	436 Woodsedge Ln
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	\$75,000	
	\$262,000	
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\$23,000

58888 Peters Barn Dr	\$75,000
SOUTHFIELD	
23235 Coventry Woods Ln	\$242,000
21953 Duns Scotus St	\$105,000
18633 George	\$205,000
Washington Dr	
23075 Laurel Valley St	\$255,000
24350 Martha	\$150,000
Washington Dr	
19229 Nadol Dr	\$73,000
28048 Pierce St	\$82,000
20791 Secluded Ln	\$58,000
30228 Southfield Rd #	\$20,000
A254	
27160 Spring Arbor Dr	\$65,000
29077 Tiffany Dr W	\$60,000
22123 Twyckingham Way	\$219,000
19639 W 12 Mile Rd # 201	\$30,000
WHITE LAKE	
10700 Bogie Lake Rd	\$550,000
1375 Caprice St	\$126,000
1375 Park Dr	\$280,000
670 Plainfield Dr	\$35,000
8009 Wildwood Ln	\$218,000
436 Woodsedge Ln	\$310,000

HOMES SOL -WAYNE COUNTY GARDEN CITY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 9-13, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses. and sales prices.

CANTON	
2429 Arcadia Dr	\$127,000
975 Atherstone Dr	\$70,000
41418 Bobcat Ct	\$145,000
7229 Burgundy St	\$213,000
49221 Castleford Dr	\$65,000
2209 Cleveland Way	\$231,000
39900 Finley Dr	\$192,000
3977 Herbey St	\$190,000
3970 Hopefield Ct	\$240,000
45221 Horseshoe Cir	\$155,000
49700 Hudson Dr	\$495,000
49089 Ivybridge Way	\$80,000
4018 Kimberly Dr	\$245,000
44474 Leopold St	\$220,000
48318 Manhattan Cir	\$410,000
6934 N Canton Center R	d \$152,000
48331 Nottinghill Ln	\$195,000
8498 Orhan St	\$165,000
44671 Ridgefield Rd	\$179,000
48179 Royal Pointe Dr	\$380,000
1911 S Cavalier Dr	\$165,000
43930 Saltz Rd	\$152,000
42562 Saratoga Rd	\$75,000
44425 Savery Dr	\$62,000
41238 Southwind Dr	\$69,000
47875 Stratford Ct	\$420,000
4234 Strathmore Ln	\$214,000
547 Tyler Ln	\$179,000
•	·

GARDEN CITY
29435 Barton St
6445 Burnly St
683 Cardwell St
31324 Florence St
1109 Gilman St
7021 Gilman St
6932 Harrison St
29467 Marquette St
31735 Pardo St
LIVONIA
39070 Allen St
19434 Antago St
28655 Bayberry Ct E
32967 Brookside Cir
18958 Canterbury Dr
9666 Cavell St
14194 Cavell St
9109 Deering St
18421 Doris St
16186 Edgewood Dr
35568 Elmira St
34815 Ernest St
14979 Fairfield St
36360 Fairway Dr
16894 Farmington Rd
20215 Floral St
20645 Golf Ridge Cir
34685 Grandon St
14341 Henry Ruff St
9165 Lathers St
16732 Merriman Rd
31435 Merriwood Park Dr
19341 Norwich Rd
19466 Norwich Rd
29631 Nottingham Cir

	8951 Per
\$30,000	29131 Pe
\$100,000	9901 Ros
\$59,000	32928 St
\$71,000	14452 St
\$104,000	36807 St
\$62,000	28043 W
\$65,000	18417 W
\$62,000	34912 W
\$65,000	NORTH\
	51005 Be
\$185,000	16623 H
\$65,000	16410 H
\$135,000	20256 Ld
\$230,000	19647 N
\$237,000	15549 Pr
\$117,000	41418 Ra
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TR	ANSACTIONS
	8951 Pere Ave
0,000	29131 Perth St
000,00	9901 Roseland St
9,000	32928 Summers St
1,000	14452 Summerside St
4,000	36807 Sunnydale St
2,000	28043 W Stanmoor Dr
5,000	18417 Westchester Dr
2,000	34912 Wood St
5,000	NORTHVILLE
	51005 Belmont Park Ct
5,000	16623 Highland Ln
5,000	16410 Horseshoe Dr
5,000	20256 Longwood Ct
0,000	19647 Northridge Dr
7,000	15549 Prestwick Ct
7,000	41418 Rayburn Dr
6,000	15604 Troon Ct
000,8	42518 Waterford Rd
3,000	PLYMOUTH
8,000	821 Beech Ct
2,000	1672 Cassady Place Dr
3,000	42681 Five Mile Rd
5,000	13024 Haverhill Dr
0,000	48645 Hilltop Dr W
14,000	710 McKinley St
0,000	12015 Medford Ct
10,000	560 Parkview Dr
9,000	1399 Penniman Ave
9,000	189 Riveroaks Dr
8,000	101 S Union St
0,000	302 Sunset St
4,000	REDFORD
0,000	25296 Five Mile Rd
80,000	26443 Five Mile Rd
8,000	19489 Dalby

15906 Delaware Ave	\$49,000
25010 Graham Rd	\$90,000
12761 Hemingway	\$59,000
19942 Inkster Rd	\$25,000
15827 Knight	\$57,000
12880 Leverne	\$65,000
26371 Margareta	\$39,000
12035 Marion	\$95,000
9168 Salem	\$60,000
17698 Wakenden	\$58,000
15037 Winston	\$86,000
WAYNE	
4099 Garfield St	\$58,000
3242 Mildred St	\$100,000
5169 Mildred St	\$15,000
5629 Newberry St	\$43,000
35615 Richard St	\$28,000
	\$62,000
, ,	\$225,000
	\$128,000
	\$67,000
	\$157,000
	\$92,000
	\$102,000
_	\$145,000
	\$50,000
	\$137,000
3	\$161,000
	\$55,000
	\$103,000
	\$125,000
	\$105,000
7513 Woodview St	\$46,000
	25010 Graham Rd 12761 Hemingway 19942 Inkster Rd 15827 Knight 12880 Leverne 26371 Margareta 12035 Marion 9168 Salem 17698 Wakenden 15037 Winston WAYNE 4099 Garfield St 3242 Mildred St 5169 Mildred St 5629 Newberry St

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Seminar each Tuesday, **Thursday**

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations.

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com. hometownlife.com

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Applications Engineer

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degree in Electrical Engineer-ing or related field and 6 months experience in job du-ties as stated or alternatively a

Bachelor's degree in Electrica Engineering, Mechanical Engi-

neering or related field and t

months experience with data

acquisition DSPs setup, system

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ACROSS

- Bakery item
- Perched on Koan discipline
- 12 Postkindergarten 13 "The Banana
- Boat Song" word (hyph.)
- 14 Language suffix
- 15 Tender cutlets 16 Envoy 18 Chestnuts
- Wisdom tooth
- 21 Phony physician Soyuz launcher
- 25 Negative prefix 26 Jiffies 28 Livy's "it was"
- 32 Prickly sensation 35 MGM
- workplace 36 — Moore
- of films 37 Extinct bird

- 40 NYSE ratio 41 Feds (hyph.)
- 43 Gown
- 46 Chocolate 49 Cold
- icicle 50 South Pole
- conqueror 53 Industrial giant 56 Watch pocket
- 57 Thus 58 Lira successor
- 59 NASA counterpart 60 "Yield," for
- 61 Fender mishap

DOWN

- Give it the gas
- Flamenco shout
- 3 Dalai Lama's city
- Soft purple Tacks on
- kwon do
- 7 Olive in the comics 8 Idylis and

ANON

- haiku 9 Fanatic's
- - 17 Stabbed with a horn feeling 19 Yr. parts 21 Tobacco wad 22 Golden Rule
 - word 23 The Huskies of the NCAA 24 Sonic-boom
 - makers of yore 27 Nadelman or Ducommun
 - 29 Note before mi 30 Roadie gear 31 Evens the score
 - S&L offering 34 Wrestling's
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 - 44 Appraised 45 Come next
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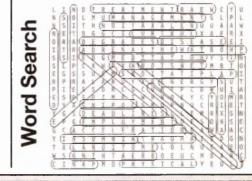
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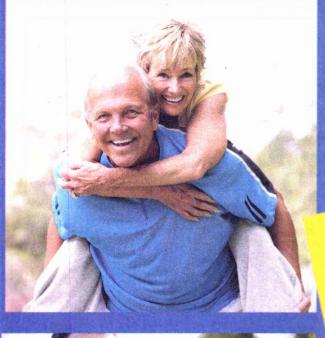
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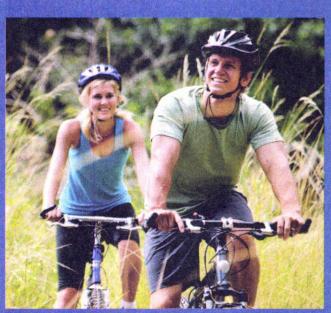




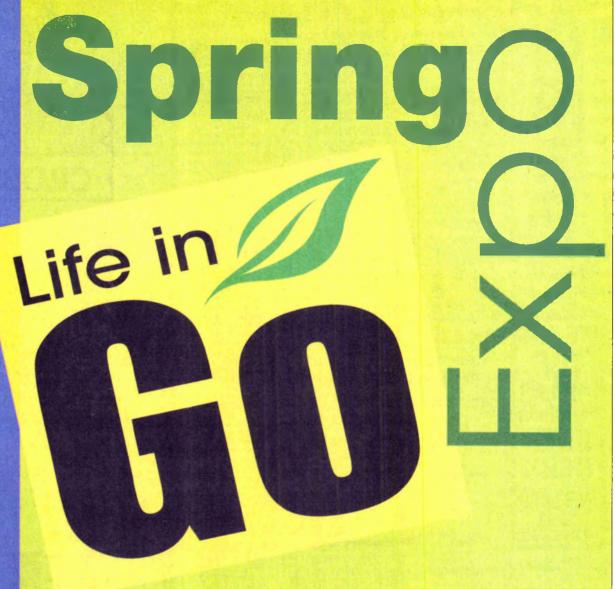
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Get your house ready for warmer weather

etting your house ready for spring and summer doesn't just mean pulling out the old golf clubs. I have devised a checklist of items to help you.



