

Rollin'

Skaters take to portable park

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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Gnarly, dude. That seems to be the reaction of teens who showed up Monday for the first day of the new portable skateboard park at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The grind rails, quarter pipes and launch ramps were set up on the west end of the parking lot, with several dozen teens choosing to either skateboard or inline skate on the course.

The portable skateboard park, which is being shared with Northville's recreation department, was purchased with the help of a \$5,000 grant from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association and the Michigan Department of Community Health as part of its "Get Michigan Youth Moving" program.

Each community also put in \$13,000 to cover the remaining cost for the equipment and a

trailer to transport the skatepark between communities and events.

The Plymouth money came from the Jack Wilcox Foundation, as well as donations from several city commissioners.

"It's fun. It's a cool park," said Jake Moote, 12, of Plymouth Township, who was out early Monday. "I'm not the best skater ever, so I sort of like the smaller ramps and stuff that I can actually do."

"This is a good idea because we don't have many places to skate, unless you want to go to someplace a half hour away," he said. "It's not as big as some places, but it's still fun. Besides, this place is free."

Matt Carey, 14, of Northville, was impressed with what he saw.

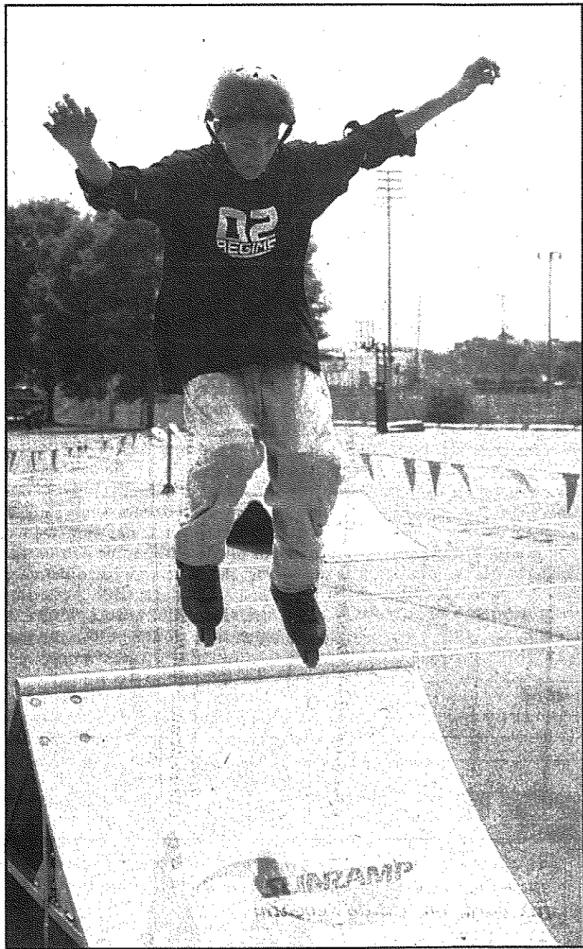
"I was expecting something real good, and this is real good," said Carey, who noted he's visited other skate parks. "I think this is really good for beginners and all skill levels."

Scott Schrimsher, a 13-year-old from Canton was traversing the park on his inline skates, and said the portable skate park fits the bill.

"This park has a lot more vari-



'Round and 'round: About two dozen kids took advantage of the new portable skate park set up for the first time at the Plymouth Cultural Center Monday.



Flying high: Scott Schrimsher, 13 of Canton, takes his turn in-line skating at the new portable skateboard park set up at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The park will be set up in Plymouth two weeks a month to start.

Organizers cancel gubernatorial forum

The gubernatorial forum scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College has been canceled.

The co-hosts of the forum, Oakland Community College; the League of Women Voters; the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers; and the East Michigan

Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) were notified that the three Democratic candidates and the two Republican candidates were unable to make a final commitment based on philosophical and/or calendar conflicts.

The co-sponsors will plan to host a forum in October for the U.S. Senate race.

Holiday from page A1

Virginia Kappler of Canton. "I feel safe, I feel patriotic, and I feel more bonded to people because we're all Americans."

The freedoms enjoyed by Americans were on Plymouth resident Joe Brockman's mind as well.

"I've thought about it more because of the recent rumors of more terrorist attacks," said

Brockman, who works at Ferris, Baker Watts, Inc., in downtown Plymouth. "I think it makes everybody think about their country and what it stands for, and the importance of the values of our forefathers."

"There are a lot of things in this country we take for granted, and maybe this year we won't."

OBITUARIES

FLOYD BOATRIGHT

Services for Floyd Boatright, 90, of Romulus were held June 24 at Uht Funeral Home in Westland with the Rev. Russell L. Roberts officiating. Burial was at Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton.

Mr. Boatright was born June 12, 1912 and died June 21 in Wayne. He was a janitor. He was preceded in death by his wife, Verna Boatright; son, Alfred Boatright; and daughter, Mavis Boatright.

Survivors include daughter-in-law, Vina Boatright of Romulus; grandsons, Richard Boatright of Redford; Rick (Shelly) of Redford, and Rex (Jennifer) Boatright of Romulus; granddaughter, Kathy (Roger) Burcroff of Canton; great-granddaughters, Sabrina, Kelley Burcroff, Allison

and Grace Boatright; great-grandsons, Derek Boatright and Jack Burcroff. Arrangements made by Uht funeral Home.

LOUIS A. WARD

Services for Louis Ward, 77 of Canton, were held June 22 at McCabe Funeral Home Canton Chapel with the Rev. Roy G. Forsyth officiating. Burial was at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Ward was born March 7, 1925 in Croswell and died June 18 in Superior Township. He was a retired machinist for the Braun Corporation.

Survivors include wife, Mary Ann Ward; daughters, Pamela Light, Linda (Tony) Fratt, Sandra (Jerry) Reilly, and Wanda Stewart; three brothers; five sisters; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Got an idea for a story? E-mail us at ttschneider@oe.homecomm.net

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Cherry pie is a delicious way to celebrate July 4

Whether it's July 4 or Memorial Day or Thanksgiving, come holiday time my thoughts always seem to run back to my parents. Both my mother and my father died about a decade ago, and I still miss them.

They both contributed to our long family tradition of eating cherry pie on July 4. My mother was a good cook, and she felt the red cherry filling was suitably patriotic for the holiday. My father loved cherry pie, in large part because his family was one of the first to plant cherries near Traverse City.



