



Thursday
December 23, 1999

Find out what's happening @ the Canton Library, A8

Canton Observer

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

OPINION

We've got mail: *Observer and Eccentric chairman Phil Power's weekly column explains why we print letters to the editor, often from people you might not agree with. /A11*

COMMUNITY LIFE

Most wonderful night: *Christians throughout the area are preparing to celebrate the "most wonderful night of the year," Christmas Eve with candles, carols and special services. /B1*

ENTERTAINMENT

Movies: *"Fantasia 2000" opens Jan. 1 at the IMAX Theater at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. /C1*

Comedy: *Ron Gallagher, also known as Gallagher II, swears he's gonna make you laugh every five seconds at his show on New Year's Eve. /C1*

AT HOME

Party of the century: *Planners have a variety of creative ways to greet the new year. /D6*

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Conservatory troubles continue



The director of the Southeastern Michigan Arts Conservatory has started a new venture - under a similar name - after liquidating under Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Jeff Myers says he still intends to pay off conservatory debts.

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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The Southeastern Michigan Arts Conservatory no longer exists. The Southeastern Michigan Arts Center, however, does. The financially

troubled performing arts institution was liquidated under Chapter 7 bankruptcy three weeks ago, according to Director Jeff Myers.

"We filed Chapter 7 but that doesn't mean we've shut the doors," he commented. "We just can't operate under

that title."

Plymouth District Court Judge John MacDonald evicted the conservatory from its original home at the former Arnoldt Williams Music Store near Canton Center and Ford roads Nov. 9 for failing to pay its rent.

Since then, Myers moved the business across the street to an office complex, filed for Chapter 7 and changed its name. Changes were needed to give the now arts "center" a fresh start financially and, otherwise, he

explained.

"It's the only logical way we could do it and pay people back," Myers commented.

Canton is currently trying to recover more than \$40,000 in back rent from SMAC. The conservatory subleased the Williams facility from the township.

Canton Attorney Ron Witthoff said a settlement with SMAC may be possible.

"We would talk to Mr. Myers," he

Please see **CONSERVATORY, A2**



You gotta believe:

Santas 'see' into hearts of children

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER
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Oh, they know. Yes, they do. Just like the song says. In only a few short minutes with your child, these men can magically discern if Justin or Jessica has been bad or good. For the whole year.

As if that weren't impressive enough, they also respond appropriately to your child's personality. Outgoing and energetic, or cautious and quiet; they pick up the signs in a flash and know just what to say or do.

And here's the scary part. Many area Santa Clauses say they can get a pretty good indication of parents' character and demeanor by observing them as they stand in line with their offspring.

So you adults had better be good for goodness sake, says Eric Stopa, who has donned the red suit and stocking cap on and off for 11 years, including the last three in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park for the city's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Precious moments

"Really though, I think the best thing is being able to listen to the kids and not worry about the parents," the Plymouth resident says. "The moment a child is with you is precious and if you handle it right there is an immediate bond."

For "Santa" Jack Lawing of Livonia there is no better time in the world than the 90 seconds or two minutes a child spends in his lap. "I'm very gentle with them. Even though it's a short visit, the key to being a good Santa is to go very slow and not force any kind of discussion out of them."

Lawing, 58 and a retired Farmington Public Schools administrator, has come down from the



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURCHMANN

What big eyes: Santa holds Harry Showerman of Novi, 4 months, in his arms while Harry's mom Bonnie looks on at left, at Laurel Park Place recently.

North Pole to Livonia's Laurel Park Place for the first time this year. He's previously played Santa at schools, for corporate functions and private parties.

"Santa" Joe Homick and "Santa" Andy Barnaby share time playing the jolly guy at Westland Shopping Center. Plymouth resident Homick takes the morning shift and has a soft spot in his heart for certain children.

"We had a group of special education kids visiting," he said on a recent snowy, slushy day. He showed off some of the sign language expressions he has mastered to talk with hearing-impaired youngsters.

"I just can't describe it in words. I get goose bumps."

They are paid for their time and expertise. And most will acknowledge that their presence is meant to boost holiday sales. But Christmas tradition and a genuine love of children are strong motivating factors for their work, area Santas believe.

An American tradition

While Santa Claus may seem these days to be a figment of American commercialism - what with all his mall appearances and the endless stream of TV pitches - it wasn't always that way.

The American incarnation of St. Nicholas actually has Dutch roots. It was early Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam (New York) who began telling stories of Sinter Klass, a merry old man carrying the spirit of Christmas around in a large sack, as he made his rounds in the 18th century.

Poet Clement C. Moore and newspaper cartoonist Thomas Nast literally rounded out our holiday hero into the figure we greet each Dec. 25 with milk and cookies set near the fireplace.

Moore's 1823 poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," described the chimney entrance and cherry-red cheeks to a T. Moore was reportedly inspired by a Christmas Eve sleigh ride with his children.

The whimsical poem was a bit of a departure for an author whose most notable prior work was the

Please see **SANTAS, A8**



It's lonely at the top: *It appears that everyone is ignoring Santa at last year's Canton Seniors party at the Summit on the Park, but in reality they were simply lining up for lunch after visiting with the jolly old elf.*

Thomas: District hiring process led to resignation

BY TONY BRUSCATO
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Plymouth-Canton school board member Roland Thomas said his resignation last week came three days after his son was turned down for a full-time teaching position at West Middle

School.

"Some staff people came to me and said ... that because of my position on the school board there was some prejudice in the hiring process," said Thomas. "I don't know what's going on in the background, but I have some good ideas."

Thomas said it was the second time his son, Scott, 26, has applied for a full-time teaching position in the district.

"I stepped down because I wanted to take an impediment away from him because I know he wants to teach in this district," he added. "His future is more important than me being on the

school board. I'm a parent and father first."

"But I want to make it clear, this is not about my son, but about the hiring process."

Thomas said Scott received the news

Please see **THOMAS, A2**



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCHMANN

First timers: Katie Childs, 10, concentrates while performing in the first recital Dec. 15 at Smith Elementary School for the new violin class in the district.

Pulling strings Elementary orchestra program debuts at Smith

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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After only two months of practice, violin players at Smith Elementary School in Plymouth gave their first concert.

"They're doing very well for only two months," said teacher Erin Zurbuchen before Wednesday's concert for parents. "They sound wonderful."

The students are part of a Plymouth-Canton Schools Community Education elementary strings program started this year at Smith and Miller elementary schools in Canton.

It's an effort to build the upper-grade orchestras from the bottom up.

"We now have about 45 high school orchestra students and 70 middle school orchestra members," said Zurbuchen. "Now we have the elementary program to help increase the numbers, so that by the time these kids get to high school we'll have an incredible orchestra."

Zurbuchen, who is mainly a bass player, said the elementary program will concentrate on the violin.

"There's the coordination of the fin-

Please see **ORCHESTRA, A4**

Thomas from page A1

that he wouldn't be hired full time on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Thomas became upset, and wrote his one-sentence letter of resignation the next day.

Thomas presented the letter to the rest of the Board of Education members last Friday morning, immediately after trustees voted to hire Kathleen Booher from Berkley Schools as the next superintendent.

"I wasn't even sure I was going to turn in the resignation until I did it," admitted Thomas. "It was so emotional for me that I couldn't stay and explain to the board why I resigned."

Thomas left the meeting while the others resumed in executive session.

Thomas said he eventually talked by telephone to fellow board members, who have encouraged him to reconsider. And on Monday, he also discussed the situation by phone with Booher, at which time Thomas said she encouraged him to stay.

Thomas said he'll decide soon if he'll stick by his resignation, which is effective Jan. 1, or if he'll continue on the board.

"God put us in this position for a reason," he said. "I don't know what that is yet. Scott and I are still trying to figure that out. But if it's to change things, that's what we'll attempt to do."

Thomas said Scott was a long-term substitute from December 1998 to June 1999 at Salem High School, and this year taught for a quarter at West.

Scott has gotten a lot of support from students and parents," said Thomas. "I read a lot of let-

ters from students on how he's impacted their lives, inside and outside the classroom."

Thomas reiterated the main issue isn't about getting his son a job, but about changes he perceives need to be developed in the hiring process.

"I want people to be judged on their skills, competence and capabilities," he said. "We need to get teachers and administrators talking to and observing the full-time subs. Other districts do that because it's the core from which they hire full-time teachers."

Concerning Scott's full-time substitute position at Salem, Thomas said "not once did an administrator or another teacher observe him and evaluate him. Not only would it be good for the teachers, but it also protects the kids in the classroom to make sure they're getting a proper education."

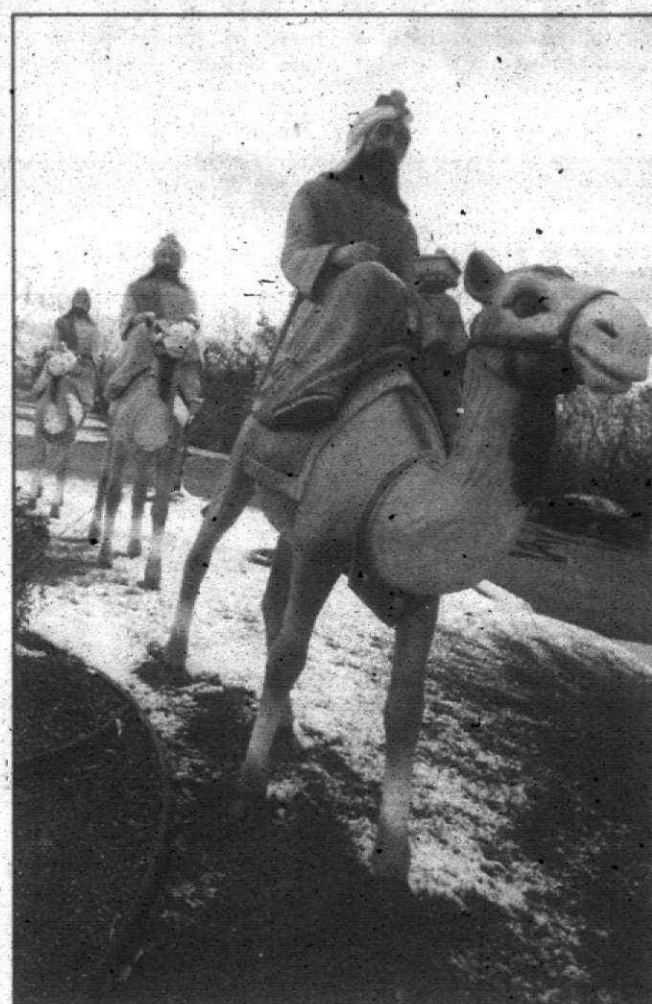
Concerning the younger Thomas' plight, eighth-grade science teacher David Balge said many teachers at West were at bit surprised.

"I wondered why Scott wasn't given a more thorough interview," he said. "I thought he related well to the kids, and they related well to him."

School board President Susan Davis said the current hiring process has been used the past five years.

"Are there things that need to be changed? Maybe," said Davis. "I assume it's been working because this is the first complaint we've had about the process."

Wise Men grace Warren Road



Annual appearance: The Three Wise Men are up and riding outside of Neely-Turowski Funeral Home on Warren Road in Canton. Leonard Turowski, funeral director, said he has been placing the holiday display for years outside his business in Detroit and then at suburban locations. He bought the figurines in Italy.

Domestic dispute ends with arrest

A 35-year-old Canton man was arrested Sunday for domestic violence.

Township police officers were called to the 2000 block of Roundtable at about 8:45 p.m., according to reports. The man's 30-year-old wife asked officers to enter the home because he was "tearing it up" with an ax.

Reports said the woman had also been attacked by her husband.

Officers then entered the home and ordered the 35-year-old to the ground. He refused, but officers were able to wrestle him to the ground, handcuff and arrest him, reports said.

Robbery

A 14-year-old Canton boy reported that he was the victim of a strong-armed robbery Dec. 17.

The Plymouth Canton High student was watching a movie in class when another student asked him to play cards for money. Reports said the teen won \$4, but had the money taken from him by force after class.

A 16-year-old student wrestled him to the ground and told a third student to take the money from the 14-year-old, reports said. Police are investigating the incident.

Fraud

Chili's Restaurant was scammed out of \$364 on Dec. 16, according to police reports.

A person claiming to be a tow-truck driver called the restaurant at 8:30 p.m. and said that a manager's car had broken down. The unidentified caller said the

COP CALLS

manager, who he identified by name and title, needed \$364 for repairs, reports said.

A manager at the restaurant sent a worker to meet the alleged tow-truck driver at a Westland location to make the payment. The worker subsequently drove the tow-truck driver to several locations in Detroit before being told that the manager's vehicle was at a Chili's at Ford and Southfield roads.

Reports said the worker gave the man the money and left alone. When he arrived at the restaurant, he was informed that a similar scam had been pulled weeks before.

Bogus bill

A 43-year-old Olympic Coney Island waitress told police that she received a counterfeit \$10 bill Friday.

Reports said that the bill was given back to a customer as change. That customer questioned the authenticity of the bill. The waitress wasn't sure who may have passed the bill originally, reports said.

Larceny

More than \$2,000 worth of jewelry was reported missing from a Canton woman's home.

A wedding ring, gold bracelet and video game monitor were reported stolen Sunday. The woman told police that she believes her 16-year-old son took the items. She was unsure of the boy's whereabouts.

New terms for three on planning board

Three familiar faces are returning to Canton's Planning Commission next year.

Victor Gustafson, Robert Wade and Sue Dodson were all reappointed to the commission Tuesday by a unanimous vote of township trustees.

Gustafson serves as the commission's chairman. He was first

appointed in 1988.

Wade joined the commission in 1994. Dodson was appointed last year.

The appointments are for three years. Ron Lieberman, Cathy Johnson, Karl Zarbo and Melissa McLaughlin round out the planning commission.

Township offices, library follow holiday schedule

Canton Township offices will be closed Friday-Monday, Dec. 24-27 for the Christmas holiday. Offices at 1150 S. Canton Center will reopen at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Summit on the Park will be open for swimming and other activities 8 a.m.-noon Friday,

Dec. 24. The community center will be closed Saturday. For further information on holiday hours call (734) 597-5110.

The Canton Public Library will be closed Friday-Sunday, Dec. 24-26. It will reopen at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27.

Canton Friendship Church sets Christmas Eve service

Canton Friendship Church is holding two Christmas Eve Services at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. These are being held at the Canton Free Methodist Church on Cher-

ry Hill Road, between Canton Center and Sheldon. For more information, call (734) 451-2100 or visit the website at www.cantonfriendship.org.

Restaurant has special visitor

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making a special visit 5-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23 at the Old Country Buffet restaurant in Canton. There will be special

gifts and activities. Patrons are urged to bring a camera. The restaurant is at 5849 Sheldon Road, north of Ford, in the Harvard Square Shopping Center.

by Elizabeth Routson, D.V.M.

TOXOPLASMOSIS

Toxoplasmosis is a disease, sometimes carried by cats, which is especially dangerous to pregnant women. The illness can cause birth defects, spontaneous abortion, or stillbirth. Cats get the disease from an intestinal parasite, usually via contact with an infected cat's feces or by eating infected raw meat from rodents or birds. A human can become infected through contact with contaminated feces, often while gardening or litter box cleaning. Most infected cats show no signs of being ill with toxoplasmosis, although some suddenly develop severe symptoms, including vomiting, coughing, fever, diarrhea, or swollen lymph nodes. When the cat's central nervous system is affected, survival rates are poor. Many cats develop a strong immunity and recover with proper treatments.

When your cat or other pets need medical attention, please contact PARKWAY VETERINARY CLINIC. Our reputation for expert, compassionate care is well-earned - please don't hesitate to ask questions of our knowledgeable staff. Visit either of our two locations at 41395 Wilcox Rd. in Plymouth, tel. 734-453-2577, or 5750 Lilley Rd. in Canton, tel. 734-981-4400.

P.S. To help prevent toxoplasmosis, feed cats commercial cat food or thoroughly cooked meat, discourage hunting for birds or animals, and keep litter boxes clean.

Physical Therapy UPDATE

Hands On Center For Physical Therapy

A KNEE'S NEED FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY

Knee injuries are the most frequent serious extremity injuries in sports, with those involving the anterior cruciate ligament being of particular concern. The anterior cruciate ligament stabilizes the knee joint against movement of the lower leg forward in relation to the thigh. Severe tears of this knee-stabilizing ligament require surgery, followed by use of a prescription brace. A new Ohio State University study indicates that aggressive physical therapy plays a greater role in recovery than wearing a knee brace. All of the 77 subjects studied underwent physical therapy. And, the majority healed well whether they wore a brace or an elastic bandage. Thus, whether or not

25. Knee injuries, which account for 26% of all sports-related injuries, result in more time lost from competition than any other injury.

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Costly squabble delays restaurant opening, owner says

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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A Canton restaurant owner is blaming Wayne County for thousands of dollars worth of lost revenue.

George Smith, co-owner of 4 Friends Bar and Grill, said he's out nearly \$20,000 in lost profits because the county has been unclear in what it requires prior to a final health inspection. The restaurant was originally scheduled to open on Nov. 4.

"It's not fair what they did," said Smith. "If they had said I needed to do this or that on Oct. 18, I would've done it. That's what has me upset."

Wayne County Director of Environmental Health Steve Tackitt said the ball is in Smith's court.

"We will do the final inspection at their convenience," he said. "But they hold the key at to when it will take place."

The bar and grill, which is located on Warren Road just east of Sheldon, will feature a tradi-

tional American menu with hamburgers, sandwiches, soups and salads. A host of dinner selections such as steak, ribs and Tex-Mex are also planned.

Smith said he and his partner have spent nearly \$60,000 on renovating the former Indian restaurant. That investment along with lost revenue has put him on shaky financial ground.

"We're out of money," Smith said. "We have to borrow to keep going."

He filed change of ownership

paperwork with Wayne County on Oct. 18. About a week later, a county health worker did a follow up inspection.

Minoes changes in electrical, ventilation and plumbing at the restaurant were asked for and done, Smith said. On Nov. 11, two county officials visited 4 Friends for an occupancy permit inspection.

It wasn't until that day - a week after the restaurant's scheduled opening - the county asked for building plans, according to Smith. He submitted those plans

on Nov. 16.

Tackitt said Wayne County can't do a final health inspection until the plans are approved and an accompanying fee is paid. Smith, he added, had not paid the fee.

On Dec. 15, the county approved 4 Friends building plans.

A letter from Wayne County to Smith states that it's his "responsibility to notify us five working days prior to the opening date that the establishment is ready

for inspection."

The letter also stated that a \$400 fee must be submitted prior to the "opening inspection."

Smith hopes that inspection will take place before Christmas. Having owned restaurants years in Rockford and Livonia, he said he's shocked at the difficulty he has had getting the Canton facility open.

"I've been through the process in Wayne County three times," said Smith. "We've never had a problem before."

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Light moment: The class laughs following a song. Pictured (from left): Joe Scanlon, 10; Nathan Larimore, 10; Miyuki Kubokawa, 11; Allison McCain, 9; Mei Kubokawa, 9; Alice Chee, 8; Maggie DePentu, 8; and Katie Childs, 10.

Orchestra from page A1

ers and the bow, and getting them to work together," she said. "There are a lot of opposing motions, and it's hard to get the coordination. To get good sound takes years of practice."

Community Education coordinator Barbara Young said she hopes to expand the pilot program in the future.

"Studies have shown that kids need to be introduced to music early on in order to succeed easily," she said. "And, music skills have been proven to enhance academic studies."

The program costs \$350 per student, and includes 25 weeks

"I think this program has been very beneficial, and it's impressive what she's (teacher Erin Zurbuchen) gotten out of the kids,"

Pat Scanlon,
district parent

of lessons, which include one-hour sessions twice a week. "I think this program has been very beneficial, and it's impressive what she's gotten out of the kids," said Pat Scanlon, whose son Joe, 9, is in the class. "Joe was an Irish step dancer and enjoyed the fiddle players. He

wanted to learn the fiddle, and the violin is the beginning of it." "Right now I play the violin, but I want to play the cello," said Allison McCain, 9, of Plymouth. "I want to someday play in the high school orchestra."

Help for assembly-challenged

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTON
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It's Christmas morning and that "easy-to-assemble" bicycle, football table or treadmill comes with a box full of screws and bolts and a set of bewildering directions, in steps numbered 1 to 27.

Local entrepreneur John Polzin and his employees have a solution.

The company, Assembly Required Inc., takes the hassle and stress out of assembling furniture, toys, lawn equipment, gas grills, TV stands and most products for the home or office.

Established in 1989 as a part-time business to Polzin's full-time job, Assembly Required Inc. was born out of his observation that people don't want to spend the time or energy to piece together purchases if they don't

have to.

Polzin decided to capitalize on the knowledge he already possessed from a previous job where he had to assemble display products, while at the same time noticing that stores began selling more and more unassembled items.

Initially, Polzin left business cards at Montgomery Ward stores for customers to make appointments for items they purchased from the store that required assembly.

After the company he was working for went out of business, Polzin decided to turn Assembly Required Inc. into a full-time endeavor in the summer of 1992.

Run out of his Redford home, Assembly Required Inc. will come to your home and assemble a wide variety of items such as TV stands and computer desks, doll houses, bicycles, exercise equipment and furniture.

"There isn't much we haven't put together," said Polzin. "In response to the popularity of his service, the Redford businessman opened a retail store in Wonderland Mall during the 1999 holiday season to meet the needs of customers who had smaller products requiring assembly."

An average fee for The Assembly Shop is between \$10-\$30; Assembly Required in-home service averages in the \$50 to \$70 range.

The Assembly Shop in Wonderland Mall handles small items that can be dropped off and typically picked up within an hour. It will be open through the month of January 2000.

For more information call Assembly Required Inc. at (800) 861-4182 or The Assembly Shop, (734) 762-4882.

OBITUARIES

JULIA P. ORES

Private services were held for Julia P. Ores, 93, of Canton. She was born Jan. 19, 1906, in Plains, Pa. She died Dec. 12. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her son, Leonard Ores; two sisters; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Local arrangements were made by the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Canton.

ELEANOR DRAKE

Services for Eleanor Drake, 90, of Canton were Dec. 18 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church with the Rev. John Ortman officiating.

