

Observer Life

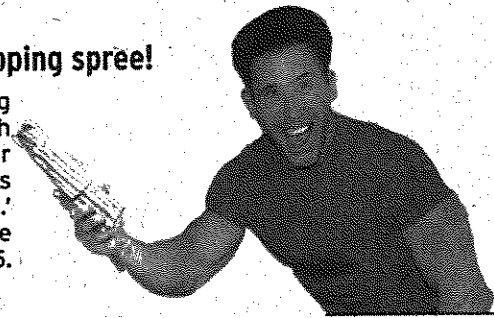
Page C1 inside today's Observer

2nd home
Learning center a family affair from the top down.



Win a healthy shopping spree!

Win a healthy shopping spree at Busch's with Peter Nielsen, author and host of 'Peter's Principles.' For details, please see page C5.



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CANTON Observer



Flexibility
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Health, C6



SUNDAY
October 12, 2003
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VOLUME 29 NUMBER 29

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Memo

Meet the lawyer

The Canton Homeowners Advisory Council invites all residents to attend their meeting and "Meet the Lawyer" - actually local attorney Bryan Amann - who will answer any and all questions. Also on tap at the 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13 meeting will be Supervisor Tom Yack, who will update the group on what's happening in Canton. The meeting will be in the PDC room at the Summit on the Park. The advisory council represents all Canton neighborhoods.

On the road

The Canton Lions Club will take to the road on a field trip at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, to the Penrickton Center, 26530 Eureka Road, Taylor. Club members will have a kickoff dinner on Oct. 24 to raise money for the club charities, including the Penrickton Center. The dinner will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 8000 Merriman.

The public is invited to attend. For information, club president Bob Boyer, (734) 495-1342.

Around the pond

You're invited to the annual Pumpkins Around the Pond 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, around the big pond in Heritage Park. All you have to do is carve and illuminate pumpkins and assemble them around the big pond starting at 5 p.m. At 6 p.m. there will be a walk around the park - to Halloween music.

Spooktakular

Come get spooked at the Spooktakular Story Series at 6 p.m. every Monday of this month, including, Oct. 13, 20 and 27 at the Bartlett-Travis House. Oct. 13 will feature stories appropriate for children ages 9 to 12; Oct. 20 are appropriate for those 13 and older; Oct. 27 will include local legends for all ages. Admission is \$3 per person. To register, call the Leisure Services Department at (734) 394-5460.

Meet them

Staff from Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's Livonia district office will host open hours from 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Canton Public Library. You are invited to stop in and discuss issues of concern to you, including Social Security, Medicare, military and veteran's affairs, small business concerns and student loan repayment.

Ghostly

Register starting Monday, Oct. 13, at the Canton Public Library for Ghost Stories with Virginia Bailey Parker, who will tell of renowned eerie and ghostly stories of Canton at 7 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Community Room of the library. She is the author of *Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton*. For more information, call the library at (734) 397-0999.



Crowning glory

During all of the hoopla Homecoming Queen Jenny Horton's crown was knocked off during the halftime ceremony at Canton's Homecoming 55-7 win over Livonia Churchill. Leslie Robinson picked it up and gently placed it back on the queen's head. For more on the game, please see page B1.

Labor pacts bitter pill for pharmacies

What's good for General Motors (and the UAW) may be good for the country, but area pharmacists say it's bad news for them and, potentially, for Michigan.

At issue is language in the recently adopted contracts between the union and the automakers that would require UAW members and retirees to purchase certain "maintenance" medications by mail order from out-of-state companies.

The plan would save the automakers hundreds of millions of dollars a year and would reduce the costs to union members and retirees by allowing them to only make one co-payment of \$5 for a 90-day supply of medication. If they choose to buy the medication at a retail pharmacy, they'll be responsible for the full cost of

the drug at the company's discounted rate.

Thomas Eiden, manager of Richardson's Super Drugs in Canton and a pharmacist himself, said he's not sure at this point what the impact of the plan will have on his store, an independent pharmacy that is associated with Sav-Mor Drugs.

"Our main concern is what's going to happen to the customers," he said. "People will no longer be able to come in and have access to their local pharmacist. We want to make sure customers come to us. We see people in here on a regular basis who have had trouble with their mail-order

PLEASE SEE DRUGS, A3

Board talks land buy

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Tuesday is expected to discuss the purchase of property for a new middle school in Canton Township.

The last item on the agenda is for an executive session to discuss the "purchase of property." Board members could come out of the executive session and vote on a purchase proposal.

Superintendent Jim Ryan declined to confirm if discussion would center on property for a much-talked-about middle school in Wayne County's fastest-growing community.

"I'm uncomfortable talking until the board discusses the purchase," Ryan said.

Board President Judy Mardigian said she "can't discuss details" of the closed session.

"I know administration has been working hard on trying to find land for a long time," she said. "It will be interesting to see what they've come up with."

Trustee Tom Wysocki said the idea of building new elementary and middle

PLEASE SEE LAND, A2

Visit library from home

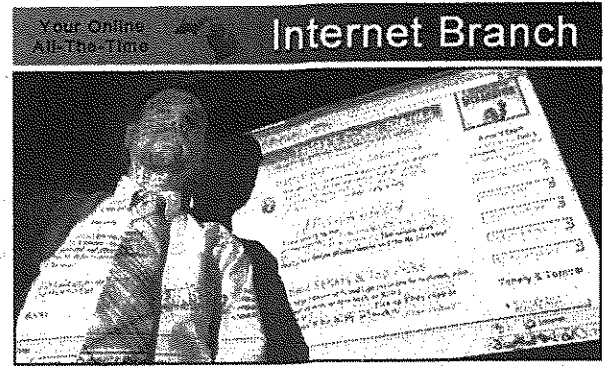
BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

It's the easiest way to go to the library and stay in your jammies.

"We're trying to get people to think of us as a resource on the Internet," said Jim Wiljanen, Internet branch manager at the Canton Public Library. "We are trying to capitalize on this. We are the delivery mechanism for a universe of information."

On Oct. 18, the library will celebrate the third birth-

PLEASE SEE INTERNET, A6



Canton Public Library Internet Branch Manager Jim Wiljanen explains the library's three-year-old Web page.

Ironman lets junk food, cigarettes go

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The two daily packs of cigarettes and the junk food had to go.

No way otherwise would Katsumi Shiji, also known as Karl, make it through an Ironman Triathlon, let alone alive. And he knew it.

"I had to change my eating habits. No more junk food," said the small-stature Canton resident. "I used to be a really heavy smoker."

Next week, Oct. 18 to be exact, this Japanese native will limber up and at 7 a.m. jump in the Pacific Ocean at Kono, Hawaii, and make a 2.4 mile swim before he hops on his bicycle for an 112-mile bike race through Kona's lava fields. And when he's done with that - one the same day - he will hop off the bike and start running for 26.2 miles. Competitors have 17 hours to finish the race.

"I will then go back to the hotel, take a hot shower and sleep," Shiji said.

While he's pushing himself in the 2003 Ironman Triathlon

World Championship, his wife, Hisako, a self-admitted chocaholic, and their 15-month-old daughter, Monet, plan to kick back and bask in the Hawaiian sun on a warm, sandy beach.

"I have to hide the chocolate," Hisako said.

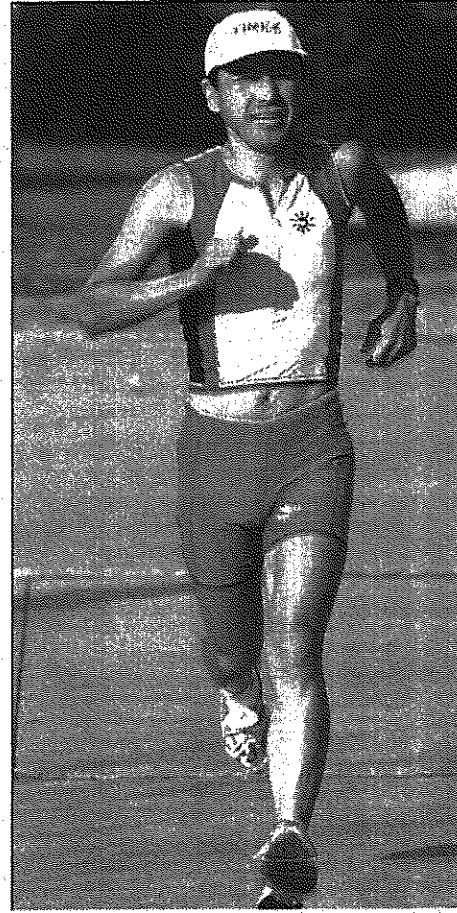
By the time Hisako and Monet see the man in their lives, he will have been one of 1,400 competitors in this, Shiji's fourth Ironman competition.

"They will come from 50 different countries," Shiji said. "All of us had to be qualified."

He accomplished that last year in Florida. And he's been training ever since. Actually, he has trained for years, ever since he changed his mind about the triathlon and decided to give it a try.

"I saw my first triathlon in 1983 in Japan. At the time, I thought, 'this is crazy,'" Shiji said. By 1986, he had been bitten by the bug. "I thought I might try it. Then again, I didn't have any sports background."

Compared to some competitors, Shiji started from square



Katsumi Shiji of Canton trains for the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii next week.