Phil Power

There are two pictures in our family photo album, both taken around the turn of the century. One shows my great grandmother Celestia Power, dressed in a long cotton dress, sitting on the front porch of the old family farm in Elk Rapids. The other shows my great grandfather Eugene Power, dressed in a dark suit, white shirt and Panama hat, looking proudly at a row of newly planted cherry trees.

Family legend has it that he was one of the first farmers to plant Montmorency cherries (called "sours" to distinguish them from the dark red eating cherries, "sweets") in northern Michigan. They became the dominant crop in the region, thriving on the sandy, well-drained soil and the moderating influence of Lake Michigan. Michigan produces something like 70 percent of the nation's tart cherries, and most of the land that hasn't been raped by the developers is still in cherry orchards.

My father used to tell me endlessly that his first job was out on the family farm, picking cherries for 10 cents a lug. His father, Glenn, who started out as a surveyor, helped great-grandfather Eugene lay out the cherry trees in long, straight lines.

Together with my cousin Tom, a circuit judge in Traverse City, I visited the old farm a couple of years ago. The house is gone, of course, but there were just a few very, very old cherry trees still standing to remind us of our family heritage.

It wasn't easy to be a pioneering farmer way back then. You couldn't be sure the trees, once planted, would thrive or bear well. And, as the cherry farmers learned this spring, there was always the risk of a late frost killing the flowers and ruining the fruit set. But the farmers of those days were a tough and determined lot. Honoring their hard work seems apt at this time of the year. And even though the crop of small this year, if you look hard you'll still find just a few tart cherries, enough for a fine, patriotic cherry pie on July 4.

Here's our family recipe:
Montmorency Cherry Pie

- For the crust:
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus additional for rolling
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup lard
3 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons vegetable shortening
2 tablespoons ice water
1 teaspoon white vinegar
2 eggs
- For the filling:
4 cups pitted tart cherries
1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
3 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
1 teaspoon mace
3 tablespoons butter, cut into small pieces.
2 tablespoons Kirsch liquor (optional)

For the crust: Combine the flour, taking powder and salt in a mixing bowl. Add the lard, butter and shortening and mix with your fingers or a pastry cutter until the mixture forms coarse crumbs. Whisk together the ice water, vinegar and one of the eggs. Add to the flour mixture and mix with a fork until just combined; do not overwork the dough. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

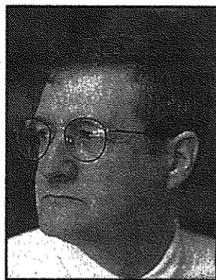
For the filling: In a large bowl combine the cherries, sugars, tapioca, almond extract, mace and kirsch, if desired. Let stand for 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Roll out half of the dough on a lightly floured surface. Line a 9-inch pie shell with the dough and trim the edges. Pour the filling in the pie shell and dot with the butter. Roll out the remaining dough and cover the pie or, if you're ambitious, make it into a lattice top. Whisk the remaining egg with 2 teaspoons of water and brush the egg wash on the top.

Bake for 10 minutes, then lower the oven temperature to 350 degrees and continue baking for 30 or 40 minutes longer, or until the juices are bubbling up in the center of the pie. (You may want to put a baking sheet under the pie pan to catch the juices.) Cool briefly and eat warm.

My father preferred vanilla ice cream with his pie. I'm more of a purist. Either way, it's a delicious way to celebrate Michigan cherries and July 4th.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2206 or at ppower@homecomm.net.



Hugh Gallagher

Court decision on Pledge creates mischief, pandering

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one

nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Sometimes the bold courage of our legislators is awe inspiring.

State Sen. (and congressional hopeful) Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, introduced a resolution in defense of the Pledge of Allegiance. It was a declaration so clear and penetrating it was "unanimously cosponsored and adopted by the Michigan Senate."

And should McCotter take his act to Washington, he'll feel right at home. Democratic Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle led his fellow senators to a 99-0 vote in support of the beleaguered Pledge.

Of course they were responding to the dastardly decision last week of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals banning recitation of the pledge in public schools. By a 2-1 vote, the court ruled that the phrase "under God" violates the First Amendment prohibition against the establishment of religion.

"The Pledge of Allegiance is not an oath to any god, person or power," McCotter says in a press release. "It is a pledge to preserve and protect the principles of liberty and justice guaranteed by the Bill of Rights."

At least it was when Francis Bellamy wrote it in 1892. A report on Bellamy on the Web by Dr. John Baer describes Bellamy as a Christian Socialist and cousin of the utopian writer Edward Bellamy, author of *Looking Backward*. Despite his Christian beliefs, Bellamy did not include the phrase "under God" in his original pledge. That was added in 1954 by the Congress at the urging of the Knights of Columbus. It was signed by President Dwight Eisenhower and was understood as a way to tweak our enemies "godless Communism."

The 9th Court's decision can be viewed in a number of ways. It could be seen as a bit of mischief to stir up the masses. Sen. Trent Lott used the decision as an occasion to rail against "liberal" judges. I understand the two judges come from opposite camps of the political spectrum.

More likely, the decision was meant to force the Supreme Court to clear up an ambiguity. The court has ruled against prayer in school and at school sponsored functions. But in side notes, the court has also allowed that the Pledge, prayers before public meetings (including every session of Congress and the Supreme Court) and the phrase In God We Trust on currency are excluded from the prohibition. Sadly, their reasoning was that a rote recitation of the Pledge had essentially lost its

meaning, especially for young people for whom it was just so much "blah, blah, blah, blah."

The circuit court's decision will force the high court to state explicitly those areas where democracy (the view of the majority) prevails over civil liberties (the protection of the minority) because of long established cultural modes of expression. And they will rule that way and shortly.

The man who brought the suit, on behalf of his poor daughter, claims she has been the target of ridicule. (But probably not until after he filed his suit). He has a medical degree, and a law degree. But an article in Monday's New York Times essentially presents him as a kook.

So now we can all feel better about hooting at the decision. It was a bad decision. It created a fuss over nothing and blurred the very real issues raised when government and religion become too closely linked (as in the far more damaging and disturbing Supreme Court decision last week on school vouchers). And it brought out the worst in politicians addicted to pandering. McCotter, who usually sides with civil libertarians, takes another tack here. He sees atheists in the woodworks.

"In applying its absurd, extremist interpretation of the First Amendment without an ounce of common sense, this court has perversely taken another step toward establishing atheism as the official national religion," he says in his release. "This must not stand."

Quite a reach. In fact the decision says the Pledge would be fine without the phrase "under God." That doesn't place the court for or against acknowledging the existence of God. It says the schools are to be neutral on the subject, because this country allows all people the right to believe or not to believe. The phrase in the Pledge clearly refers to the Judeo-Christian understanding of God. As the ruling says, how would Christians feel about saying "under Vishnu" or "under Allah" or "under Zeus" or "under no god."