She was born Oct. 16, 1909, in Lithuania. She died Dec. 15. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her son,

Roger (Melinda); two grandchildren, Elena and Nicole; and two great-grandchildren, Alexis and Athena.

Local arrangements were made by UH Funeral Home, Canton.

CAROL ANN WILSON

Services for Carol Ann Wilson, 62, of Canton were Dec. 19 at Summit on the Park.

She was born June 4, 1937. She died Dec. 8 in Angela Hospice. She was the owner of Kingsboro Cleaners in Canton.

Survivors include her husband, Don; three daughters, Kathleen (Harvey) Fink, Cheryl (Tim) Dillon, Pamela; one son, Bradley; two brothers, Robert Wobrock, David Wobrock; three granddaughters, Shannon Fink, Stacey Dillon, Stephanie Dillon;

and three grandsons, Scott Fink, Andrew Dillon, David Dillon.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.

Local arrangements were made by UH Funeral Home, Canton.

MARION FRANCES FAILING

Services for Marion Frances Failing, 84, of Plymouth will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, at the Vermilion Trust 100 Funeral Home, Plymouth. Visitation is 5-9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, with an Eastern Star service that evening at 7:30. Burial will be at Oakland Hills Memorial Park in Novi.

She was born July 26, 1915, in Pontiac. She died Dec. 19. She was a homemaker and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter No. 115. Survivors include her three sons, Ronald J., Robert K., Richard L.; three grandchildren, Ronald, Kenneth, Stephanie; and one sister, June Ash.

Memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation or the American Heart Association.

NICK KOSTENKO

Services for Nick Kostenko, 75, of Canton Township were Dec. 20 at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church with the Rev. Levofitsing. Burial was at Christian Memorial Cultural Center.

He was born May 4, 1924 in Kiev, Ukraine. He died Dec. 17. He was an automotive engineer.

Survivors include his wife, Olga; one daughter, Rose (Don) Lebon; and two grandchildren, Laura and Angela.

Local arrangements were made by the Neely-Turkowski Funeral Home, Canton.

JON CULLEN HUNEKE

Services for Jon Cullen Huneke, 58, of Canton were Dec. 22 at the Neely-Turkowski Funeral Home, Canton.

He was born Dec. 20, 1941, in Philadelphia, Pa. He died Dec. 17 in Botsford Hospital. He was a financial analyst for an automotive company.

Survivors include his wife, Carmela; two sons, David, John; and two daughters, Christine and Theresa.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice or the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

CANTON 6

For the time of 12:45 981-1981

12:50 "Bright" shows begin to open daily

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ANNA & THE KING (PG-13)

11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

THE GREEN MILE (R)

11:15, 2:45, 5:20, 8:50

TOY STORY 2 (G)

11:45, 2:15, 4:20, 6:45, 9:00

FR/SAT 11:15

THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG-13)

11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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Commissioners use fund balance for juvenile program

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabrancyk@oe.homedecor.com

County Executive Edward McNamara wanted county commissioners to approve \$10.2 million in budget cuts to fund the county's position of the juvenile justice programs.

On Monday commissioners agreed with \$4.6 million in cuts, but designated \$5.8 million to be spent from the county's \$20 million fund balance to pay for budgeted programs. Commissioners voted, 9-5, with support from Chair Ricardo Solomon, D-Detroit; Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, and commissioners Kathleen Husk, R-Redford, and Detroit Democrats Robert Blackwell, Edna Bell, Christopher Cavanagh, George Cushingberry, Ilona Varga and Jewel Ware.

Commissioners opposing the general fund expenditure were Lyn Bankes, R-Levonia; John Sullivan, D-Wayne, who also represents Canton, and Edward Boike, D-Taylor; Joseph Palamara, D-Allen Park, and Bernard Parker, D-Detroit. Commissioner Susan Hubbard, D-Deerborn, abstained.

County officials have struggled with funding a new juvenile justice program since earlier this year when state and county officials could not agree on how large a grant was needed.

The state and county now split the costs 50-50 for treating delinquent youths and caring for abused and neglected children. County Executive Edward McNamara highlighted the funding problems in a letter to the commission on Nov. 23, stating that his administration decided

"How can you vote on an anticipated shortfall when you don't know what you've got?"

Lyn Bankes
—county commissioner

to delay the block grant program because of "state funding formula concerns."

"Our decision not to accept the juvenile block grant means that our budget needs to be amended so that it reflects: The reduction of state block grant funds, the restoration of abuse and neglect appropriations and the additional general fund dollars needed for the county match," McNamara said.

Since the general fund requirements were structural in nature and not one-time costs, McNamara recommended a 3.5 percent reduction in the general fund budget and elimination of \$1.7 million in new programs.

But Solomon wanted commissioners to wait to discuss the remaining cuts at the commission's next meeting on Jan. 4. Commissioners received letters from county sheriff Robert Ficano, county clerk Teola Hunter and county prosecutor John O'Hair, all critical of the cuts. Under McNamara's proposal, Ficano faced a \$2.1 million cut for the sheriff's department, while O'Hair faced a \$751,372 cut in his \$24.3 million budget.

"We must point out that 80 percent of the proposed reductions are taken from law enforcement and administration of justice," stated one letter from the three elected officials. "The cut-

backs being proposed will not only hurt — they will severely harm public safety in Wayne County."

Commissioners also received a letter from chief probate Judge Milton Mack complaining of the cut.

Bankes opposed the fund balance transfer because she did not believe the commissioners should use the money out of the general fund or its rainy-day fund.

County administrators told commissioners any use of the budget stabilization fund may cause an increase in the bond ratings for Wayne County, driving up interest expenses on bonds.

But Bankes was clearly frustrated with the entire budget process, stating that the commission also has not received a year-end report on the budget before the end of the calendar year from chief financial officer Tom

Naughton. "How can you vote on an anticipated shortfall when you don't know what you've got?" Bankes asked.

But most commissioners backed what they called a "stop-gap measure" and wanted to meet with department heads to discuss the proposed cuts. "They would be better suited to say what could or could not be cut," Bell said.

Commissioners also needed to act before the end of the year, otherwise McNamara's recommendations would have been automatically effective, according to commission counsel Ben Washburn. They could not reject McNamara's recommendations either, only come up with an alternative budget amendment, Washburn said.

Commissioners also wrestled with what may happen should McNamara veto their general fund expenditure.

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Travel days expected to be especially heavy are Thursday, Dec. 23; Sunday, Dec. 26; Monday, Dec. 27; Tuesday, Dec. 28; Wednesday, Dec. 29; and on some airlines, Thursday, Dec. 30; Friday, Dec. 31 and Sunday, Jan. 2.

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■ Wrapped gifts may be opened by security, so plan on wrapping gifts after you arrive at your destination.

■ Curbside check-in is still allowed in front of the terminals. Have identification tags filled out, both on the inside and outside of your bags, before you arrive.

For airport information, motorists can tune to 920 AM on their radio dial (within three miles of the airport).

Since last fall, nearly 800 on-airport parking spaces have been added to Metro's long term lots. Passengers now have access to over 12,000 quick and convenient spaces located on the airport's property.

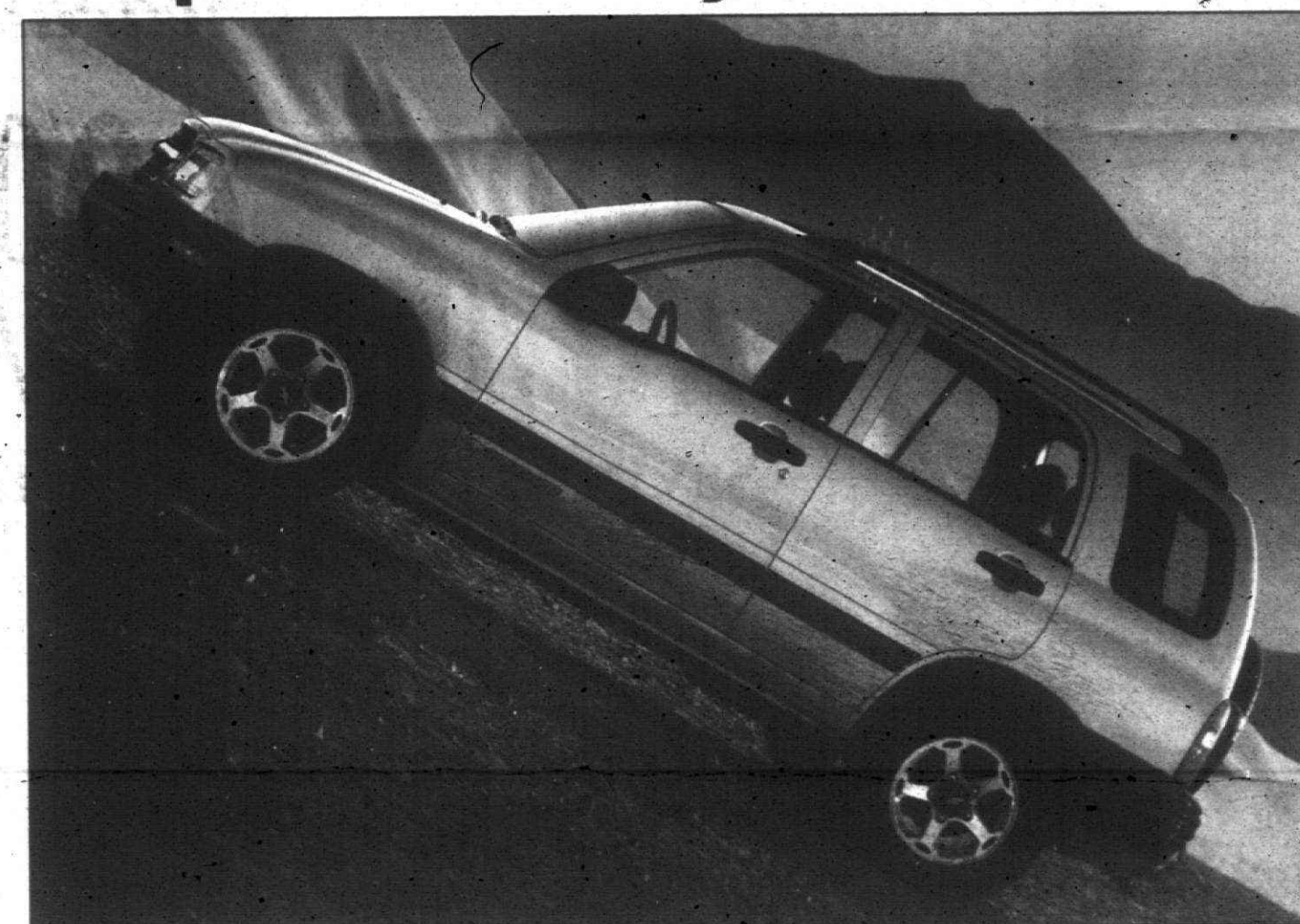
Passengers flying into or out of Metro on Spirit or Southwest Airlines this holiday will be using one of six brand new gates just completed for these two airlines. The \$10.8 million project was completed in November, and in addition to promoting competition, also helps increase passenger convenience and service on these two low fare carriers.

On Dec. 1, Wayne County opened a new passenger security checkpoint in the L.C. Smith Terminal. The airport consolidated the two security checkpoints at Concourse A & B, in the L.C. Smith Terminal, into one large security access area.

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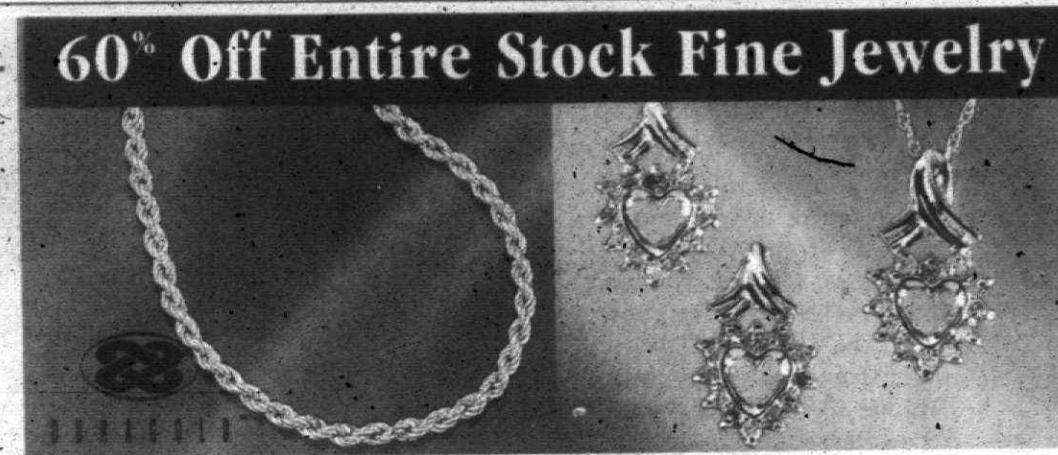
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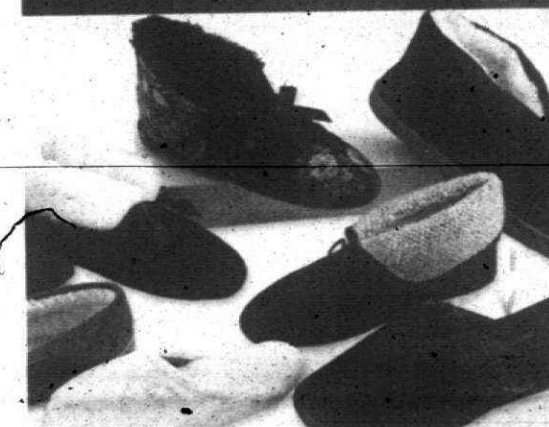
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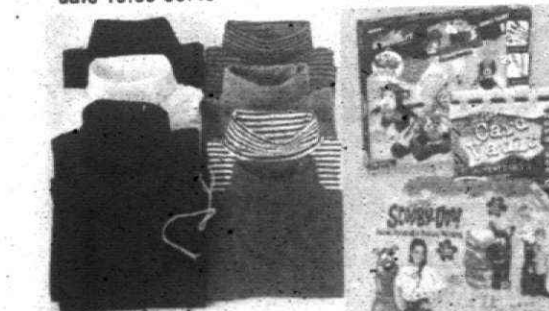
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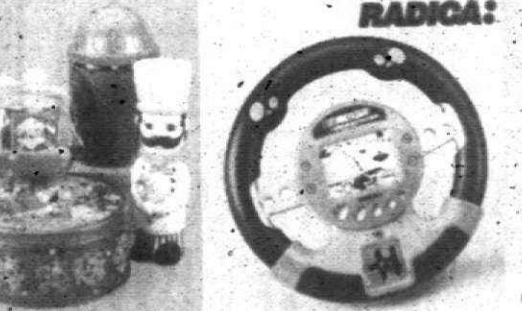
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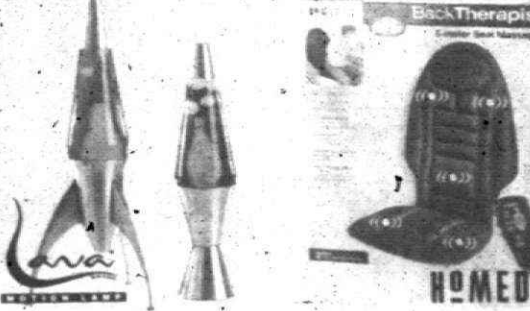
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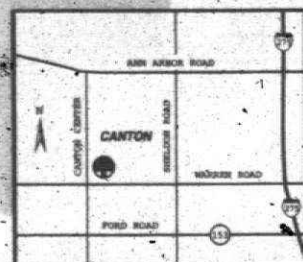
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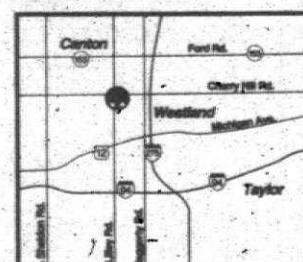
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Santas from page A1

two-volume set, "A Compendious Lexicon of the Hebrew Language."

Nast took his inspiration from Moore for his drawing of a rotund, bearded Santa poised atop a chimney, with his sleigh on the adjacent roof, in Harper's Weekly Christmas issue of 1890.

Going to Santa school

Several area Santas say they learned their trade at the C.W. Howard Santa School in Midland, Mich. The school, founded in 1937, runs an intensive, three-day training course that focuses on everything from eye contact to attract passersby, to the hot new toys to handling the occasional disbeliever.

"You let them tug your beard - it's real," Lawing says. His well-groomed facial hair used to be red but is now the perfect shade of snow white. "For the older kids you explain that even if you've stopped believing that Santa is a real person, he

embodies the spirit of Christmas."

Stops says second grade is about the time most kids start questioning Santa's existence. "They know about the Wright brothers and the first plane flight. They have a difficult time believing I can just sprinkle magic dust on my sleigh and make it to everyone's house in the same night."

Lawing has been a Santa Claus since the early 1970s, starting at about the same young age as Stops, who is a young-for-Santa, anyway - 36. Stops is employed as an assembly worker at Sealant Equipment Co. in Plymouth.

Stella Patrick of Redford says she brought her grandchildren to the mall the day Santa Jack made his debut. "Oh, it was something. He came on two horse-drawn sleighs and the kids just ate it up."

Homick says he works to get

parents to play along and will ask them to post the photo of him with their child on the refrigerator, even in the summertime. He reminds kids to clean their rooms and eat their vegetables, though that last request, he said, is often in vain.

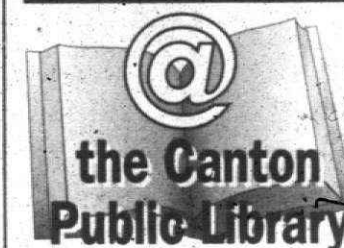
Homick says his laugh - the requisite "Ho, Ho, Ho," voiced in deep, bass tones with a tinge of mischief - is his best quality.

Lawing says his avocation came out of his deep affection for working with children and his love of the holiday season.

Yes, he fills plenty of "orders" for Barbie dolls and Pokémon games, Lawing says.

But the most memorable requests he's had are from two little girls. One who asked for "butterflies, and then butterfly shoes to go with them."

And another girl who asked for "pink - j&g pink."



Did you know?

The staff at the Canton Public Library wishes you a happy holiday season? Because of its location on the eastern coast of Australia (a location not far west of the International Date Line), Sydney will be the first major city in the world to greet the year 2000? Dec. 26 is National Whiner's Day? Radio City Music Hall in New York City opened on Dec. 27, 1932?

For your listening pleasure

Here are some books on audio tape available from the library: "Certain Prey" by John Sandford "The Color of Night" by David Lindsey "H.M.S. Unseen" by Patrick Robinson "The Lucky Ones" by Doris Mortman "There's Nothing to be

Afraid of" by Marcia Muller

Chasing history Here are some fiction selections that focus on historical reenactments.

"Murder in the Mist" by Willard Scott and Bill Crider "Dragon Moon" by Chris Claremont "War and Peas" by Jill Churchill "Cat on the Scent" by Rita Mae Brown

Q & A

Q: Who was Deborah Sampson?

A: Born at Plympton, Mass., in 1760, Deborah Sampson spent her childhood as an indentured servant. In 1782, wishing to participate in the Revolutionary War, she disguised herself as a man and enlisted in the Continental Army's Fourth Massachusetts Regiment under the name Robert Shurtliff. She received both musket and sword wounds, but it was an attack of fever that unmasked her identity and led to her dismissal from the army in 1783. In 1802, Sampson became the first woman to lecture professionally in the U.S. when she began giving public speeches on her experiences. Full military pension was provided for her heirs by an act of Congress in 1838. Deborah

Sampson died April 19, 1827 in Sharon, Mass. The source for this information is "Chase's 1999 Calendar of Events."

Web Watch. Check out these Web sites: www.sangoodie.com www.ritzcamera.com www.giftcertificates.com www.ticketcity.com

Hot topic of the week

Boxing Day! Ordinarily observed on the first day after Christmas, it's now a legal holiday in Canada, the United Kingdom and many other countries. Formerly a day when Christmas gift boxes were regularly expected by a postman, the lamplighter, the dustman and generally all those functionaries who render services to the public at large, without receiving payment from any individual. When Boxing Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the Monday and Tuesday immediately following may be proclaimed or observed as a bank or public holiday.

@ the Canton Library is compiled by Laura Dorogi of the library staff. The library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center Rd. For more information about library programs and services, call 397-0999.

Legislation would protect businesses from Y2K suits

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@hometown.com

"If the world ends, this legislation is null and void," Amy Rittenhouse said of a set of bills aimed at protecting small businesses and local governments from frivolous Y2K-related lawsuits.

If on the other hand, civilization survives the computer glitch heard round the world, then the legislation would provide protection against suits and put limitations on damages that can be awarded as a result, explained Rittenhouse, chief of staff to state Rep. Janet Kukuk (R-Macomb).

Her (Kukuk's) point in sponsoring this legislation was that she does not want to see anyone going out of business because someone is trying to take advantage of Y2K," Rittenhouse said.

Lawmakers have passed a series of five bills - House Bill 424 by Kukuk, House Bill 4688 by Rep. Marc Shulman (R-West Bloomfield), as well as House Bills 4469, 4487 and 4737 - to limit "computer date failure" lawsuits.

The bills have been presented to Gov. John Engler for his signature, which he must do before the end of the year if the bills are to go into effect Jan. 1. Without a signature, the bills would take effect but not until March 1, to allow to have any impact, Rittenhouse explained.

She said she expects the governor will sign, but has not yet heard from him.

The bills are modeled after laws already put in place at the federal level. So far, Rittenhouse said, 20 to 23 states have adopted similar verbiage.

The problem of course is that, some computers and electronic

devices now the year with only two digits, so the year 2000 will read as 00. And those devices may misinterpret that as 1900. That could affect the performance of financial institutions, medical facilities, small businesses and governments.

Much has been spent already correcting the problem. A Senate legislative analysis estimated the state will spend a total of \$55.6 million correcting the problem in its computers. For

business, the cost is expected to run to \$1 trillion nationally. But the lawsuits have already started. The state estimates 80 cases have already been filed against companies nationally.

The bills would limit damages in lawsuits resulting from computer date failure to actual damages - eliminating the possibility of punitive damages - but only if the business has made some effort to be "Y2K compliant."