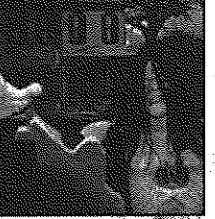
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LAND

FROM PAGE A1

schools in Canton have always been potential solutions to some of the suggestions expected to be brought forth by the steering committee looking at future needs of the district.

Wysocki said he's expecting Tuesday's discussion to center around a new middle school in Canton.

"That would be my assumption," said Wysocki. "I heard there was potentially something coming."

According to sources familiar with the proposed purchase, the property is located north of Cherry Hill, just west of Canton Center.

Ryan has gone on record that new elementary and middle schools in southwest Canton will most likely be part of a future bond issue, which could occur in about a year.

The district owns at least three tracts of land that could be used to build on or sell. However, none, according to Ryan, are big enough for a middle school.

"None of those properties are big enough for a middle

school, nor are they in the right location," said Ryan. "We have so much growth in the south part of Canton. A new middle school in Canton would put us in a position to have a strong line-up of middle schools in the district."

"We've been looking for property, regardless of a bond issue, because land is so precious," he said. "It's been an ongoing process, since I've been superintendent, to find suitable property for the growth we're experiencing."

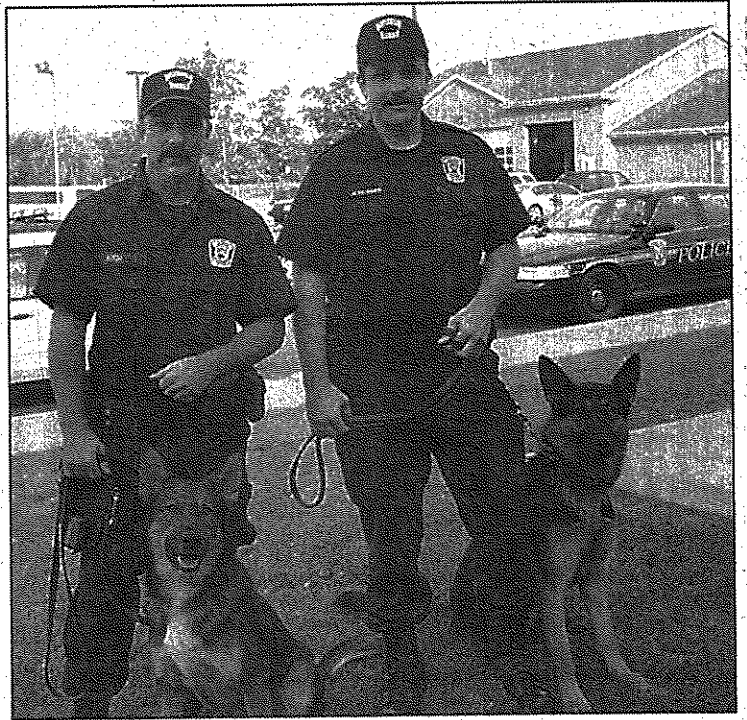
Constructing a new middle school in Canton has become controversial. Doing so would mean Central Middle School would house the alternative education program currently at Starkweather, as well as the administrative offices presently located on Harvey in Plymouth, Ryan said. That move is not supported by some district residents.

Figures supplied by the district indicate building a new middle school would be less costly than refurbishing Central, serve students in the fastest growing area of the district, and provide for more equity in educational opportunities.



Save of the Day

Joshua Hohner, keeper for the U11 Canton Oaks Select, keeps one out of the goal during a recent game against the Huron Valley Storm. The Oaks went on to win 3-1. They remain undefeated for the season after winning the pre-season Arsenal Cup tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Officers Todd Koch (left) and Matthew Jenkinson are in training with their new partners, Pancho and Lefty. The German shepherds from Czechoslovakia are replacing Shilo and Maverick, who are being retired because of age and health reasons.

Lowe's site plan up for review

The Canton Board of Trustees will meet in regular session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, at Summit on the Park. Agenda items include:

GENERAL CALENDAR

1. Consider site plan for Lowe's.
2. Consider Saleh rezoning.
3. Consider amendment to Waltonwood at Cherry Hill PDD and revision of the site plan for Waltonwood at Cherry Hill.
4. Approve purchase of two lots.
5. Approval of proposal for building security system.
6. First reading of Sign Ordinance 120 re: ATM signs.

RECOGNITION:

1. Recognition of Diana Baker for her volunteer work with Canton Community Television.
2. Recognition of Canton Community Television's award-winning staff.

Canton's original K-9s woof goodbye

Shilo and Maverick, Canton's two K-9 police dogs, are retiring after six and eight years on the force.

Age and health reasons are cited as the reasons. They'll probably continue to live with their handlers, Officers Todd Koch and Matthew Jenkinson, as house pets.

Meanwhile, their replacements are already on board and in the midst of a six-week training program.

Pancho, 24 months old, and Lefty, 19 months, arrived in Canton from their native Czechoslovakia a few weeks ago. The two German shepherds cost \$2,500 each and that, according to Canton Police Sgt. Mark Shultz, is a bargain.

police dogs and is running Pancho and Lefty through their paces.

"Because we were able to do the training ourselves," Shultz said, "we were able to save a significant amount of money."

The dogs are being trained in basic obedience, narcotics detection, tracking, apprehension of suspects and evidence location. They're being trained at various locations in the township, including the police gun range, a few abandoned buildings and other locations where they are likely to be useful.

Shilo and Maverick are continuing to serve on an on-call basis until their younger replacements are ready for full service.

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Freshman bags a buck on her first try

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

In her first time out, fourteen-year-old Amy Markey bagged a 6-point buck early Sept. 27.

"I was surprised to get it so early," the Salem freshman said. Not about beginner's luck or beginner's expertise, but about the 7:10 a.m. time she got the deer on her uncle's property off 36 Mile in Romeo.

"We got there at 6:30 and were waiting until 7:10," she said. "I saw the young buck against the tree. The tree was shaking."

One shot later from her 20-gauge single shotgun and she succeeded in her goal. Under the Youth Firearm Deer Season Sept. 27-28, youths 12 to 16 years of age are allowed one deer during the two-day season.

"We aren't allowed to use bait," Amy said. "We were in a cornfield so I could see him."

As soon as she bagged her buck, Amy was on the phone to her parents, Diane and Gerard at home in Canton. "They were surprised. But they had confidence. They were surprised it was so early (in the day)."

Amy learned to hunt at a Michigan United Conservation Club camp, where she was also able to obtain her license. At the time of the kill, Amy was with her uncle, Darryl Curtis and grandfather, Ronald Curtis.

Amy's family will put the shoulder mount on the wall in her family room. The meat will also go to the family. She admits some of her high school friends didn't expect her to be a hunter.

"Some didn't think I was the type to kill a deer," Amy said.



Amy Markey, 14, of Canton, with her first 6-point buck that she bagged on the first of a two-day youth hunting season.

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IRONMAN

FROM PAGE A1

one. The cigarettes got tossed, as did the junk food, and 30 pounds of weight. And the training was underway.

"My goal was just finishing," he said, about the first triathlon of his career. His first foray into training was about three or four hours a week. That eventually climbed to 10 hours a week to keep up with competitors. "I just had to build up more hours of training."

Today, he swims regularly at the Summit on the Park or the Livonia YMCA. He runs and bikes along Hines Drive. The training and triathlon have done more than make him physically stronger, especially in endurance.

Shiji has learned time management, especially with the birth of his daughter.

Between now and when he and his family board a plane Tuesday, Oct. 14, he plans to begin tapering the training and will work on resting in preparation for the Ironman Competition.

Following the competition, Shiji and his family will head to Hiroshima, Japan, where he and Hisako grew up.

After a short visit, he will head back to Canton, the Nowland subdivision to be exact, and back to work as a manufacturing consultant in Troy.

Hisako and Monet will remain in Japan visiting family. "We usually go back once a year," Hisako said.

While keeping their family connections strong, the couple nonetheless love living in America.

"There is opportunity here," Hisako said. They came to Michigan when Shiji worked for Mazda. They traveled back and forth for awhile and finally decided they wanted to live in America.

When she first moved to Canton she was wary that people would not accept the foreigners. She found just the contrary.

"We are proud of being Japanese. But we are proud our baby is American," Hisako said.

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DRUGS

FROM PAGE A1

prescriptions."

Eiden said in some Michigan pharmacies, 60 to 70 percent of the customers are affiliated with the UAW.

"Our percentage isn't that high," he said. "Canton has a lot of salaried people who work for the car companies. It's a large segment of the Canton population. We're just looking for a level playing field."

Eiden said Michigan law prohibits mail-order prescription companies from operating in the state.

"What we'd like to be able to do is give 90-days on all prescriptions," he said. "But the insurance companies won't allow us to do it. We're concerned about restraint of trade and customer care."

Sue Grehl, a pharmacist at Gilfix Pharmacy on Six Mile in Detroit, just east of Redford Township, said the plan could have serious economic effects on her small independent pharmacy.

"It's going to mean a big hit in the pocketbook for us," she said. "If people want to trade here they would have to pay me cash. Very few people could afford this."

She said probably about 25 of her customers are affiliated with the UAW.

"Most are retirees who are on maintenance medication," she said. "The people who take the high-dollar drugs are the retirees. For some of them it's a hardship to do mail-order."

Grehl said she doesn't know how to fight the plan.

"We just have to go along with it," she said. "I don't look for them (her customers) to be standing up in my corner waving a flag and saying, 'You can't do that to my corner drug store.'"