Grossman

» Check the roof to see if the antenna is loose.

» Replace any damaged, loose or missing shingles.

» Check the condition of the flashing and the chimney. Look for loose mortar and bricks. Make sure there are no cracks.

» Clean the gutters and secure any that are loose or sagging using new ferrules and spikes on fascia hangers.

» Add leaders and splash-blocks at the ends of downspouts.

» Check brick walls and replace any damaged or loose mortar.

» Look at all the siding and check for loose, hanging or damaged sections

» Touch up any bare or peeling paint.

» Open up the crawl space vents.

» Make sure that the severe winter storms didn't cause the ground to slope toward your house, which contributes to basement leakage, and re-grade if needed.

» Install window screens.

» Clean the windows.

» Fill in cracks in the driveway and walkways.

» Cut back any overhanging trees or shrubs growing close to the house or roof.

» When you store your snow blower, do not store it in the house near a furnace or hot water tank. It can be an explosion hazard, even if the gas has been drained.

» Turn off and clean the humidifi-

er. Replace the furnace filter.

» Clean the air conditioner and cut the shrubs away so they are not in contact with the compressor.

» Turn on hose bibs and drag out those hoses.

» De-winterize your underground sprinkler system.

» Pick up all branches and twigs. Now you can bring out the golf clubs and shine those babies up!

Lon Grossman is president and owner of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a residential and commercial inspection company in Bloomfield Hills for more than 35 years.

Home ideas abound as residents, business folks meet

Home expo a winner for all involved as spring arrives

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

If you're feeling a bit cooped up and want to upgrade your home, you're not alone.

"We're doing a lot of bathroom remodeling, a lot of tub to shower conversions," said Jason Benward, remodeling manager for Horton Plumbing and Remodeling in Plymouth. Such conversions are good for seniors who have trouble getting in and out of bathtubs, said Benward, a Canton resident.

Horton Plumbing has been in business since 1988. "Business is steady," Benward said. "The cold weather's keeping us going, too," with burst pipes. They'd recommended leaving a drip from each faucet to help prevent freezing, as well as paying attention to crawl space vents, which should be closed in winter.

Benward's business was among some 115 vendors at the March 1-2 Canton Home Improvement Expo at the Summit, with sponsorship of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, *Observer & Eccentric* Media and Canton Township. Many visited the Summit those two snowy days to get home improvement ideas.

"I think more people are staying home now, vs. going out and buying," said Benward, who's also doing a lot of kitchen work. He also does "basements, man caves, adding bathrooms in the basement. It adds quite a bit of resale value to the home as well."



KDI Kitchen & Bath, based in Taylor with sites in Livonia, Novi and Southgate, is doing mainly bathroom and kitchen renovations now. "They want it to look nice, but not cost too much," said kitchen designer Steven Barsy of Canton.

He's even putting fire escapes in finished basements for safety-minded parents through Horton, which is online at www.hortonplumbing.com.

"I see a lot of my neighbors here," Benward added of the "sign of spring" Home Improvement Expo.

Nearby at the Summit were Linda and Dennis Delezenne of Canton. "We always come to this," Linda said. "Just general stuff. We get ideas. A good service."

The Delezennes have been in their

Canton home since 1986 and have two adult children. They didn't really remodel when their kids grew up.

"Now we've got grandkids, so they're using the rooms," Dennis said. "It gets a little crowded sometimes," his wife added.

One way to spruce up a home is paint. "It does a lot for you at a low price. It has the biggest effect on things," said Kady Tate of Sherwin-Williams in Canton. "It can really change the look of a space."

"It (paint) does a lot for you at a low price. It has the biggest effect on things. It can really change the look of a space."

KADY TATE - Sherwin-Williams in Canton

Tate, a South Lyon resident, is a personal color consultant. She showed an iPad on which she's able to display colors and designs for rooms.

"Right now, grays are really popular," said Tate, who's continuing design studies through Eastern Michigan University. An "Exclusive Plum" also is popular, she said, showing its look on the iPad.

Sherwin-Williams carries wallpaper to coordinate with paint. "It's not as bad as it used to be," Tate said of putting up and removing wallpaper. "A lot of the papers are prepasted."

Sherwin-Williams' (www.sherwin-williams.com) business is on an up-

"It's definitely been getting a lot better," she said of the firm, which also does blinds and shades.

Also at the expo was Kim Fugaban of Plymouth Township, in kitchen/bath sales and design for Mans Lumber of Canton and Trenton. Mans has been in business since 1900 and is in its fourth generation of family ownership.

Fugaban was fielding questions on kitchens and baths. "Busy, very busy," she said. "We're definitely seeing a switch from the last few years."

See IDEAS, Page 9



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Tips for planning your home remodeling project



Interview three contractors and check their references. GETTY IMAGES LISTOCKPHOTO

f you are like most Americans, you have spent the last few years putting off home improvement projects for a variety of reasons. Uncertain employment, de-

clining income and property values were on everyone's mind and caused many homeowners to delay moving ahead with home remodeling or repairs.

Now that the economy is improving and seems to be on a steady path, you may be considering

some of the improvements that were postponed. That being the case, there are a number of points you should consider to ensure a successful remodeling project.

Who to hire

John

Newmyer

GUEST

COLUMNIST

Look around your community for contractors with solid reputations who have been in business for a number of years. Talk to family and friends to see who they have worked with and ask if they were pleased with the working relationship and the final project.

Interview three contractors and check their references. Are they licensed and do they carry insurance? Pay attention to your gut reaction to the contractor – was he/she listening to you? Did you feel comfortable with the person? If not, keep looking for someone who you are comfortable with. Remember, this contractor and his/her employees will be in your home for a while and you should be comfortable with them being there.

Finally, don't select a contractor on the lowest quote; that seldom works out in anyone's best interest.

Timing

It's true that timing is everything and it's especially true with a home remodeling project, as it will more than likely disrupt day-to-day

See REMODELING TIPS, Page 9





REMODELING TIPS

Continued from Page 8

life in your home. Of course, every project starts with proper planning. Depending upon the type of project, planning time spent with your contractor can vary. As a rule of thumb, here's what I use as a guide for the amount of time needed to plan projects.

- » Major additions and whole house renovations six months to a year
- » Small additions two to four months
- » Kitchen and bath remodeling one to two months

These time lines are typical of what it takes to plan most projects I have seen over the years. That being the case, make sure you start planning the project well before you would like the work to proceed.

Actual job time

Every project is different and the actual time it takes from start to finish varies, depending upon the complexity of the project. Be sure to talk with your contractor about when you would like to start the project, how long it will take and when you can expect the project to be completed. Just before the project starts, ask for a "pre-construction calk through" at your home with the con-

tractor and field superintendent to go over all the details and specifications, that way everyone is on the same page.

These days, we see projects happening at lightning speed on home improvement shows. In the real world, projects don't happen that way. Always ask your contractor for the time line it will take to complete your project.

Finishing the project

Be sure to ask your contractor to schedule a final walk through when the project is completed. Go over any minor repairs or items that you think need to be addressed. List them in writing. You should both sign the "pre-completion punch list" and agree that when the list is completed, the contractor's final job payment is due. Any other repairs that pop up after the final "pre-completion punch list" has been completed are considered repairs. Be sure to discuss the contractor's warranty and how repairs are handled.

John Newmyer is owner of Newmyer Distinctive Remodeling, 3082 Haggerty, Suite 1, Walled Lake, a full-service home remodeling company with a focus on kitchens and baths, wine cellars, interior and exterior renovations and additions. He has 45 years of experience in the remodeling and construction business. He is a certified remodeler, installation master and certified vinyl and cement siding contractor. He can be reached at 248-669-3500 or visit www.newmyer.com.