If no effort was made, the protections would not apply.

Those damaged by a Y2K failure, either financially or as the result of some injury, could still go to court. The damages would be limited to actual costs.

Similar protections would be given to local governments, if they've made attempts to correct the problem. The bills also prohibit governments from collecting fees as a result of computer date failure, such as a late charge. Mortgages could not be

foreclosed if late payments resulted from the computer glitch.

"It [lawsuit protections in the bills] could apply to all businesses," Kukuk explained, "but my concern was greatest for the small businesses. I would not want to see them involved in protracted legal fights that could put them out of business; or perhaps because one of their vendors did not take care of it correctly."

"Local government did not cause this problem," Shulman said, explaining his bill to protect municipalities similarly, "and they have been doing all they can to keep residents from being affected by it. In order to prevent a rash of lawsuits, it is necessary to extend this immunity." Otherwise, he risked the possibility of some governments being so wrapped up in frivolous lawsuits, they will be hard pressed to help people.

Scholarship applications being taken

Madonna University in Livonia is accepting scholarship applications from Monday, Jan. 17, through Friday, March 10, for the 2000-2001 academic year. Scholarship applications may be obtained at the University Financial Aid Office or by calling (734) 432-5663.

The majority of the awards stipulate that the recipient be an admitted full-time student who possesses a minimum grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, however, there are some exceptions as well as additional requirements.

Some of the Madonna University scholarships available for the 2000-2001 year include: Detroit Edison Foundation Endowed Scholarship, awarded to minority students pursuing science, especially prospective teachers in elementary schools; Mary Pitrope Richards Scholarship, awarded to junior or senior nursing students; William Randolph Hearst Scholarship, awarded to students in service-oriented degree programs; Charles and Patricia Derry Video Communications Scholarship, awarded to video communications majors; Bishop-Moses B. Anderson, SSE/Dr. Frank Hayden Scholarship, awarded to African students or American students of African heritage; Lion/Lioness Club Scholarship, awarded to hearing-impaired students; Livonia Jaycees Scholarship, awarded to junior or senior students; and the Joyce and Don Massey Scholarship. Madonna University awards associate's bachelor's and master's degrees.

Madonna registers

Madonna University's registration for the winter 2000 term is in progress now through Friday, Jan. 7, for new and returning students. Office hours will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and until 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, except for today when the office will close at 6 p.m.

All offices will be closed for Christmas, Dec. 24 to Jan. 3. For more information, call the Admissions Office at (734) 432-5339.

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Christmas spirit Even courts can't snuff it out

In Beatrice, Neb., this year, two elementary schools presented a holiday music program called "Celebrate the Seasons." A school official said the program, which makes reference to Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, fits a 1993 state mandate to bring multiculturalism into schools.

But three sets of parents have pulled their children out of the music program, claiming that it goes into detail about the origins of Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, but does not mention the religious origins of Christmas.

In Somerset, Mass., last year, the ACLU and the American Atheists Inc. sued the town over a display of a Nativity scene and a menorah on government property. This year the city surrounded the crèche and the menorah with an 18-foot-high Santa, two glow-in-the-dark reindeer and a flashing "Season's Greetings" sign.

They were relying on a 1984 Supreme Court decision that said such mixed displays were legal.

But earlier this month the officials were again asked to remove the crèche and the menorah — this time by a group of Catholic, Jewish and Protestant religious leaders who said surrounding those items with secular symbols produced "a mishmash that offends the substance to any one faith, and instead trivializes highly meaningful religious displays."

And in Cincinnati last year, a lawyer sued the federal government to keep it from enforcing a statute that declares Christmas a legal holiday and gives government employees the day off. He argued that the law violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment.

We are reminded, nostalgically perhaps, of two families we used to know — one Christian, one Jewish — who annually exchanged holiday cards in December. The cards — the "Season's Greetings" type of thing — symbolized a spirit of sharing and caring.

It was that spirit that prompted another Jewish family of our acquaintance to send a plate of potato latkes to their Christian neighbors during Hanukkah. The neighbors would respond with a plate of Christmas cookies and fruitcake.

Quite likely, that kind of thing — families sharing holiday good will despite different religious backgrounds — happens quite regularly in Wayne County. People are, after all, motivated by the spirit of their religious beliefs.

We recall a Hadassah chapter that used to

Then there were those members of a Jewish congregation who would take over a Christian soup kitchen on Christmas day, so the kitchen could stay in operation while the workers spent Christmas with their families.

set up a gift-wrapping booth inside a shopping mall every December — just steps away from the Salvation Army's red kettle station.

And then there were those members of a Jewish congregation who would take over a Christian soup kitchen on Christmas day, so the kitchen could stay in operation while the workers spent Christmas with their families.

Such acts epitomize the spirit of the season, not complaining that a Nativity scene or a menorah on government property "endorses" a particular religion, that surrounding such items with secular exhibits "trivializes" the religious symbols or that Congress violated the Constitution by giving government workers a Christmas holiday.

And speaking of the lawsuit — earlier this month a federal judge dismissed it. She prefaced her formal decision with a poem that, while it may not become a Christmas classic, seems to put this holiday bickering into perspective:

"The court will address Plaintiff's seasonal confusion/Erroneously believing Christmas/Merely a religious intrusion."

"Whatever the reason/Constitutional or other/Christmas is not/An act of Big Brother." "Christmas is about joy/And giving and sharing/It is about the child within us/It is mostly about caring!"

"One is never jailed/For not having a tree/For not going to church/For not spreading glee!"

"The court will uphold/Seemingly contradictory causes/Decreeing 'The Establishment', and 'Santa'/Both worthwhile 'Claus(es)'!"

"We are all better for Santa/The Easter Bunny too/And maybe the Great Pumpkin/To name just a few!"

"An extra day off/Is hardly high treason/It may be spent as you wish/Regardless of reason."

"The court having read/The lessons of 'Lynch'/Refuses to play/The role of the Grinch!"

"There is room in this country/And in all our hearts, too/For different convictions/And a day off, too!"

MEAP numbers are misleading

Michigan students did poorly on the statewide social studies test given last winter to fifth- and eighth-graders.

But before everyone runs off at the mouth about public schools' turning out underachieving students, let's be aware that, to paraphrase an Olds' advertising campaign, "this isn't your parents' test."

The test, which covered civics, economics, history, geography and decision-making skills, requires a much higher level of skills and critical thinking than may be expected of today's 10- and 14-year-olds.

This shouldn't be misconstrued as an apology for the public schools, only a recognition of the reality of what the Michigan Education Department is demanding of today's students. The Observer feels that most parents aren't aware of the new standards.

While the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests were initially designed nearly 30 years ago to identify individual students' weaknesses so they could be corrected, the results have long been used by private school proponents and real estate agents to compare one community with another and, if the scores are above average, to boast about that to make sure your home sells for big bucks to the next potential buyer.

First, let's take a closer look at the civics portion of the test.

Statewide figures for fifth-grade students show that just 1.7 percent exceeded the standards while 17 percent met them. In statewide eighth-grade figures, 4.8 percent exceeded the standards while 23 percent met them.

The State Education Department, which created and administered the test, said the state scores mirror national results on the same subjects. One problem was the students' unfamiliarity with the new test, the department said.

But one major flaw in the testing process was that local schools didn't know the general

The test requires a much higher level of skills and critical thinking than may be expected of today's 10- and 14-year-olds.

focus of the test in advance.

This doesn't mean local schools have to be given the specific test in advance, but let's be fair: If you're going to be tested for a specific skill, let's make sure the material generally is covered BEFORE the tests are given.

For example, how would a teen do in a driving road test BEFORE the teen had any actual training behind the wheel?

One area fifth-grade teacher who administered the test to her students last winter emphasized the complexity of the topics to be written about in essay form.

On one portion of the test, students were told that the local city council had banned roller skating at a city park and were instructed to use a specific democratic value and combine it with their own personal knowledge to compose a letter to the council either agreeing with or opposing the ban. The letter had to be written within a five-minute time frame, she said.

The tests list the core democratic values of liberty, pursuit of happiness, public or common good, justice, equality, diversity, truth, popular sovereignty and patriotism.

In the eighth-grade tests, students were given a sheet containing information they had to read before answering several multiple-choice questions. Many also required essay-type answers on topics such as the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and mandatory community service for junior high school students.

The Observer doubts that many educated adults who have been out of the classroom for 20 or 30 years would be successful on the social studies test.

Geoff Brooks



LETTERS

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your letters, and this is why we offer this space for your opinions. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity we ask that you provide a contact telephone number and if mailing or faxing a letter, please sign it. Letters can be mailed to: Tedd Schneider, Canton Editor, 794 South Main, Plymouth, MI 48170, faxed to Tedd at (734) 459-4224 or emailed to tschneider@homecomm.net

Band earned respect

I just got back from the National Championships with the P-CEP Marching Band. In Indianapolis, I realized and saw before me how much work it takes to get to the top.

The band got the title of number one in the nation. With day-long practices everyday starting in early August, and seven-hour practices everyday when school starts, I get tired just looking at my younger brother, who is on the drumline. Yes, I admit, at one time I was one of those people who had little respect for the band kids. And now I kick myself. Because of them, our school is nationally recognized and respected.

They work harder and longer than any of the sports teams (who, I may add, have barely made it past regionals), and they put up with all kinds of crap from other students. No matter what, they always hold their heads up high.

Number one in the nation, and they get booed at football games and pep rallies. Number one, and students with no respect actually have the nerve to wear T-shirts around the school with the slogan "P-CEP Marching Band: Number One in the Nation-Who Cares?" (I haven't seen a National Championship medal hanging around their neck.)

Number one, and the band members feel ashamed to wear a letter jacket with "Marching Band" written on the back. And for all the parents out there, arguing about whether or not the P-CEP Marching Band really deserves its title, do you honestly think you are setting yourselves as good role models for our generation?

Why can't you just be proud of the accomplishments of these students and how far they have come? This band is number one, and they have worked so hard for the title — don't you think these kids deserve a little bit more respect?

Months and months of practice have finally paid off, our school is known nationwide, and band members are still treated as if they are nothing to us. If you ever see pictures of our Grand National Championship Marching Band flash across your TV on the news, or even while you are driving if you hear them mentioned on your favorite radio station, don't change the station.

Think about how hard they have worked and come to a conclusion. For those of you who feel you are so much "cooler" than a band kid, ask yourself who is the better person — you in your jealousy or them in their strength?

Even if P-CEP hadn't been number one, I hope this band will someday get the respect they deserve, from adults and kids alike.

Katie McKinley
Plymouth Salem senior

Don't expand charters

The League of Women Voters recently completed a three-year study on charter schools in Michigan. We believe the Legislature should not lift its ban on the number of schools chartered by universities. The 150 charter schools already authorized are still an experiment and have not proven themselves to be beneficial to the public school system.

Collecting data to measure the effectiveness of the charter schools in Michigan has been extremely difficult. The public should have access to test scores, student and teacher turnover, evidence of teacher certification and the role of management companies.

The management companies hired by the chartering institutions are generally not community based and have a standard curriculum and organization for all of their schools, which could lead to a lessening of teacher and parental influence. In addition, compliance with policies and procedures set by our state Board of Education that other public schools must follow is not being monitored.

Should charter schools not have the same measures of accountability that other public schools adhere to?

We must give this experiment in education some additional time before we permit an expansion of the charter school program which has simply not proven itself to be the panacea so many were hoping it would be.

Paula E. Bowman
President, League of Women Voters-Livonia

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— Philip Power

Truancy bills come up short in placing blame on parents

Let's not make parents the enemy. Raising kids can be a tough job. They test boundaries. It's natural and normal for them to do so. I would argue that it's an integral part of growing up. How can you become an independent adult without occasionally pushing the limits?

So good parenting is a very fine line. One must set clear rules, enforce them consistently and fairly... and know when to give them up as the child grows in maturity and responsibility.

I raise the point because of a set of bills proposed by Rep. Gilda Jacobs (D-Nantington Woods) and Sen. Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township) to address school truancy.

Overall, it's a good package. The key provision is that it would allow a judge to suspend a youngster's drivers license for failing to attend school regularly. As Peters has pointed out, youngsters value the mobility that having that driver's license allows. Often they count it more highly than anything else the authorities could offer or take away.

The bills would also require parental notification if the child is absent three in 30 days, and would allow for court intervention if the child misses seven days in a month.

"Truancy is sometimes the first sign of a troubled child who may eventually experiment with drugs, crime and gangs, and wind up another juvenile crime statistic," Jacobs said.

The part that bothers me is that parents could be held to account for their youngsters' failure to show up in school. The bills allow for fines of \$500 or up to 90 days in jail for parents who fail to address the truancy problem.

And, yes, I admit there are some parents who deserve such a penalty. When the Wayne County prosecutor's office called parents into meetings about their kids' truancy, fewer than half even showed up.

But there seems to be a trend of targeting parents for their kids' misbehavior. Many communities now have host ordinances, which hold parents to account when their youngsters hold raucous parties in their homes. And it wasn't long ago that a Macomb County couple was prosecuted for failing to discipline their delinquent teenager.

But there are also more prohibitions in law about what parents can do to discipline youngsters.

As a child, I knew what would happen if I was caught skipping school. Dad had a razor strap reserved for taking care of just such



MIKE MALOTT

matters. I only got to see it once or twice in my entire childhood, and never when I didn't deserve it. But today, that would be child abuse. Keep in mind that we've seen several cases in which parents were charged for slapping their children in the face.

If you ask the authorities how far a parent can go in disciplining a youngster, you are likely to get a wide variety of answers. One judge I queried on the topic said that Michigan's domestic violence laws, which make it illegal for one member of a household to strike another, could be interpreted to prohibit spanking. But a state senator who was there for the debate on that law says it was never intended to outlaw physical discipline.

Another judge told me spanking is legal, as long as it is a swat or two on the rear or back of the legs, doesn't leave an injury, and is done with the hand rather than a paddle or strap.

When I asked a social worker the same thing, she said she refused to endorse spanking because too often child abuse begins as physical discipline.

Why such varied answers? Because the law does not clearly spell out what is legal, and what isn't when it comes to disciplining children.

Ope lawmaker told me it wasn't spelled out for a reason. They were afraid that whatever definition of physical discipline they put in law as allowable might be carried to an abusive extreme. They like it nebulous, he said, because they can bring a case when a parent seems to go overboard. Vague laws give police and prosecutors more discretion.

What was that I said about good parenting? It is about setting clear rules and enforcing them fairly. Perhaps lawmakers should apply the same standards to their rules about parenting... especially if they intend to hold parents accountable later for failing to discipline their kids.

Mike Malott reports on the local implications of state and regional events. He can be reached by phone at (248) 634-8219 or by e-mail at mmalott@homecomm.net.

Your letters are always welcome at this paper

Attentive readers of this column know that my regular practice is to solicit responses to it — delighted, outraged, whatever — either by phone or e-mail. I generally also ask permission from senders to have their reactions printed in the newspaper as letters to the editor.

I've always felt that letters to the editor are an essential, vital part of a home town paper. As a columnist, I consider it an obligation to print reader reactions to what I write. Moreover, running letters to the editor, especially if there is a heavy community issue up for debate, helps make the paper an open forum of community opinion.

So over the years I've tried to make sure our editors welcome letters to the editor and tell readers how best to submit them for publication. Our policy has been to print as many letters as we can, subject only to making sure that letters we receive are in fact written by the person who signs them and checking them for libel, slander and other considerations of good taste.

Imagine my surprise, then, at receiving a letter the other day unlike any I have received in my entire 35 years in this business.

"Apparently, the policy of your newspaper is to print all letters to the editor short of the use of blasphemy or false accusation..." I find it extremely unusual that any newspaper would print all letters to the editor. I am not aware of any other newspaper with this policy.

"My father used to write letters to the Bay City Times and Detroit Free Press and would occasionally have one printed. However, 80 percent of whatever he wrote ended up on the floor of the editor's office."

My correspondent is absolutely right. In most of the big city papers, something like 80 percent of the letters to the editor that are submitted wind up on the floor of the editor's office. That's one of the things that distinguishes a home town community newspaper like this one from our big city brethren.

As set out in our mission statement, one of our fundamental business purposes is to "nurture the communities we serve." As we understand it, nurturing a community involves doing everything we can to make the home towns we serve good places for folks to live. We consider our newspapers to be part of the community rather than standing apart, and so we feel that printing as many letters to the editor as we can helps the paper perform a useful function as a community forum.

But the letter I received went on to make another point.

"The problem that this (printing all letters received) causes is that community malcontents



PHILIP POWER

can be extremely abrasive and counterproductive to the operation of a city. It is very difficult to maintain staff morale when the newspaper continually allows the proliferation of personal attacks and insults to become weekly reading. ... I would think that the newspaper has some responsibility to limit the access of chronic complainers to the letters page."

I've got to admit here my correspondent has a point. In any community, there are always a handful of people who are regularly sore about one thing or another. Some people call them gadflies, others style them "community malcontents." Such people are often regular — some would say "obsessive" — letter writers, often repetitively on the same subject.

Here's where the nuanced understanding and judgment of a home town newspaper editor comes in. Most editors believe — rightly, in my view — that community gadflies may be a pain in the butt, but providing them a forum is an important aspect of nurturing a community. And most editors know there's a difference between a gadfly and a chronic troublemaker who has an ax to grind.

That's why we try regularly to print gadfly letters and to refrain from printing troublemaker letters that insult or slander individuals. A good home town editor knows the people involved and is in a position to make informed judgments about the kinds of letters that deserve publication and the kinds that do not.

Editors on big city papers simply cannot have that kind of intimate understanding of individual home towns and the folks who live there. That's why it's so satisfying to publish the kinds of newspapers we do. To nurture the home towns we serve.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net.

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Folks were chatting, singing and some were even dancing! A group was sitting-together in the lobby. A bingo game was going on and an exercise group was limbering up to the sounds of lively music. Laughter resounded throughout The Grand Court!

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Protect yourself against high charges on 900 calls

You will be billed for all calls you make to a 900 number.

900-number calls are never without charges. Over the last decade 900-number calls have grown into a worldwide multi-billion-dollar industry. So, before making this type of call, understand that:

■ There will be a charge - it is not a toll free call

■ There is no regulation of rates for such calls

■ Rates are set by the owners of the number and/or the information service you call.

Information services offer telephone callers the opportunity to obtain a wide variety of telephone programs that provide recorded or live information and entertainment. Chat lines, psychic advice, stock market updates, sports information, to name a few, are the types of information services available through 900 numbers. These services are valued by some consumers. Unfortunately, there are some telephone scams operating through 900 numbers and other information service numbers.

It doesn't matter who dialed the 900 number a minor, a guest or someone working in your home the call will be billed to the telephone number of a call's origination and the billed party will be responsible for paying the charges. These 900-number service providers are usually unable to verify authorization or the age of callers and are not required to do so. The rates they charge are not regulated by anyone!

How can you protect yourself from unwanted charges when calling a 900 number?

■ Be aware that charges are always incurred when you participate in a program offered through a 900 number, even if the 900 call was originally accessed through a toll free number. Listen to the introductory message and hang up promptly if you decide you are not interested in the service or do not want to pay the charges given. The introductory message must state that callers under 18 must obtain parental permission. Also, 900-number call providers are prohibited from advertising or marketing to children under 12 years old unless the services are educational in nature.

■ Do not confuse 900 numbers with 800, 888, or other toll free numbers. 900 numbers ARE NOT toll free. There is always a charge for a 900-number call.

■ Some deceptive advertisements urge consumers to call a 900 number by offering free gifts or prizes. Be wary of ads that don't provide much detail about what is offered or the cost. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true.

■ Consider having your local telephone company place a 900-number block on your telephone line if you do not want 900-number calls placed from your telephone. In Michigan, there is no charge for 900 blocking. By law, blocking must be offered by all telephone service providers in Michigan. Contact your local and long-distance telephone companies about the availability of blocks for international or toll calls.

(However, be aware that it may be possible to dial around blocks by dialing a regular long distance phone number, 800 access numbers, or an international toll number to another

country.) Blocks to international calls are available through your long-distance provider.

■ Review your telephone bills carefully each month. Keep in mind also that while calls to 900 numbers must be listed separately on your bill, calls to a service provider in a foreign country may not be designated as such. They frequently appear as a very expensive international or calling card call.

Who can help you with a com-

plaint?

First, you should attempt to resolve your dispute directly with the telephone company, information provider, or billing entity. Follow up all conversations with the provider in writing and keep a copy for your records. 900-number charges are almost never the result of tampering or equipment malfunction and, in any case, proving anything of this nature is extremely difficult.

■ Your local telephone company is under no obligation to remove charges where tampering or equipment malfunction is only suspected or when it is difficult for you to accept that someone in your family made the call.

■ The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has no authority to order 900-number charges removed from a telephone bill.

Local telephone companies can revert charges back to the origi-

nator of the 900 service, although this does not prevent the originator from taking direct collection action against the customer. Also, your local telephone service cannot be terminated for non-payment of 900-number charges; however, account balances may be referred to a collection agency. If you are unsuccessful in resolving a 900-number call dispute, contact:

Federal Communications Com-

mission Michigan Public-Service Commission Enforcement Bureau Communications/Service Quality Section Consumer Complaints 6545 Mercantile Way Mail Stop 1600A2 Lansing, MI 48909 or Michigan Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division, P.O. Box 30213, Lansing, MI 48909, www.ag.state.mi.us (Describe the problem and send a copy of the bill)

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Essays sought on improving voter turnout

(PRNewswire) - Wayne County Commissioner George Cushingberry announced recently the kick-off of his annual civic literacy scholarship contest for high school and college students. Participants must write a two-page essay and submit their entries by the March 17, 2000 deadline.

The topic for the 2000 contest is "How Can the Races Work Together to Improve Voter Turnout?" - challenges students to examine participation by different ethnic groups. Entries must contain a bibliography and two full pages of double-spaced text in a font no larger than 12 point. The contest is open to students in the area served by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

Students can contact Commissioner Cushingberry for more information at 313-224-0942.



*Original prices reflect offering prices which may not have resulted in actual sales. Percentages off represent savings on original prices. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken on original prices. Reductions on original priced merchandise effective until stock is depleted. Selection of clearance items varies by store. Clearance includes selected styles only and is limited to stock on hand. Does not include entire line. Cannot be applied to prior purchases. Jewelry available only at JCPenney stores with Fine Jewelry Dept.