While small independent pharmacies are concerned about the impact on their operations, the big chains are also taking a close look at the situation.

Michael Polzin, a corporate spokesman for Walgreens, which has 132 stores in Michigan, said the company is

taking a look at options.

"Obviously it (the plan) is not going to be a benefit to our pharmacies," he said. "One thing we are trying to interest insurance companies and employers in is a new program that would allow individuals to get 90-day prescriptions filled at retail rather than by mail."

"We've come up with a program where individuals could get a 90-day prescription at pharmacies with one co-pay instead of three."

Like Eiden, Polzin said patient choice is a concern.

"The advantage of our plan is it's at a lower cost than three 30-day refills," he said. "And it preserves choice for the patient. Rather than using a mandated mail service, they would have a choice. That choice is very important."

David Bassett, a spokesman for Michigan-based Sav-Mor Drugs, said in addition to hurting pharmacies, the plan could cost the state millions of dollars in taxes.

"About 30 percent of prescriptions at Michigan pharmacies are for maintenance drugs like insulin, high blood pressure medication, cholesterol," he said. "There are 2,047 pharmacies in Michigan, about 5,500 active pharmacists and 120,000 full- and part-time workers."

"Collectively pharmacies pay \$1 billion, \$179 million in state and local taxes."

"Taking 30 percent of that revenue would dramatically reduce the amount of taxes we pay."

He said while Michigan pharmacies strongly support efforts to contain health care costs, mandating mail-order prescriptions is not the answer.

"It eliminates the option of consumer choice," he said. "It doesn't let UAW members and retirees choose to fill their prescriptions with pharmacists they may have used for 20 or 30 years. They have to use an anonymous out-of-state provider."

"The financial impact on the state could be tremendous. It could send tens of millions of dollars out of state."

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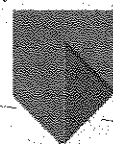
in having a toolshed,
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and washing my car
in my own driveway,

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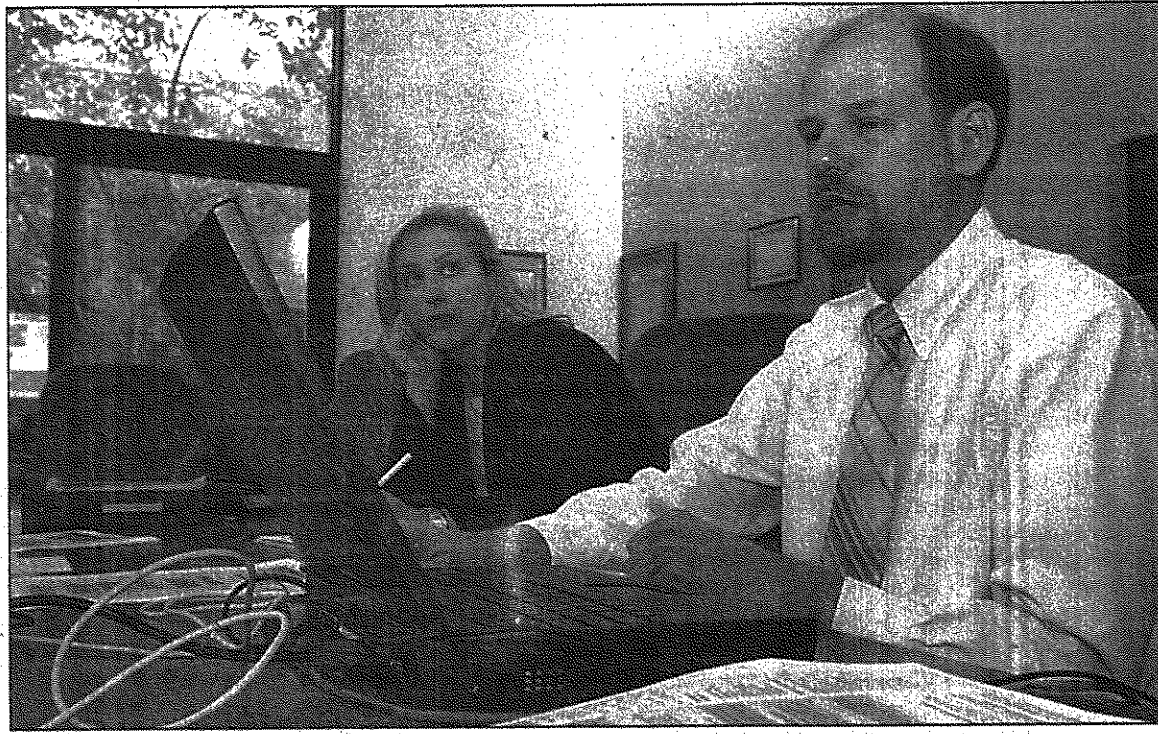


Where to find what

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

When you go to www.cpl.org there's a world of information at your fingertips. What's your pleasure? An International Newsstand that offers almost 250 publications, representing more than 20 countries? How about heading to the Children's Library or the Teen Place? If that's not enough, try to Special Multimedia Collections that offers more than 110 collections in 11 categories. Try screenwriting. From that simple topic, you will be hooked up to information on how to write a screenplay and linked to the library's catalog system from which you can choose books, periodicals, competitions and movies. Try the same for education, cooking, crafts, arts and travel. The library's Internet Branch can take you directly to foreign magazines or 109 magazines in the Online Magazine Rack. When you reach *The New York Times*, you can access those articles without signing up for one of its subscriptions. If you're looking for some basic everyday information, click on "Help Me Make It Through The Day" for weather, traffic, airline arrivals, school closings, Wall Street, Headline News, Product Recalls

and Tax Information. The Internet Branch homepage also offers a section called "Today's Cover Stories." This section hits on timely issues. On Sept. 23, the cover stories included stories on technology, reviews of best-selling books, and access to a range of books on cooking and healthy lifestyles, dovetailing into Michigan's latest ranking as the third worst among states for obesity levels. From the Web site, you can browse the library's latest book arrivals or join a book discussion and e-mail book club, or better yet, check out the e-Books. You're not done yet. You can have immediate contact or information about the best Internet sites, databases, search engines, even the Canton Public Library Friends organization and its Secondhand Prose book store. Quick Finders offer you about 100 different pages of information, much about the library. Both the children's and teens' sites offer user-friendly information, ample resources and all with either a kids' focus or a teen focus. On the children's site, they get to navigate through a treasure map that leads them to the information they seek.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Public Library's Marketing and Communications Manager Rebecca Baumgold (behind) and Internet Branch Manager Jim Wiljanen discuss the anniversary of the Internet Branch.

INTERNET

FROM PAGE A1

day of the Internet Branch. "We'll be promoting it on the actual site," said Rebecca Baumgold, library marketing and communications manager. "This is our virtual branch. You can do as much on it as if you were standing in the library. It is an additional way to access the library." There may be no hoopla planned, but the anniversary is significant. Take a peek at the library's Web site and you will know why: www.cantonpl.org. It helps to have a library card. In some cases, you will have to provide the code number for access.

REGULAR UPDATES

This site does not gather dust. It is updated regularly. "Every day, something changes," Wiljanen said. That includes a prominently displayed photograph. On the page is a section called "In the Spotlight," which changes regularly and offers news about the library, items of interest to library patrons, such as books and music. "It generally ties in to our resources," Wiljanen said. "We said we were going to do something pretty ambitious," he added. "I think this page was and remains a shining example of where the library is going." The Internet Branch is not competition for the library. On the contrary. "We want it to have the same identity as a branch library," Baumgold said. "This is not an afterthought. We are looking to do

more on the Internet." The purpose is information and how to easily access it. When building the new Web page, Wiljanen had certain strategies in mind; immediacy, convenience and the promotion of library offerings, such as special collections. An end goal was the continued and increased use of online resources. The philosophy is simple: A long front page full of links. "My goal was to get people in, make it easy to find stuff and make it easy to change," Wiljanen said. "Now people like it. There is a lot of information there." Who is doing it is what sets the library's Web site apart from others. All the links to other sites from the Web site are librarian-approved. "Who better to get you to a starting point?" Baumgold asked.

The anniversary is celebrating the library's new Web site. The original, basic one had been online for four years previously. "Essentially, it was nine boxes. Most were static. You didn't have a reason to say, 'I'm going to the library Web site to see what's new,'" Wiljanen said. Change had to come. One of the library's goals is 100 percent attendance. In a recent survey of those residents who do not use the library, one of the major reasons was they use the Internet. That did it. Library officials figured they could do a better Web page and make it relevant and useful for patrons. In stepped Wiljanen, who had worked with Library Director Jean Tabor on a number of projects since 1998. "I started looking at other library pages. There weren't many

that used immediacy and timeliness," Wiljanen said. He then looked at other sites on the Web, such as Amazon.com, as well as newspapers and television to see what can attract people. "If you don't have traffic, you aren't getting people to look at the site," he said. The library's Web site offers a door to the world, but this world is one reviewed and approved by librarians, who know how to find information and what value that information can provide. You can even make the library home page your default home page. Unlike search engines such as Google, the library page has already been organized for you, reducing your time looking for what you need.