IDEAS

Continued from Page 6

She talked to a mix of folks at the expo, some looking to update and then sell, others staying put.

"You get a lot back when you sell," Fugaban said of kitchen and bath remodeling.

Her colleague, Chris Cleveland of Monroe, is flooring manager for Mans Lumber, online at www.manslumber-.com. "We are doing a lot of renovations with hardwood floors," including in family and dining rooms, Cleveland said.

"We are definitely seeing more upgrades from the traditional oak," he said. Some homeowners choose hickory or stressed hardwoods. "It's beautiful," Cleveland said. "It looks great. It's one of my favorites" and what he has at home.

He's also seeing cabinet upgrades and "sometimes as simple as trim. A lot of backsplash, too," Cleveland said, showing glass and stone mosaics, mostly for kitchens.

Steve Barsy of Canton is kitchen designer for KDI Kitchen & Bath, head-

quartered in Taylor with sites also in Livonia, Novi and Southgate. It's been in business 20 years and is online at www.KDIUSA.com.

"Mainly bathroom renovations and kitchen renovations," Barsy said of current work. "They want it to look nice, but not cost too much."

He added now's a good time for home renovation, as more bargains are available. He and colleagues, including Gary Leist of Franklin, find the Canton expo yields fewer leads than others, but also more quality leads.

"I think it'll start percolating a little more" as spring arrives, Leist said. Barsy added tax refund checks help their business.

Reba Seth of Canton was a first-time visitor to the Canton expo. "I think it's pretty good," she said. "I like what I see so far."

She's been in her home 35 years. "We're looking to upgrade our fireplace and possibly our roof," Seth said. The roof has a possible leak from the winter."

Seth came to the show for estimates on the fireplace and to arrange a look at the roof.

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Teddy's Lawn & Landscape of Livonia is represented by Tim McAlister (left) of Plymouth Township and Brent Teddy of Garden City at the Home Improvement Expo.

Garden/landscape pros share knowledge at recent expo

Designers can help you make gardens extra special

By Julie Brown

Staff Writer

Gardens beckon each spring, even as Michiganders must wait out frost warnings to plant.

Lisa Hartmann, landscape department manager for Plymouth Nursery, was answering questions March 1-2 at the annual Canton Home Improvement Expo. Plymouth Nursery's been in business 51 years with the same family ownership.

At that point, Canton resident Hartmann said it was a little early for her to measure and take photos. Her work includes patios, retaining walls, new construction landscaping, as well as re-dos

"Business is pretty good," said Hartmann, who's not on the nursery's retail side.

Plymouth Nursery (www.Plymouth-Nursery.net) has two types of landscape design services. There's an inhouse Quick Sketch Design Service for customers who need design guidance, but wish to do their own work. They receive a scaled drawing and plant list, with appointments required along with detailed measurements and photos.

The On-Site Design Service is for those who wish nursery staff to complete the project, design through installation.

"We allow for growth" in designs, Hartmann said. "We don't over-plant." The nursery on Plymouth-Ann Arbor

The nursery on Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road gets visits from many gardeners. "Gardening is the No. 1 pastime," over golf, she said. She meets gardeners just with house plants, those who feed birds only and more ambitious gardeners, all of whom love the outdoors.

"Outdoor rooms are very, very important," said Hartmann, who finds local folks prefer "more informal than formal" designs, with curvature, less balance and more free-flowing.

Ann Arbor dwellers differ in their

See GARDENS, Page 13







Books abound with tips for gardeners of all skill levels

Libraries offer shelves full of gardening advice

Want to start gardening this spring, but you're unsure of where to start? Your local public library is a great place, with its books full of gardening advice for newbies and veteran gardeners.

The good folks at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, were surely thinking of spring, summer and even fall gardens when they were gracious enough to put together this list for us.

Grow Cook Eat: A Food Lover's Guide to Kitchen Gardening By Willi Galloway

From sinking a seed into the soil through to sitting down to enjoy a meal made with vegetables and fruits harvested right outside your back door, this gorgeous kitchen gardening book is filled with practical, useful information for both novices and seasoned gardeners alike.

Gardening for a Lifetime: How To Garden Wiser as You Grow Older By Sidney Eddison

Although the garden may beckon as strongly as ever, the tasks involved —

pulling weeds, pushing wheelbarrows, digging holes, moving heavy pots — become increasingly difficult or even impossible with advancing age. But the idea of giving it up is unthinkable for most gardeners. So what's the alternative? Eddison draws on her own 40 years of gardening to provide a practical and encouraging road map for scaling back while keeping up with the gardening activities that each gardener loves most.

The Anxious Gardener's Book of Answers

By Teri Dunn Chase

This book identifies the 100 most common gardening mistakes and gives gardeners the techniques to prevent them. If it's too late and they've already goofed, there are tips to fix the mistake.

Front Yard Gardens: Growing More than Grass

By Liz Primeau

Primeau was ahead of her time when she transformed her manicured lawn in the suburbs into a mixed garden with a



A library is the perfect place to get gardening tips. GETTY IMAGES LISTOCKPHOTO

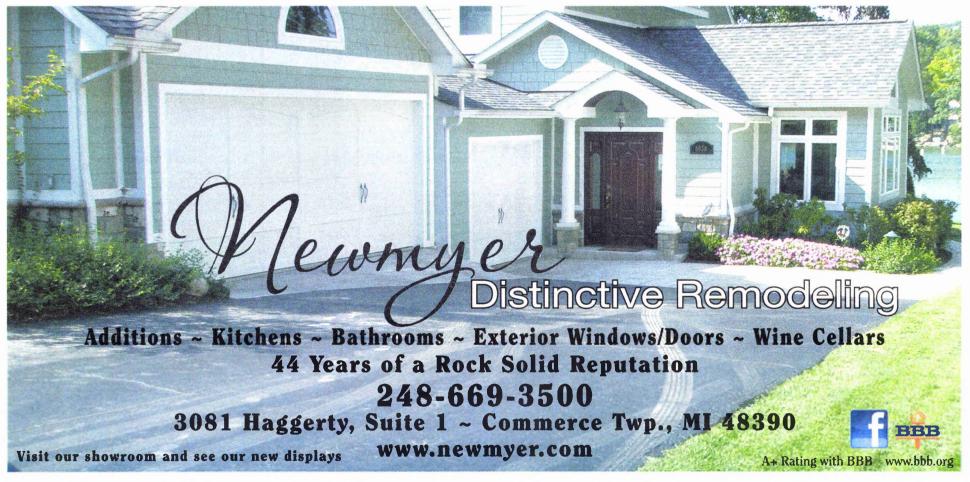
profusion of flowering plants, shrubs and cacti. Ever since, she has enjoyed an eye-catching front garden that requires no chemicals and little watering.

Ask the Garden Doctor: 1,200 Cures for

Common Garden Problems By Denny Schrock

Here's the perfect troubleshooting guide for veteran green thumbs and

See BOOKS, Page 13







Equip your home with a sump pump and backup battery

After near-record snowfall and the coming spring melt, experts are warning of the potential for above-average flooding in southeast Michigan.

According to the National Flood Insurance Program, a mere six inches of water in a 2,000-square-foot home can cause around \$40,000 in damage. Homeowners looking to avoid such damages can rely on sump pumps and backup emergency systems to keep sub-levels dry and safe.

Sump pumps are frequently used in homes at risk of flooding or in homes where the water table is above the foundation of the home. Sump pumps remove water that has accumulated in a water collecting sump basin built into the foundation of the home. Water may enter through perimeter drains (French drains) built into the basement or directly through the sump basin

itself. The pump will send the water away from the house through a series of pipes that could drain into a dry well, into a municipal storm drain or at the curb.

Many sump pumps are hardwired into a home's electrical system and will automatically turn on when the water level in the sump basin has risen enough to trigger the pump. A flotation device built into the pump will rise enough to turn on the pump, which will then dispel the water until the device returns to its regular level.

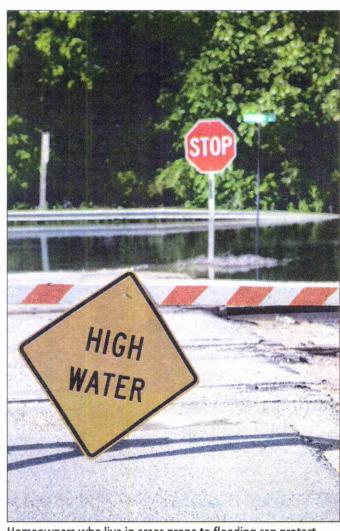
When operating correctly, sump pumps are effective at removing water and keeping basements and crawl spaces dry. However, in the event of a power outage, which is common when strong winds accompany flooding rains, a sump pump is rendered useless unless there is a backup battery attached to

the sump pump.

Having a battery hooked up to a sump pump, or a backup sump pump that is battery-powered, can give homeowners peace of mind in any storm. A backup plan ensures the pump will still be able to remove water for a certain period of time until electricity is restored to the home. Another option is to make sure the sump pump is connected to a power generator should the main power supply go out. As long as the generator is running, the sump pump will expel the water.