As a believer in God, it's easy for me to say the Pledge. I believe in God, but I also believe in liberty and justice. In this country, the just thing is to not force others to conform to our beliefs.

This was not the case to raise this issue. This was not the text to test. But that doesn't mean that important issues are not at stake and that the Supreme Court shouldn't weigh carefully what justice means in a multi-cultural society.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by phone at (734)953-2149, by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net or by fax at (734)591-7279.

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Deficit forces area Red Cross to lay off 16

BY JOHN R. HALL
SPECIAL WRITER

The outpouring of donations to the American Red Cross in wake of the Sept. 11 tragedies has had a profound effect on the fortunes of victims and their families. At the same time it has had an effect on the future of some staffers of the Red Cross' Southeastern Michigan Chapter.

On Friday, June 21, 16 positions were eliminated by the Chapter due to a budget deficit of \$1.4 million. The cuts were necessary in order to balance the "small operating budget" according to Letha Williams, director of

the Chapter's Planning and Marketing Department.

"There are two main reasons for the layoffs," said Williams. "The action was taken largely because of the economy and because so many people donated to the 9/11 tragedy. When we asked for more help this year, some people had already given so much already."

Williams said that the layoffs were temporary and based on seniority and that those affected are still employed by the Red Cross. The Observer tried to interview some of the employees who were laid off but one employee asked not to comment and the other did

not return the phone call.

"Like many organizations that have small operating budgets, we are looking at ways to improve efficiencies," Williams added. "One of the things we hope to achieve is to make our CEO Jim Laverly more visible in the community."

"By becoming more efficient, it will free up some of Jim's time. We want him to have more time to be available to members of the community."

According to a recent press release, "The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross provided 19 disaster work-

ers, an emergency response vehicle, and significant fundraising support for this (Sept. 11) tragedy, including processing 43,000 donations in four months. The overwhelming support from the Southeastern Michigan community has resulted in contributions of \$16 million to the Red Cross Liberty Fund."

To counteract any criticisms that layoffs would affect important services such as disaster relief, Williams said that the layoffs will not impact the Chapter's emergency services, adding "there will be no restructuring involving emergency services."

Red Cross needs blood

Despite layoffs in the Southeastern Michigan Chapter, there will always be enough volunteers to help with blood donations - especially in Livonia.

The new American Red Cross Livonia Service Center opened in January 2002. It is located at 36650 Five Mile Road, west of Levan and directly across from St. Mary's Mercy Hospital. Regular office hours are 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Blood Donor Center, part of the Center, is open Monday through Thursday 1-7 p.m.; Fridays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donating blood is not the only activity at The Livonia Service Center. The Livonia Service Center offers Red Cross instruction and training in First Aid, CPR, and many other health and safety courses.

"The new Livonia Service Center is larger, brighter, and in a great central location," said Diane Johnson, director of Service Center Operations, in a January 2002 press release. "We're really excited to be in our new home."

The Livonia Service Center can be reached at (734)-542-0442.

Police get fingerprint scanners

Fifteen local police agencies have been able to purchase new or upgrade their fingerprint scanning devices with a grant secured by Wayne County.

The LiveScan scanners record fingerprints electronically which are then are transmitted to a Michigan State Police database. Each police department may also archive its own prints.

New scanners have been or are being placed at the following police departments: Van Buren Township, Canton, Woodhaven, Wyandotte, Belleville, Ecorse, Allen Park, Hamtramck and several Wayne County law enforcement offices.

Upgrades were purchased for Trenton, Westland, Dearborn, Taylor, Wayne, Romulus and Redford Township.

The average cost for each new machine, called Live Scan, is approximately \$75,000.

The Taylor Police Department received an upgrade through the grant.

"It allows us to quickly check arrested suspects' fingerprints," said Commander Brad May. "It should save our Automated Fingerprint Identification System examiner a lot of time."

"Normally, police need about two hours to completely process a drunk driver, for example," said Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara. "The new scanners should cut that time in half, meaning officers can be out doing their jobs quicker."

LiveScan permits police departments to transmit fingerprints to the centralized archive operated by the Michigan State Police to be shared by all law enforcement agencies in real time.

The electronic fingerprinting creates a better quality print.

"If you make a mistake doing fingerprints the old-fashioned way, you have to do whole thing over," said Detective Roy Schroeder, of the Van Buren Township Police. "Not with the new scanners. You just rescan the one mistake."

Another advantage is if police have no identification on a person, an officer can quickly scan the unknown person's prints, check their own archives and/or transmit them to the state.

McNamara created the law enforcement group, WAJIS (Wayne Area Justice Information System), a collaboration of County's 43 police, prosecutors and district court officers, that ultimately secured the scanners.

"I'm proud that our law enforcement agencies are working together for more efficient public safety program," says McNamara. The \$1 million grant was secured through a State of Michigan Byrne Grant.

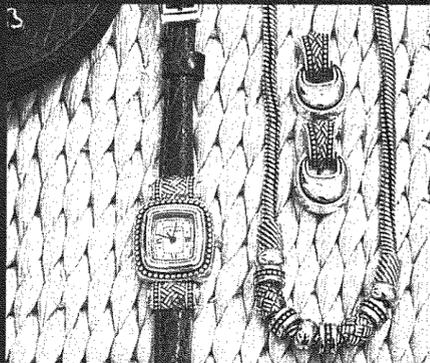
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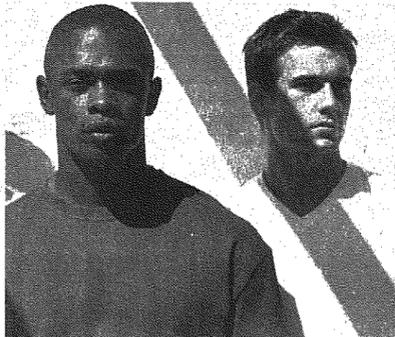
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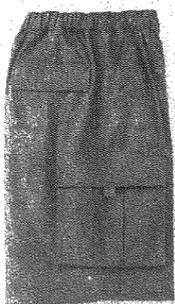


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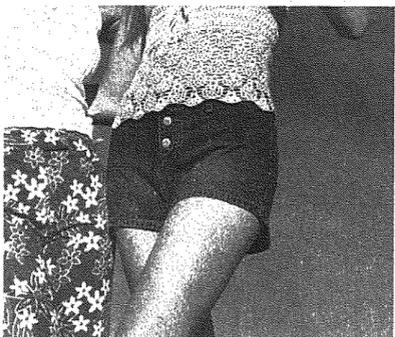
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ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Polar Palooza unites artists, businesses

I guess by now it's no secret that I'm fond of polar bears and their new home at the Detroit Zoo. I'm not alone. When the call went out in May for artists to submit designs for a project that would put dozens of fiberglass bears on the streets of Royal Oak, 250 inquired and 120 drew up plans to paint and decorate the life-size forms.