Through the site you can access the world's newspapers - for free - as well as magazines and other publications. If you accessed one of the country's major newspapers, such as *The New York Times*, you would have to pay for certain articles. Not so when you go through the library's Web site and access the newspaper. How do you determine if a Web site is good? Wiljanen offers some tips:

- Is it easy to navigate?
- Does it meet your needs?
- Is it pleasant in design?
- Does it have quick finders?
- Do you trust the information?

 Wiljanen and Baumgold are certain the library's Internet Branch fits the bill of goods. "Most Web sites don't want to send people off their page. We aren't afraid to do that," Wiljanen said. "We know they will come back."

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, October 12, 2003

(*) A7

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Old Fieger, Kevorkian act doesn't make it in new world

For the better part of a decade, Geoffrey Fieger and Jack Kevorkian dominated the news agenda in a way that scarcely seemed believable.

They were, in a sense, characters out of an adolescent novel, two brilliant, in-your-face bad boys who got away with things nobody else could — and changed the country's way of looking at a major social issue.

Time and again, the unemployed pathologist would help some ill person commit suicide.

Time and again, they would go into court, captivate the media with their antics, openly own up to what the then-Dr. Kevorkian had done — and win an acquittal. Once, they even took the whole jury out to an expensive dinner party afterwards.

During one trial, Kevorkian sat with his fingers in his ears. During another, he dressed up to look like Thomas Jefferson, though in fact he looked more like a minor footman from a bad movie about King Louis XIV. During another, he refused to even show up, saying he had better things to do.

Somehow, the judges let him get away with all this. Geoffrey Fieger roared like a lion, said outrageous things to the jury ("Unfortunately the judge has ruled that I can't tell you about my client's prior acquittals,") and even more outrageous things about the prosecutors. He speculated whether his enemies' parents coupled with farm animals.

Once, he moved for an immediate dismissal on the grounds that the prosecutor was spineless "and in the state of Michigan a case has to be tried by a vertebrate."

Other lawyers would have been staring at some bars. Geoffrey got a wagging finger.

The odd couple teamed up in 1990. Six years later, assisted suicide Kevorkian style was de facto legal in metropolitan Detroit. Kevorkian lived in a house Geoffrey owned, filling its garage with wheelchairs that belonged to departing "patients."

The partnership collapsed in

1998. Geoffrey Fieger assumed he could translate his courtroom brilliance into the political arena, and ran for governor. He was smeared. Feeling neglected and bored with success, Kevorkian upped the ante. He moved to euthanasia, videotaped the act, and sent the tape to *60 Minutes*.

Then he dismissed Fieger and insisted on representing himself. This resulted in a second-degree murder conviction, and a 10-to-25 year sentence. "I've got them right where I want them," he told me, the day they led him away in April, 1999.

He thought a public outcry would force his release. But he had about used up his minutes of fame. Most of his supporters melted away. The judicial system took its time about considering his many appeals, then rejected them, one by one.

They transferred him to various prisons until they finally sent Prisoner No. 284797 to Lapeer. Jack Kevorkian is 75 now, an old man with many ailments. Last Sunday, he had a visitor he had finally agreed to see. Geoffrey Fieger. Hard as it must have been for Kevorkian to do, he asked Fieger to come back.

This week, once again, the press releases went out and the cameras flocked to the steadily expanding suite of offices informally known as the Fiegerdome. "For almost five years Dr. Kevorkian has been more than punished," his lawyer thundered, just like in the old days. "His continued incarceration is brutal, inhuman and cruel."

Yet the world has changed. Wednesday, Fieger formally asked Oakland Circuit Judge Rae Lee Chabot to release his famous client, who isn't eligible for parole for nearly four more years. Dr. Kevorkian's own physician wrote a letter testifying that the old man suffers from serious hernias, double vision, anemia and heart problems.

They had hoped that she would schedule immediate oral arguments, and bring Kevorkian down from prison to attend. But she declined, saying she would accept written pleadings only, and consider them at her leisure.

What Jack Kevorkian may not realize is that the world has indeed changed since he dominated the headlines in an era

when the economy was booming, foreign affairs seemed irrelevant, and life seemed to be all about lifestyle.

Today, thousands are still suffering who would like "a soft landing." But national priorities are different, and people have thought less about individual choice in death since the day 3,000 died in a flash through no choice or fault of their own.

Geoffrey Fieger has changed, too. The days when he could fight courtroom battles all day and banter with reporters in bars all night are gone. He and his wife, Keenie, have adopted two multiracial infants, Julian and Aidan, and by all accounts the flamboyant lawyer has, at 52, become a surprisingly dedicated father.

"Geoffrey comes home at night a lot earlier now," his wife says. These days he hangs out with the likes of U.S. Sen. John McCain, who lives near where the Fiegers have a vacation home. Someday, some judge may let Kevorkian out. But I wouldn't bet on it. The odds that he wouldn't keep his word not to help anyone die seems too great.

One has to wonder what the situation would be today if he had just gone on assisting suicides — something the prosecutors had given up fighting.

And one has to wonder about the future. "Oh, this will become legal, all right," Kevorkian told me years ago. "You know why? There are 75 million of your generation and only 17 million in the next. Do you think they're going to spend all their income to keep all of you hooked up to machines?"

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of Hometown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.

Recall, referendum vogue trades reason for soundbites

Recall, initiative and referendum have become the new vogue. Whenever things aren't going right for one faction or another, they start gathering petitions to make a change. Then they unleash the hellhounds of soundbites, misinformation, innuendo and other fine examples of democracy at work.

Everyone on both sides of the political equation seemed to agree that California Gov. Gray

Davis oozed arrogance. He was not warm and fuzzy. He wasn't funny. He didn't even work well with a Democratic legislature.

But he had been elected governor just 11 months ago.

California's problems are complex, multidimensional and some of them have been caused by the very people who launched the get-Gray-Davis recall. The right-wing of the Republican party had the money to get the recall on the ballot, but they didn't have the candidate to finish their agenda.

Now they have to settle for Arnold Schwarzenegger — affable, apparently too "fun-loving," smart but not a government wonk, and, hmm, moderate. Worse yet for them he's married to a Kennedy. The only hope for those who brought this circus of democracy about is if they can use his inexperience and manipulate him.

Unexpected consequences are part of the recall and referendum process.

A couple years ago, many residents of Westland became disenchanted, then frustrated and, finally, angry at the leaders of the city council. They felt

excluded and ignored. When a council member strolled into the office of the city clerk and told her to start packing, it was the final straw.

The anger and heat led some council members to resign. The council watchers had no trouble rounding up signatures to put a recall on the ballot against two other council members. Their efforts were successful. But despite several campaigns, no one who led the recall election has ever succeeded in being elected to the city council. Many of those who wielded power in the city before the recall continue to have that power.

It might be strongly argued that the recall brought some civility to council proceedings and served as a reminder that public officials serve at the pleasure of the electorate.

Michigan's Constitution puts no restrictions on reasons for a recall. In fact it states, "The sufficiency of any statement of reasons or grounds procedurally required shall be a political rather than a judicial question."

But traditionally recall has been used to remove from office those who have been found guilty of malfeasance or abuse of power. The regular election is the way to remove those who don't meet political expectations.

The regular ballot is also subject to manipulation by those with the money to buy media time. But there is a better chance to answer charges, deal with issues, present arguments.

A recall is, as it was in California, a circus of quick hits during which no one on either side discussed in any detail or sense the serious issues at play in our largest, and craziest, state. The referendum began taking on more importance beginning in the 1960s. It was primarily the frustration of

those on the political left, who believed that legislatures were too conservative. In recent years, more referendums have come from the right. Those sponsoring the referendums are frustrated to find that even when they have a majority in a state legislature, their agendas are often diluted or compromised away.

In California, on the same ballot that featured the recall and gubernatorial quick vote, anti-affirmative action activist Ward Connerly was at it again, leading a campaign to prevent the state from gathering information on race. Again it was one of those twisty proposals that claimed to foster "color-blindness" but that in practical terms would have made it difficult to chart such things as the prevalence of disease in specific population groups or to chart the level of poverty and unemployment. This time the people of California saw through the sham and rejected the proposal. Whether from left or right, the problem with referendums is that all arguments are reduced to phrases, misleading TV commercials and angry soundbites.

The deliberative process of the legislature may be frustrating but it has a purpose. That purpose is to test, research, weigh and challenge ideas. A legislature that is too liberal or too conservative, too rural or too urban will, in time, feel the anger of voters who feel left out.

Recalls and referendums are fine to have, a constant threat that power does lie with the electorate. But a wise electorate knows they are tools to be drawn from the box on extremely rare occasions.

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



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Levin sees Clark as 'impressive' entry

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Sen. Carl Levin isn't ready to commit yet to any of the nine Democratic candidates for president, but he is intrigued by the entry of Gen. Wesley Clark into the crowded field.

"Clark getting in is a very significant element for two reasons," Levin said. "He is an impressive person. He brings credibility that would eliminate this whole commander-in-chief approach that Bush is taking, basically running on 9/11, running on what was perceived as a strong suit on foreign policy and security policy."

Levin made his remarks in a wide-ranging conversation with *Observer & Eccentric* editors Wednesday.

The senator said fellow Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts was the only other candidate with similar military credentials. Kerry is a decorated Vietnam veteran. But Levin said he had been impressed by Clark's testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee last year and his foresight into potential problems with Iraq.