Water damage to a home can cost thousands of dollars in repairs, particularly when it is not covered by standard home insurance policies. Sump pumps can help keep homes dry and safe.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



Homeowners who live in areas prone to flooding can protect their homes with sump pumps. @GREG VOTE

GARDENS

Continued from Page 10

landscaping. "It really depends on your own personal choice," Hartmann said.

When she lived in Northville Township, she said, "My back yard was my fun part." The front was designed more with curb appeal in mind, more mainstream.

"We have lots of knowledgeable people," she added of Plymouth Nursery. "People that can answer your questions."

Nearby at Teddy's Lawn & Landscape of Livonia were president/owner Brent Teddy of Garden City and Tim McAlister, a horticulturist in landscape design and sales. McAlister lives in Plymouth Township.

Teddy's (www.TeddysLandscape.com) has been in business since 1996 and does designs and building on many scales. Customers often wish to upgrade property values.

"There's definitely a functionality aspect to it," McAlister said, noting utility bills decline with good shading. There are different factors for different trees on wind break

Teddy said permeable pavers filter water. "Some businesses are doing it now," he said. A Northville driveway incorporated such pavers to save an old and valuable tree on a residential job.

The men have gardening advice for those itching to get outdoors. "A perennial base is a good alternative to annuals," McAlister said. "Perennials have different blooming times."

Teddy added, "Then you can always mix in bulbs." Those are planted at different times, some in the fall.

They're doing a lot of patios. Some Canton home landscapes were overplanted when built and they focus at those sites and in all work on landscape functionality.

"There's a lot of alternatives to save on water," Teddy added, including efficient sprinkler heads.

Also at the expo was the Rock Shoppe (www.rock-shoppe.com) in Salem Township with a Plymouth address. Helena Scappaticci of Salem owns the business with her husband.

They've been in business 35 years, and find it's "good, with the homeowners, the do-it-yourselfers. That's what we specialize in," Scappaticci said.

icbrown@hometownlife.com

BOOKS

Continued from Page 11

first-time gardeners alike. Ask the Garden Doctor covers more than 1,000 common garden problems – everything from gardening basics to pest control to problems associated with specific plants. Based on the immensely popular "Ask the Garden Doctor" feature on the Better Homes and Gardens website, this reliable, trustworthy resource will answer virtually every gardening question you might have.

Bloom's Best Perennials and Grasses: Expert Plant Choices and Dramatic Plant Combinations for Year-Round Gardens

By Adrian Bloom

There are hundreds of perennials and grasses available to gardeners – how can they know whether or not they're making the right choice? In Bloom's Best Perennials and Grasses, Bloom distills his years of experience as a nurseryman and gardener into 250 reliable choices that are beautiful, easy to maintain and provide year-round interest.

The Naturescaping Workbook: A Stepby-Step Guide for Bringing Nature into Your Backyard By Beth O'Donnell Young

Much of modern garden design is

about controlling nature to achieve a desired effect. But for the eco-conscious homeowner, the best garden designer is Mother Nature and following her lead can result in a beautiful low-maintenance landscape that requires fewer resources, attracts natural wildlife and saves time and money. In The Naturescaping Workbook, Young sets forth an easy-to-follow, do-it-yourself plan for gardeners of all skill levels. Her step-by-step approach teaches gardeners to understand their own natural habitat and to nurture the native eco-systems that exist in their vard.

How To Grow Food: A Step-by-Step Guide to Growing All Kinds of Fruit, Vegetables, Salads and More By Richard Gianfrancesco

How To Grow Food is a complete illustrated guide to the hundreds of plants that are easy to grow in the home garden. The author emphasizes gardening techniques that can be applied to any size garden, from a window box to a side yard to the biggest backyard.

Learn To Garden: A Practical Introduction to Gardening By Guy Barter

This primer provides everything the new gardener needs to know to create a garden, whether beginning with an existing garden or starting a brand new plot. *Learn To Garden* takes the bafflement out of gardening for the novice.



How to create a rainwater harvesting system

Rainwater collection is a way to conserve water that can be adopted by both private homeowners and businesses. Harvesting water during peak times of precipitation ensures water will be on hand during drought or when water restrictions are implemented. Making use of rainwater reduces reliance on underground wells or municipal water systems. Harvesting rainwater also can help prevent flooding and soil erosion.

The average homeowner can collect thousands of gallons of rainwater each year. To learn just how much water can be harvested, as well as how many natural resources can be produced from that rain, visit www.save-the-rain.com, where anyone can calculate their rain collection potential by geographic location and average rainfall. Afterward, homeowners may be inclined to establish their own rainwater harvesting systems. Here is how to get started.

» Determine your roofing material. Potable water can be harvested from homes with sheet metal or slate roofing. Clay or adobe tiles also may be acceptable. Asphalt, wood shingles and tar roofs may leach toxic chemicals

into the water, making it unsafe for drinking. This rainwater may only be collected to use for irrigation methods or washing cars and outdoor items.

» Check gutter materials. Some gutters are made with lead soldering components. A commercial lead swab test can help you determine if there is lead present in your gutters. At a later time, you can choose to replace the gutters if you desire a potable supply of water

» Invest in a collection tank or barrel. A number of manufacturers offer prefabricated rain collection systems complete with collection barrels. Otherwise, you can use your own barrel or tank to house the collected water. Ensure it is large enough to handle the volume of water collected.

» Purchase and install leaf guards. If your home is surrounded by many trees, you probably accumulate leaf and tree debris in your home gutters and downspouts. Leaf guards will help keep the gutters clear and increase water flow through the water collection system.

» Create a water collection area. A portion of the gutter system should be removed so that it connects to the col-



Rather than have rainwater flow out of downspouts to the ground, homeowners can collect that rainwater in barrels to use it as a sustainable source of water. GETTY IMAGES

lection barrel or tank. As the rain falls, it will run down the roof and into the gutters before it streams into the downspouts. The downspout connected to the tank will deposit the water directly inside. Filters can be installed to help block the flow of debris.

» Outfit the tank for overflow and water usage. A spigot and hose connection makes it easy to use the collected water for outdoor purposes. Many rainwater collection systems are designed with an overflow safeguard that will prevent the water from backing up through the system. It will di-

Garden and Nature Store

vert the rainwater back out of the downspout when the barrel or tank is full.

A rainwater collection system harnesses a natural source of water to be used for gardens and other outdoor purposes. This water doesn't contain chlorine or other additives, making it relatively clean and safe to use. Homeowners should check to see if a permit is necessary to install a rainwater collection system and then begin gathering water for various uses.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

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Spring lawn seeding basics

Spring has sprung and there are many activities to enjoy now that warmer weather has arrived. Many homeowners make the most of warmer weather by tackling projects around their properties.

While autumn is a better time to over-seed a lawn for new growth, satisfactory results still can be had if seeding is done early enough in the spring. Grass needs ample time to establish roots and grow strong before the summer heat takes its toll. Many types of grass need six to 12 weeks of ideal temperatures and growing conditions to germinate and produce a sturdy grass that will grow and endure.

Seeding can be done to rejuvenate an existing lawn and fill in bare spots. It also can be done to start a lawn from scratch. The following are some tips to help make seeding projects more successful.

» Begin by raking the lawn to remove thatch and any fallen leaves left over from autumn and winter. Raking also enables you to inspect the lawn for bare patches or matting of grass that may be indicative of a fungus or other problem.

» Dust off the mower and trim the lawn short, especially if it was left long at the end of last season. This will help seed penetrate the blades of grass and get to the soil beneath.

» High-traffic lawns may need aeration to counteract compacted soil. Moss on the ground is often an indication of compaction. Aeration will help with this problem, as it pokes holes into the soil to enable oxygenation that keeps new grass robust and promotes faster growth. Lawn aerators can be rented from many garden centers.

» Spread a mixture of topsoil and compost over the top of the lawn. This will add nutrients through organic matter to the lawn and create a good base for the new seed to take root. It will also help strengthen any existing grass and promote long-term health.

» Test a sample of the soil to check the pH. Grass prefers a neutral pH, but some soil tends to lean toward the acidic side, especially if you see the presence of moss. Knowing the pH will help determine just how much lime per square foot you will need to adjust it accordingly. Liming is a corrective measure and does not need to be used on a healthy, thriving lawn.

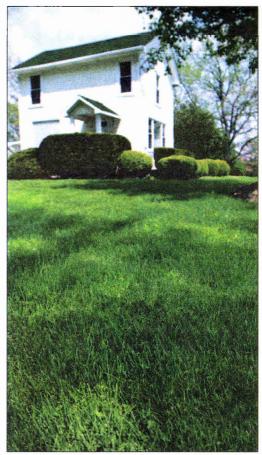
» Invest in a spreader to add seed to the lawn. The spreader will have various settings that enable you to calibrate the rate of seed dispersion depending on your walking speed. Fill the spreader with seed and begin to walk around the lawn. Drop spreaders require you to apply seed in rows with no overlap. Broadcast spreaders will cast seed widely and may need some overlap to guarantee complete coverage.