Now the only problem is finding sponsors. Lisa Wisniewski of Art-Serve Michigan is hoping that happens soon. The nonprofit organization coordinated the artist search, and now it's up to businesses, organizations, and interested groups, to lend a hand financially so that Polar Palooza is a success. So far 13 have signed up to support the zoo and artists.

Polar Palooza gives sponsors the kind of visibility a dollar amount can't be placed on, and lures visitors to the area. Chicago saw an extra \$200 million of spending in the Windy City after placing 320 cows on the streets in 1999.

"We were looking for designs that were the most fun, that were so cute they made you smile," said Wisniewski. "It had nothing to do with credentials. Fifty-nine artists were juried by a committee, families and students also submitted designs.

"I'm looking forward to seeing them. There are some abstract, some figurative, fabulous designs. I hope they get to be shown. From an artist's standpoint it's a great way to bring art into the community and to help artists get this exposure. Artists were chomping at the bit to do it and we'd like to be able to tell them they can."

Tom McGannon has his favorites resulting from the project that unites the Detroit Zoo, ArtServe Michigan, Detroit Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Downtown Royal Oak Association.

"ArtServe hosted the call for artists on-line and helped with jurying to lend expertise to the project," said McGannon of Eventures Unlimited which is organizing Polar Palooza. "Artists applied from Bay City to Canton. There's every kind of design. One of my favorites is of an upright bear in a tuxedo with a serving tray in one hand and a fish in another."

McGannon expects the bears to start showing up in mid-July but it depends on finding enough sponsors. He isn't worried even though the four Detroit-area project partners originally hoped to have up to 100 polar bears on the street and so far only 13 are spoken for.

Prop Art Studio in Detroit is molding bears that will be turned over to artists or whoever decides to paint them. The bears will remain on the streets until late fall when a gala auction will be held to benefit the zoo and the Downtown Royal Oak Association.

"Research shows that once bears start hitting the streets people want to sponsor one," said McGannon.

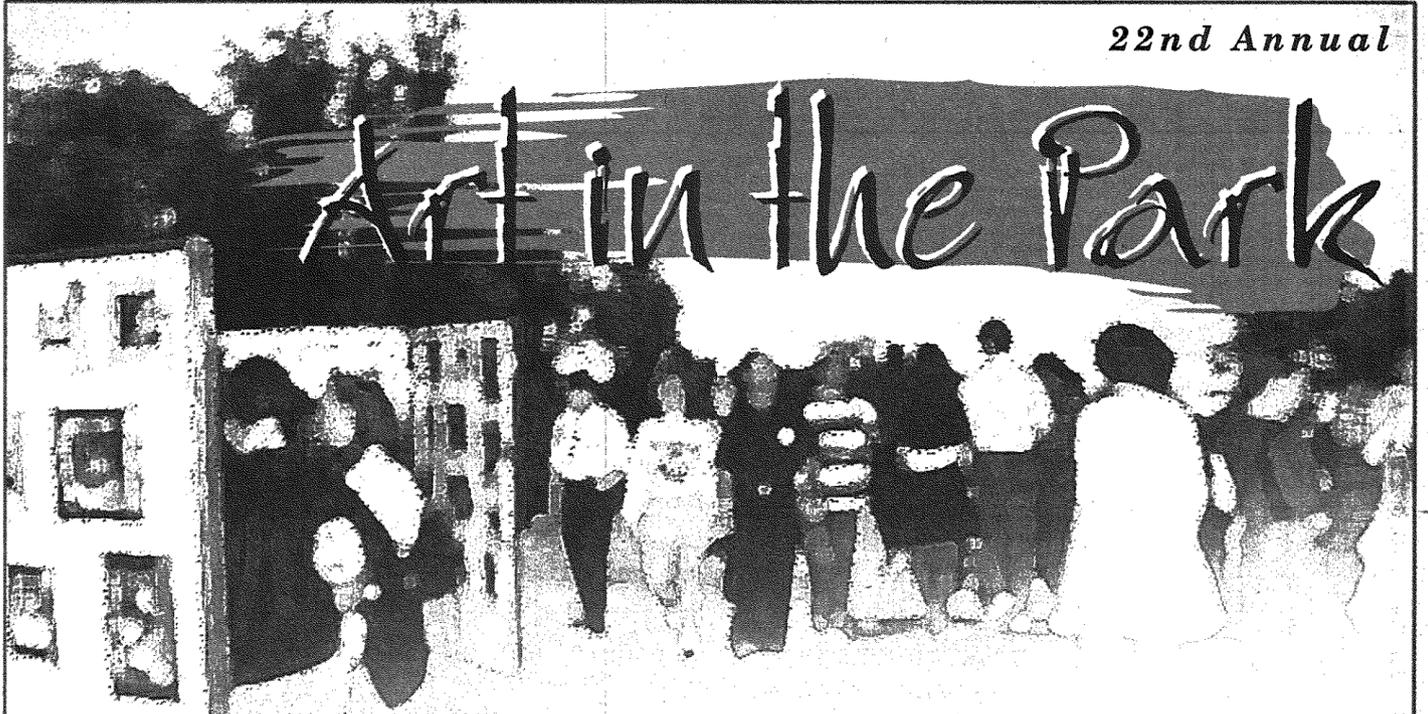
"There's incredible foot traffic and travel daily on the Woodward corridor. More than 200,000 come to the Royal Oak entertainment district every summer, and 1 1/2 million come through Royal Oak for Dream Cruise (Saturday, Aug. 17). The Detroit Zoo sees about one million summer guests.

"Sponsors can choose to create marketing oriented bears or choose from

Please see PALOOZA, B3



Testing the water: Like this polar bear in the Arctic Ring of Life at the Detroit Zoo, sponsors are waiting to see what the response to Polar Palooza will be before jumping in.



22nd Annual

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Jeanne Quinn's made sure everyone has a good time at the 22nd annual Art in the Park Friday-Sunday, July 12-14. She's always cared about the artists and visitors coming to the extravaganza.