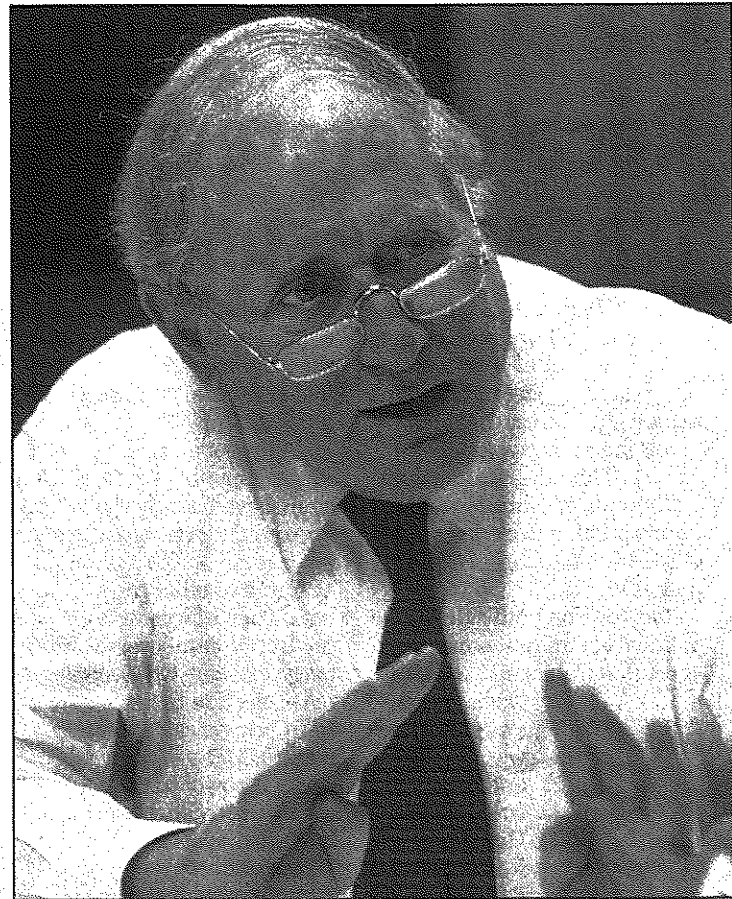
"Clark, before the war, was very strong that we don't have a post war plan for the problems we'll have. He said we'll have to go to the U.N. and work a plan," Levin said.

IRAQ CONCERNS

Levin called the current situation in Iraq "very dangerous to our interests." He said it was important to find a way to get the international community involved in the rebuilding process.

The senator was one of 25 members of the Senate who opposed going into Iraq without international support and more evidence of an "imminent threat." He said it was "worth the time. We could have taken the time."

"Putting aside all that, we're in," Levin said. "Now we've got to try to make this thing work and not make it worse by making further mistakes. The way to make it better, in my judgment, is to listen to what (U.N. Secretary Gen.) Kofi Annan is telling us at the U.N. He's a friend of ours. He's not an enemy of the United States."



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin (D-Michigan) speaks to the *Observer & Eccentric* editorial staff in their Livonia headquarters Wednesday.

The senator said Iraq will have to be responsible for its own redevelopment by making "liquid" its liquid asset in oil. He said the country could raise the money now by selling futures in its oil production.

Levin said Bush's "pre-emptive doctrine" presented a lot of problems, essentially giving other nations an excuse for invading their enemies.

"You can't attack every country," he said. "North Korea is a bigger problem than Iraq. They have weapons of mass destruction. They proclaim it. They want us to believe they have weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent."

Levin said it was important to work with allies in Asia on containment and to find ways to help North Korea work out of its isolation and poverty.

Levin has been a longtime supporter of Israel and is dismayed at recent events.

"I don't see negotiations beginning again until the Palestinian Authority puts in place a government that can control the attacks on Israel. Israel is not going to yield to that, because it would be a bottomless pit, once you can blow

up a restaurant and kill 300 people, once you can blow up a bus and get something for it," he said. "Israel won't walk down that road and we wouldn't either."

'DEEPER DEFICIT DITCH'

At home, Levin said President Bush's tax cut policies are not helping the economy "except to work us into a deeper deficit ditch."

He said Democrats will be offering alternatives during the presidential campaign, including cutting back on tax cuts for those in the upper tax brackets. He said he expected every Democratic candidate to support a freeze on those cuts.

"Invest some of the revenue instead of in tax cuts in infrastructure," he said. "Do what we need to do in terms of roads, in terms of water. We've got so many water, sewer and road problems in this country that are unmet."

Levin said Bush is the first president since Hoover to have a loss of private sector jobs during his term.

"These deficits are off the charts, the previous high deficit was \$300 billion, this is \$500

billion," he said.

Levin said the deficits would become a major problem when baby boomers become eligible for Social Security. The government borrows from Social Security to meet other demands.

In recent years, he said, the Democrats have become the party of fiscal responsibility, beginning with tax increases during the first Clinton term that eventually gave the government a surplus. He said Republicans "ideologues" are more interested in reducing government by "starvation."

"A lot of people in the administration feel the only way of cutting the federal government is to cut its revenue," Levin said.

He said most people he talks to are angry at government waste but support government programs.

On other issues: Levin said the Patriot Act was helpful in bringing security in line with new technology. But he said the act went too far in giving the government access to some records, such as library records. He said this will be re-addressed and added that the bill has a five-year "sunset" at which time it comes up for renewal.

Levin said he opposes a constitutional amendment sponsored by U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) to require the Senate to affirmatively reject a presidential appointee within 120 days. McCotter and other Republicans have been critical of Democrats for holding up Bush's judicial nominees.

"I didn't hear from all the Republicans when the Republican Senate didn't give hearings for four years and 1-1/2 years to two women nominated by Clinton," Levin said.

He said the proposal was inconsistent with past actions by the Republicans and that Democrats have a better record affirming Bush's appointees. He said he has proposed a "bipartisan" panel to make recommendations in the Sixth District Court where four appointees have been "blue slipped" by Levin and Sen. Debbie Stabenow, preventing hearings before the Senate Judiciary Hearing.

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Two seminars with practical information for starting your own business are scheduled at Schoolcraft College during October and November.

How to Start a Business: From Vision to Reality will be offered Wednesday Oct. 15 and Oct. 29 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for a fee of \$25. The session will examine the basics of

starting a business, the advantages of networking and when it is necessary to use community resources in developing a new business.

How to Write a Business Plan: Your Road Map to Success is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 6 to

9 p.m. for a \$40 fee. This seminar is aimed at entrepreneurs without a business plan in place. It will provide an overview of what comprises a dynamic, well-thought out business plan. Attendees will receive worksheets that outline the basic items in a business plan, and fine-tune the document with their own

market research and financial information.

For more information or to register, call the Schoolcraft College Business Development Center at 734-462-4438. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads, just west of I-275.

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Sidelines

■ Strong effort

Plymouth battled a tough Division 1 Monroe team to a standstill for most of Wednesday's match, but the Wildcats fell short in losing 4-2 at Monroe.

The loss left Plymouth at 5-2 overall.

Monroe, which lost to Salem in the state regional tournament last year, trailed 1-0 at the half. The 'Cats got on the board with a goal by John Hotka, which came after a breakaway by Jeff Lucco. Lucco's shot was stopped, but Hotka put in the rebound for a 1-0 Plymouth lead.

Monroe had a chance to knot it three minutes later when it got a penalty kick after a foul was called against Plymouth. However, Wildcat keeper Nick Siekirk stopped the try and that left the Trojans trailing at the half.

Monroe tied it at 1-1 13 minutes into the second half, then after a marking error by Plymouth the Trojans struck again to go up 2-1 with 24 minutes remaining.

Force to become more offensive, the Wildcats surrendered two more goals before Justin Sheridan finished a give-and-go play with David Lewandowski with three minutes to play.

"It was definitely our best showing of the season," said Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich. "We could control the play at times. We also had a few lapses at times and that killed us."

The 'Cats host Walled Lake Northern at 7 p.m. Monday.

■ Top players

Nick Houdek, a sophomore at Kalamazoo College and a Canton HS graduate, was named the soccer offensive player of the week in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Houdek scored three goals and assisted on four others for the Hornets, who won three games during the week, two of them in MIAA play. In MIAA play, Houdek is tied for second in goals scored with three and in assists with four; he ranks second in the MIAA in points scored with nine.

Andy Kocoloski, a senior at Albion College from Canton (Salem HS), was named MIAA special teams player of the week in football last week.

Kocoloski helped the Britons beat Olivet College 20-19 on Oct. 11 by blocking a Comet field goal attempt in the closing seconds.

Kocoloski also returned two kickoffs for 45 yards and had two solo tackles on special teams.

■ Girls hockey

The Plymouth/Canton girls hockey team is having conditioning skates from 7-8 p.m. through Oct. 18 and on Oct. 20 and Oct. 22. There will also be a session from 4-5 p.m. Oct. 24. All sessions will be at the Arctic Edge Arena in Canton; full gear is required and the cost is \$10 per player, per session.

Team tryouts will be from 4-5 p.m. Oct. 27-29 at the Arctic Edge. Full equipment is required and a current sports physical must be turned in to the school athletic department prior to the tryout dates. Tryouts are open to any girl who attends Plymouth, Canton or Salem HS.

For more information email head coach Sue McDowell at gocoach@umich.edu or booster club president Beth Rowley at rowleysb@comcast.net.