JACK GLADDEN

Christmas dinner with a Y2K twist

It was to be the Christmas dinner of the millennium, but The Feminist got bitten by a Y2K bug.

"It's perfect," she said. "We always do a theme dinner for Christmas. This year it can be the millennium. We can have one dish that was popular in each decade. We just have to do some research."

"Uh-huh," I said. I was tangled up in a string of Christmas lights and not paying much attention. "I'll get on the Internet and see what I can find."

I found some Web sites, and she brought home half-a-dozen books from the library.

"What about deviled eggs?" she said. "According to 'American Dish,' they were popular in the 1900s."

"There's a problem," I said, finally starting to pay attention. "The millennium doesn't really begin until 2001. Never mind what you read in the newspapers; 2000 is the last year of the old millennium."

After some discussion about decades, centuries, millennia and the Gregorian calendar, she said, "Rats! I guess we can't do this until next year."

"Besides," I said, "you only went back to the beginning of the century. You have to go back 1,000 years for the millennium."

■ **For breakfast, we'll have Eggs Benedict. They're from the '20s. And Oatmeal Porridge from the '40s. And from the '30s, we're having Waldorf Salad. We'll have California Dip, a cheese ball and pigs in a blanket from the '50s.'**

"Never mind," she said. "We'll go with my original plan. We'll just call it the Almost-End-of-the-Century Dinner."

"Whatever you say. So what are we having besides deviled eggs?"

"O.K. We'll start with vichyssoise, that was invented in

1917."

"That's cold potato soup."

"It's cold potato and leek soup with heavy cream. It's delicious."

"If you say so. What else?"

"For breakfast, we'll have Eggs Benedict. They're from the '20s. And Oatmeal Porridge from the '40s. And from the '30s, we're having Waldorf Salad. We'll have California Dip, a cheese ball and pigs in a blanket from the '50s."

"A cheese ball?"

"They were very popular. And the entrée comes from the '60s, Beef Wellington. We'll have Mimosas from the '70s, frittata from the '80s, Tiramisu and Mocha Mudslides from the '90s."

"Mocha Mudslides?"

"It's a cocktail. Sort of like a Black Russian. Oh, and we're having daiquiris. They were popular from 1910 to 1919."

"Now there's an idea!"

"What?"

"Next year. For your millennium celebration. Forget Christmas. We'll have a New Year's Eve Party. With one drink from each decade of the millennium. Now that's my idea of a celebration."

"Dear ..."

"No, really. We know they had wine even before the first millennium. I wonder when Scotch was invented ..."

Jack Gladden is a copy editor at The Observer. He lives in Canton Township.

Stars, mistletoe, evergreens and holly ... Their mere mention evokes thoughts of Christmas.

Stars top Christmas trees; mistletoe hangs in archways. And what would wreaths and roping be without evergreens and sprigs of holly. However, the origins of the symbols come wrapped in myth and legend.

To most Christians, the Christmas star is symbolic of Jesus, but ancient people looked on stars as gods and created myths about them.

Stars held importance in ancient religions. The Babylonians used three stars to represent a god. The Egyptians believed that certain gods controlled different stars and constellations.

However, the five-pointed star of Christmas holds center stage. Its appearance is recorded in the New Testament, which says it appeared over Bethlehem and served as a guiding light to lead the wise men to the Christ Child.

The stars that appear in the sky today are the same ones that were there 2,000 years ago. Which raises the question: Was there a nova at the time of Jesus' birth? The exact time of His birth is not known, but astronomers can't place a new star appearance anywhere near the possible time.

Could it have been a shooting star? Again, astronomers say it's not likely. A meteor lasts only a few seconds or minutes at best. The wise men followed the star for weeks, looking for Jesus.

And rule out comets as well. They can be seen by the naked eye for a week or months. But modern astronomers know which comets were close enough to Earth hundreds and thousands of years ago. There was, they say, no comet visible to humans around the time of Christ's birth.

Some star gazers suggest that if the birth of Jesus is moved to the spring of 6 B.C., the star can be attributed to the time the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were close together in the heavens. They formed a triangle in the group of stars known as Pisces.

The wise men were astrologers and studied the stars and planets and knew, according to Jewish rabbis, of the triangle and that it had appeared before the birth of Moses.

Perhaps they interpreted it as a sign of a great event in the land of

Yule's symbols have origins in myth, legend

the Jewish people. It may have been the star of Bethlehem. Pisces became the special constellation of the Hebrew people.

Still, many people prefer to believe that the strange star did appear and that it was simply a miracle, and throughout the world today, the Christian holiday has usually begun with the appearance of the first star of Christmas Eve.

Sacred plant of Frigga

Mistletoe is an aerial parasite that has no roots of its own and lives off the tree it attaches itself to. It was thought by the ancient Europeans to be sacred.

Druid priests employed it in their sacrifices to the gods while Celtic people felt it possessed miraculous healing powers. In fact, in the Celtic language, mistletoe means "all-heal."

The belief was that it not only cured diseases, but could also render poisons harmless, make humans and animals prolific, keep one safe from witchcraft, protect the house from ghosts and even make spirits speak.

With all that, it was thought to bring good luck to anyone privileged to have it.

A Norse myth says that mistletoe was the sacred plant of Frigga, goddess of love and the mother of Balder, the god of the summer sun. Balder had a dream of death which alarmed his mother, for should he die, all life on earth would end.

In an attempt to keep this from happening, Frigga went at once to air, fire, water, earth and every animal and plant, seeking a promise that no harm would come to her son.

But Balder's one enemy, Loki, god of evil, knew of one plant Frigga had overlooked that grew on apple and oak trees — the lowly mistletoe.

So Loki made an arrow tip of the mistletoe, gave it to the blind god of winter, Hoder, who shot it, striking Balder dead. The sky paled and all things in earth and heaven wept for the sun god. Each element tried to bring Balder back to life, but he was finally restored by Frigga.

It is said the tears she shed turned into the pearly white berries on the

plant and in her joy, Frigga kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree on which it grew.

The story ends with a decree that no harm should befall anyone who stands under mistletoe, only a kiss, a token of love.

Evergreens were a part of mid-winter festivals long before Christ. They played a symbolic part because they stayed green and alive when other plants appeared dead.

Primitive European tribes hung evergreens above their doors to offer the wandering winter spirits shelter within their homes in hopes of receiving good fortune and good health.

The Romans decorated their homes with the greens at the Festival of Saturnalia and at the Kalends of January, their New Year. They exchanged evergreen branches with friends as a sign of good luck. The Druids viewed evergreens as sacred, a symbol of life itself.

As for holly, the Druids believed it, with its shiny leaves and red berries, stayed green to keep the earth beautiful when the sacred oak lost its leaves. They wore sprigs of holly in their hair when they went into the forest to watch their priests cut the sacred mistletoe.

Holly also was the sacred plant of Saturn and was used at the Roman Saturnalia festival to honor him. Romans gave one another holly wreaths and carried them about decorating images of Saturn with it.

Centuries later, in December, while other Romans continued their pagan worship, Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus. To avoid persecution, they decked their homes with Saturnalia holly.

As Christian numbers increased and their customs prevailed, holly lost its pagan association and became a symbol of Christmas. The plant has come to stand for peace and joy. People often settle arguments under a holly tree.

Holly is believed to frighten off witches and protect the home from thunder and lightning. In west England, it is said sprigs of holly around a young girl's bed on Christmas Eve are supposed to keep away mischievous little goblins.

So when Christmas came about, people incorporated, rather than dismissed, many of the practices as Christmas customs. Of course, that was done only if the activities and items were considered harmless and lent themselves to a Christian interpretation.

Oh, Chrismon tree: The Rev. Luther Werth, pastor of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, looks at the new Christmas tree in church's sanctuary.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Christians celebrate 'most wonderful night'

The Christmas tree is by far the most familiar symbol of the Christmas celebration.

The custom of a Christmas tree — undecorated — is believed to have begun in Germany in the early 700s, and by the 16th century, fir trees were decorated to commemorate Christmas there.

It is a widely held belief that the 16th century Protestant reformer Martin Luther was the first to add lighted candles to the Christmas tree.

Walking toward his home one evening, while composing a sermon, Luther was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling among the evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room of the house and wired its branches with lighted candles.

The tree Martin Luther created for his family has a prominent place in homes and churches today. And at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia and Canton, the main Christmas trees this year will be decorated with Chrismon (ornaments displaying the Christian symbols) and lights.

The decorations remind church-goers of

the light and eternal life God promised to give through the gift of his Son, Jesus, born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

To celebrate, Christ Our Savior-Canton will have a family service at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the church, 46001 Warren Road. Featured will be music by the Singers of the Spirit, Canton's Voice and instruments.

The 7 p.m. Christmas Eve family service at Christ Our Savior-Livonia, 4175 Farmington Road, will feature the Cherub and Chorister's choirs and a special children's message. At the 11 p.m. candlelight service, worshippers will be given votive candles to raise, during the singing of "Silent Night."

The Choir of Christ Our Savior, Jubilation Handbell Choir and instrumentalists will present the Christmas story through song, scripture and prayer. A pre-service concert of organ and handbell music will begin at 10:30 p.m.

A festive service with communion will be held at the Livonia site at 10 a.m. Christmas Day, Dec. 25, will feature uplifting music with choir and instrumen-

Please see SERVICES, B2

Religious News

Clarenceville United Methodist Church will have a New Year's Eve youth event 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 at the church, 20300 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 474-3444.

NEW YEAR'S SERVICES

St. Matthew Lutheran Church will have a service with Communion at 7 p.m. New Year's Eve at the church, 5885 Venoy Road, Westland. The church also will have one service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 2. For more information, call (734) 425-0260.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church-Livonia will have a millennium New Year's Eve service at 7 p.m. at the church, 14175 Farmington Road. The biblical message will

proclaim eternal hope for people as they enter the next millennium.

St. James Presbyterian Church will have a worship service and celebration at 10:30 p.m. New Year's Eve at the church, 25550 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will have a worship service at 6 p.m. New Year's Eve at the church, 26212 W. Six Mile Road at Kinloch, Redford. For more information, call (313) 537-3778.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will have a service with Holy Communion at 6 p.m. New Year's Eve at the church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-0211.

Risen Christ Lutheran Church will have New Year's Eve worship at 7 p.m. at the church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-5252.

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church will have services at 7 p.m. New Year's Eve and 10 a.m. New Year's Day. For more information, call the church at (313) 532-8655.

Resurrection Catholic Church will have Mass at 4:30 p.m. New Year's Eve at the church, 48755 Warren Road, Canton. New Year's Sunday Masses on Jan. 2 will be at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. For more information, call the church at (734) 451-0444.

St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church will have a holy hour at 11 p.m. New Year's Eve and Masses at midnight and 9:30 a.m. New Year's Day at the church, 23310 Joy Road, Redford. For more information, call the church at (313) 534-2121.

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

Newburg United Methodist Church will have an informal party, beginning at 9 p.m., New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, at the church 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Participants are asked to bring a favorite game, snack and beverage.

At 11:30 p.m., a service of Holy Communion and prayer will be held in the sanctuary. People need not participate in the party to attend the service. For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-0149.

SPECIAL SERVICE

Lola Park Lutheran Church will kick off the New Year with a special worship and praise service at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, at the church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford.

A brunch will follow at 11 a.m. in the church hall. Television sets will be available to catch the New Year's parades or early football games. For more information or reservations for brunch, call the church office at (313) 532-8655.

Lola Park Lutheran is celebrating its 55th anniversary in the year 2000.

WESLEY SERVICE

The First United Methodist Church at 6443 Merriman Road, Garden City, will worship with a

Services from page B1

talists.

There will be a family celebration with carols and candlelighting at 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The Cherub, Children's and chorists choirs will perform and child care will be provided.

At 8:30 p.m., there will be carols, candlelighting and communion, with the Rev. Melanie Lee Carey preaching. The Youth Choir and Cantabile Bells will perform and the youths will present the drama, "After the Pageant."

The 11 p.m. service, "A Time to Ponder," will have candlelighting and communion. The Rev. Thomas Badley will preach and the Chancel Choir will perform.

Badley also will preach at the 10 a.m. worship service, "A Perfect Time to Lose Our Baggage," on Christmas Sunday, Dec. 26.

The family-oriented service will feature the drama, "A String of Blue Beads." Child care for children-up to age 3 will be available. For more information, call (734) 422-0149.

Canton Friendship Church will have two services at 6 and 8 p.m. Christmas Eve. The services will be held at Canton Free Methodist Church on Cherry Hill Road east of Canton Center Road. For more information, call (734) 451-2100 or visit the Web site at www.cantonfriendship.org.

Lake Pointe Bible Chapel will have its Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. at the church, 42150 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 420-0515.

St. Michael Lutheran Church will have family worship at 7 p.m., worship with communion at 9 p.m. and a candlelight service with communion at 11 p.m. Christmas Eve at the church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton. Christmas Day the worship with communion will take place at 10 a.m. For more information, call (734) 459-3333.

New Life Lutheran Church will have services at 4 and 11 p.m. Christmas Eve at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road, Canton. A new congregation, it temporarily worships at 10-15 a.m. Sundays at Bird Elementary School, Sheldon Road at Ann Arbor Trail. For more information, call (734) 459-8181.

Trinity Presbyterian Church's Christmas Eve services, "The Most Wonderful Night of the Year" with Dr. William Moore preaching, will include family celebrations at 8:30 and 6:15 p.m., a celebration

Hill Road east of Canton Center Road. For more information, call (734) 451-2100 or visit the Web site at www.cantonfriendship.org.

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Resource center hosts divorce support group

The Women's Resource Center of Schoolcraft College is sponsoring a divorce support group that meets Tuesdays in Room 225 of the McDowell Center.

The discussion group the second Tuesday of the month is run by Cynthia Koppin, a professional counselor. The speaker sessions take place the fourth Tuesday.

On Jan. 25, participants will learn about the legal aspects of divorce from attorney Theodore Johnson.

Certified financial planner, Elizabeth Allen will provide a guide to handling finances and planning a future following divorce or separation on Feb. 22.

Ellen Slutsky, a clinical psychologist will focus her March 28 presentation on helping divorcing individuals develop more self confidence.

Attorneys Barbara Watry and Mary Ann Mercieca will provide an overview of the divorce process. Participants will learn about such things as property settlements, custody, child support, visitation andimony.

There is no fee to attend the divorce support group and registration isn't required.

For more information, call the Women's Resource Center at (734) 462-4443. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

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For Church Page Changes, Please Call Jean Etherington (734) 453-2160 THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION

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8:00 Prayer & Praise Service
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Sunday - WYUR 1310 AM

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Sunday School for All Ages 9:30 a.m.
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<http://www.undul.com/~sttimothy>

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Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
9601 Hubbard St. W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
(734) 422-0494
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4600 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1528
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship: Wed. 7:00 p.m.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN: 450-3196

UNITED METHODIST

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST
10000 Six Mile Rd. • Livonia • 734-453-2160
Rev. Donal Lintner, Pastor
10:00 a.m. Worship & Church School
11:15 a.m. Adult Study Classes
Nursery Provided
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Office hrs. 9-5

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd., Redford
474-3444
Rev. Donal Lintner
Worship Services 10:15 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Nursery Provided
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Office hrs. 9-5

"Building Healthy Families..."
9:00 & 11:00 a.m. - "Connections"
4:30 p.m. - "Connections"
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First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
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NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Stephen Ministry Congregation
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
422-0149
Worship Services
10:30 a.m.
Advent Series
Bethlehem Bound

"The Perfect Time to Lose Our Baggage"
Rev. Thomas G. Badley
Rev. Edward C. Coffey
Visit our website: www.losingbaggage.org

Wesley Communion service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 2. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-8628.

TAI CHI CLASSES
The Taoist Tai Chi Society, a non-profit organization, is forming new beginner Tai Chi classes, starting Monday, Jan. 3, at 38121 Ann Arbor Road, Livonia. St. Paul United Methodist Church in Bloomfield and Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. Observers welcome. For more information, call the Taoist Tai Chi Society at (248) 332-1281. Tai Chi is a complete and integrated exercise which works all of the body's systems deeply and gently, making it an exercise suitable for persons of all ages and conditions of health.

NEW BEGINNINGS
The topic for the Thursday, Jan. 6, meeting of New Beginnings, a grief support group, will be "Moving On." The group will meet at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, east of Merriman, Livonia. The program is for people suffering as the result of the death of a loved one. There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

BAPTIST

BETHEL BAPTIST TEMPLE
29475 W. Six Mile, Livonia
734-525-3664
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Family Hour 7:15 p.m.

October 31st
11:00 a.m. Dr. Richard Freeman
6:00 p.m. Dr. Richard Freeman
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Virgil Humes, Pastor
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Wednesday Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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Sunday School 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Blue & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Pastor John W. Meyer • 474-0675

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9630 Levee • St. Redford • 313-937-2424
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Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.
Christian School: Kindergarten-6th Grade
313-937-2233

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5415 Merriman • Livonia
Sunday Morning Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
School for Children 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Church & School Office: (734) 422-8930

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
17810 Farmington Road • Livonia • (734) 261-1300
May thru October • Monday Night Service • 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School & Bible Classes for All Ages 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Pastor James Wolf
Pastor Eric Stenroos

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Plymouth • 453-0320
Rev. John J. Sullivan
Mass: Mon. Wed. Fri. 7:00 a.m. • Sat. 1:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. Life Teen Mass

CONGREGATIONAL

Mt. Hope Congregational Church
3035 Schoolcraft • Livonia • 734-425-7280
(Between Middlebelt & Merriman)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Nursery Care Available
"The Church You've Always Longed For"

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
48755 Warren Rd. • Canton, Michigan 48187
451-0444
REV. RICHARD A. FRETTO
Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1180 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Wed. Evening Service Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Reading Room 4455 Warren, Plymouth
Meeting Friday 10:30 a.m. • 1:30 p.m.
Sundays 10:30 a.m. • 2:30 p.m. • Thursday 7:00 p.m.

453-1676

St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church & School
29015 Jamieson Ave. • Livonia
East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Schoolcraft
MASS: Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat. 9:00 a.m.
Sun. 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
734-427-5220

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
14 Mile Road and Exeter, Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191
Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional
Sunday School for all ages
Wednesday Supper (6:00 p.m.)
& Programs for All-Ages
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
15360 Hubbard Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154
421-8451
Mon. 9:30 a.m. • Wed. 9:30 a.m. • Holy Eucharist
Dinner & Classes
Sunday 9:00 a.m. • Holy Eucharist
Sunday 7:45 & 10 a.m. • Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
Sunday Morning • Nursery Care Available
The Rev. Robert Clapp, Rector

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
2911 E. SPRING ST.
2 Blocks N. of Main • 2 Blocks E. of 6th
SUNDAY
Bible School 10:30 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
(Nursery Provided in B.R.)
Pastor: Eugene Henson • (734) 453-0323

Agapé Family Worship Center
"A PRACTICAL CHURCH ON THE MOVE"
45081 Gables Road, Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-0357
New Service Times
Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday • Family Night • 7:00 p.m.
Agapé Christian Academy • K through 12

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

AAU hoop tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats have a series of tryouts coming up for their various girls basketball teams when the new year arrives.

Jan. 3: 11-and-under ('88), 6:30 p.m. at Tonsie Elementary; 12-and-under ('87), 7:30 p.m. at Tonsie Elementary; 13-and-under ('86), 8:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School.

Jan. 4: 14-and-under ('85) and 15-and-under ('86), 6:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School; 16-and-under ('83), 17-and-under ('82) and 18-and-under ('81), 7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School.

Jan. 5: 11-and-under ('88), 12-and-under ('87), 8:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School; 13-and-under ('86), 7:30 p.m. at West Middle School.

Jan. 7: 16-and-under ('83), 17-and-under ('82), 18-and-under ('81), 6:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School; 14-and-under ('85), 15-and-under ('84), 7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School.

For further information, call Bob Blohm at (734) 414-8156 or Fred Thomann at (734) 484-7746.

Hockey leagues

A new over-50 hockey league, to be called "The Silver Sticks Hockey League," is now forming. Games will be played Tuesday mornings at the Arctic Pond Ice Arena in Plymouth. There will be free coffee and doughnuts after all the games. The season starts Jan. 18 and will last 10 games plus the playoffs.

Cost is \$165 per player. To register, call John Wilson at (248) 471-0658, or e-mail him at john@espi.net.

"Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 3605 Scholers, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (734) 591-7279.

Chiefs win own Invite

This much is for certain: Plymouth Canton's wrestlers weren't about to have another 15-year losing streak between tournament victories.

That's how long coach John Demick believed it had been since the Chiefs won their last tournament. The streak ended Dec. 4 at the Falcon Invitational, hosted by Sterling Heights Henry Ford II.

Last Saturday at the nine-team Canton Invitational, the Chiefs made certain opponents understood this was no one-time wonder of a team by winning the title, the first time they've ever done that.

Indeed, last year's third place was the best Canton had ever done at its own invitational.

"This is the first time we've won the Canton Invitational," Demick said. "We're happy about it, obviously."

The Chiefs scored 270 points to easily outdistance runner-up Garden City (227). In third was Dearborn Fordson (205), followed by Ann Arbor Huron (187) and Ann Arbor Pioneer (181.5).

Asked about his team's success, Demick replied, "I get asked about this a lot lately."

"I keep finding myself saying

Whalers sweep Otters



It shaping up like a happy holiday — at least for the Plymouth Whalers.

The Whalers traveled to the Erie Otters last weekend for a pair of Ontario Hockey League games. Such trips in the past have been roads to disaster, but this one wasn't.

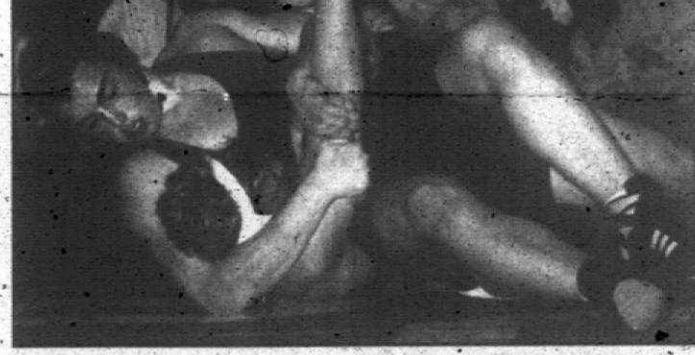
The Whalers used fast starts in both games to walk away with a pair of wins, beating the Otters 6-4 Friday and 4-3 Saturday.