A long-time Plymouth resident, Quinn takes pride in the fair she founded. Each year she changes something to improve the experience. In 2001, Quinn added a complimentary shuttle. This year she's setting up tables and chairs under The Gathering for people to rest or eat - or they can give a little of themselves at a bone marrow drive at the library. The Jaycees are currently raising funds to pay for testing.

"We'll have 420 artists over a 100 of them new, and the ones that are returning they know how competitive the market and do new super creative things," said Quinn.

"We began letting children exhibit in the park more than five-years ago.



This year we'll have 12 children about the fountain showing everything from clay to jewelry. It's a wonderful thing for children to be interested in and learn about. And I'm quite excited about the 1,000 children who will be visit-

ing and painting a 12-foot mural of the American flag that will then be placed in Plymouth City Hall.

"There's a variety of musical entertainment and art from contemporary to folk. Everything you'd ever want to furnish a home is here. I was thinking what fun it would be to go to Art in the Park to decorate your home. One of the things I care about is that people can find a small hand-carved butterfly or a cabinet or a stained glass window."

Karen O'Daniel's oil paintings would cheer up any room. Her Fruit Puns feature interesting combinations of vegetables and fruits, and people. O'Daniel received her degree at Kendall School of Design after graduating from Bloomfield Hills Andover High School. Although her work is on exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, this is her first art fair. The Plymouth resident was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis shortly after starting a career in advertising. But she's never let it stop her. This past year she taught art at Plymouth Salem High School and continues to teach adults at Summit on the Park Community Center in Canton.



Fruit puns: Karen O'Daniel paints whimsical works that are plays on words. This oil on canvas is titled "Banaknees."

"I'm a nervous wreck. Every day I say what can I paint today," said O'Daniel. "I have a background in visual display so I'm used to working with vegetables. How more real can you get than with still life but the vegetables and fruits tend to get old really fast so you have to paint really fast."

It's obvious O'Daniel's humor has played a large part in helping her live with the disease.

"MS has led my life since age 25. It directs me to stay away from 12-hour days at advertising agencies and it's kept me on a path to be level headed and weigh out the consequences. Sometimes I thank God I have it. It directed me in a positive way. I like to say, I may have MS, but

Please see ART, B3



Fun stuff: Pictured are works by two of the 420-artists exhibiting in Plymouth. Nina Cambron fused glass to create "Green Face" (upper left). Debra Metler designed this jacket and purse from unusual materials.

Art fair fun for kids too

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Whether they're just visiting or exhibiting kids can have fun at Art in the Park. Last year sisters Natalie and Emily Colletti of Livonia teamed up with friends to show their work. This time they'll display their keepsake boxes and bookmarks together.

"We're painting cigar boxes with velvet linings. We went to stores and asked for boxes," said Emily, a 10-year-old student at Hull Elementary. "Last year it was fun and we made a little money."

While Emily likes to draw, big sister Natalie enjoys doing anything in art. The 13-year old is a student at Frost Middle School.

"It's a lot of fun making crafts and hanging out with friends," said Natalie. "We made \$50 with clothespin dolls last year. It's a cool way to make money."

Megan Wakar's been making a few extra bucks in the art fair since she was 7- or 8-years old. The 14-year-old Canton resident will be a student at the new Plymouth High School in fall. But money isn't the only reason Wakar exhibits her polymer clay miniatures. She loves art and is thinking about going on to study art after graduating from high school. But before she does Wakar continues selling her miniature turtles, frogs, elephants, hippos, penguins, and lady bugs along with necklaces featuring the heads of animals at Art in the Park and in the children's section of the Detroit Festival of the Arts in September.

She began making them a couple of months ago and works every night to build her stock. It seems talent runs in the family. Her father Ted is a world champion ice carver.

"The animals are for the kids. The little kids come up with a couple bucks and buy them," said Wakar. "Parents buy them to for their kids."

"I like being at Art in the Park in Plymouth because it's really big and I like walking around and there's lots to do."

FILM

On the big screen

Former residents make good in Hollywood

BY CINDI COOK
SPECIAL WRITER

It's not every day that a film captivates, entrances, and entices with such vigor.

Take *Love and Loathing at the Ass Lamp Lounge* for instance.

Yes, a romantic title indeed, just trips off the tongue it does - at least off that of producer Bob Cicchini, local Redford boy who has made very good in a town where fame and fortune are very hard won, even for the most bombshell of blondes and biggest of networkers.

Cicchini bills his film as "a slice of life romantic comedy, which features an array of colorful, oddball characters and humorous sit-

uations along the way." The catchy title arose as a result of the quasi-burlesque lamps obtained by the set designer for the club in which the main characters meet, the base of each consisting of the hips, buttocks and legs of a woman in fishnet stockings and character shoes.

The premise: Therapist Marc Stanton (played by Cicchini) meets actress Jane Hamilton at their neighborhood watering hole one evening while out on the town. After flirting heavily, as any self-respecting young stud would, he misses the mark-until a few days later when they meet again, this time on top

Please see FILM, B2



In Hollywood: Director Mike Andrews and actor-producer Bob Cicchini work on a scene from their film, *Fear and Loathing at the Ass Lamp Lounge*.

DINING OUT

TasteFest

Annual Detroit event offers food, entertainment and shopping

BY CINDI COOK
SPECIAL WRITER

Fun-loving people, warm summer weather, food as far as the eye can see.

No, it's not your cousin's wedding, it's the TasteFest!

The culinary showcase for area restaurants is in its 14th year — hard to believe for something that started out as a way to keep employees well-fed.

Two decades ago, a good idea came out of the minds of some enterprising Detroiters. The New Center Council set up a program to be the caretaker for the neighborhood, now familiar to many as the, well, New Center Area. The idea was to pick up the litter, do the requisite marketing, and a newsletter — all in the hopes that the area around the Fisher Building would bounce back. The once glorious 'hood had potential, and these determined folks were not about to see it fall by the wayside. And in order to feed those determined New Center Council folks involved in the rejuvenation and renovation, local fare was gathered and set out for their eating enjoyment. And the TasteFest was born.

Sponsored by Comerica, the TasteFest runs Wednesday-Sunday, July 3-7, in Detroit's New Center Area on West Grand

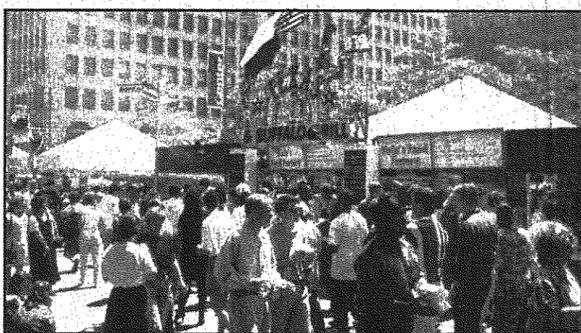
Boulevard between Woodward and the Lodge Freeway.