Thomas' TD explosion boosts Chiefs

The fireworks erupted over the Canton football field, moments after the Chiefs' 55-7 homecoming victory over Livonia Churchill. The explosions were loud enough to keep Canton coach Tim Baechler from addressing his team — about the only thing that slowed the Chiefs on this night.

Six first-half touchdowns — four by Devin Thomas — got them rolling and kept them going well into the second half. Canton stayed unbeaten, 7-0 overall and

FOOTBALL

6-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Churchill fell to 2-5 overall, 1-5 in the conference.

There wasn't much Baechler could say after the lopsided win. "Well, we needed one of those kinds of games," he said. "The twos (back-ups) got in and got to play quite a bit."

Despite Canton's unbeaten record, the

first half of their schedule was hardly easy. The Chiefs had big leads dissipate often, forcing Baechler to keep his first-string on the field longer than he wanted to.

There was no need for that against Churchill, certainly not after the second quarter. Two Charger turnovers led to two of the three touchdowns the Chiefs scored in the quarter, which gave them a 42-7 halftime lead.

Quarterback Shawn Little also had a

big game for Canton, racing 63 yards just 1:01 into the game for the first TD. Thomas made it a 14-0 lead three minutes later with a 25-yard scoring run, then Travis McKinney caught a 9-yard swing pass from Little for a third first-quarter score and a 21-0 advantage.

The second quarter started slowly but ended with an onslaught, started by Churchill, which got on the board on a 1-

PLEASE SEE CHIEFS, B3



Plymouth's Jeanine Moise (44) proved a difficult task for Plymouth Christian to handle Friday, something the Eagles' Kelsie Tietjen (40) found in this battle for the ball.

'Cats claw past Eagles
Moise gets 18 points

They're young. They're still learning. At Friday's girls basketball game between Plymouth Christian Academy and Plymouth HS, at Plymouth, both coaches might have heard reciting that to themselves. Plymouth, a team of freshmen and sophomores, had the lead and seemed on the verge of putting PCA away.

But the Wildcats couldn't do it. Conversely, PCA would battle back and make a run to keep Plymouth within four points. But the Eagles could never quite catch up.

In the end, Plymouth did hang on against the PCA varsity, scoring the game's final five points to pull away to a 34-25 triumph.

The Wildcats improve to 7-3 with the win, 3-3 against varsity opponents. PCA is 2-8 overall.

"That's kind of plagued us all season long," said PCA coach Kevin Nast of his team's lack of scoring punch. "I was pleased with the pressure we put on, and we never did give up."

"But combine us not stopping the ball at crucial times and not hitting shots when we had to, that just killed us."

Talk about not hitting shots when you had to. Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly could offer quite a dissertation, in particular on free-throw shooting.

The Wildcats converted just 4-of-19 from the line, 2-of-12 in the second half. They missed all six of their tries in the third quarter.

PLEASE SEE WILDCATS, B4

Rocks' Shaw qualifies for state final

It's never easy, this Division 1 golf regional hosted by Brighton HS at Oak Pointe. Both Salem's and Canton's coaches know this.

Top-ranked Redford Catholic Central came out on top last Friday, shooting a 296 to win the title easily. Novi posted the second-best score with a 303, with Brighton third at 306.

"I said going in I thought it would take a 305 to qualify," said Salem coach Rick Wilson. "And it did."

Still, it wasn't a bad day for the Rocks, who finished in a three-way tie for sixth with Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill at 321.

GOLF

And Pat Shaw became the first Salem golfer to qualify for state since 1998 when he shot a 73, tying for fourth overall.

"The guys were all very happy for Pat," said Wilson. "He had a real solid round. He's really improved this year."

Aaron Cheesman was next best for the Rocks with an 82. Andy Thackaberry and Chris French followed with 83s, with Mike Cassidy shooting a 98.

All four of CC's scorers shot 76 or better, led by Dave Denyer and Chris Eliason, each with a 73. Adam Hogue, from Plymouth, shot 74 and Mike King had a 76.

Wilson knew the score he figured it would take to qualify for the state tournament, scheduled for Oct. 17 at Meadows Golf Course, located on the Grand Valley State campus in Allendale, would be difficult for the Rocks to achieve.

PLEASE SEE GOLF, B2

Crusaders cruise to win over Concordia

Two goals by James Miller in the first half and three more by T.J. Djokic in the second were more than enough to carry Madonna University's men's soccer team to an 8-1 rout of Concordia College Tuesday in Ann Arbor.

The wins boosted the 17th-ranked Crusaders' record to 9-1 overall and kept them perfect in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference at 7-0. Concordia is 1-10 overall, 0-7 in the WHAC.

Madonna's first goal, scored by Miller (from Livonia Stevenson) 11 minutes into the match, was assisted by Derrick Mudri and Justin Fishaw (Canton). Mudri got the Crusaders' second score two minutes later (Fishaw assisting) and Miller scored again at the 31-minute mark (from Djokic).

Darrel Quinn increased Madonna's

COLLEGE SOCCER

lead to 4-0 16 minutes into the second half (from Fishaw and Phil Moore) before Djokic (from Stevenson) took control, scoring goals in the 18th minute, the 42nd minute and the 43rd minute of the second half. Djokic also assisted on a goal scored by Evan Baker (from Canton) at the 19th minute.

Djokic finished with three goals and two assists, while Miller had two goals, Mudri got a goal and two assists, Baker scored a goal, Moore picked up two assists and Fishaw totaled four assists.

Doug Koontz (Canton) was in goal, making three saves and allowing one goal — scored by Glenn Worcester with a minute left in the match. Kirk

Mulligan was in the net for the Cardinals; he had 18 stops.

Ocelots clinch 1st

Schoolcraft College showed no effects playing at the site that was such trouble for the Ocelots last season, scoring two goals in each half en route to a 4-1 victory over Kellogg CC Wednesday in Battle Creek.

A year ago, the match between the two teams ended in a brawl that brought police to the field. There was no repeat this time, as SC clinched the top position in the state with its second win over Kellogg.

The Ocelots are 7-2-1 overall and remain unbeaten against teams in the

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, B4

Wayne prevails in shootout with Salem

The 11-year itch is over. Wayne Memorial, under first-year coach Craig Hnatuk, locked up its first state football playoff berth since 1992 with a wild 48-41 victory Friday over Salem.

The Zebras, 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association, stopped the Rocks inside the Wayne 10 with just under a minute left when Chris Wells recovered a fumble caused by teammate Justin Bowie.

It was only a week earlier that Wayne stopped Northville four times from the 4-yard line as time expired in a 20-14 win.

"We're not taking this playoff spot for granted," Hnatuk said. "Our playoffs start next week at Walled Lake Central, then we're at (Westland) John Glenn, both of which are playoff teams. I'm sure we'll be the underdog, so we've got to get ready for them."



HEATHER ROUSSEAU/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne's T.J. Dillard (44) goes airborne after this hit by Salem's Brian Bradley. Once again the Rocks came close, but came up short, losing by a touchdown.

PLEASE SEE WAYNE, B3

A long road to higher education

Crusaders' Tinina has talent to make trip from Latvia worthwhile

Making the decision — that was easy. Executing it — not so simple.

It was like asking a teenager if they'd like to be a rock star, idolized by millions and raving in that much cash annually. It's no decision at all.

Never mind all the baggage that comes with such a lifestyle, the pressure to always succeed, and once you do, to do it again. The absence of any semblance of home life, the total lack of privacy. As for the dozens of friends made along the way to the so-called pinnacle, they'll always be there — as long as the money holds out.

But when you're a kid, that part of the equation is never considered. Not when there's a chance to live a fantasy, and those don't come along too often.

Natalja Tinina had a similar decision to make, albeit on a far smaller scale. Tinina is an exceptional volleyball player. She wanted to go to college.

Madonna University volleyball coach Jerry Abraham is always looking for talent. And he's good at spotting it, which is why his program has been so successful.

Perfect. Two people traveling different roads, able to help each other reach their respective destinations. Now all that was needed was an intersection.

Tinina's road to Madonna, however, was no simple side-street originating in some suburb of Detroit. Her hometown was Riga. In Latvia.

If you've never heard of Latvia, it's understandable. It didn't exist as a country a dozen years ago. When the Soviet Union splintered, Latvia joined its neighbors, Lithuania, Estonia and the Ukraine, etc., to once again

Madonna University volleyball coach Jerry Abraham is always looking for talent.

And he's good at spotting it, which is why his program has been so successful.

become a nation unto itself.

Tinina, a national team member in her age division, had certainly heard of the U.S. A couple of years ago, through a maze of friends whose friends knew friends who knew of this college called Madonna University in a place called Livonia, Tinina found herself corresponding — via email — with Abraham.

Greg Mars, whose daughter had played for Abraham when he coached at Redford Bishop Borgess, had first alerted the Madonna coach that he had a prospect for him. "She was a lefty," Abraham said, "and good lefties are hard to find."

At least it got his attention. When he saw a few videotapes of her matches, Abraham realized she could be an impact player.

Getting her to Madonna, which had never had a foreign-exchange student as a player, presented problems, but they were manageable. Certainly Tinina's approach to the whole thing was going to be instrumental.

"I would have loved to stay

back home, or go to Russia on scholarship," she said. "But it's hard to be a student and play volleyball. You could play on a professional team and get paid, but it wouldn't be like this."