» Spread another thin layer of compost mix over the seed and water thoroughly. The compost will help keep moisture in while the seeds germinate.

» Aim for lawn watering two to three times per day. The seed should be barely dry between watering. After seeds have germinated and established, you can reduce the frequency of watering, but increase the depth of the watering to keep roots strong.

» Avoid foot traffic on a newly seeded lawn until the grass is wellestablished.

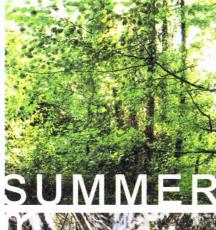
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Spring is the season to assess lawn health and seed as necessary to ensure a healthy lawn.









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Dispelling six common lawn-care myths



By varying the mowing pattern, you will reduce strain on the turf and encourage a healthier, more beautiful lawn. GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

The lawn is the backdrop to the home and essential to curb appeal. While keeping a healthy lawn may seem straightforward (mow, water, fertilize, etc.), don't be fooled by some common lawn-care myths.

Myth No. 1: All grass is created equal.

Truth: Grass and their seeds come in many different varieties, all with various maintenance, climate and mower requirements. While some varieties require more sunlight, others may be prone to certain diseases.

The type of grass and scope of land you need to mow will determine how powerful of a lawn mower you'll need. Large lawns with thicker, tougher grass will require a mower with higher horse-power and bigger, taller wheels. Varieties of grass that have thinner blades and slower growth, or a small backyard space, can be maintained easily with a lower horsepower machine. Riding mowers like the John Deere 100 Series come in a variety of models to fit differ-

ent needs.

Myth No. 2: The shorter I cut the grass, the less often I need to mow.

Truth: For the best quality turf, only remove one-third of the grass blade with each mow. Shorter clippings break down more easily, allowing some of the natural nitrogen to return to the soil. If you cut too much at one time, the long clippings can cause stress on the grass, inhibiting healthy growth.

Myth No. 3: Bagging it is best.

Truth: Although bagging grass clippings is a common practice, mulching is much more beneficial to your lawn. Mulching returns essential nutrients, such as nitrogen, back to the soil.

As noted above, removing only a small amount of the grass blade each time you mow produces shorter clippings that can decompose more quickly and discourages the development of fungal diseases. If you do decide to bag, be sure to compost your clippings and

See LAWN-CARE MYTHS, Page 18

LANDSCAPING MISTAKES

When designing their landscapes, homeowners may envision grandiose gardens and lush lawns that are the envy of the neighborhood. Yet such designs can be difficult to maintain, and homeowners often find they are not worth the time or money.

Avoiding such costly mistakes allows homeowners to fully enjoy their lawns. The following are a few landscaping mistakes homeowners may want to avoid

Planting the wrong trees and shrubs: When planting new trees and shrubs around your property, choose varieties that won't overwhelm the property by growing too large. Such trees and shrubs can mask other elements of a landscape, and they can also take a substantial amount of effort to maintain. Avoid spending too much time pruning trees and shrubs by opting for those that only grow to a particular size.

Choosing non-native plants: It's always best to choose plants that are native to a particular region. Native plants have already adapted to the local climate, meaning they can withstand the worst weather that climate has to offer without homeowners having to put in much effort.

For example, if you live in an area where drought is common, avoid planting trees, shrubs, flowers or grass that need ample amounts of water. Instead, opt for those varieties that can survive without significant amounts of water. Exotic plants might add aesthetic appeal to a property, but that appeal is often short-lived or costly to maintain when a plant is not in its native climate.

Too much lawn: While a large and lush lawn appeals to many homeowners, a yard that is all grass can be difficult and expensive to maintain. Lawns without trees are susceptible to damage from the hot summer sun, and homeowners often respond to that threat by over watering their lawns. Over watering not only weakens root systems, but it also leads to higher water bills. Homeowners can downsize their lawns by planting more trees around the property, adding a garden in the backyard or even adding land-scape features to their property.

Planting without a plan: When planting new trees around a property, some homeowners plant without first considering the ideal locations for new trees. This can prove an expensive mistake. Planting too close to your house may eventually threaten your home's foundation, as roots grow deeper and deeper into the ground. Planting too close to a home also may prove a security threat down the road, when the tree is at full height.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

Eco-friendly lawn care can be easy

Being proactive helps prevent future woes

Homeowners know that a healthy lawn can add considerable curb appeal to a property while giving residents of the home a place to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. However, few people might know that a healthy lawn can also benefit the environment, especially when homeowners take a proactive approach to lawn care that emphasizes ecofriendly techniques.

A proactive approach to lawn care can prevent certain problems, including disease, insect infestation and weed growth. When such problems arise, many homeowners opt to combat them with pesticides, which can harm the environment. Yet a proactive approach to lawn care can reduce the likelihood of developing such problems and protect the planet at the same time.

Emphasize healthy soil. Healthy soil promotes strong roots, which leads to a more robust, lush and aesthetically

appealing lawn. While a lawn needs to be fertilized in the spring and at various points throughout the summer, it's important that homeowners avoid overfertilization, which can create thatch that, when allowed to thicken, will prevent nutrients from penetrating the soil. Lawns need more nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium than soil can typically provide, so fertilizing throughout the warm-weather seasons and into early fall can promote a healthy lawn. Choose a slow-release fertilizer so it gradually feeds the lawn. Compost and grass clippings can also be spread around the lawn to promote healthy soil. The pH level of the soil should also be checked to ensure the lawn can fully absorb nutrients. Speak with a local lawn-care professional to determine what a healthy pH level is for soil in your area.

Choose a grass that can thrive in your climate.

Though you might prefer the look of a certain grass, choosing a grass based entirely on appearance is a mistake that could cost you money and

prove harmful to the environment. When installing a new lawn, opt for one that's suitable to the local climate. Installing a lawn that needs substantial amounts of water in a region known for drought can rob the lawn of its aesthetic appeal and will cost homeowners a substantial amount of money to maintain. If an existing lawn struggles to stay green regardless of your best efforts, then consider replacing it with a new type of grass that might be more suited to the local climate.

Don't cut too low when mowing. Homeowners who don't enjoy mowing their lawn might be tempted to simply cut the grass as low as possible to extend the intervals between cuts. Yet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that grass never be cut more than one-third of the height of the grass blades.

Longer grass can take in more sunlight, allowing it to grow in thicker and develop a deeper root system. That deep

See LAWNS, Page 18

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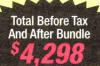
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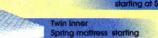




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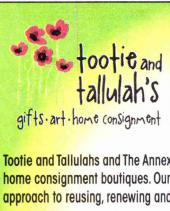


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LAWN-CARE MYTHS

Continued from Page 16

reuse on site. Look for a lawn tractor, like the John Deere X300 Select Series. which comes with a mulching feature on the mowing deck, to help return the clippings to the soil.

Myth No. 4: Focus on the green. Truth: While grass is what we see and tend to, the soil is the most essential component for a healthy growth year-round. Soil supplies the roots with necessary nutrients, which in turn yield a beautiful lawn. Consider taking a soil sample to your local university extension program or landscape supplier for soil analysis. This will help determine the best type of fertilizer to use throughout the year.

Myth No. 5: Keep a consistent mowing pattern.

Truth: It's easy to fall into a mowing routine, but frequently cutting grass in the same direction can mat down the turf and inhibit growth. By varying the mowing pattern, you will reduce strain on the turf and encourage a healthier, more beautiful lawn.

Myth No. 6: You're off-duty in the winter.

Truth: Many people think grass "dies" off in the winter so you can take a break from lawn care; however, this is the best time to care for your equipment. Complete mower maintenance such as adding fuel stabilizer, blade sharpening and replacing missing or damaged parts and your mower will be prepped and ready come springtime.

Aside from practicing the proper mowing techniques, having the right equipment is one of the most important factors in maintaining a green and vibrant lawn. The proper type and size for your lawn and lifestyle will help you mow more efficiently, so you can spend more time enjoying and less time maintaining your lawn. Visit www.johndeere.com/residential to learn which type of riding lawn equipment is right for your yard.

- Courtesy of Family Features

IAWNS

Continued from Page 16

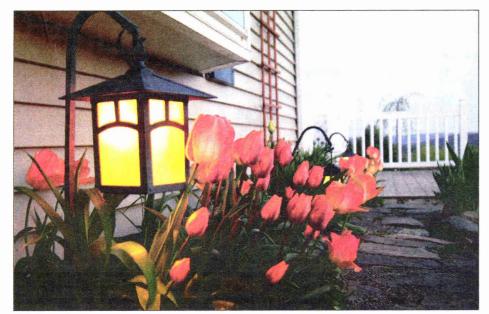
root system can help a lawn survive drought and prevent disease, two potentially costly problems that often force homeowners to embrace solutions that are not eco-friendly. Ideal lawn height depends on the type of grass, so consult a lawncare professional to ensure you are cutting your grass to a healthy length.