The two wins pushed Plymouth's record to 18-4-3 (40 points), good for third place in the OHL's West Division. The

WRESTLING

While true, Demick added another element of Canton's success is that many of the wrestlers have also found a spiritual lift through prayer.

"We always meet together for a brief pep talk with the coaches before we wrestle at dual meets, and tournaments," the Canton coach said. "The boys just decided before our first meet to come together."



Top gun: Four pins in four matches earned Canton's Phil Rothwell the outstanding wrestler award.



Windsor Spitfires and Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds are tied for first in the West with 46 points.

Erie remained in second place in the OHL's Midwest Division with a 15-16-1 record (32 points).

Rob Zepp backstopped both wins for the Whalers, making 31 saves in Friday's win and 20 more on Saturday. Adam Munroe started in goal in both games for Erie.

On Friday, Plymouth almost let a 4-1 lead after one period get away. Stephen Weiss and Tomas Kurka put the Whalers up 2-0 with 11:34 of the first period elapsed; after Erie's Michael Rupp narrowed the gap to 2-1 with 4:02 left in the first, George Nittas and Eric Gooldy pushed

Still on top Salem finishes 1st, Canton 3rd at WLAA Relays

By C.J. RISAK
Sports Editor
cjrisk@oe.homedom.net

For years, Plymouth Salem's boys swim team always seemed to find a way to lose at the beginning of the season, then regroup to win at the end.

The Rocks have won seven-straight championships in the Western Lakes Activities Association, but prior to last year they had not managed to win many of the WLAA's season-opening relays meet, which they host.

"We always seemed to do something, get DQed or someone else would swim really, really well," said Salem coach Chuck Olson.

Last year, the Rocks finally won both ends, taking the WLAA Relays meet to start the season and the WLAA Championship meet to end it.

This year, they're halfway to doing it again. Salem won the Relays again, edging Livonia Stevenson, Plymouth Canton and North Farmington, for the title.

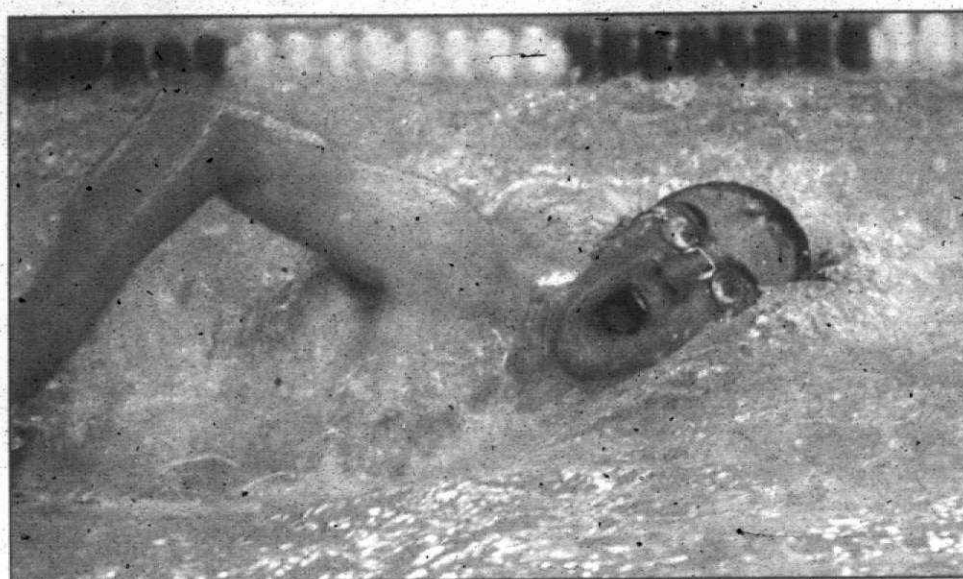
Salem scored 249 points to Stevenson's 235; Canton was third with 207 and North Farmington was fourth with 203.

Northville placed fifth (189), followed by Farmington/Farmington Harrison (156), Walled Lake (148), Livonia Churchil (116), Livonia Franklin (70) and Westland John Glenn (64).

"It was a lot of fun, a good meet, well-contested," said Olson. "Steven's good — they got our attention."

The Rocks won because they didn't do anything to beat themselves, according to Olson. "We didn't load up on anything," he said. "We just swam real solid."

Olson marks performances by Salem swimmers that are impressive with stars, and in this meet he gave out a bunch. "I gave a lot of stars away, probably more than I ever gave out in a relays meet before," he said.



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY JACOBS

"Some of the kids had a significant improvement (from last Thursday's dual meet against Ann Arbor Huron), which showed me something."

The Rocks won two relays, while Stevenson finished first in four. Salem's wins came from Eric Lynn, Aaron Shelton, Ben Dzialo and Brian Mertens in the 400-yard medley relay (3:56.11), and from Dave Woodard, Ryan Kappler, Dan Jones and Mike Johnson in the 200 freestyle relay (1:35.49).

The Spartans were first in the 400 free relay, with Jeff Darby, Brad Buckler, Justin Ketterer and Joe Bublitz (3:29.32); in the 200 breaststroke relay, with Kevin D'Allesandro, Mike Nemer, Kevin VanTiem and Eric Dabkowski (2:04.52); in the 200 butterfly relay, with Pate Rodemeyer, Geoff Lowe; Rob Cambridge and Brandon Truscott (1:47.47); and in the 200 medley relay, with Bublitz, Nemer, Truscott and Buckler (1:43.60).

Northville also had two wins, from Derek Ohlgren, Dave Whitbeck, Anthony Serge and Scott Whitbeck in the 200 backstroke relay (1:48.73), and from Kevin Stuart, John Moors, Scott Whitbeck and Dave Whitbeck in the 500 free relay (4:31.27).

North Farmington's Craig Paske, John Kern, Adam Farber and Jim Gabriel were winners in the 400 medley relay (4:04.11), and Walled Lake's Chris Gawronski and Steve Zerber were first in the diving relay (3:20.65 points).

The difference, of course, was that Salem finished second five times and third twice. Only in the diving relay were the Rocks out of the top three.

Top performances:
One of Salem's first-place finishes came in the 200-yard freestyle relay, Ryan Kappler (left) was a part of the winning team. Canton placed second in the 200 breaststroke relay, with Dennis Speck (below) anchoring.



SC falls to top-ranked Owens

The strategy for Schoolcraft College going into last Saturday's men's basketball game at Owens Community College was clearcut: Give yourself a chance to win.

"I thought (Owens) was a good team, they're well coached and they play hard," said SC coach Carlos Briggs. "But we just didn't do the things we needed to do to beat a ranked team on the road."

"We told the guys going into this game, if you're going to win in their gym, you must not turn the ball over and you have to make your free throws."

The Ocelots didn't do either one in the first half, which is why they trailed by 13 at the intermission — a deficit too big to overcome against the top-ranked team in the NJCAA Division II. The final outcome was 80-59 in favor of Owens, which improved to 12-0. SC fell to 6-4.

"The effort was there, which was pleasing to see," said Briggs. "But on the road, you want to give yourself a chance to win it at the end, and we didn't."

The Ocelots committed 13 turnovers in the first half and were just 10-of-22 from the free-throw line, two big reasons Owens led 37-24. SC managed to trim that to 59-52 with eight minutes left in the game, but that was as close as it got.

Robert Brown led the Ocelots with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Lamar Bigby added 13 points and six boards; and Quentin Mitchell had 12 points.

Owens was led by Joe Shepherd with 16 points. Deandre Bell added 15 and Rodney

COLLEGE HOOPS

Hughes scored 11.

SC finished the game with 23 turnovers (Owens had 18). The Ocelots made 20-of-33 free throws (60 percent) compared to Owens' 24-of-33 (72 percent), and from three-point range SC was just 1-of-13 (7.7 percent) while Owens hit 6-of-14 (42.8 percent).

The Ocelots are now idle until Jan. 3, when they visit Macomb CC.

Crusaders stumble twice

If Madonna University could just overcome this slow-start malady, it might add a few more Ws to its total.

Last weekend's trip to the Kalamazoo College Tournament provides a perfect example. In the first half of both their games, the Fighting Crusaders fell behind by substantial margins — they trailed Kalamazoo by 17 at halftime Friday and Huntington by 11 at the half on Saturday.

Madonna rallied in the second half both times, but couldn't make up the deficit. The Crusaders lost to Kalamazoo 88-80 and to Huntington 88-87.

The two losses dropped Madonna to 2-14 overall. Again, the team was without Mike Massey, who is under suspension for disciplinary reasons until Jan. 2.

Massey, a sophomore guard, led Madonna in scoring last season. It was the third, straight game he has missed.

Against Kalamazoo, the Crusaders trailed 39-22 at the half — in part due to the Hornets pinpoint shooting from the perimeter. They made 8-of-17 three-point shots in the first half compared to Madonna's 1-of-8.

Dan Kurtinaitis had a solid offensive game, connecting on 5-of-6 from the field and 6-of-7 from the free-throw line to score 16 points. He also had five assists and two steals, but he committed eight turnovers.

Chad Putnam (from Redford Thurston) contributed 12 points, and Josh Jensen and Jordan Garrison added nine apiece.

Kalamazoo got 16 points from Brad Phillips, 13 from B.J. Ford and 11 apiece from Dirk Rhinehart and Steve Thwaites.

Poor shooting, particularly from three-point range, plagued Madonna again. Huntington hit 4-of-13 triples in the first half, while the Crusaders made just 1-of-7.

Rebounding and turnovers also hurt Madonna. The Foresters enjoyed a 40-30 edge on the boards and had 15 turnovers compared to 30 for the Crusaders.

Kurtinaitis, 15 points topped Madonna; he also had six assists, three steals — and eight turnovers. Aaron Cox added 13 points and six rebounds, Garrison had 12 points and Jensen scored 11.

Huntington got 16 points from Gabe LaGrange, 15 points from Joe Gaff, 14 from David Porter, 12 from Brett Snodgrass and 10 from Andy Kurzen.

Madonna is now idle until Jan. 5, when it hosts Concordia College.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

SEASON/DATES

DEER
The late archery season runs through Jan. 2 statewide. A late antlerless-only firearms season will be Dec. 18-Jan. 2 on private and public land in Deer Management Unit 452. A late antlerless-only firearms season will also be Dec. 18-Jan. 2 on most private land in the Lower Peninsula.

GROUSE
A special late grouse season runs through Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

RABBIT
Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

SQUIRREL
Squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

ARCHERY
LIVONIA RANGE
The Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane and is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Avenue, east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for more information.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS
A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. the first Saturday in November at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 855-2110 for more information.

ROD BUILDING
Hook Line & Sinker bait shop in Lake Orion will hold fishing rod building classes every Wednesday and Thursday until the beginning of ice fishing season. Call (248) 814-9216 for more information.

FLY TYING
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FLY TYING
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MORE FLY TYING
River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tiers. Classes will be held at various times. For more information and to register call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

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WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION SWIM RELAYS RESULTS

WLA SWIM RELAYS
Dec. 18 at Plymouth Salem
Final team standings: 1. Plymouth Salem, 249; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 235; 3. Plymouth Canton, 207; 4. North Farmington, 203; 5. Northville, 189; 6. Farmington Harrison, 156; 7. Walled Lake Unified, 148; 8. Livonia Churchill, 116; 9. Livonia Franklin, 70; 10. Westland John Glenn, 64.

400-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Eric Linn, Aaron Shelton, Ben Dzialo, Brian Mertens), 3:56.11; 2. North Farmington (Jim Gabriel, Jon Zaid, Adam Farber, Brandon Digia), 3:57.85; 3. Canton, 3:58.33; 4. Stevenson, 4:09.47; 5. Northville, 4:14.84; 6. John Glenn, 4:25.19; 7. Walled Lake, 4:38.28; 8. Harrison, 4:51.80. (Franklin, Churchill DQ).

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Jeff Darby, Brad Buckler, Justin Ketterer, Joe Bublitz), 3:29.89; 2. Salem (Dan Jones, Mark Witthoff, Jim Ross, Ryan Kappler), 3:30.57; 3. North Farmington, 3:47.26; 4. Churchill, 3:53.83; 5. Canton, 4:02.87; 6. Harrison, 4:04.44; 7. Walled Lake, 4:06.88; 8. Franklin, 4:14.49; 9. Northville, 4:14.84; 10. John Glenn, 4:37.54.

200 breaststroke relay: 1. Stevenson (Kevin Dalessandro, Mike Nemer, Kevin VanTiem, Eric Dabrowski), 2:04.52; 2. Canton (Jon Heiss, Matt Schacht, Ed Lindow, Dennis Speck), 2:05.82; 3. Salem, 2:08.83; 4. Northville, 2:10.46; 5. Walled Lake, 2:11.08; 6. North Farmington, 2:11.51; 7. Churchill, 2:16.95; 8. Harrison, 2:28.51; 9. Franklin, 3:05.93. (John Glenn DQ).

200 backstroke relay: 1. Northville (Derek Ohlgren, Dave Whitbeck, Anthony Serge, Scott Whitbeck), 1:48.73; 2. Harrison (Robbie Gundlach, Brandon Goad, Dan Price, Devin Hopper), 1:52.95; 3. Salem, 1:55.88; 4. North Farmington, 2:01.48; 5. John Glenn, 2:05.18; 6. Churchill, 2:06.83; 7. Canton, 2:07.86; 8. Stevenson, 2:10.95; 9. Walled Lake, 2:26.79; 10. Franklin, 2:38.30.

200 butterfly relay: 1. Stevenson (Pat Rodemeyer, Geoff Lowes, Rob Cambridge, Brandon Truscott), 1:47.47; 2. Salem (Mike Johnson, Mike Horgan, Kevin Schopler, Dave Carson), 1:50.43; 3. North Farmington, 1:55.22; 4. Canton, 1:56.75; 5. Harrison, 1:57.51; 6. Walled Lake, 1:57.73; 7. Churchill, 2:00.30; 8. Northville, 2:00.80; 9. John Glenn, 2:12.39. (Franklin DQ).

Diving relay: 1. Walled Lake (Chris Gawronski, Steve Zerber), 3:20.65; 2. Salem (Blake Brunner, Gerald Bennet), 3:11.90; 3. John Glenn, 3:11.80; 4. Northville, 3:09.00; 5. Franklin 2:58.80; 6. Stevenson, 2:58.75; 7. Salem, 2:43.65; 8. North Farmington, 2:06.75.

400 medley relay: 1. North Farmington (Craig Paske, John Kern, Farber, Gabriel), 4:04.11; 2. Salem (Dzialo, Adam Sonnanstine, Linn, Hugo Alvarez); 3. Stevenson, 4:29.99; 4. Canton, 4:45.96; 5. Churchill, 4:48.64; 6. Northville, 4:49.68; 7. Harrison, 5:10.84; 8. Walled Lake, 5:12.18. (Franklin, John Glenn DQ).

500 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Kevin

Stuart, John Moors, S. Whitbeck, D. Whitbeck), 4:31.27; 2. Salem (Chris Lamar, Mark Whitthoff, Jim Ross, Mertens), 4:38.03; 3. Canton, 4:41.58; 4. Stevenson, 4:46.98; 5. North Farmington, 4:47.12; 6. Churchill, 5:09.85; 7. Walled Lake, 5:13.16; 8. Harrison, 5:29.26; 9. Franklin, 6:06.97; (John Glenn DQ).

200 medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Nemer, Truscott, Brad Buckler), 1:43.60; 2. Salem (Brian Dorog, Jason Rebarchik, Horgan, Carson), 1:52.64; 3. Can-

ton, 1:56.85; 4. Harrison, 2:02.39; 5. Franklin, 2:10.75; 6. North Farmington, 2:17.28; 7. Northville, 2:20.06; 8. Walled Lake, 2:26.56. (Churchill, John Glenn DQ).

200 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Dave Woodward, Ryan Kappler, Dan Jones, Johnson), 1:35.40; 2. Harrison (Hopper, Price, Goad, Max Suttles), 1:36.50; 3. Walled Lake, 1:39.18; 4. Northville, 1:41.63; 5. Stevenson, 1:46.01; 6. Canton, 1:55.11; 7. North Farmington, 2:00.32; 8. Churchill, 2:05.12; 9. Franklin, 2:17.95. (John Glenn DQ).

Whalers from page B4

Saturday's game was similar, with the Whalers again taking the lead (they never trailed all weekend against Erie) on first-period goals by Weiss (his 10th of the season) and Kurka (his 17th). Erie's Rupp narrowed the gap to 2-1 late in the opening period.

However, Weiss' second goal of the game — he also had an assist — pushed Plymouth's lead to 3-1 through two periods. Rupp, who scored all three of the Otters' goals in the game and five of their seven over the week-

end, trimmed Plymouth's lead to 3-2 with a power-play goal at 3:16 of the third period.

But Jon Billy converted a pass from Nistas at the 10:22 juncture and the Whalers were again up by two, 4-2 — which made Rupp's third goal, scored with just nine seconds left in the game, inconsequential.

The Whalers are now idle until next Tuesday, when they host Erie in a 3 p.m. game. On Thursday, they play the Kitchener Rangers at 7:30 p.m. at Compuware Arena.

Ambassadors win 2
A strong second period saved the Compuware Ambassadors last Friday.

Trailing 3-2 after one period, the Ambassadors netted three second-period goals en route to a 5-4 victory over the St. Louis Sting in a North American Hockey League game at Compuware Arena.

Steve Jackson got the eventual game-winner for the Ambassadors and Marc Norrington scored twice.

On Saturday, the Ambassadors improved their home-ice record to 9-3 with an 8-2 triumph over the Sting. Todd Bentley scored his first-ever NAHL hat trick; he also had an assist.

Tom Fortunate made 19 stops in collecting his fifth win in goal for Compuware, which stayed atop the NAHL's East Division with a 19-8-1 (39 points), tied with the Soo Kewadin Casino Indians (18-7-3, 39 points).

Those two teams meet in a divisional showdown at 6:35 p.m. tonight at Compuware Arena.

Wrestling from page B4

that they would pull aside with whoever wanted to join them after our team meeting, bend down to a knee, and take a moment to pray for each other."

While divine intervention is always welcome and its effect is indisputable, there is an abundance of talent on this Canton squad. The Chiefs got medals at the tournament in 13 of 14 weight classes, with Kyle Pitt in the 103-pound division, John Pocock at 140 and Phil Rothwell at 189 each taking firsts.

CC, which beat Clio 58-21, improved to 4-3 with the two meet wins.

Salem is idle until Dec. 30, when it will host its 21-team

Invitational, beginning at 9 a.m. Teams that will be competing are Adrian, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Ann Arbor Huron, Belleville, Brighton, Livonia Churchill, Farmington, Garden City,

Greenville, Flat Rock, Howell, Westland John Glenn, Melvindale, Monroe, Monroe Jefferson, Novi, Salem, Portage Northern, Livonia Stevenson, Trenton and Ypsilanti.

Pitt defeated Pioneer's Adam Kelsey 13-6 in the 103 final; Pocock beat Greg Sheureb of Allen Park with a technical fall, 20-5; and Rothwell pinned Jim VanBuskirk from Crestwood in 2:46 at 189.

Rothwell pinned all four of his opponents in a total time of 4:19, a performance that earned him the Outstanding Wrestler Award.

Doy Demsick at 119, Greg Musser at 130, Scott McKee at 152 and Derek McWatt at heavy-weight all took seconds; Brad Kreger at 112 and Chris Hosey at 125 placed third; and Joe Faraone at 145, Mike Bonner at 160, Derek Miller at 171 and Ozzie Wagner at 215 placed fourth.

The Chiefs are now idle until Jan. 6 when they host Western Lakes Activities Association rival Walled Lake Western.

Salem splits
Plymouth Salem traveled to Clio for a double-dual meet last Friday and ended up with a split.

The Rocks lost to Redford Catholic Central 45-30 and beat Clio 63-12. The win and loss left Salem with a 2-2 dual-meet record.

Against CC, the Rocks lost at 103 pounds, with the Shamrocks' Adam Stacey pinning Mike Goethe in 3:07, and at 112, with CC's Chris O'Hara pinning Nick Moniedis in 3:39.

Salem then won the next five weight divisions. Ron Thompson pinned Tim Mulroy in 1:20 at 119; Rob Ash pinned Paul Hagan in 4:49 at 125; Lucas Stump pinned Ben Kreucher in 1:07 at 130; Steve Dendrinios edged Nate Rodriguez 10-8 at 135; and Josh Henderson pinned Jeff Wheeler in 4:44 at 140.

But the Rocks' lead didn't last long. CC got wins in six of the remaining seven divisions, with Jay Abshire pinning Mike Pasternak in 4:37 at 145; Sean Bell pinning Andrew Bennett in 5:07 at 152; Ryan Rogowski pinning Phil Portellos in :53 at 160; Mitch Hancock pinning James March in :42 at 171; Matt Williams pinning John Early in 1:21 at 215; and Aaron Parr beating Zac Jensen 5-1 at heavy-weight.

Salem's only win in those final seven divisions came from Mike Popeney, who defeated Andy Conlon 5-3 at 189.

Against Clio, Thompson at 119, Ash at 125, Pasternak at 145, Bennett at 160, Portellos at 171 and Popeney at 189 won their matches on pins. Stump at 130, Dendrinios at 135, and Jensen at heavy-weight each won decisions, and Goethe at 108, Moniedis at 112 and Henderson at 140 were winners on voids.

Treat yourself this holiday season.