For Tinina, the opportunity to get your college education paid for by playing volleyball was like a dream come true. In most European countries, sports are dominated by club teams that are separate from the school system. A college-age athlete can play for a pro club, but unless they're one of the club's elite the money received won't cover the cost of an advanced education.

So her decision, made more than a year ago, was easy: play volleyball in America and get your education paid for. However, traveling halfway around the world by yourself to make the dream come true would not be easy.

"This was a big gamble and a big commitment," admitted Abraham. "We didn't know how she'd fit in."

Tinina was asking herself similar questions. "I was scared mostly," she said. "The expectations — would everybody be happy with me?"

That self-doubt and her ability to adjust to a foreign culture would ultimately determine if this whole thing would work. Because even though Abraham had never seen Tinina play in person before her arrival here a year ago, it didn't take long to realize she could, indeed, play.

"She can become a dominant player at her position," he now says. "She can be hard to stop. Good lefties are hard to stop anyway."

In fact, Tinina has been near impossible for the opposition to handle. On a team that set a school record by

winning its first 23 matches — the streak ended when Madonna was beaten by Lubbock (Texas) Christian in the first round of the Houston Baptist Tournament Friday — the 6-foot outside and sometimes middle hitter was second on the team in kills with 372 (4.59 per game), tied for second in kill percentage (.419), ranked first in service aces with 37, and was third in digs with 219.

Playing the game has been the easy part, actually. "It wasn't the volleyball but being so far away from home" that concerned Abraham. "But she's a very flexible person and she's adjusted very well."

How well? A year ago, Abraham said, "we counted on her for offense. This year she's much more acclimated to the entire situation."

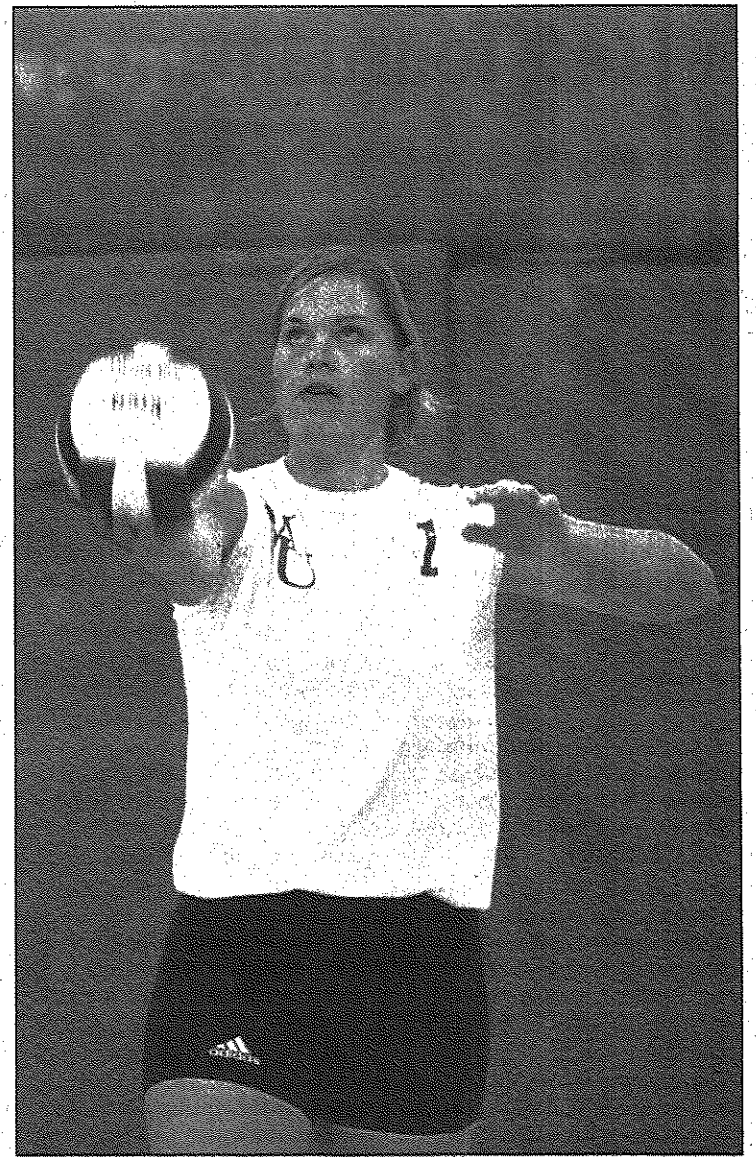
"She's blossomed as more of a complete player and person in this environment."

Tinina agrees. No, the adjustment being so far from home wasn't easy. It helped meeting people like the Richters, native Latvians who have lived in Livonia for decades. Their son, Lars, graduated from Stevenson, where he was a standout in soccer and now serves as the Spartans' coach. The native language in the Richters' household as he grew up was Latvian.

Families like the Richters helped Tinina get adjusted, helping her with any language troubles she would experience in her first year. Now a sophomore, she says she's far more secure.

"A lot has changed (since the first year)," Tinina said. "I've changed. This new team, I like it better."

There was no slap at last season's personnel intended;



HEATHER ROUSSEAU | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Natalja Tinina, a native of Latvia, has been instrumental in Madonna's success the past two seasons.

nor was it meant to indicate there was any dissension. It was simply a testament to how far she has come in the last year.

Among the prime memories from her first season was Madonna's trip to the NAIA Final Four. It was a different type of athletic experience for Tinina. In Latvia, the team aspect was never stressed as much as it is here.

"It's a feeling of family maybe," she explained. "Now I feel more a part of the team. My wish is to improve the

team."

Can the Crusaders match last year's performance? "This team has the same purpose" as last year's, Tinina said. "We can be as good, just need to work."

The road has narrowed for this exchange student from Latvia. A year ago she followed wherever it wound, trying to avoid any detours.

Now the route is more defined.

Any questions regarding this column should be sent to: cjrisk@oe.hometownlife.com.

Record streak is over, but Madonna gets back on track with a big win

It opened with disappointment, but that didn't last long for Madonna University's volleyball team.

The Crusaders saw their school-record 23-match win streak come to an end in their first match of the Houston Baptist Tournament Friday when they were beaten by Lubbock (Tex.) Christian 28-30, 30-22, 30-20, 30-26.

The real test came after that, with the question: Could Madonna recover?

The Crusaders showed they could by upending Houston Baptist 30-23, 30-27, 25-30, 32-30. The victory was particularly satisfying for Madonna since it was Houston Baptist

VOLLEYBALL

that eliminated the Crusaders in the NAIA Tournament Semifinals last year.

In the win over the Huskies, Natalja Tinina was pivotal in the attack with 29 kills. She was complemented by Sharyse Bush with 17 and Laura Lesko with 16.

Lesko also had seven blocks, while Amanda Suder (from Salem HS) collected 21 digs and Ashley Frost collected 61 set assists.

Houston Baptist was paced by Elinor Smith with 19 kills and seven blocks, Nicole

Westerterp with 17 kills, four service aces and five blocks, and Katrina English with 20 digs and 12 kills.

Tinina was also outstanding in the loss to Lubbock Christian, pounding the Chaparrals for 32 kills. Lesko contributed 13 kills, Suder had 27 digs, Frost finished with 55 set assists, and Caryn Inman got six blocks.

Lubbock Christian was led by Beth Ratliff with 20 kills and six blocks; Stacy Simpson with 18 kills, 26 digs and two aces; and Mandy Moffitt with 56 set assists.

The split in Friday's play left Madonna at 24-1 overall.

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Cathy Standish

Take a number

It is 4 a.m. The house is quiet, the world outside is still. I tiptoe to the study, pull up a chair and turn on the computer.

I take a sip of my coffee and I begin to type. My shift for time on the family computer has begun.

Time on our machine is limited. Between two teens and a budding adolescent, my husband and I have to take a number. For the youth of today, life revolves around the computer. Papers are written, fact finding is accomplished, and assignments are e-mailed in.

The phone calls I once made as a teen are now communicated online through the wonder of Instant Messaging. Some days, any one of our kids will have 20, 30 or 40 of their closest friends involved in online chat.

Chat that goes something like this:

"Hey"
"Hey"
"Sup?"
"Nuttin"
"Kewl!"

Stimulating and educational, these monosyllabic grunts speak volumes to those trained in the Internet language. For those not versed in the language, allow me to translate:

"Hey" (Want to go to the prom?)

"Hey" (Yes, I do but I don't have anything to wear and my Mom will only give me four hundred bucks to buy a dress. Do you think I will look stupid?)

"Sup?" (Nope.)

"Nuttin" (Then yes, I would love to go to the prom with you!)

"Kewl!" (Do I have to brush my teeth?)

Though we have several other computers, only one is linked to the Internet. So the battle for time ensues. I need time to write, the kids need time for homework. My husband has his laptop; many times, he excuses himself from the fray.

All of us fighting for our time on the computer.

When our hard drive died a month ago, our household seemed to come to a screeching halt. We survived four days without the computer, without the Internet.

When the hard drive returned, and life went back to "normal," I realized yet again how computers are driving our society, our lives and our families. When the world went black in August, we were all held hostage until the technology returned.