Encompassing approximately 40 food vendors — eateries, restaurants and shops, it has evolved into what Detroiters now know as the most delicious event around, a massive regional draw for the culinarily inclined, or those who just like to snack.

"I've only been here five years, but to me it's evolved into a more interesting event," says Michael Solaka, President of New Center Council, the non-profit business organization that is responsible for the whole enchilada. "We've added an art gallery to the fest and the 2nd Avenue Marketplace — the kind of retailers who might someday be in the city."

Solaka obviously has had good feedback on the event—and a good time feeding people. The crowd now pulls participants to both sides of the counter from all counties of the Metro area and beyond. "The TasteFest to me has to reflect what we do," he says. "We're not trying to be the biggest and best festival — there are lots of cool festivals around, like Arts Beats and Eats in Pontiac. We want to be about diversity and harmony too but also about creative energy, to invite new youthful energy into this neighborhood."

His invitations seemed to have



Strolling diners: Patrons at last year's Comerica TasteFest sample cuisine from booths stationed in Detroit's New Center area.

worked. Zoup!, the four year old quick casual soup phenomenon is making its first appearance this year. Owner Eric Ersher is excited about the event: "This year we wanted to participate so we're ready to roll."

After about a year of planning and development, he and his two partners opened their first store in September of 1998. They now have four locations—in Southfield, Troy, Detroit, and Novi. They will be opening on Hall Road between Shayner and Hayes in Shelby Township this fall.

The Zoup! concept (according to Ersher) in a nutshell: "We have 200 soups, we serve 12 a day, they rotate daily, and each order is served with a big hunk of bread."

Who will be eating hot soup in the middle of July? Plenty of people, he predicts. Featured front and center will be their most popular concoctions: Chicken Pot Pie, a creamy chicken and vegetable

soup topped with a homemade pie crust (the epitome of comfort food that would make anyone turn down a snow cone in a heartbeat), Shrimp and Crawfish Etouffée, and Spicy Black Bean Chili, the vegetarian choice, which is also dairy free.

His enthusiasm for the TasteFest and all it holds is on the tip of his tongue. "It's important to get the word out and expose people to the quality of Zoup! soups. It sounds like a great event!"

No category of cuisine is missing from the TasteFest, that's for sure. Mesquite Creek in Clarkston and Novi, is returning this year with their high quality offerings.

"We're doing a booth—we've done it two years previously," says Beth Hussey, Mesquite Creek's general manager. "In years past it's been great for us." The seafood and steakhouse uses a slight Tex Mex flair for the 100 percent Angus beef they serve. And what

will be on the menu at the TasteFest? Steak, fish, and chicken fajita tacos as well as a bean and cheese taco.

"We wanted to pick a couple items that represent the restaurant well. Everything we'll make at the TasteFest will be grilled right over mesquite." Mesquite, Hussey explains to this naïve reporter, is a type of tree that only grows in Texas. As opposed to others who use the charcoal derivation, Mesquite Creek uses the real wood with which to cook. Their beautiful restaurants are known throughout the area, with the Novi location being exceptional: A real actual Mesquite tree is planted in the center. The comfy casual atmosphere helps people to feel right at home. Says Hussey, "They know us for our great food, large portions, and great prices." She too feels the TasteFest experience will only make it better. "We'd like to expand; it's a great con-

cept," Hussey says.

If you aren't hungry, don't have a cow: TasteFest entertainment is the kind that only Motown (and its creative citizenry) can deliver—and it's free, as well as most other acts. Appearing on the main stage are the likes of The Ramsay Lewis Trio and WAR; Dr. John also makes an appearance, and that icon of the 80s, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts will grace the crowd with her rockin' presence.

As if that weren't enough, a whole electronic music state will be set up, with four nights of house and techno music gathered. Names like Bliss 66 and American Mars, familiar to those who follow the local music scene, will appear on the four stages.

Aside from music and food, there will be 11 kinds of specialty shops in the market — The 2nd Avenue Street Marketplace, that is.

Surely a mix like this is the right recipe for a good time for all.

At Comerica TasteFest: Restaurant servers dish out spicy Indian food at last year's festival.



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GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

'Rocket' gives boost to garden

Happy Independence Day! Although *Ligularia stenocephala* isn't red, white or blue, it has a stately look that adds a lot of oomph to a garden.

If we use our imagination we might think the small flowers that grow along the tall spikes of L. "The Rocket," a hybrid, represent a firecracker as its flowers sputter to take off with a shower of orange-yellow sparks.

Its large, ragged, heart-shaped, green leaves with purple on the underside provide a perfect "skirt" for this tall, impressive flower. It needs to be grown in more gardens than we find it in now - if there is an adequate supply of water.

Not all ligularias are as striking as L. "The Rocket." Some are rather common looking, others are also quite handsome.

L. dentata (bigleaf ligularia) has very attractive, large, rounded, dark green leaves that are the focus of this plant. The bright yellow/orange flowers are daisy-like on tall stems. It forms a clump of rounded, heart-shaped leaves. "Desdemona" and "Othello" are two cultivars you might find interesting.

Also, *Ligularia macrophylla* has large, long, wide, sword-like leaves different from the other species, and *L. sibirica* has large, round, green leaves with silver backs.

Ligularia likes a humus-rich soil, quite moist conditions and partial shade, where it doesn't get afternoon sun, as this will cause the leaves to wilt.

Grow it as a specimen or with skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), candelabra primulas, astilbes and tall, grassy plants.

These plants bloom in the summer and occasionally in early fall. They run in size from a height of 3 to 6 feet and spread 2 to 5 feet.

They may not readily be available at your nursery, but ask about them this fall so the nursery will have time to find them from its suppliers.

The plants can be grown from seed in containers outdoors in the spring, then planted in the garden when they're large enough. They can also be divided. Slugs or snails may be a problem.

The plants I mentioned before that grow well in bog-like conditions are quite varied.

Skunk cabbage peeks through snow cover as early as late February and as its internal temperature increases, melts back the surrounding snow. After flowering, large, rhubarb-like, apple green leaves appear and remain throughout the growing season.