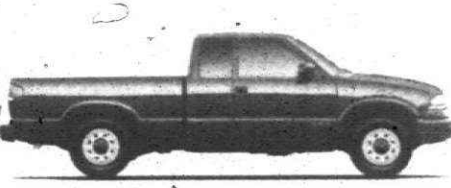
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Entertainment

The Observer

(*) Page 1, Section C

Keely Wygonik, Editor 734-953-2105, kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

on the web: <http://observer.eccentric.com>

Thursday, December 23, 1999

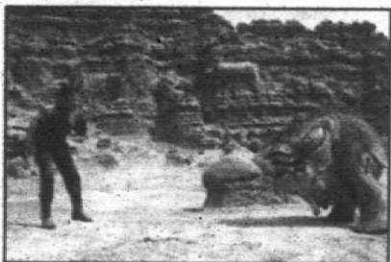
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



"The Radio City Christmas Spectacular" features the Rockettes and Santa, 2 p.m. at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Tickets \$10 to \$55.50, call (248) 433-1515. For more information, call (313) 983-6611.

SATURDAY



Jason Nesmith (Tim Allen) tries to defend himself from an alien Pig Lizard when he becomes stranded on a hostile planet in "Galaxy Quest," a science-fiction action comedy opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SUNDAY



Debbie Lannen, (back row, left to right), Joe Lannen, Ken Haering, Betsy the Cow and Kate Weiss (front center) star in "Jack and the Beanstalk," 2:30 p.m. at the Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main Street, Northville. Tickets \$7, call (248) 349-8110.

HOT TICKET



Hot Ticket Item: Stroll through the "Wild Lights," a colorful holiday display of over 400,000 lights and 70 animal sculptures, 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday through Jan. 2 at the Detroit Zoo, intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696 in Royal Oak. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Admission \$4 adults, \$3 children ages 2-12. All children under age 2 admitted free. Discount for Detroit Zoological Society Members. Parking is free. Call (248) 541-5835 for more information.



Bravery: One of seven new segments in "Fantasia 2000," "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" tells the story of a brave toy soldier who saves a beautiful ballerina from the evil clutches of a Jack-in-the-box.

FANTASIA 2000

A COLORFUL, EXCITING PREMIER FOR IMAX

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

Remember Etch-a-Sketch? While that shake-and-erase board was a beloved toy for some, it proved to be an object of fleeting artwork for all.

Not only does the technique serve as an opening sequence in one piece of "Fantasia 2000," it gives permanence to a project that seemed to have faded away. More than 60 years after work began on the original "Fantasia," this film proves that Walt Disney certainly does keep his promises.

In 1941, after the release of "Fantasia," he announced, "It is our intention to make a new version of 'Fantasia' every year. Its pattern is very flexible and fun to work with — not really a concert, not a vaudeville, not a revue, but a grand mixture of comedy, fantasy, ballet, drama, impressionism, color, sound and epic fury."

Roy E. Disney, vice chairman of the Walt Disney Co., has breathed new life into this work-in-progress Walt Disney referred to as a "concert film."

From the first blast of bright blue and the sight of that Disney symbol, viewers are drawn into the experience. "Fantasia 2000" caught the attention of celebrities such as Steve Martin, Bette Midler, Itzhak Perlman and James Earl Jones, who make appearances and introduce segments of the film with concise humor and intelligence.

Nine years in the making, "Fantasia 2000" marks the return of director James Algar's "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." Serving as the genesis of the original version, Algar's segment of magic-gone-awry remains just as relevant as ever, while providing a visual throw-back to animation efforts of the past. Seven new animated segments have been added to this, the first full-length IMAX feature film. Running 75 minutes, "Fantasia 2000" is also the first Disney film to be made in IMAX (meaning "maximum image") format.

"Fantasia" premiered on Nov. 13, 1940, marking not only a partnership between music and animation, but also a much-improved sound system that required multiple speakers. "Fantasia 2000" is in IMAX, which shows an image 10 times larger than the conventional 35 millimeter frame, for sharpness and clarity, and a six-channel, multi-speaker sound system. The screen is eight stories wide and six stories high.

Highlights of "Fantasia 2000" include "Rhapsody in Blue," with animation directed by Eric Goldberg. In a style reminiscent of caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, viewers see that Etch-a-Sketch-style of Manhattan's cityscape and then are whisked into the lives of several characters leading separate lives during the Jazz Age. Viewers meet a hurried construction worker, a downtrodden, unemployed man, a little girl who is inferior at every sport, and a wealthy man stifled by his overpowering wife. Following the be-bopping beat of George Gershwin's music, viewers watch as their individual dreams are achieved.

The familiar graduation march, "Pomp and Circumstance," is coupled with the story of Noah's Ark, starring Donald Duck. The story sets Donald in charge of herding all of the animals onto the ark — in procession — but he seems to lose track of the

girl who is inferior at every sport, and a wealthy man stifled by his overpowering wife. Following the be-bopping beat of George Gershwin's music, viewers watch as their individual dreams are achieved.

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girl who is inferior at every sport, and a wealthy man stifled by his overpowering wife. Following the be-bopping beat of George Gershwin's music, viewers watch as their individual dreams are achieved.



"The Sorcerer's Apprentice"

WHAT: Walt Disney Pictures presents "Fantasia 2000"

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 1 through Sunday, April 30

WHERE: At the IMAX theater at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn.

SHOW TIMES:

Every day at —
• 10 a.m.
• 11:50 a.m.
• 1:40 p.m.
• 3:30 p.m.
• 5:20 p.m.
• 7:10 p.m.
• 9 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 senior citizens and children. Discount for members. For more information call (800) 747-IMAX (4629) or (313) 271-1570. To purchase tickets, call (313) 982-6001.

Laughs: Director Eric Goldberg delivers a light-hearted romp and answers the age-old question: "What would happen if you gave a yo-yo to a flamingo?" in the "Carnival of the Animals."

Please see FANTASIA, C6



MUSIC

It's not Christmas without Opera Lite

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

David Pulice claims he was singing before he was talking — at least that's what his mother told him. It's a good thing that music is his life.

Whether he's wearing a dragon kimono or festive 1850s-style Christmas regalia, performing Gilbert and Sullivan songs or traditional Christmas carols, he feels right at home. Pulice, a Farmington Hills resident, founded Opera Lite in 1986, as a company of singers actors and dancers from the Metro area and mid-Michigan.

Since its start, the group has provided seasonal music for the holidays.

Pulice, a Michigan State University graduate, has performed with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony, Plymouth Symphony and Detroit Symphony Orchestras, as well as acted in commercials, industrial films and television. He landed a lead role in an episode of "Unsolved Mysteries" and appeared in the films "Something in Common" and "Hoffa."

Now president and artistic director of Opera Lite, Pulice took time out of his hurried schedule Dec. 14 to talk about his work. Just before taking the stage

with his troupe for a show at Livonia's Laurel Park Place mall, he said it "takes a lot of work to keep it going."

From a group of about eight performers, Opera Lite has grown to 45 participants. The group focuses on private or corporate parties and holiday engagements, but also offers programs to area schools. It is all run from an office in Pulice's home.

Perhaps Opera Lite gets most exposure during this, the most festive time of year. The troupe provides entertainment at the Eagle Tavern's holiday din-

Please see OPERA, C7

Funny man: Ron Gallagher, also known as Gallagher II, will present two shows on New Year's Eve at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.



Ron Gallagher swears he's 'gonna make you laugh,' too

Ron Gallagher, also known as Gallagher II, presents his "Living Sequel Show" at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31. Tickets \$29.50, \$39.50 and \$49.50, available at the Fisher box office, (313) 872-1000, and all Ticketmaster outlets (248) 645-6666.

BY JON KATZ
SPECIAL WRITER

"My thing is, I'm gonna make you laugh every five seconds, and if I don't, I've failed."

Ron Gallagher, AKA Gallagher II, plans to make good on his self-challenge when he plays two New Year's Eve shows at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. The jovial and genial comedian, who combines intelligent observational humor with outrageous acts on food products, also plans to have considerable help.

"With my show, the whole audience is the stage," he said before a recent appearance at Western Michigan University. "The show spills out into the audience — literally — so they become a part of the show. They all bring plastic, they look at everybody else with their plastic and they all get Gallagherized."

Hold on there. Doesn't that sound like the last-name-only Gallagher from the cable specials, the funny-in-a-weird-way guy with the floppy cap, mustache and stringy hair who ends each act with a very interactive — and

Ron is the younger (by six years) brother of the "original" Gallagher. He looks remarkably like his brother, talks like his brother and for the past ten years has been doing his brother's act.

messy — pitch for Sledge-a-Matic? So who's this Gallagher doppelganger? The question opens an old wound, exposing a sibling rivalry perhaps matched only by Cain and Abel. Ron is the younger (by six years) brother of the "original" Gallagher. He looks remarkably like his brother, talks like his brother and for the past ten years has been doing his brother's act. Until recently, he's been doing it with his brother's blessing. Today, the blessing has been removed and a blood feud has ensued.

"I idolized my brother," Ron muses. "I would watch all his tapes and I knew all his routines. He encouraged me to take some of his older stuff and go out on the road with it. I discounted that because at the time I was a successful equipment salesman in Florida, where we grew up."

But Ron got the bug and big brother got him booked. "It was my brother's idea to come up with Gallagher II. It was a joke, like I'm Gallagher, 'too.' He gave me a start and he gave me the act. It really is a great story, unprecedented in show business."

Years of one-nighters in small clubs

Please see GALLAGHER II, C7



Opera Lite

MOVIES

'Man on the Moon' brings an enigma back to life

BY JON KATZ
SPECIAL WRITER

The strange, wide-eyed guy seemed totally confused on the small "Saturday Night Live" stage. Speaking in an unfathomable foreign accent ("Tank yoo beddy mosh"), he reached for the small photograph on a nearby pedestal, placed the needle on a 45 and proceeded to lip-synch the theme from "Mighty Mouse." The audience roared.

That was comedian Andy Kaufman's first appearance on SNL. In fact, it was the first SNL. Oct. 11, 1975. It would become apparent soon after that he was neither confused nor foreign. And that's about all we'd ever learn about him.

An enigma, that's what they called Kaufman. Who better to play him, then, than Jim Carrey, whose early stand-up material was as manic as Kaufman's was enigmatic? Frankly, no one.

In "Man on the Moon," Carrey plays Kaufman. That's comic-speak for capturing someone to perfection.

Consider the challenge: The Kaufman we saw was never the real Andy.

Girlfriend Lynne Margulies,

played with surprising presence and range by singer Courtney Love, claims that there wasn't one. A real Andy, that is. He was in a zone all his own, either deep inside one of his characters or in the midst of plotting his next practical joke. Like the bottom layer of a multi-part carbon form, he was down there somewhere but impossible to read.

"I've got to stay one step ahead of 'em" was his standing order to himself.

When he wasn't naive Latka on "Taxi" he was four-mouthed Vegas lounge lizard Tony Clifton. He beat on the congas, wrestled women and led kiddie sing-alongs. And if an audience didn't get it, he read "The Great Gatsby" to them. In its entirety. People loved him, and he loved that. But even more people hated him, and he loved that, too.

So what we're watching here is not an impression. It's Carrey doing the private Kaufman doing the public Kaufman doing Latka. That's acting, folks.

Danny DeVito, who plays Kaufman's manager George Shapiro, partnered with director Miles Forman ("The People vs. Larry Flynt") to make "Man on the Moon." They did so with

great affection for Andy, and it shows. DeVito, of course, shared the "Taxi" ride with him for five years, but came away not knowing any more about him than we did.

The same may be said for the many others in his life who appear on screen.

There's a wonderful, too-brief "Taxi" re-creation with Judd Hirsch, Mariu Henner, Christopher Lloyd, Carol Kane and Jeff Conaway. David Letterman, Lorne Michaels and wrestler Jerry "The King" Lawler also play themselves.

Paul Giamatti is outstanding as comedian-writer Bob Zmuda, who was Kaufman's writing partner and co-conspirator behind many of his most memorable stunts.

You may remember the mysteries that were generated by three of them: were Kaufman and Clifton the same man or not; how much of the wrestling period was planned; and was Kaufman's death in 1984 from a rare form of lung cancer his biggest joke of all. The film resolves two of these mysteries and leaves the third enigmatically open. Somewhere Andy is smiling; the gag lives on.



Drama: Lynne Margulies (Courtney Love), is the woman who befriends and eventually falls in love with Andy Kaufman (Jim Carrey) in the "Man on the Moon."

Holiday video rentals brighten merry season

When it comes to movie Santas, Tim Allen got the most ho-ho-ho.

The Beverly Hills, Mich., native portrayed the big guy in the 1994

holiday film "The Santa Clause." According to a recent Blockbuster survey, he rated number one against the competition, which included Edmund Gwenn and

Richard Attenborough who both starred as Santa in versions of the classic "Miracle on 34th Street."

'It's a Wonderful Life' has become a staple in holiday traditions.



Classic: Richard Attenborough is Kriss Kringle and Mara Wilson is Susan Walker in "Miracle on 34th Street."

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters:

"ANNA AND THE KING"
Set in 19th century Thailand, the true story of the relationship between a British schoolteacher and the King of Siam. Based on historical information, Stars Jodie Foster and Chow Yun-Fat.

"ORDER HOUSE RULES"
Classic story of a young man's extraordinary journey: Leaving home, finding love and finding his place in the world. Based on the best-selling novel by John Irving, Stars Tobey Maguire.

"SCENTIMENTAL MAN"
Robin Williams, Embeth Davidtz, Sam Neil and Olive Platt star in this romantic drama that follows the life and times of an android programmed to perform mental tasks. Over time he recognizes that his destiny is become human.

"RIDE WITH THE DEVIL"
Skeet Ulrich and Tobey Maguire team up in this drama that takes place during the Civil War as two young men join a gang of bushwhackers. During this time they find the friendship, loyalty and sense of family needed to survive during such desperate times.

"ANY GIVEN SUNDAY"
Drama about a man who is induced to play hurt because a gifted and unprincipled young talent is seeking to replace him. The coach who struggles to remain true to the ideals that drew him to his career, and the ambitious young owner of the team. Stars Al Pacino, Dennis Quaid.

"LIBERTY HEIGHTS"
A dramatic look at the life and times of a Baltimore family in the mid 1950s which focuses on issues of religion, race and class distinction written and directed by Barry Levinson. Stars Adrian Brody, Bebe Neuwirth and Joe Mantegna.

Scheduled to open Saturday, Dec. 25:

"MANSFIELD PARK"
Exclusively at the Landmark Maple Theatre. Based on the book by Jane Austen, the story of a young woman from a poor family, sent to live with her wealthy cousins at their estate. The plan is to arrange a marriage that will assure her place in society, but her high spirited nature and ideas about love will make it a difficult proposition. Stars Frances O'Connor and Jonny Lee Miller.

"GALAXY QUEST"
Tim Allen and Sigourney Weaver team up in this sci-fi action comedy about a popular television series. The star and co-stars are abducted by friendly aliens who, after intercepting broadcasts of the TV series, believe that they are real intergalactic fighters.

"THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY"
Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law, Cate Blanchett star in this film about a charming youthful grifter who is commissioned by a wealthy industrialist to go to Italy to retrieve his errand play boy son, only to find himself rather fond of the son's lifestyle.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Jan. 12:

"NEXT FRIDAY"
Ice Cube, Tameka Jones, Justin Pierce, and John Witherspoon star in this sequel to the 1995 urban comedy "Friday" about a laid back sort of guy who enjoys sitting on the porch talking with his friends. This time out he moves into his uncle's place in the suburbs, after beating up another guy who's now after him.

Scheduled to open Friday, Jan. 14:

"HOLY SMOKES!"
A young woman is "rescued" from an Indian guru by her concerned family, and turns her follow-up encounters with a deprogrammer into an all out battle of the sexes. Stars Kate Winslet, Harvey Keitel and Pam Grier.

CRUISE into the Millennium at the... BUTON MANOR

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Millennium New Year's Eve Party

Channel 6 Band & DJ
Premium Bar
Package-6
Champagne Flute

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GALLAGHER II

New Year's Eve Party!!
Smash Act

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BOOKS

Here are current art books that make glorious gifts

BY JOAN BRUNSKILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

It's not hard to find wonderful art books to give as holiday gifts. The hard part is deciding which book to give. This season, as in past years, the selection is gloriously, confusingly varied.

To help clarify matters, here's a sampling of the wide range of the latest art books.

"The Art of Craft: Contemporary Works From the Saxe Collection" (Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco-Bulfinch, \$50) by Timothy Anglin Burgard includes background text. But the color reproductions of artworks in close-up are the book's most eye-catching feature, exploring a leading American collection of contemporary crafts.

The gleaming shapes of wood and ceramics, the textures of threads and fiber, the airiness of paper and glass vie for attention. Works are by such masters as Dale Chihuly (glass), Peter Voulkos and Michael Lucero (ceramics), and Diane Iltter and Kay Sekimachi (textiles).

For devotees of popular art and illustration:

"Norman Rockwell: Pictures for the American People" (Abrams, \$35) by Maureen Hart Hennessy and Anne Knutson is the catalog from a traveling exhibition currently on show at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta.

The book reproduces 80 of Rockwell's well-loved paintings, from mischievous barefoot boys to heroic astronauts setting foot on the moon. It also offers a series of essays by curators and art historians, appraising the artist's life and work.

"The New Yorker 75th Anniversary Cartoon Collection" (Pocket, \$40), edited by Bob Mankoff, is a book to settle down with after a holiday dinner.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features events at suburban bookstores, libraries and literary gatherings. Send news leads to Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric News-papers, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279 or e-mail to kwygonik@cc.homecomm.net.

CCC WRITERS SERIES

Noted author Craig Harryman will be the next speaker in the Oakland Community College Writers Live Series. Tuesday, Jan. 18: The program begins at 7 p.m. in the Jones Johnson Theater on the Royal Oak campus. Admission is free and the program is open to the public. Harryman, who has written 10 books in a variety of genres, will read selections from her published poetry, essays, plays and fiction. A question-and-answer session will follow. Call (248) 540-1500 for information.

START A JOURNAL
The beginning of a new year is a perfect time for starting a journal or diary. Come to the Plymouth District Library Tuesday, Dec. 28, to learn about keeping a diary. Hear excerpts from some great children's books written in journal form and make a journal of your own to take home. The program is designed for children ages 8 to 12. Registration is required and is now under way. Call (734) 453-0750, or visit the library at 223 S. Main Street.

KINDERMUSIK
Parents and their children are invited to experience free, interactive 20-30 minute programs of seasonal story telling, music and movement during Story Times with Miss Karen. Favorite children's books, simple instruments and imaginative songs and chants highlight the sessions. Registrations are suggested, but not mandatory. Call (734) 455-5220 to register at Little Book Shoppe on the Park, 390 S. Main in Plymouth. Story times are planned for the first or second Saturday of each month. Story times are also planned for the first Tuesday of each month at Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman in Plymouth. Call (734) 454-0178 to register. And Baby! Baby! Children's Resale Shop, 153 E. Main in Northville, also offers sessions. Call (248) 347-2229 for registration information.

when chucking is the only exercise one could possibly contemplate.

The great cartoonists are represented here, from Charles Addams and Peter Arno to Ed Koren and Saul Steinberg, plus a host of others. Mankoff gives them a brief introduction, then leaves their contrasting styles to

entertain you as you turn the rest of the book's pages in happy sequence.

For family reading:

"Exploring World Art" (Getty, \$24.95) by Andrea Belloli is a fine introduction to world art for young readers. It is a beautifully designed and well-planned,

carefully and simply written with high-quality reproductions. Page turning, from the illustrations on Greek vases to paintings of Van Gogh, from Flemish Renaissance painting to African wood carving, would make fine browsing for all the family.

"The Art of Science: A Pop-Up

Adventure in Art" (Candlewick Press, \$27.99), written by Martin Jenkins with paper engineering by Jay Young, is an action book and a fun book.

There are lots of things to watch spring out into three dimensions, and to move and touch. All this is in the worthy

cause of explaining the science behind decisions artists make about how to express themselves in their medium.

The author delivers entertaining explanations of perspective, color, optics, illusion and other topics.

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Merchandise shown is a sample of savings available at most locations. Hundreds of other items are available at discounted prices, although size, selection and style may vary by store.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS DECEMBER 14, 1999

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, December 14, 1999 at 11:50 South Canton Center Road. Supervisor Jack called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Members Present: Bennett, Burdick, Kirchgatter, Lajoie, McLaughlin, Yack. Members Absent: Sheffery.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdick, to adopt the Agenda as amended to add Item C-21, General Fund, Board of Trustees Meeting of December 28, 1999, and Authorization of Payment of the Township Bills on December 31, 1999, to strike and delete Item G-7 and add Item G-8 Authorization to Pick Up Liquor License Diamond/Canton Township Co-license. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held jointly with the Charter Townships of Northville and Plymouth on Wednesday, November 17, 1999. Motion carried. Ayes: Bennett, Burdick, Lajoie, McLaughlin, Yack. Absent: Sheffery. Abstain: Kirchgatter.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton meeting of December 7, 1999, with the correction changing the arrival time of Supervisor Jack from 8:12 PM to 7:12 PM. All ayes present.

Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by Lajoie, to approve payment of the bills as presented.