Avoid overwatering. Excessive watering not only wastes water, which is not very eco-friendly, but also hurts the lawn when dry periods inevitably arrive. That's because shallow and frequent watering encourages roots to stay near the surface, so when dry periods arrive, the roots struggle to find water. The EPA notes that an established lawn should not need daily watering. Instead, watering responsibly when the lawn needs water and when evaporation can be kept to a minimum, can strengthen a lawn and do so in an eco-friendly way.

- Metro Creative Graphics



Lawns should be mowed at an appropriate height so they can develop a deep root system. Proactive lawn care can avoid future problems. METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS



Outdoor lighting can play up the more decorative features of a yard, including your flower beds. METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Lighting sets the stage for outdoor fun

Tis the season for making changes in and around the home. The arrival of warmer weather renews homeowners' vigor for various home-improvement projects, and many have grand plans for interior and exterior renovations as they prep their living spaces for comfort, beauty and entertaining opportunities. While there are many worthy projects to pursue, adding outdoor lighting to a home can help increase its value and make the home safer and more attractive in the evening hours.

According to the American Lighting Association, with a few updates to outside lighting, families can make even better use of their homes at night. Adding outdoor lighting is easier and less expensive than many homeowners may know, allowing them to transform an existing patio, deck or pool area into an enjoyable nighttime retreat. Pool parties, dinners on the patio or barbecues with neighbors become even more memorable when outdoor lighting is added or improved. Yet homeowners who want to install or upgrade their outdoor lighting should consider the following tips, courtesy of the ALA.

Improve navigation

Lighting is typically layered into a room or outdoor space in three ways: overhead, task and ambient. Even outdoors, where there are no typical boundaries and borders, those three layers are necessary.

Outdoor overhead lighting should improve visibility on steps, paths and walking surfaces, especially where there's a bend or an intersection.

Task lighting can be used around cooking or gardening areas. Ambient light will cast a comforting glow around any outdoor space.

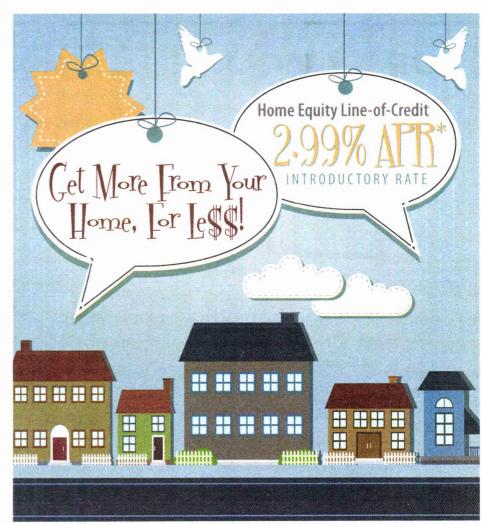
Enhance security

To improve visibility and security, combine a motion detector with a sconce to illuminate dark corners or entryways. Be sure to aim lights away from the door to improve visibility. Lanterns on either side of the door can give a home a warm, welcoming appearance and improve the safety of entryways.

Add decorative elements

Just as arbors, pergolas, patios and other outdoor elements help to enhance the style of an outdoor space, so, too, can lighting contribute to a well-designed landscape. Lighting should play up decorative features of a yard and add the ambience that homeowners desire. Step lights make passage safe while also highlighting molding or trim details. An outdoor chandelier can make for a wonderful accent during dinnertime on the deck or under a pergola. Patio lights provide atmosphere as well as illumination for cooking outside.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



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How to guarantee your garden starts off on the right foot

As winter slowly winds down, many gardeners cannot wait to soak up the springtime sun and get their hands dirty in the garden. Such excitement is not just good for gardeners, but can benefit the garden in the months to come as well.

Late winter or early spring is a great time to get a head start on the gardening season. Even if gardening season is still around the corner, completing the following projects can ensure your garden gets off on the right foot.

Examine the soil

Soil plays a significant role in whether a garden thrives or struggles. Examining the soil before the season starts can help gardeners address any issues before they plant. Ignoring the soil until a problem arises can turn the upcoming gardening season into a lost opportunity, so test the soil to determine if it has any nutrient or mineral deficiencies. This may require the help of a professional, but if a problem arises, you might be able to adjust the acidity or alkalinity of the soil and still enjoy a successful gardening season.

Another way to examine the soil is less complex, but can shed light on when would be a good time to get back to work. Reach into the soil and dig out a handful. If the soil quickly crumbles, you can start preparing for gardening seasoning. But if the soil is still clumped together, it needs more time to dry out before you can begin your prep work.

Initiate edging

Edging is another task gardeners can begin as they get ready for the season. Edge plant and flower beds, but be sure to use a spade with a flat blade or an edger designed to edge flower beds. Such tools will cut deep enough so grass roots that may eventually grow into the flower bed are severed. Depending on how large a garden is, edging can be a time-consuming task, so getting a head start allows homeowners to spend more time planting and tending to their gardens once the season hits full swing.

Fight weeds

Though weeds likely have not survived the winter, that does not mean



Examining the soil before the season starts can help gardeners address any issues before they plant. GETTY IMAGES I ISTOCKPHOTO

they won't return once the weather starts to heat up. But as inevitable as weeds may seem, homeowners can take steps to prevent them from turning beautiful gardens into battle-grounds where plants, flowers and vegetables are pitted against unsightly and potentially harmful weeds. Spring is a good time to apply a pre-emergent weed preventer, which can stop weeds before they grow. Though such solutions are not always foolproof, they can drastically reduce the likelihood of weed growth

Though gardeners might not be able to start planting their gardens in late winter or early spring, they can still get outside and take steps to ensure their gardens thrive once planting season begins.

Clear debris

One of the best things you can do for your garden as winter winds down is to clear it of debris. Winter can be especially harsh on a landscape and gardens left to the elements are often filled with debris once spring arrives. Dead leaves, fallen branches, rocks that surfaced during the winter frost and even garbage that might have blown about in winter winds can all pile up in a garden over a typical winter. Clearing such debris likely won't take long, but it's a great first step toward restoring the garden before the time comes to plant and grow the garden once again.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



Late winter or early spring is a great time to get a head start on the gardening season. GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

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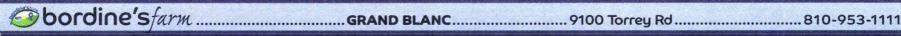


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Make safety a priority when power-washing

Patios, decks and outdoor entertaining areas often need some TLC. Homeowners looking forward to enjoying the warm air again often start their annual chore of readying such areas for the entertaining season in the spring and cleaning outdoor furniture and entertaining areas is a big part of that process. Very often, individuals turn to pressure-washing machines to clean such areas; while pressure- and powerwashers are effective, they also can be dangerous if homeowners don't prioritize safety when operating these machines.

Pressure-washing machines come in many varieties and not all are created equal. Smaller, electric-powered systems may be effective for cars and boats, but ineffective at cleaning grime on a house or driveway. Pressure-washers also may have hot or cold water supplies. Hot water can help cleaning detergents emulsify dirt faster and more effectively than cold water. The cleaning capacity of these machines is measured in cleaning units - or the water pressure multiplied by the flow rate. The higher the cleaning units, the greater the cleaning power of the device. But more powerful tools also carry a greater safety risk, highlighting the importance users must place on safety when operating such machines. Following are a few safety tips homeowners can employ to ensure their next power-washing project goes off without a hitch.

» Clear away furniture and any obstacles from the area where you will be cleaning. You want the area to be free of tripping hazards or items that can be damaged by the spray.

» Keep children and pets away from the area while the cleaning is taking place. Pressure-washers are powerful and highly pressurized water spray can cause injuries. Slips and falls on wet surfaces may occur and high-pressure injection can happen when water and chemicals penetrate the skin and cause tissue damage.

» Eye and ear protection should be worn at all times when working with a pressure-washer.

» Many pressure-washers work better when used in conjunction with some type of cleaning solution. A combination of bleach and water will help loosen dirt and will require less pressure from the washer.

» As you grow accustomed to the



Clear away furniture and any obstacles from the area where you will be cleaning.

GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

power of the washer, it is best to adjust the nozzle to a wide angle fan and the lowest pressure setting to see how effectively it cleans a given surface. Increase pressure accordingly as the project progresses. Making the water stream too narrow could cause damage. It takes time to learn the subtleties of the machine, so users should allow themselves ample time to grow comfortable with the machine.

» Keep the pressure wand 10 to 12 inches away from the surface that needs cleaning. Make small passes and check the cleaned area, adjusting the pressure and stream accordingly.

» Begin in the farthest corner of a deck, driveway or patio and the highest spot of a home. Use slow, even sweeps with the pressure wand, being careful to maintain an equal distance from the tip to the work surface. This helps to ensure even cleaning and reduces the chances of streaks and overlapping of the pressure spray.