Please see GARDEN, C3



PHOTO BY MARTY FIGLEY

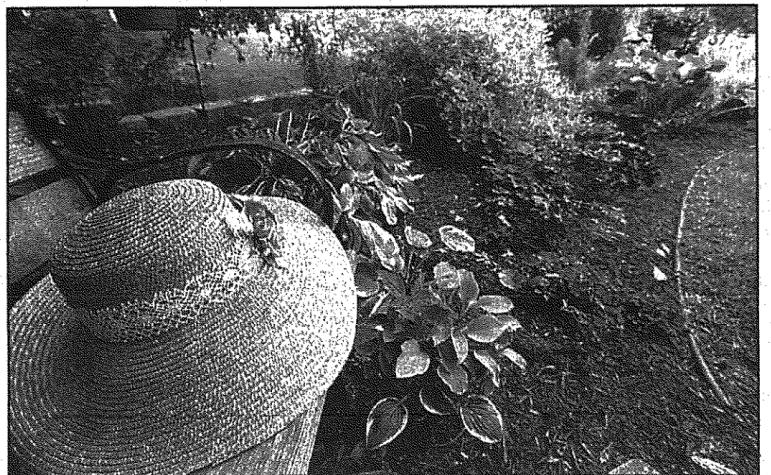
Taking off: You might want to add *Ligularia* "The Rocket" to your garden next year.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Sprinkle of love: Pattie DeBono sprinkles water on one of her potted plants next to her "secret garden."

English country charm



Spring fever: These hostas and daylilies are just a few of the spring-like plantlife in Pattie DeBono's yard.

Cottage garden extends beautiful welcome

BY BRENDA DOMINICK
STAFF WRITER
bdominick@oe.homecomm.net

It's a garden most of us would love to show off to anyone and everyone.

A quaint, informal and English-style cottage garden lies in a quiet neighborhood of Northville. Pattie DeBono, the owner of this "nature of loveliness," keeps a caring, watchful eye over it, and she says the benefits are well worth the work.

"My garden is my haven," DeBono says in a tranquil voice. "It's an emotional release for me."

The site is one of six beautiful residential gardens featured on the ninth annual Garden Walk, hosted by the Country Garden Club of Northville, Wednesday, July 10.

"This is a dream for me to be on this walk," DeBono said.

Spectators are first welcomed by her new rock garden in the front yard, consisting of nasturtiums, bright impatiens, and multicolored stones surrounding a large pine tree.

To the right of the rock garden is a 12-year-old, maroon-colored Japanese lace leaf maple tree with dainty, weeping branches in the form of a mound.

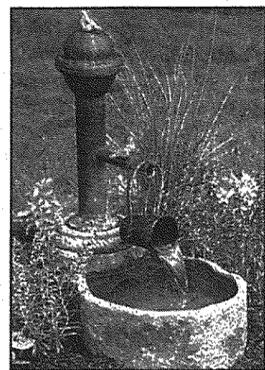
Going a few more feet, visitors see an assortment of plants, including a 4-year-old blue fescue cuddled around the right side of the garage.

DeBono has learned one important thing about these plants.

"You don't want to have it (fescues) in full sun," she said. "You want to have it a little bit shaded because they kind of burn out in full sun."

Assorted birdfeeders and stone figurines of angelic children holding mini potted plants add charm to several areas of her garden.

Cardinals, finches and robins flying



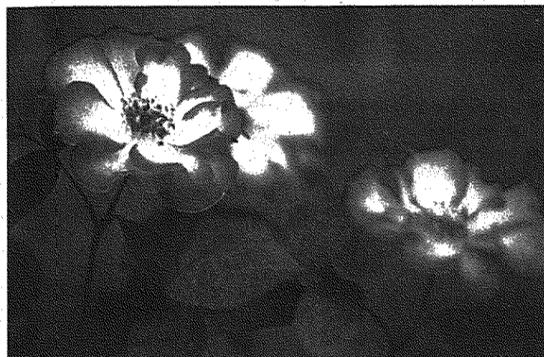
Special memory: This bird bath with fountain, given to Pattie DeBono by her late father, is her most special item in the garden.

around the yard are what give it a taste of summer. DeBono says she welcomes all birds and animals into her nature "realm."

"We live in harmony here," she said, smiling. A wrought-iron archway leads into DeBono's special "secret garden," filled with greenery and two stone benches, at the rear of her 120-foot back lot.

DeBono says because of the limited space in her yard, she had to create a special design of her plantings.

Please see COTTAGE, C2



Flower power: Vibrant, blossoming roses illuminate this Northville garden.

Blot the spot: Don't sweat summer carpet stains

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER
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Outdoor activities and summer entertaining needn't take a toll on your carpet.

That's as long as you're willing to do a little advance preparation and follow a few rules.

Rule No. 1: Blot, blot and only blot. Blotting is the technique of choice from the moment a stain appears to the point of rinsing and drying carpet fibers.

Rubbing causes stains to penetrate fibers more deeply. It also helps a stain travel and smear, said Stacy Skyner, owner of Stacy Steamer carpet cleaning in Redford.

"Generally, blotting is your best bet," said Skyner.

It's also a good idea to separate the carpet's fibers and look at the base to determine how far the stain has penetrated, said Skyner.

"Sometimes, you need to start at the base of the carpet fibers and work the stain up."

Immediately after a spill, use a terry cloth or plain, white paper towel to blot up what you can without applying liquid. Then try to remove the stain with water before using a cleaner.

Rule No. 2: Don't be a hot-head with cleaning solutions. If you apply the wrong solution, you risk setting stains and significantly reduce a professional carpet cleaner's chances of returning your rug to per-

fection.