Expenditure Recap	
General Fund	101 \$428,806.19
Fire Fund	206 92,712.98
Police Fund	207 114,931.77
Community Center Fund	208 85,581.08
Golf Course Fund	211 11,006.06
Street Lighting Fund	219 16,696.63
Cable TV Fund	220 1,150.63
Community Improvement Fund	223 207,050.50
E-911 Emergency Funds	261 348.50
Special Investigative Fund	267 9,317.20
Federal Grant Funds	274 1,125.00
State Projects Fund	289 1,451.24
Downtown Development Auth.	294 95,133.48
Retiree Benefits	296 9,618.87
Cap Project Road Paving Fund	403 25,064.49
Highway Construction Fund	409 12,811.00
Water & Sewer Fund	592 864,737.55
Construction Escrow	702 10,000.00
Trust & Agency (Trailer Fees)	701 6,696.00
Construction Escrow	702 18,850.53
Township Creek Storm Drain	804 79.20
Total - All Funds	\$2,008,170.40

Supervisor Jack opened the public hearing to consider the final approval of Cherry Hill Village planned development and consider extension of time limitation for completion of planned development at 7:08 PM.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Lajoie, to close the public hearing at 7:25 PM. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to adopt the resolution for the final approval for the Cherry Hill Village planned development and extension to time period for completion of construction. Ayes: Bennett; Burdick, Lajoie, McLaughlin, Yack. Absent: Sheffery.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the following budget amendment in the Water & Sewer Fund to increase overtime:

Increase (Decrease) Appropriations:	
Overtime	\$592-441-708-0000 \$15,000.00
Maintenance & Repair-Sewer Lines	\$592-441-935-0000 (15,000.00)
Total	\$ 0.00

This budget amendment does not increase or decrease the Water & Sewer Fund budget. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to appoint the Township Clerk as the designated officer to execute the 2000 annual permit and other permits for underground utility within the Michigan Department of Transportation right-of-way. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to appoint Ralph Welton, John Roughley and Gregg King to the Gilmore House Historic District Study Committee. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to reappoint Mary Jane Weidenbach, Susan Woolley and Vera Lieberman to the Canton CDBG Advisory Board for additional one-year terms from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the Proclamation supporting the Canton Community Census 2000 Complete Count Committee. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to adopt a resolution in support for community radio. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the following budget amendment in the Community Center Fund for food service income and expenditures:

Increase Revenues:	
Food Service Contract	#208-000-654-0000 \$179,000
Increase Appropriations:	
Beverage - Banquet	#208-757-741-6000 \$179,000

This budget amendment increases the Community Fund budget from \$2,996,534 to \$3,175,534.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the removal and re-installation of "Caution Handicapped in Area" Signs on Sorrell in Canton Township and installation of signs on Highlands, and authorize the Clerk to sign the application, and further, that the Township will assume responsibility for furnishing, installing and maintaining the signs. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to adopt a resolution for the final approval of the plat for Cherry Blossom Estates Subdivision. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to reappoint Victor Gustafson, Robert Wade and Sue Dutton to the Canton Township Planning Commission, terms to expire December 31, 2002. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the following budget amendment in the General Fund to provide additional funding for 1999 expenditures:

Increase Revenues:	
Appropriation from Fund Balance	#101-000-699-0000 \$8,350
Increase Appropriations:	
Operating Supplies	#101-200-740-0000 \$10,000
Printing & Publishing	#101-200-900-0000 32,500
SAD Payments-Township Property	#101-200-961-0000 15,500
Capital Outlay-Land Improvements	#101-200-971-0000 29,300
Total	\$8,350

This budget amendment increases the General Government Department budget from \$774,848 to \$862,198, and the General Fund Budget from \$18,384,178 to \$18,472,623. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to set the public hearing for the Westfield Estates Street Lighting Special Assessment District for January 11, 2000. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to remove from the table and publish the Second Reading of the amendments to the Electrical Ordinance No. 77 (C) to become effective upon that publication on December 22, 1999. All ayes present.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ORDINANCE NO. 77 ELECTRICAL ORDINANCE Amended eff. April 4, 1984; amended eff. June 6, 1996; April 22, 1999; December 23, 1999

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 77, ELECTRICAL ORDINANCE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF LIFE AND PROPERTY BY REGULATING THE INSTALLATION, ALTERATION, REPAIR, SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, PROVIDING FOR GENERAL PROVISIONS, PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN DEFINITIONS, PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE AND AMENDMENTS AND RULES SET FORTH WITHIN THE ORDINANCE, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTRICAL EXAMINING AND APPEALS BOARD AND FOR ELECTRIC INSPECTION PROVIDING FOR FEES FOR INSPECTION; PROVIDING FOR RIGHT OF ACCESS TO BUILDINGS; PROVIDING FOR REQUIREMENT OF PERMITS FOR CERTAIN ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION, ALTERATION, REPAIR, SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT; PROVIDING FOR RE-INSPECTION; PROVIDING FOR APPROVED MATERIALS; PROVIDING FOR VIOLATION AND PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR

SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SAVINGS CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 77 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12.001 Section 1. SHORT TITLE, PURPOSE.

This Ordinance may be cited as the "Electrical Ordinance". The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote the health, safety and welfare of the Township residents through the regulation of the installation, alteration, repair, service and maintenance of electrical equipment. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. April 4, 1984, amended eff. June 6, 1996)

12.002 Section 2. DEFINITIONS.

Words or terms contained in this Ordinance shall have the meanings as defined in this Ordinance. Any words or terms not defined in this Ordinance shall have the meanings normally ascribed to them, or as they are defined in the Ordinances that are referenced, or as they are defined in other Canton Township Ordinances.

2.1 "Apprentice Electrician" means an individual other than an Electrical Contractor, Master Electrician, or Electrical Journeyman, who is engaged in the installation, alteration, repair, service and maintenance of electrical wiring and equipment under the direct personal supervision of an Electrical Journeyman or Master Electrician.

2.2 "Board" means Township of Canton Electrical Examining and Appeals Board.

2.3 "Department" means Township of Canton Building Department.

2.4 "Electrical equipment" means all electrical devices, in connection with the generation, distribution, and utilization of electrical energy, within or on a building, residence, structure, or properties including fire alarm and sign devices.

2.5 "Electrical Contractor" means a person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of erecting, installing, altering, repairing, servicing or maintaining electrical wiring, electrical equipment, or electrical systems.

2.6 "Electrical Inspector" means any person who has the necessary qualifications, training, experience, and technical knowledge to inspect all electrical apparatus for compliance with the codes and who shall be the agent or employee of the department designated by the building official as an electrical inspector. Inspectors shall be registered pursuant to Act No. 54 of the Public Acts of 1986, being 338,2301 et seq. of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and known as the Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act.

2.7 "Electrical Journeyman" means a person other than an Electrical Contractor, who, as his or her principal occupation, is engaged in the practical installation or alteration of electrical wiring. An Electrical Contractor or Master Electrician may also be an Electrical Journeyman.

2.8 "Electric Sign" means fixed, stationary, or portable self-contained, electrically illuminated equipment that has words or symbols designed to convey information or attract attention. The term includes outline lighting. Electric sign does not include those signs that are indoor or outdoor portable applications or recognized holiday residential signs listed with a recognized electrical testing laboratory and that use a cord cap-110 volt plug as the electrical energizing attachment method.

2.9 "Electrical Wiring" means all wiring, generating equipment, fixtures, appliances, and appliances in connection with the generation, distribution, communication, and utilization of electrical energy, within or on a building, residence, structure, or properties, and including service entrance wiring as defined by the code.

2.10 "Fire Alarm Contractor" means a person, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of erecting, installing, altering, repairing, servicing or maintaining wiring, devices, appliances or equipment of a fire alarm system.

2.11 "Fire Alarm Specialty Apprentice Technician" means an individual other than a Fire Alarm Contractor or a Fire Alarm Specialty Technician who is engaged in learning about and assisting in the installation or alteration of Fire Alarm system wiring and equipment under the direct personal supervision of a Fire Alarm Specialty Technician.

2.12 "Fire Alarm Specialty License" means licensure as a Fire Alarm Contractor, or a Fire Alarm Specialty or Apprentice Technician.

2.13 "Fire Alarm Specialty Technician" means a person other than a Fire Alarm Contractor who, as his or her principal occupation, is engaged in the practical installation or alteration of fire alarm system wiring.

2.14 "Fire Alarm System" means a system designed to detect and annunciate the presence of fire or by premises, or by premises, within a building or structure. Fire Alarm System does not include a single station smoke detector.

2.15 "Job site" means the immediate work area within the property lines of a single construction project, alteration project or maintenance project where electrical construction or alteration of electrical wiring is in progress.

2.16 "Master Electrician" means a person having the necessary qualifications, training, experience and technical knowledge to supervise the installation, alteration, repair, service and maintenance of electrical wiring and equipment in accordance with the standard rules and regulations governing that work.

2.17 "Minor repair work" means electrical work such as repairing or replacing fuses and snap switches, fuses, lamp sockets or receptacles; replacement of fixtures; repairing or tapping bare connections; replacing lamps or the connection of portable electrical equipment to suitable receptacles installed in accordance with the standard rules and regulations governing that work.

2.18 "Municipality" means a city, village or township.

2.19 "Outline lighting" means an arrangement of incandescent lamps or electric discharge tubing which is an integral part of an electrical sign that outlines certain features, such as the shape of a building or the decoration of a window.

2.20 "Owner" means any natural person, firm, partnership, association or corporation and their legal successors. In all proceedings, actions or prosecution hereunder, in which a corporation is the owner of any building, structure or property, or premises, or of its officers, directors or persons in control or management thereof, as well as the corporation, shall be subject to the provisions of this article.

2.21 "Sign Specialist" means a person who, as his or her principal occupation, is engaged in the installation, alteration or repair of electric signs.

2.22 "Sign Specialist Contractor" means a person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of manufacturing, installing, maintaining, connecting, or repairing electric sign wiring or devices, including wiring that is directly related to electric signs and is electrically dedicated as a sign circuit beginning at the load side of the sign circuit disconnect.

2.23 "Sign Specialist License" means licensure as a Sign Specialist or Sign Specialist Contractor.

2.24 Related sign wiring:

(A) Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (B), (C), and (D), that portion of the electric sign wiring that originates at the load side terminals of a disconnecting means located in the vicinity of the electric sign involved but does not include the installation of the disconnecting means, complete with line-side connections.

(B) In the case of electric sign installations having sign transformers installed physically apart from electric sign, that portion of the electric sign wiring that originates at the load-side terminals of a disconnecting means located in the vicinity of the electric sign involved but does not include the installation of the disconnecting means, complete with line-side connections.

(C) In the case of the free standing electric sign installations supplied through underground circuit conductors, that portion of the electric sign wiring that originates at a wiring termination point adjacent to, within or immediately above the permanent base for the electric sign but does not include, if the base of the sign structure is suitable for use as a raceway, the installation of bushing, complete with free-length circuit conductors extending through to accommodate the connection of the electric sign wiring to the sign structure raceway.

(D) In the case of electric signs specifically designed to be connected directly to the building wiring raceway or cable supply, that portion of the electric sign wiring raceway or cable at the specifically designed supply location for the electric sign involved but does not include the installation of the building wiring raceway or cable system, complete with free-length circuit conductors extending through the building wiring raceway or cable to accommodate the connection of the related wiring. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. June 6, 1996)

12.003 Section 3. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE.

Pursuant to the provisions of Act 230 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, Section 9, (Michigan Compiled Laws Section 139-1551), the Charter Township of Canton hereby adopts, by reference, the National Electrical Code (N.E.C.), 1990, as amended, and N.F.P.A. 71, 72, 73 and 74 for fire alarm systems as approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the amendments, rules and regulations set forth hereinafter, as the Electrical Code of the Township. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. April 4, 1984, amended eff. June 6, 1996; amended eff. April 22, 1999; amended eff. December 23, 1999)

12.004 Section 4. ELECTRICAL EXAMINING AND APPEALS.

4.1 The Electrical Examining and Appeals Board is hereby established consisting of the Electrical Inspector of a municipality other than the Charter Township of Canton (which municipality is located in another Michigan Township) and also a member of the Regional Electrical Council, a representative of the electrical utility company, a licensed electrical contractor who is also a licensed Master Electrician, a licensed Master Electrician, and an Electrical Engineer. The members of said Board shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, for such terms as shall be designated at the time of appointment.

B. The Electrical Examining and Appeals Board, also referred to in this Ordinance as the "Board", shall have and hereby is given jurisdiction, subject to review as hereinafter provided, over the inspection of all electrical installations, including changes, repairs and additions thereto within the Township of Canton.

C. The Board is hereby empowered and it shall be their duty to promulgate and recommend the rules and regulations concerning electrical work in the Township of Canton as may be required to properly provide for the situations therein. The rules and regulations so made by the Board shall be effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees of the Township of Canton and the Michigan Department of Community and Economic Development, and shall take precedence over plans, specifications and national electrical code rules.

D. The Board of Trustees shall appoint an Electrical Inspector, who shall be licensed as an Electrical Journeyman or Master Electrician, who shall inspect all electrical installations and report to the inspection authority. This authority shall apply to the installation, alteration, repair, service and maintenance of electrical wiring, electrical devices and electrical supply systems except as provided in Section 3.2(A)(1) of Ordinance No. 140 of the Charter Township of Canton. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. June 6, 1996)

12.005 Section 5. FEES FOR INSPECTION.

5.1 When an application is made for a permit, required under the terms of this Ordinance, a fee shall be paid in an amount as prescribed by the Board of Trustees of the Township of Canton. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. June 6, 1996)

12.006 Section 6. RIGHT OF ACCESS TO BUILDINGS.

6.1 Subject to the Constitution and the laws of the State of Michigan, the Electrical Inspector and/or his or her deputy shall have the right during reasonable hours to enter any building in the discharge of his or her official duties for the purpose of making any inspection or test of the installation of electrical wiring, electrical devices and/or electrical materials contained therein and shall have the authority to cause the turning off of all electrical supply and to disconnect, in cases of emergency, any wire where such electrical currents are dangerous to life or property or may interfere with the work of the Fire Department. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. June 6, 1996)

12.007 Section 7. PERMITS.

7.1 It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to install, alter, maintain service or repair electrical equipment in or on any building, structure or part thereof, or on premises, or cause or permit therein or thereon the installation, altering, maintaining, servicing or repairing of electrical equipment without a license or permit hereinafter provided as set forth herein, pursuant to Ordinance No. 140, as amended, of the Charter Township of Canton. Nothing in this section shall be considered as applying to any person engaged in repairing and maintaining electrical appliances.

7.2 Permits shall be issued only to (A) through (D) below:

A. Licensed Electrical Contractors
B. Licensed Fire Alarm Contractors
C. Licensed Sign Specialist Contractors

D. A bona fide owner of a single-family residence which is, or will be in completion, his or her own place of residence, and no part of which is used for rental or commercial purposes nor is now contemplated for such purpose, provided that the owner applies for and secures a permit, pays the fee, does the work (himself or in accordance with the provisions hereof, applies for inspections and receives approval hereof.

7.3 The Electrical Inspector shall be authorized to issue permits for electrical work, and shall have the authority to cause the turning off of all electrical supply and to disconnect, in cases of emergency, any wire where such electrical currents are dangerous to life or property or may interfere with the work of the Fire Department. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. June 6, 1996)

12.008 Section 8. INSPECTION.

8.1 Upon completion of the wiring of any building, it shall be the duty of the person, firm or corporation installing the same to notify the Township of Canton Building and Inspection Services Department, which shall notify the Electrical Inspector to inspect the installation as soon as possible, and if it is found to be fully in compliance with this Ordinance and does not constitute a hazard to life and property, he/she shall issue upon request to such person, firm or corporation for delivery to the owner a certificate of inspection.

8.2 All wires which are to be hidden from view shall be inspected before concealment by a person, firm or corporation installing such wires shall notify the Building and Inspection Services Department, giving sufficient time in which to make the required inspection before such wires are concealed. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. June 6, 1996)

12.009 Section 9. RE-INSPECTION.

9.1 The Electrical Inspector may, when specifically authorized by state law or separate municipal Ordinance, make periodically a thorough re-inspection of the electrical equipment installed in any building, structure or part thereof, and electrical material now installed or that may hereafter be installed, within the Charter Township of Canton. When the installation of any such wiring, devices, and/or material is found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, the person, firm or corporation installing such wiring, devices and/or material shall make the necessary repairs or changes required to place such wiring, devices and material in a safe condition and have such work completed within fifteen days, or any longer period specified by the Electrical Inspector in said notice. If the Electrical Inspector is hereby empowered to disconnect such wires shall be subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and Section 3.0 (17.030) of this Ordinance is attached to the application for the permit to construct the pool. (Ord. No. 66 eff. Dec. 17, 1981)

12.010 Section 10. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.

10.1 No certificate of inspection shall be issued unless the electrical equipment and wiring installed in any building, structure or part thereof, and electrical material now installed or that may hereafter be installed, within the Charter Township of Canton. When the installation of any such wiring, devices, and/or material is found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, the person, firm or corporation installing such wiring, devices and/or material shall make the necessary repairs or changes required to place such wiring, devices and material in a safe condition and have such work completed within fifteen days, or any longer period specified by the Electrical Inspector in said notice. If the Electrical Inspector is hereby empowered to disconnect such wires shall be subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and Section 3.0 (17.030) of this Ordinance is attached to the application for the permit to construct the pool. (Ord. No. 66 eff. Dec. 17, 1981)

12.011 Section 11. APPROVED MATERIALS.

11.1 It shall be unlawful to install or use any electrical device, apparatus, or equipment designed for attachment to, or installation on any electrical circuit for the purpose of lighting, power or fire alarm system that is not of pool design and construction and safe and adequate for its intended use. The Electrical Inspector shall have power to disapprove the use or installation of devices not fulfilling these requirements.

11.2 Devices, apparatus and equipment listed by such generally recognized authorities as United States Bureau of Standards, or by qualified electrical testing laboratories such as: Electrical Testing Laboratories (ETL), Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) may be given the approval by the Electrical Inspector unless explicitly disapproved by said authority for reasons of faulty design or poor construction involving danger to persons and/or property. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. June 6, 1996)

12.012 Section 12. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.

12.1 The Building and Inspection Services Department of the Township of Canton shall keep complete records of all permits and inspections made and other official work performed under the provision of this Ordinance. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. June 6, 1996)

SECTION 2. VIOLATION AND PENALTY.

Any person, corporation, partnership or any other legal entity who shall violate or fail to comply with any provision of this Ordinance or any of the regulations adopted and pursuant thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be fined not more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars or imprisoned not more than ninety (90) days or both, at the discretion of the Court. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. April 4, 1984; amended eff. June 6, 1996)

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, sub-section, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portions shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Ordinance. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. April 4, 1984; amended eff. June 6, 1996)

SECTION 4. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. April 4, 1984; amended eff. June 6, 1996)

SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

The repeal or amendment provided for herein shall not abrogate or affect any offense or act committed or done, or any penalty or forfeiture incurred, or any pending litigation or prosecution of any right established, or occurring prior to the effective date of this Ordinance as amended. (Ord. No. 77 amended eff. April 4, 1984; amended eff. June 6, 1996)

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon its publication as required by law. NOTE: A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public inspection in the Office of the Township Clerk, 1150 South Canton Center Road, during regular business hours.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to remove from the table and publish the Second Reading of the amendments to the Pool Ordinance 110(C) to become effective upon that publication on December 22, 1999.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
POOL ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE NO. 110
Effective Dec. 17, 1981; amended eff. March 6, 1997; April 23, 1999; December 23, 1999

Continued on page C5

Continued from page C4

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STANDARD GOVERNING THE CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, USE AND REMOVAL OF SWIMMING POOLS, ESTABLISHING THE CLASSIFICATION OF POOLS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND THE COLLECTION OF FEES THEREFOR.

AUTHORIZING INSPECTIONS THEREOF, ESTABLISHING LOCATION, FENCE AND DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR POOLS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 38; PROVIDING FOR THE ABOLITION, AMENDMENT AND FILING OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE NO. 110 OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON CODE SECTION 17.012, ADDING SECTION 17.018, AMENDING SECTION 17.031, RENUMBERING SECTIONS 17.033-17.036 AND ADDING SUBSECTION 17.031(a) OF ORDINANCE NO. 110; ESTABLISHING DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF SWIMMING POOLS, ABOVE-GROUND-ON-GROUND POOL, BARRIER, IN-GROUND POOL, PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR, PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL AND SPA; ESTABLISHING THE CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS OF POOLS SO AS TO REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION CODE COMMISSION RULES OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, 1999; PROVIDING MINIMUM WATER DEPTHS AND DISTANCES FOR DIVING BOARDS AND PLATFORMS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF INVALID SECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION AND THE EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ORDAINS:

17.010 Section 1. ADMINISTRATION

17.011 1.1 ADMINISTRATION
The Building Official or his authorized representative of the Charter Township of Canton shall administer the requirements of this Ordinance so as to protect the health and safety of the public, bathers and other person. (Ord. No. 110 eff. Dec. 17, 1981)

17.012 1.2 DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATION OF POOLS.

For the purpose of this section, the following terms, phrases, words and their definitions shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Ordinance. The context, words in the present tense include the future, words used in the singular number

THEATRE

CENTURY THEATRE
 "Forbidden Hollywood," through Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 5:30 p.m. Sundays, at the Century Theatre, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50, (313) 963-9800

JET THEATRE
 "Prisoner of Second Avenue," previews Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 23-26, show dates Dec. 29-Jan. 2, Jan. 5-9, Jan. 12-16, Jan. 19-23, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Thursday and Sunday, 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday, in the Aaron DeJoy Theatre, lower level of Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road at Drake, West Bloomfield. \$15-\$25, (248) 788-2900

SPECIAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOURS
 Experience an old-fashioned Christmas in a Candlelight glow, 6-8 p.m. Sunday-Monday, Dec. 26-27, Greenmead's Historic Village Buildings. Tickets

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for the Purchase of Wireless Laptop Computers. Specifications and Bid Packets will be forwarded via fax or e-mail by phoning Daniel J. Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing, at (734) 416-2746. Bidders must leave detailed voice-mail including company name, address, phone number, contact person, and fax number/e-mail address. Packets will be available for pick-up at the front desk of the E.J. McClelland Educational Center located on 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI, on Monday, January 3rd, 2000. Technical questions should be directed to Jim Castee, PCCS Director of Integrated Technology, at (734) 416-2708. Sealed bids are due on or before 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 5th, 2000. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
 Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
 JUDY L. MARDIGIAN, Secretary

Bid Opening: 4:00 p.m. - Wednesday, January 5, 2000
 Board Review: Tuesday, January 11, 2000
 Publish: December 23 & 30, 1999

Continued from page C5

12. **Portable Electric Sign** means a self-contained single unit sign, wired in conformity with methods recognized by N.E.C. Such signs are intended for indoor use only, employ incandescent lamps, and have a weight of not more than four such lamps; shall weigh not more than 50 pounds; have a voltage between two conductors or between any conductor and ground, of not more than 150 volts; with provisions made for standing on a horizontal surface or for being suspended, and shall be equipped with not more than 6 feet of flexible cord and an attachment cap. All other signs are considered non-portable and require inspection by the Local Inspection Authority, unless the sign bears a label of approval by a recognized National Testing Laboratory. A connection permit is required for all non-portable signs.