» When working on a home, avoid spraying the water at a steep angle under siding or directly into corners. Do not spray under the edges of window or doors. Use caution around dryer and attic vents as well. You may end up soaking the inside of the home or cause water damage unwittingly.

» Always use caution when operating a pressure-washer while on a ladder. The power of the device can easily compromise your balance.

If ever you feel uncomfortable using the pressure-washer, stop and consider hiring a professional.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection







Apply more layers for a darker look, or only one coat for a distressed look.

Revitalize forgotten furniture with a simple DIY transformation

Putting your own flair into an old piece of furniture or thrift store find is a creative and budget-friendly way to transform unused items into personal treasures

Refinishing old tables, chairs and other wooden items can instill new life, making these pieces functional and contemporary once more. Whether you're repurposing a piece entirely or simply updating the look, there are a few things to keep in mind:

» Color: Do you have a specific room in mind to use your selected piece? If you have a place already chosen, consider a colored stain to match the room's décor. If not, a versatile wood tone may be a better choice.

» **Product:** Is this your first project? If so, water-based products can be a simpler, DIY friendly alternative to oil based stains and finishes. Will your "new" furniture be in frequent or casual

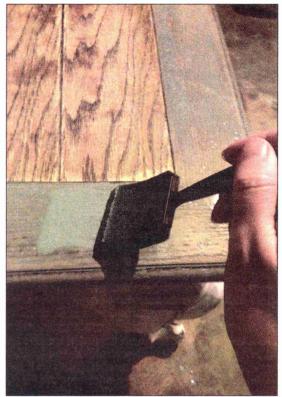
use? To protect from wear and tear on daily-use items, be sure to finish your project with an appropriate sealant or protective coat. Interior stain and sealers offer a protective element built into the product, such as Cabot Premium Wood Finish, which provides rich color and tough, durable results.

» **Preparation:** Although you may be anxious to put your new treasure to use, taking time to properly strip and prepare your wood for its new finish will ensure the best results.

This DIY project, created by Beth Hunter, author of the blog "Home Stories A to Z," shows you how to transform a tired, outdated coffee table in three simple steps.

For additional DIY project ideas for your home, including tips and how-to videos, visit www.cabotstain.com.

- Courtesy of Family Features



Putting your own flair into an old piece of furniture or thrift store find is a creative and budget-friendly way to transform unused items into personal treasures.





Newly constructed homes are starting to include laundry rooms with all the bells and whistles.

Create a fully loaded laundry room

Today's technology makes those pesky tasks of washing, drying and folding your beloved garments easier than ever before. Gain inspiration for a laundry room update with cutting-edge solutions that work hard to get your clothes squeaky clean and may even make the chore fun.

Laundry room meets entertainment center

Newly constructed homes are starting to include laundry rooms with all the bells and whistles. For those wanting to be entertained while folding their garb, mounted flatscreen televisions will ensure you don't miss a minute of your favorite show. Other ornate laundry facilities include a space for your laptop for the most serious multitasking individuals.

High-efficiency top-load washers

The traditional top-load washer has received a well-deserved makeover. New technology has enabled that familiar washer you grew up with to be considered high-efficiency and is the fastest growing category in home laundry appliances. Though HE models typically cost more upfront, consumers can save money

over the life of the product because they use less energy and water. These washers, such as the GE HE top-load washer, spin clothes at a higher speed, thus removing more moisture. This cuts down on time and energy used with a dryer. For more information, visit www.geappliances.com.

Colorful

Gone are the days of dull laundry rooms and washers and dryers available only in white. The laundry room is much more colorful today as appliance manufacturers roll

See LAUNDRY, Page 27

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Shedding light on replacement windows

Windows can bring new life to existing homes by letting in fresh air, flooding rooms with natural light and opening up beautiful views. They also come in all shapes, sizes and materials. Important considerations for selecting the right window are type, material, style, climate and budget.

Type

A pocket window is perfect in situations where the home's existing window frame and surrounding wall are in good condition, but the sash is in need of improvement. Installing a complete replacement window is a good choice for projects involving more substantial renovation.

Material

The most common materials used for windows are vinyl, wood, clad-wood and aluminum. Your choice depends on what factors are most important to you.

» Vinyl — A strong PVC material that is used for its durability, energy-efficiency and ability to stand up to the elements. This material resists fading and won't flake, peel or rot.

» Wood — Wood comes from trees with a range of characteristics, such as grain, color and sap content. Cladding is a strong layer of metal over the wood, providing extra protection and low-maintenance benefits with no exterior painting required. Look for windows, like the JELD-WEN® W-2500 clad-wood

windows, that combine the beauty of real wood with high-tech energy-efficiency. JELD-WEN's wood windows, patio doors, exterior doors, door frames and trim boards made with solid pine AuraLast wood are protected from wood rot, termites and water saturation.

» Aluminum — A lightweight and strong material that is a cost-effective alternative to wood. This material is corrosion-resistant and performs well in most climates.

Style

Awning, bay, bow, casement, doublehung, fixed, garden, single-hung, sliding and tilt and turn — windows are available in many shapes, sizes and combination units.

Budget

When it comes to budget, it's important to factor in long-term value beyond the initial purchase price. Energy-efficiency and a longer warranty can all help save maintenance and replacement costs over time. Resale value is also a key consideration — beautiful, more efficient windows are a big selling feature.

Climate considerations

Wet, humid, hot, severe storms, salty air — different climates have different

See WINDOWS, Page 27

LAUNDRY

Continued from Page 24

out bright and cheerful appliances, such as ruby red and champagne. The home trend of gray has also hit the laundry room as more subdued and classic shades, such as metallic carbon, are gaining popularity.

Dispensing and stain removal advancements

High-tech features, such as GE SmartDispense, dole out the right amount of detergent based on soil level, fabric and cycle type. The feature can even store up to a two-month supply of laundry detergent and softener inside of the washer. A built-in stain removal guide tackles common clothing stains, such as oil, grass and dirt, while a steam option relaxes fabric and helps loosen set-in stains.

Sophisticated sinks

Utility sinks are a must for laundry rooms of larger families or for those outdoorsy individuals who tend to get a little dirty. Many new sinks offer soap dispensers, while higher-end versions offer a hands-free option for both the dispenser and the faucet. Some models even include spa-type water jets with special settings that blast stains and debris from garments based on the nature of the fabric.

- Courtesy of Family Features

WINDOWS

Continued from Page 26

window needs when it comes to material and glass choices. Talk to a reputable contractor or window dealer in your particular area to help select products that may work best for you. He or she may recommend hardware for a coastal environment, rot-resistant wood or another of the following materials or options:

» Coastal climates, wet and damp and/or high humidity — Specially treated wood windows or vinyl windows offer good moisture protection. Because these conditions can require more maintenance, including regular repainting and touch-ups, windows that require less maintenance and won't need painting, such as vinyl and cladwood windows, are a good choice.

» Energy-efficiency — With more homeowners looking for ways to save energy and money with building and remodeling projects, the demand for energy-efficient windows grows. The W-2500 window from JELD-WEN, www.jeld-wen.com, can meet ENERGY STAR® criteria in all four climate zones in the U.S. and comes with an industryleading warranty against wood rot. There are several criteria that must be met for a product to receive the ENER-GY STAR® designation. It is given in North, North Central and South Central climate zones with the standard glass package of Low-E270 with argon and in the Southern zone when grilles are used. Without grilles, Southern zone ENERGY STAR® criteria are achieved with Low-E366 and argon.

» Exceptionally hot/harsh sun exposure — Rather than window material type, glass and window location is key. The right glass can help protect against UV exposure and keep interior furnish-

ings from fading. Choose insulated Low-E glass, which reduces the amount of heat entering the home and lowers cooling needs. It also blocks up to 85 percent of harmful UV rays that cause interior fading. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label suitable for your region. Pay attention to window labels including the solar heat gain co-efficient. which indicates the ability to block heat generated by sunlight. The greater the protection, the lower the SHGC. Ufactor is also important, which is the amount of heat flowing through a product. The lower the number, the more energy-efficient it is. Proper overhangs and location of windows are also important. When building a home in a sunny region, place larger windows facing north.

Don't let money go out the window

Windows have a significant impact on your heating and cooling bills. So it's extremely important to make the most energy-efficient choice for your home.

Replacing old windows with ENER-GY STAR® qualified windows can lower household energy bills by 7 to 15 percent, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Lower energy consumption also reduces greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and shrinks a house's carbon footprint. With thousands of ENERGY STA®R qualified windows and doors, JELD-WEN can help improve the comfort and energy efficiency of your home while also providing style and long-lasting durability.

To earn the ENERGY STAR label, windows must meet rigorous energy performance levels. Qualified products must also have third-party certification based on testing in recognized laboratories.

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Weeding out the gardening myths from facts

Gardening is an age-old activity that was once a necessity, but has transformed into a hobby for thousands of people. While gardening still serves practical purposes, many gardeners still consider it a hobby first and foremost.

Time-tested gardening techniques have prevailed, but there remain certain myths about gardening that are best dispelled. The following are some of the more common myths associated with gardening.