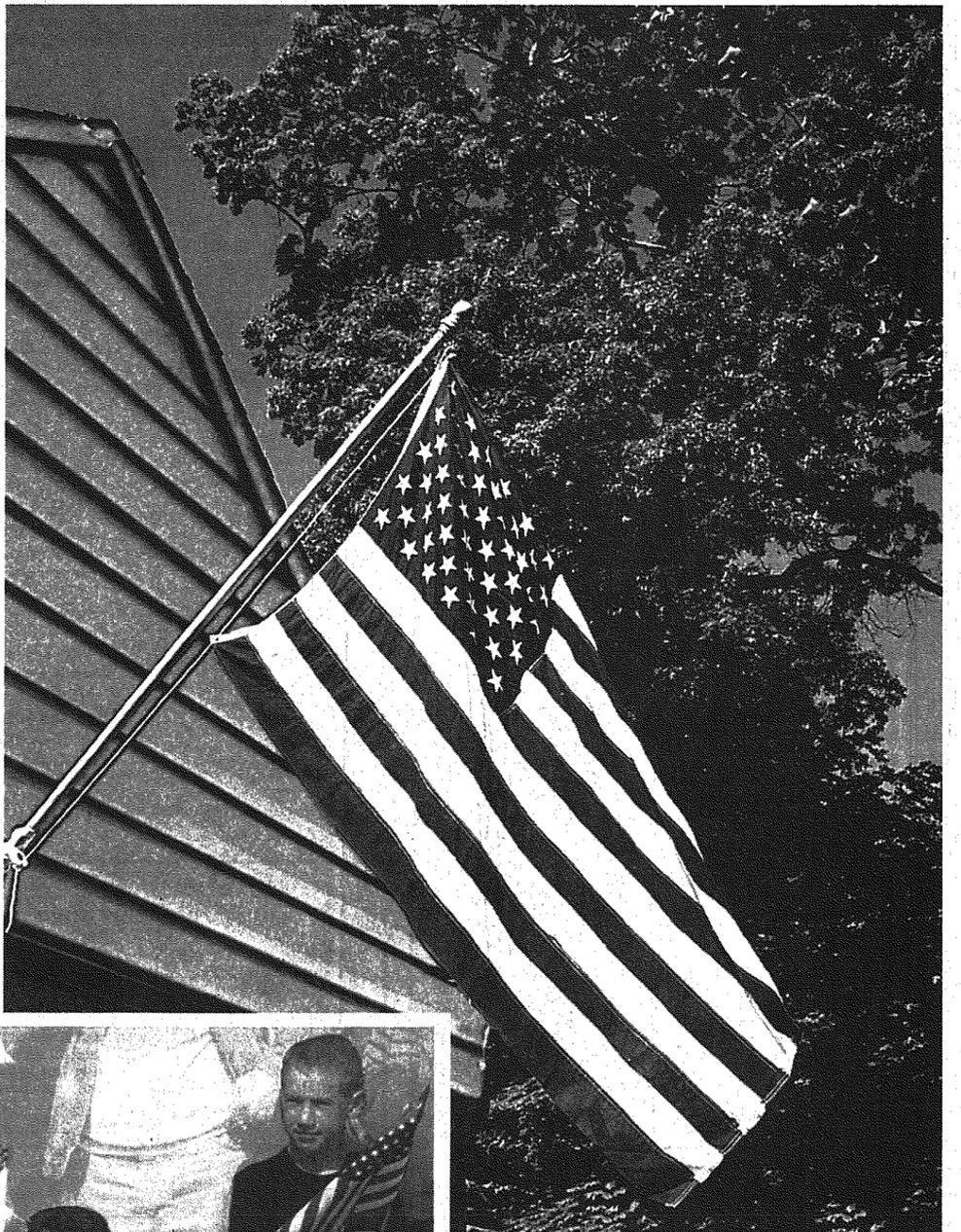
"We can get 98 percent of all spots out as long as somebody hasn't used the wrong product," said Cliff Oestman, owner of Cranbrook Carpet & Furniture Cleaning in Farmington Hills.

For example, grease and crayon are best removed using a dry petroleum-based solvent.

In the case of bloodstains, a protein cleaning solution is required. If you don't have one in the storage closet - and most people don't - Oestman recommends leaving the stains alone and calling a professional.

Club soda does a good job at removing stains from

Please see STAINS, C2



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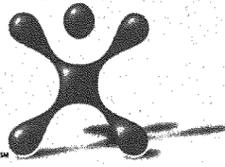
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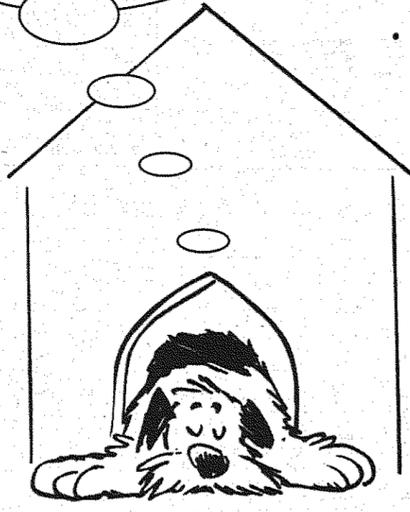
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Neat Dreams...

The folks had a garage sale and you should have seen all the stuff they got rid of! Old skates, that lamp, at least I think it was a lamp... maybe it was a blender. Anyway,



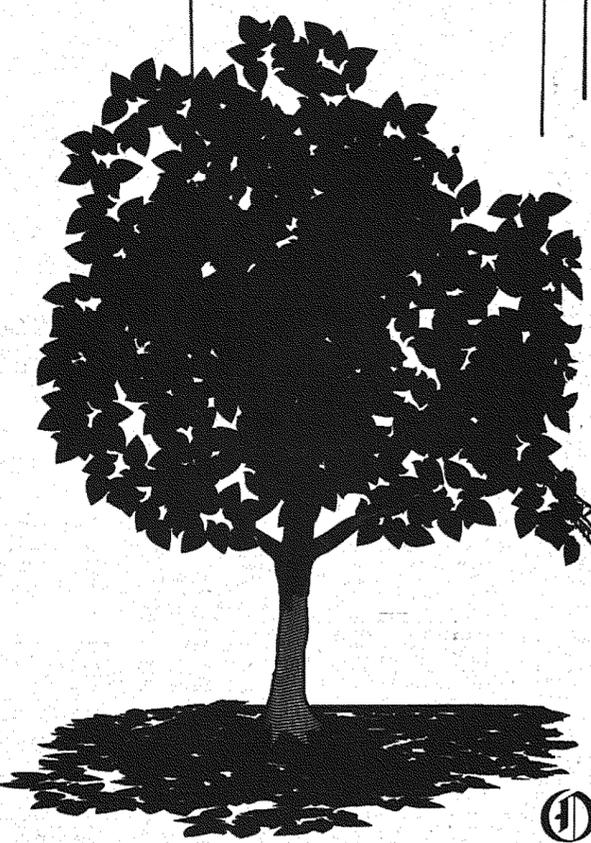
there's a lot less stuff around the old place than there was. What I thought was really neat was that they got their names in a drawing



for a \$50 gift card at **MEIJER**. Yep, if they win that, they'll probably buy me all kinds of fancy dog food and some of those neat doggie treats and fix up my house and get me lots of neat chew-toys.



Garage sales are so neat. Everybody should have one. What could be neater than getting rid of a lot of people-stuff, so you can buy your faithful dog a lot of neat dog-stuff?



'Scuse me, where's my house?

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