13. **Scoreboard** (See Electric Sign).
 (ord. eff. Nov. 16, 1977; amend. eff. April 22, 1999, December 22, 1999)

B. PERMIT REGULATIONS.
 1. **To Whom and How Permits are Issued.** Permits covering the installation of electrical wiring and/or equipment in the municipality shall be issued only in the names of persons authorized by the Electrical Ordinance to perform electrical work.

2. **Home Owner's Permit.** A bona fide owner of a single-family residence which is, or will be on completion, his own place of residence, and no part of which is used for rental or commercial purposes, nor is now contemplated for the purpose, may do his own work, providing he supplies for and secures a permit, pays the fee, does the work himself in accordance with the provisions hereof, applies for inspections and receives approval of his work by the Electrical Inspection Authority. Failure to comply with these requirements will subject the owner's permit to cancellation.

3. **Fraudulent Application for Permit Illegal.** It shall be unlawful for any person to present any fraudulent information in making application for any permit from the Inspection Authority. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to use the name of another person in order to secure an electrical permit unless regularly employed by and directly authorized by the holder of such electrical contractor license.

4. **Permits Revoked.** Any permit issued in violation of the laws of the State of Michigan, these rules or any other ordinance, or as a result of false or fraudulent information, or misrepresentation of conditions, shall be subject to revocation at the discretion of the Inspection Authority. The person holding the permit shall be notified to appear and show cause why the permit should not be revoked and failure to appear shall be deemed sufficient to cause the permit to be revoked.

5. **Permits Expired.** If work for which a permit is issued is not started within six (6) months of the date of issue or if the work is abandoned for a period of six (6) months, the permit shall lapse and cease to be in effect. The Inspection Authority may reinstate an expired permit within one (1) year of its date of issue, but such reinstatement shall not be obligatory. Permits which have expired, lapsed, or been abandoned one (1) year or more may only be reinstated by resolution of the Inspection Authority in each case.

6. **Incomplete Installations, Notification of Quitting Installation Required.** Should any person to whom a permit has been issued for an installation and inspection of electrical equipment quit the installation for any reason, he shall notify the Inspection Authority.

7. **Inspection of Partial Installation Quitted, Requiring.** If an installation has been partially completed, the person upon quitting the installation shall notify the Inspection Authority and request an inspection. Acceptance of or violations against the work installed shall be recorded by the Inspector on the permit record according to the findings of the Inspector. No refund shall be granted to the permit grantee if the permit fee covering electrical equipment installed and inspected.

8. **Owner's Notification to the Inspection Authority.** If a permit grantee quits an installation after the electrical equipment is installed and fails to notify the Inspection Authority, the owner or his agent may notify the Inspection Authority and request inspection. Upon inspection, the permit grantee shall be served a notice of any violations. The owner shall be notified that he may secure another licensed contractor to proceed with the work.

9. **Refunds.** If no work has been done, a permit grantee shall be entitled to a refund on his permit in accordance with established rules of the municipality.

10. **Transfer of Permit from Contractor to Contractor.** In case the permit grantee gives written permission or appears in person with another contractor and grants permission, the permit shall be transferred to the latter licensed contractor, provided the latter contractor pays established transfer fee. If permission is not granted by the original permit holder, the contractor who completes the installation shall secure a permit covering the work he does, and the latter contractor shall be responsible in either case for all work done under his transfer.

11. **Transfer of Permit from Owner to Contractor.** An owner who owned a permit to make installations of electrical equipment in his residence may transfer his permit to a licensed contractor, providing the owner notifies the Inspection Authority of his intention, receives inspection of the work done by him and has his contractor pay the established transfer fee to the Inspection Authority.

12. **Owner Completing Work Started by Contractor.** Before proceeding with any electrical wiring installation which has been started by any other permit grantee, an owner shall request the Inspection Authority to inspect the

Arbor Food Gatherers and

Gleaners Food Bank. (734) 930-

4430

WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEET

Through Thursday, Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday (closed

Saturday, Dec. 25), along four- and one-half miles of Edwards

Wines Drive from Westland to Dearborn Heights, \$5 minimum donation per car helps keep the

39 giant displays lighted, (734) 261-1990

"WILD LIGHTS"

Continues through Sunday, Jan. 2, 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

until 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday (closed Friday-Saturday, Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1), at the Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile

at Woodward and I-696, Royal Oak, \$3 members (\$2 ages 2-12), \$4 non-members (\$3 ages 2-12), (248) 541-5835

NEW YEAR'S EVE**DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE**

8 p.m. dinner follow by 9 p.m.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for the Purchase of 3000 Network Computers including "CoreBuilder 9000 Enterprise Switch", "3300 24-Port Switches", and Wireless

Communication Products. Specifications and Bid Packets will be forwarded via fax or e-mail by phoning Daniel J. Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing, at (734) 416-2746. Bidders must leave detailed

voice-mail including company name, address, phone number, contact person, and fax number/e-mail address. Packets will be available for pick-up at the front desk of the E.J. McClelland Educational Center located on 454 South

Harvey, Plymouth, MI, on Monday, January 3rd, 2000. Technical questions should be directed to Jim Castee, PCCS Director of Integrated Technology, at (734) 416-2708. Sealed bids are due on or before 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 5th, 2000. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
 Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
 JUDY L. MARDIGIAN, SecretaryBid Opening: 4:30 p.m. - Wednesday, January 5, 2000
 Board Review: Tuesday, January 11, 2000
 Publish: December 23 & 30, 1999

L40000

installation for which a permit was granted and also to inspect any work performed, and shall also obtain an owner's permit for the remaining part of the installation. The original permit grantee may, if he desires, transfer his permit to the owner upon the owner's payment to the Inspection Authority of the established transfer fee.

C. **PERMIT FEES.** Consult the local municipal offices for permit fees.
 (ord. eff. Nov. 16, 1977)

12.354 **Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**
 This ordinance shall become effective upon publication date.

Note: Complete copies of these administrative rules are available for public inspection at the Clerk's office during regular business hours.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to remove from the table and publish the Second Reading of the amendments to the Electrical Service Conductors' Placement Ordinance No. 78 (B) to become effective upon publication on December 22, 1999. All ayes present.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ELECTRICAL SERVICE CONDUCTORS' PLACEMENT ORDINANCE NO. 78 effective December 21, 1977; amend. eff. April 22, 1999; amend. eff. Dec. 22, 1999

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE LOCATION AND PLACEMENT OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE CONDUCTORS.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ORDAINS:

12.351 **Section 1. SERVICE ENTRANCE CONDUCTORS.**

A. Underground 600 volts or less. See Article 230, 1999 N.E.C. Section 230-30 and 230-31.

B. Installation of underground service conductors.

Location:
 1. Platted subdivision lots serviced by underground electrical conductors shall follow the utility easements to the nearest interior point in an area no closer than two (2) feet nor further than four (4) feet to a point adjacent to the rear of the house or meter location and then in a straight line to the contact point. This requirement will be followed, regardless of the location of the power pedestal, whether located at the front property line or the rear.

2. Service conductors which are located 24 inches or less from the finished grade shall be protected by a red warning strip of an approved material three (3) inches wide, located directly over and six (6) inches above the conductors, or by other approved mechanical means.

In the event the public utility company supervising installation shall fail or refuse to exercise the responsibility of inspection and maintenance of the service entrance conductors installed pursuant to this ordinance, then an inspection shall be carried out by the Building Department.

3. Unplatted parcels location shall be approved by the Building Department before installation.

4. Overhead electrical services that are planned to be converted to underground services in those areas that have existing overhead utilities shall contact the Building Department to determine the new location of the planned underground service. (ord. no. 78 eff. Dec. 21, 1977; amend. eff. April 22, 1999, December 22, 1999)

12.352 **Section 2. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**
 If any section of this ordinance is declared void by legal actions for any reason, all other sections shall continue to be in force until specifically declared void through action of the court. (ord. no. 78 eff. Dec. 21, 1977)

12.353 **Section 3. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED.**
 All previous ordinances or parts of ordinances, and all amendments thereto, conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are repealed as of the effective date of this ordinance. (Ord. No. 78 eff. Dec. 21, 1977)

12.354 **Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**
 The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare and are hereby deemed to take effect and be in force upon publication.

Note: Complete copies of these administrative rules are available for public inspection at the Clerk's office during regular business hours.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the following budget amendment in the General Fund to appropriate funds for additional vehicle maintenance/repair expenses in the Building & Inspection Services division of Municipal Services:

Increase Revenues
 Building Permits \$101-000-477-0000 \$9,500.00
Increase Appropriations
 Maintenance & Repair of Vehicles \$101-371-861-0000 \$9,500.00

This budget amendment increases the Building Inspection Services Division budget from \$1,209,897 to \$1,219,397, and the General Fund budget from \$18,374,673 to \$18,384,173. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the following budget amendment in the Building Authority Construction Fund for the Canton Public Library expansion project costs:

Increase Revenues
 Proceeds from Bond Sale \$469-000-095-0000 \$ 6,000,000
Increase Appropriations

Proceeds from Bond Sale \$469-000-095-0000 \$ 6,000,000
 Publish: December 23, 1999

L40000

performance of the folk comedy,

Revival at Possum Kingdom

Community Church," at the

theater, 13103 Wooten Wilson,

Detroit, \$60, (313) 868-1347

FIRST NIGHT

5:30 p.m., performances begin (4

p.m.) by Village Players, midnight

laser show in Shain Park, in

downtown Birmingham, \$5, free

for children ages 5 and under,

(248) 258-9075

Gaelic League/Irish-American Club

8 p.m., catered dinner, 9 p.m.

dancing, with entertainment by

Inish Coel, Black Brimmer and

Walter Walsh, 2068 Michigan

Ave., Detroit. \$25, (313) 964-

8700

MILLENNIUM GALA EVENT

A special night at the Livonia

Marriott includes champagne

toast, hors d'oeuvres, a five-

course gourmet dinner, dessert

and coffee, and entertainment

provided by DJ Eddie Hakim with

a variety of musical styles.

Tickets \$130. Special room rates

also available. Call (734) 454-

7077

NEW YEAR JUBILEE

Madcat & Kane, Mr. B, George

Bedard & the Kingpins, and

dozens of other performers,

fireworks, 6 p.m., in and around

Ypsilanti's Historic District. \$15

until Dec. 26, \$20, \$5 children

ages 6-12, (734) 995-7281/(734)

483-4444

NORTHVILLE MANOR

8 p.m. dinner (7 p.m. hors

d'oeuvres), Haggerty between

Five and Six Mile, Northville,

\$100, (734) 420-0144

SOKOL DETROIT

8 p.m. dinner followed by dancing

to the Joe Tomes Band, at the

Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W.

Warren, Dearborn Heights. \$50,

(248) 437-8976/(248) 478-8151

"STROLLING THROUGH THE CENTURY"

Evening begins with 7:30 p.m.

performances of "Escanaba in da

Moonlight" and "Forbidden

Christmas," followed by food, live

music and dancing to Ed Wells

and Gem Jazz Ensemble, at the

Gem Theatre and Century Club,

333 Madison Ave., Detroit.

(\$225), (313) 963-9800; also an

Early-to-Bed celebration 2-6 p.m.,

includes performance and

dinner.

CLASSICAL**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

"A Century of Song: From

Vienna to Broadway to

Hollywood" featuring Maureen

McGovern, 10:45 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 30, and 6 p.m.

and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31

(\$14-\$95), at Orchestra Hall,

3611 Woodward, Detroit. (313)

576-5111

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE DEPARTMENT PUMPER VEHICLE

The Charter Township of Plymouth is issuing this request for proposal (RFP) for a Fire Department pumper vehicle. Bids must be per the attached specifications.

The contact person regarding this RFP is Fire Chief Larry Groth of the Plymouth Community Fire Department. Chief Groth can be contacted at 42500 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 or 734-354-3221. The response due date for this RFP is Monday, January 31, 2000 at 3:00 P.M. Any proposals received after this date will not be considered.

RESPONSES ARE TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
 Marilyn Massengill, Township Clerk
 Charter Township of Plymouth
 42500 Ann Arbor Road
 Plymouth, MI 48170

All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope and clearly marked as follows:

"Sealed Bid for a Fire Department Pumper Vehicle"

Bidders must provide a statement of non-discrimination, affirming that the proposer does not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, handicap, arrest record, height or weight in employment, or the provision of services.

THE TOWNSHIP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS FOR ANY REASON

Publish: December 23, 1999

L40000

Consultants-Architectural/Eng. \$469-900-803-0000 \$ 411,000

Bond Insurance Costs \$469-900-975-0000 76,744

Bond Issuance Library \$469-900-975-0000 4,576,562

Equipment Library \$469-900-977-0000 850,000

Bond Discount \$469-900-996-0000 \$4,804

Total \$ 6,000,000

This budget amendment increases the Building Authority Construction Fund budget from \$5,509,410 to \$11,509,410. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the following budget amendment in the Western Wayne Narcotics Forfeiture Fund:

Increase Revenues:
 Appropriation from Fund Balance \$266-000-899-0000 \$274,000

Increase Appropriations:
 Capital Outlay \$266-333-977-0000 \$150,000

Overline \$266-333-708-0000 36,000

Forfeiture Expenses \$266-333-800-0000 88,000

This budget amendment increases the Western Wayne Narcotics budget from \$229,000 to \$265,000.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to adopt a resolution opposing special tax break for utilities. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to cancel the regular Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 28, 1999 and to authorize the payment of the Township's bills on December 31, 1999. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to adopt a resolution approving the request for special land use by Schuler Hydroforming. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to approve the creation and filling of Web Designer position in MIS, and, further, to approve the following budget amendment to transfer the funding for this position from the Communications Division budget to the Management Information Systems budget:

Increase (Decrease) Appropriations:
 Salaries-Communications Division \$101-240-705-0000 \$ (46,800)

Fringe Benefits-Communications Division \$101-240-720-0000 (20,200)

Salaries-Management Information Systems \$101-258-705-0000 46,800

Fringe Benefits-Mgmt Inform. Systems \$101-258-720-0000 20,200

Total \$ -0-

This budget amendment decreases the Communications Division budget from \$228,800 to \$182,000 and increases the Management Information Systems Division budget from \$704,748 to \$771,748.

All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdick, to create and fill a Personnel Analyst position in Personnel Services. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdick, to award the bid for de-icing rock salt to the low bidder Cargill, Inc. in the amount of \$28.78 per ton. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to approve the following budget amendment in the General Fund to appropriate additional funds for the 1999 Sidewalk Repair Program:

Increase Revenues:
 Appropriate from 1999 Fund Balance \$101-000-899-0000 \$115,670.00

Increase Appropriations:
 Maintenance & Repair of Sidewalks \$101-441-903-0000 \$115,670.00

This budget amendment increases the Public Works Division budget from \$368,307.00 to \$483,977.00 and the General Fund budget from \$18,384,673.00 to \$18,480,343.00. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to disqualify the low bidder J & E Contracting, Inc. for being unresponsive and irresponsible, as defined in Section 9.11 of the Instructions to Bidders and award the construction contract for the 1999 Sidewalk Repair Program to the second low bidder, Martini Cement Co., for \$105,152.50 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount of \$115,670.00. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the purchase of two (2) vehicles for Building & Inspection Services Division at a cost of \$41,088.00 through the State of Michigan extended purchasing program from Jorgensen Truck. All ayes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin

DINING

Click and go to food.com for meals to go

BY KEELY WYGNIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygnik@oe.hometown.com

For lunch or dinner, hungry people in metro Detroit can click and go to www.food.com to order a meal to go.

Food.com is a personalized Internet service that lets you choose from a number of restaurants in your neighborhood, order something off their menu and have it delivered to your door or be ready for you to pick it up. Restaurants set their own food delivery charge, but there is no charge to customers who use food.com to place food orders.

"Food.com partners with restaurants and charges them a nominal fee to create and maintain their menu online," explained account executive Chris Fisher who grew up in Bloomfield Hills. "We are a national company that's now available in Michigan. It helps people simplify their menu selection and food needs from local restaurants."

Fisher describes food.com as "a virtual food court that offers everything from deli fare to Larco's in Troy."

"We offer a way for restaurants to be found," he said.

U.S. Dining Trends

- 47 percent of all adults agree they are cooking fewer meals at home than they did two years ago.
- 38 percent of all consumers consider meals prepared at a restaurant or fast-food place essential to the way they live.
- In an average month, 78 percent of U.S. households use some form of carryout or delivery.

Statistics from the National Restaurant Association

"Online you can see the restaurant menu and order."

"Like the telephone, the Internet is fast becoming an everyday tool that people use in both their business and professional lives,"

said Rich Frank, food.com's chairman and CEO. "We want to make it simple for them to use this tool to order meals — just point, click and eat. That's what food.com provides to consumers

around the country. It's simply a better way to order food, with much greater choice, convenience and control."

Customers accumulate points each time they order from food.com. "The more someone orders, the more points they accumulate," said Fisher. "You can use those points to buy more food. It's an added incentive to use our service. There are a whole lot of features that make food.com well suited for people who are busy."

The Web site has a special section for office meals and college students, and a dining out guide.

Eating out isn't just for special occasions anymore. According to the National Restaurant Association, in an average month, 78 percent of U.S. households use some form of carryout or delivery.

For restaurants food.com offers a quick and easy way to get online. Using food.com's patented technology, restaurants receive Internet takeout orders via a special phone automated voice system.

Food.com was founded in 1996 as cybermeals, and is based in San Francisco.

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygnik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax, (734) 591-7279 or e-mail kwygnik@oe.hometown.com.

What's Cooking includes listings of new restaurants, special dinners, menu changes, restaurant anniversaries and renovations.

■ **Cafe Cortina** — Will offer a Christmas Eve dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24. The cost is \$75 per person, strolling musicians will entertain diners. Cafe Cortina welcomes the year 2000 with a six course regional dinner, dancing, party favors and champagne toast, 9:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31. The cost is \$150 per person. Seating for dinner at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, regular menu items. Call for information about cancellations for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31 dinner seating. Cafe Cortina is at 30715 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. For reservations and information, call (248) 474-3033 or on the

Web www.cafecortina.com

■ **Corsi's Banquet Center** — Family New Year's Eve celebration served buffet style 4:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31. Features homemade lasagna, roasted chicken and beef, potatoes, vegetables, two soups, pizza, salad and dessert bar. Beverages, tax and tip not included. The cost is \$10 adults, \$9.75 senior citizens, \$5.50 children under age 10. Reservations a must. Corsi's is at 27910 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, between Inkster and Middlebelt Roads, (248) 777-4960.

■ **Musashi** — Y2K Super Value Dinner, served Monday-Thursday, Dec. 27-30, \$19.99 not including tax and tip. Includes salad and miso soup, chef's choice appetizer, choice of selected main dishes. Y2K Eve Gourmet dinner (by reservation only), 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31. Dinner \$99.99 per person, tax and tip included. Menu features an appetizer, Alaskan King Crab, Lobster tail, choice of Japanese pasta, dessert, open sushi bar and more. The restaurant is at 2000 Town Center,

Suite 98, Southfield. Call (248) 358-1911 for information, or online www.musashi-intl.com

■ **The Capital Grille** — Will be closed Christmas day. They will be open for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24 and 5-8 p.m. for dinner. The restaurant will serve lunch and dinner during its normal hours and offering dinner 5-9 p.m. New Year's Day. Capital Grille in the Somerset Collection North, 2800 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, offers dry aged steaks, chops and fresh seafood. Call (248) 649-5300.

■ **Golden Mushroom** — Is offering two New Year's Eve celebration menus and seating in two dining rooms on Friday, Dec. 31. New Year's Eve celebration, first seating begins at 5 p.m. in the main dining room, cost \$95 per person; second seating begins 6:30 p.m. in the Mushroom Cellar, cost \$90 per person. Millennium Celebration, first seating in the main dining room 10 p.m., cost \$150 per person; Mushroom Cellar first seating begins 9:15 p.m., cost \$145 per person. Call (248) 559-4230 for more information.

EATING OUT IN THE SUBURBS

Here are some restaurants that have been recently featured on the Dining page.

■ **The Intelligent Chicken** — 32431 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, between Middlebelt and 14 Mile Road (248) 855-4455. Open: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Saturday until 3 p.m.; Sunday 4-8:30 p.m.

Menu: Carry-out or deliver and dine-in restaurant featuring natural ingredient marinated, low-fat char-broiled or rotisserie chicken plus fresh salads, sandwiches, side dishes, and soups.

Cost: average \$5-6 per person without soft drink. Credit cards: All majors accepted. Details: All items carry-out. Two-item kid's menu. Catering and corporate lunches.

■ **Cleveland's Gill & Grill** — 311 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor (directly across from The Ark), (734) 213-2505. Open: 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; 3-9 p.m. Sunday.

Menu: Lots of seafood, a good selection of steaks, just enough chicken and pasta entrees. Homemade pumpkin pie.

Cost: Moderate to moderately high, lunches range from \$5 to \$10; dinners \$9-\$17. Most dinner items are in the \$11 to \$15 range. Atmosphere: Comfortably bistro, with nautical themes. Mostly non-smoking. Smoking section on second floor.

Credit cards: All major credit cards accepted. Reservations: Recommended for parties over five. Diners may call ahead one hour for a table.

■ **Sangria** — 401 Lafayette (corner of Fourth Street), Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964. Open: For lunch 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; dinner 4-11 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; until midnight Friday-Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. Crocodile Rock a dueling piano bar and lounge on second floor is open Wednesday through Saturday from 7 p.m. until closing.

Menu: Plentiful variety of tapas, Spanish style salads, traditional Spanish entrees, paellas

and authentic Spanish desserts. Sandwiches at lunch only. Cost: Lunch \$4-7. Dinner: tapas \$4-7; entrees and paellas \$11-18. Reservations: Yes. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

Details: Full service bar; carry-out for all lunch and dinner items.

■ **Lily's Seafood Restaurant & Brewery** — 410 S. Washington (between Fourth & Fifth Streets), Royal Oak, (248) 591-5459. Open: Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.; until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday; and until 11:30 p.m. Sunday.

Menu: Grilled, sautéed and steamed fresh seafood, along with sandwiches and a late night menu after 11 p.m. daily.

Cost: Entrees and seafood platters \$14-\$23. Six-item kids menu \$3.25-\$4. Reservations: Call after 5 p.m. to have your name placed on a preferred seating list for desired time that day. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

Details: Full service bar, made-on-premise microbrews and handcrafted sodas.

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