Myth: Compost tea is more effective than traditional compost. All over North America and the United Kingdom, gardeners have jumped on board the compost tea bandwagon. Compost tea is a fertilizer created by steeping compost in water mixed with sugar in brewing kits. The mixture is allowed to sit and aerate to encourage beneficial organism growth before it is sprayed on plants. According to supporters, compost tea suppresses disease and boosts plant yields. However, there is no evidence to suggest that compost tea works any better than adding compost in its normal state to the soil. In fact, leaving buckets of the "tea" around to ferment could actually create a breeding ground for E coli and other forms of bacteria.

Myth: Plants under stress should be fertilized. That is not the case. Horticulturists advise that fertilizing plants that are not deficient in nutrients can actually add to existing stress levels for plants. Plants are not often stressed by a lack of food, but rather heat, faulty planting or space constraints.

A fed plant will use the energy to absorb the nutrients instead of defending against a blight or establishing better root systems.

Myth: Young trees need stakes. It may be tempting to stake that sapling to protect it against the weather and strong winds, but doing so may actually work against the foundling tree. Staking trees to inhibit swaying may not stimulate the tree to grow thicker, lower trunks that will help the tree in the long run. The Royal Horticultural Society recommended that saplings be staked for one year and then have the stakes removed to encourage the tree to be strong and stable on its own.

Myth: Water droplets and sunshine lead to burnt leaves. Gardeners have been told to resist watering their plants during the hottest times of the day. Many assume it's because water droplets lying on leaves will magnify the

sun's rays and burn the leaves. According to Dr. Gabor Horvath at the Eoetvoes University in Budapest, water droplets will rarely damage plants because the drops are too close to the leaves to cause burning before they evaporate. Watering during the hottest points of the day is not advised because water evaporates and gets wasted.

Myth: Sand added to clay soil makes it looser and better for plants. Clay soil is a deterrent to gardening because it can be so hard to dig and difficult to cultivate, but some feel it's best to add sand to the clay to make it a better soil mixture. You would need a great deal of sand to do this in the right manner, but many gardeners simply dig a hole, add sand and hope for the best. However, water runoff will pool in the sand and not be absorbed by the clay, potentially causing the plants to drown.

Myth: Adding compost or potting soil to the planting hole for a tree or shrub is beneficial. Gardeners frequently add compost or potting soil to the hole where the root ball of a tree or shrub will be placed. Yet that encourages the roots to grow only in this nutrient-rich area, rather than spreading throughout the landscape to form a stronger and more



Time-tested gardening techniques have prevailed, but there remain certain myths about gardening that are best dispelled.

METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

durable root system. If you are going to amend the soil, do so evenly across the landscape

Myth: Use gravel or rocks in the bottom of planting containers to improve drainage. Rocks and gravel can actually impede the growth of plants and take away space for roots to grow. The drainage may be affected as well, as water will sit above the gravel or stones and saturate the roots. Stick with plain soil for better drainage results.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative

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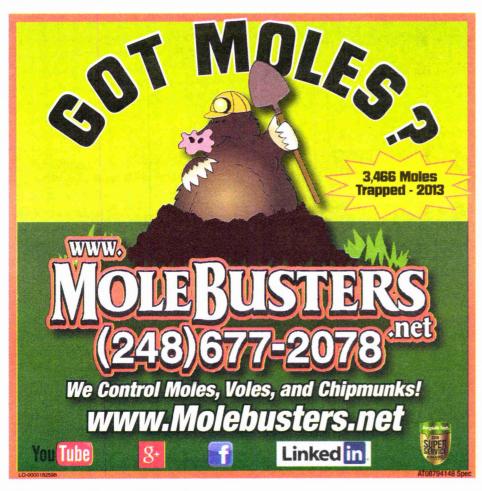


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How to inspect for signs of roof damage

Many homeowners do not think twice about their roofs. But when leaks develop, roof repairs and the subsequent costs of such work shed light on how important it is for homeowners to pay closer attention to the roofs over their heads.

Though certain roof issues, like shingles lost to inclement weather, are unforeseeable, many problems can be avoided with routine roof inspection. Checking roof conditions twice a year can help homeowners avoid potentially costly repair work or even more expensive roof replacement projects.

Spring is a good time to inspect roofs, which are often at the mercy of harsh conditions throughout the winter. Heavy snow, ice and biting winds can do significant damage, making spring the perfect time to assess if any such damage occurred and address any issues.

» Start the inspection in the interior of the home. Before breaking out the ladder and climbing up to the roof, inspect the home's interior, pinpointing potential problems that may indicate roof damage. Check for stains on the ceiling which may indicate leaks that need to be addressed. Homeowners with attics should enter their attics and look

for signs of water damage, making note of any damp or wet insulation. This will let you know if water has been entering the attic all winter. Pay attention to the location of any wet spots or stains so you can match them up to the exterior of the roof later on. Musty smells also may be indicative of moisture problems, even if there are no visible leaks.

» Inspect the roof outside. Grab a set of binoculars and inspect the exterior of the roof. Look at the roof flashing, including around the chimney and other areas of protruding pipes and vents. If the flashing is warped or damaged, moisture might be settling underneath. Sealant around dormers or skylights can also degrade, resulting in leaks. Check for spalling on masonry, such as the mortar of chimneys. Porous areas will allow water to infiltrate.

" Go directly on the roof and check. Work with a partner and carefully climb on the roof while someone holds the ladder below. Walk on the perimeter of the roof, looking for peeling or warped shingles, missing shingles, holes or scrapes. If the roof is compromised in any way, it will need to be repaired. The problem will only grow more significant and repairs more expensive if damage

is ignored. Sometimes a repair can be as simple as patching a leak with a new shingle and roofing cement. Popped nails can be pounded down and any curled shingles can be nailed or cemented back into place.

» Consult a roofing expert. If you are unsure if your roof has made it through the winter unscathed and would like a second opinion or if you find there is considerable damage, contact a roofing contractor. This person will offer a professional assessment of what can be

repaired or if the roof should be replaced.

» Check the gutters, too. While you are up on the roof, inspect the gutters and downspouts as well. Cracked or damage gutters will cause water to leak down the side of the home, potentially damaging the foundation. Clear any debris or leftover leaves from the gutters to ensure the rain can wash through unobstructed.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection





Bringing the outside indoors

When the weather conditions are just right, a relaxing evening spent on the porch or patio is perfect for enjoying good company and the beauty of the outside world. Wouldn't it be nice to enjoy these comforts regardless of the season?

Bring the rejuvenating, refreshing and calming effects of nature into your personal space with a few simple touches. The best place for incorporating these organic elements is the space closest to your patio or outdoor space. Let this area serve as a transitional space, where the outside world connects with the comforts of your interi-

Here are a few tips to make your outside world an extension of your home:

Choose natural materials

For chairs, sofas, rugs, pillows and other decor, choose natural patterns, textures and fibers. Pair materials like hemp, rattan, bamboo, wicker and jute with softer textures, such as cottons, velvet and velour for added dimension.

Light up the room

Nothing pleases the senses like natural light, so be sure to rid windows and

doorways of heavy drapery and other barriers. Bring this beautiful resource inside by adding a retrofit folding patio door, such as the JELD-WEN® W-4500, which uses floor-supported technology for a simpler fit into an existing door

Choose natural colors

Pick chairs, sofas, coffee tables and buffet pieces that are white or ivory. These light colors will make the outdoor tints of greens, blues and browns pop. For the woodsy look, choose faux bois upholstery, a textile pattern that mimics the grain of wood.

Spruce up the view

Add trees or other lush landscapes to serve as your focal point when you look outside. Attach window boxes and plant flowers and shrubbery in colors that complement your decor. Add trees or other lush landscapes to serve as your focal point when you look outside. Truly access your serene views with a wider expanse and with ease by adding a folding patio door, such as the JELD-WEN W-4500, which comes in a variety of different colors, finishes and is available in two-, three- or four-panel configurations.



For more information on JELD-WEN windows and doors, visit www.jeldwen.com.

Add natural elements to décor

The right decorative tchotchkes can evoke the serenity of nature within your space. For a rustic look, add dried flowers, pine cones, rocks, wood and

straw. For a seaside touch, use sea shells, starfish and jars of sand for a coastal inspiration.

If you lack space to scatter throughout the room, place these items in a large decorative bowl and use as a centerpiece.

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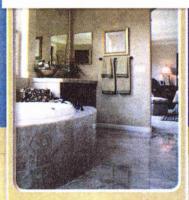
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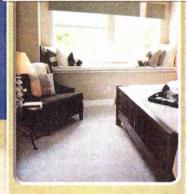
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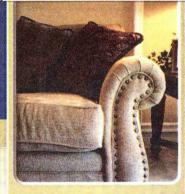
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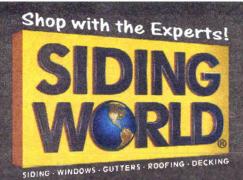


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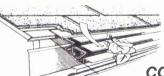
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