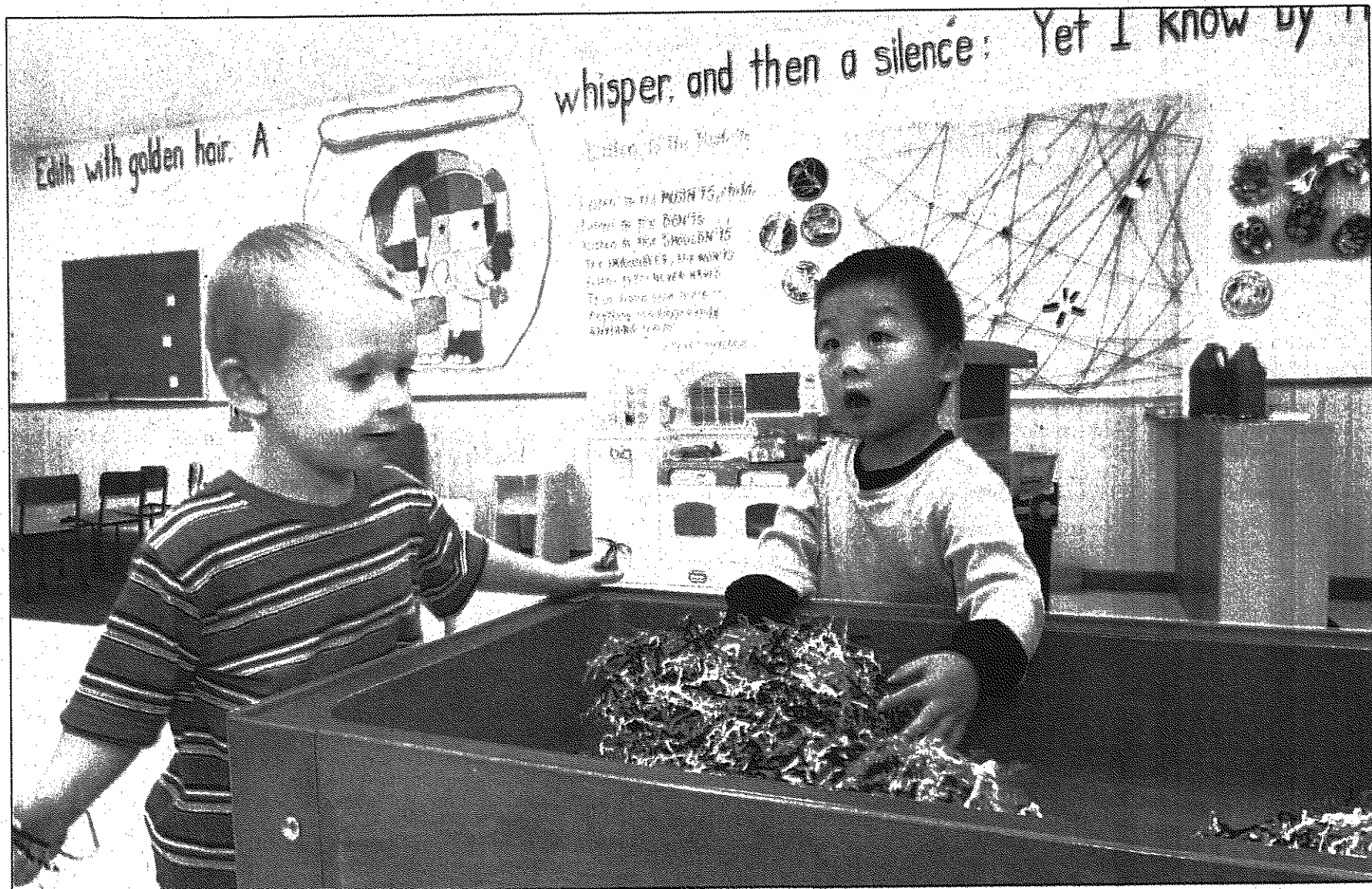
It is nearly 6 a.m. The house is beginning to stir. The world outside is slowly waking. My computer shift is nearly over. Trundling down the steps in a sleepy stupor our 15-year-old asks to retrieve an assignment accomplished from the night before. I relinquish my seat; get ready to go about my daily business.

Soon the house is rumbling again. One teen here, one teen there, one adolescent everywhere, with plans to be made, places to go, people to see.

I pour another cup of coffee, curl into my easy chair, open the newspaper and begin to read.

And for that time, my time, I don't even have to take a number.

Cathy Standish is a Plymouth resident and a regular contributor to the *Observer*. She can be reached via e-mail at Cate1956@aol.com.



Robbie Laird, 3 (left) and James Sun, 3, both of Canton were studying bugs in their preschool class and are pictured looking for plastic spiders as part of the themed lesson. They have been students at The Children's Hour in Canton, a new day care and learning center, for the last several weeks.

The Children's Hour

New child care center dedicated to families

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER

The Children's Hour Day Care and Learning Center embodies the word family from the owners' daughter, who serves as one of the teachers, to the very name of the business derived from a poem after which their grandmother was named.

Licensed by the state of Michigan in July, The Children's Hour welcomed their first family in August and now has several families who call the 6,000 square-foot facility their second home. The center is owned and operated by Jill Scott and her family from Westland. The Scott's, including Jill's husband, have made their new entrepreneurial endeavor a labor of love from the hand-painted murals on the walls of each classroom to the inclusion of curriculum offerings like sign language and Spanish.

"We want to nurture a children's mind and not just provide baby-sitting service," said Scott who was formerly the head teacher at a nearby day care



Evan Nagy (foreground), 8 months old, of Plymouth explores the toys in the toddler area at The Children's Hour Day Care and Learning Center in Canton. Owners Jill Scott (right) and her daughter, Danielle, of Westland, offer care for children 6 weeks to 12 years old.

center. "We want to make an influence in their lives by providing a creative and stimulating environment."

ESSENTIAL

The Scott's philosophy focuses heavily on their desire to "make a child feel wanted" — recognizing a child could spend up to 12 hours per day in their care based on their 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. operating schedule.

Located on Canton Center Road just north of Ford Road in the Canton Ford Crossing, the facility is licensed for 110 children from six weeks to 12 years old. Having only been open for less than eight weeks the facility has open enrollment in all age groups including infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and school-age children.

The Children's Hour will offer a summer camp (including off-site field trips) when school is out of session for school-age kids as well as a jr. camp for pre-schoolers (walking field trips only). They are also looking forward to offering music and gymnastic (tumbling) sessions in the coming months.

With the guidance of teaching director Janet Weber, there is an established curriculum for each class with weekly age-appropriate themes — the teachers are provided all the materials and supplies for the five-day week including class lessons and arts and crafts projects. "We support our teachers in every way," said Scott.

The Canton day care center owner said they are proud of the higher salaries they're able to pay their staff in comparison to what a chain or corporate center might offer as well as their favorable benefit package. The Scott's feel this is a way to minimize staff turnover rates and maintain "continuity of care" for the children. Considering the nature of their work, potential staff members must undergo a strict screening process before they are considered for a position.

TEAMWORK

Jill Scott, the mother of four children ranging in age from 13-20, is thrilled at the opportunity to work with her 18-year-old daughter, Danielle, a 2003 graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland. Danielle and her mom, along with family friend Lauren Robinson, are responsible for all the character murals throughout the center as well as the hand-written poems that adorn one wall of each classroom.

"It was just something we wanted to do to make the place look better," said Scott. "Danielle did a great job."

The 18-year-old gained experience in the child care field at the William D. Ford Voc-Tech Center adjacent to the high school. She's looking forward to attending Washtenaw Community College in January to complete her degree in Early Childhood Development. Her parents are hoping Danielle will eventually become the center director when they choose to retire and serve as advisors of the facility.

"We want to emphasize this is a family day care," said Scott. "We're really committed to providing quality and loving care in an enriching environment."

No one would agree with the Scott's more than Plymouth resident Courtney Nagy, whose eight-month-old son, Evan, has been at The Children's Hour for the last three weeks.

"They're wonderful and have been a real blessing," said Nagy who works in the medical field. "I love the structured environment and they're so nice. The fact that Evan reaches out to them says everything to me."

Nagy said she became aware of the new Canton day care center after she had a less than favorable experience at another "well-known chain" center. "My friend who is having a baby suggested I visit them. I did four surprise visits and Evan has been going there for almost a month now. I can't say enough about the place and I've seen a big difference in Evan. He's so happy now."

For more information about enrolling your child/children at The Children's Hour please call center director Jill Scott, (734) 459-9920 or visit 5840 Canton Center Road, Suite 245 (Canton Ford Crossing - just north of Ford Road).

New columnist makes a career of stars

Perhaps it was in the stars.

Dennis Fairchild, author and Birmingham resident, will write an astrology column — *Star Struck* — for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* beginning Thursday, Oct. 16. His column will appear Thursdays in Filter, and Sundays in the Life section.

Fairchild, who has written several million-plus selling books about prediction, is an expert in the forecasting arts and feng shui, which he teaches at The Community House in Birmingham.

His *O&E* column is one more step in a star gazing career that he started at age 11, while growing up in Grand Blanc.

"One spring day in the mid-1950s, a friendly foreign gentle-elder lady whom I called Grandma gave me a couple thick, dusty astrology books," Fairchild said. Thus started a "lifelong love affair with 'tomorrows.'"

Fairchild also had another youthful interest — acting.

But he claims it wasn't his acting talent — or his hair — that landed him a leading role in the Broadway rock musical *Hair* when he was a college freshman looking for a summer job.

"My do was the shortest hair-length in the cast, and I wasn't all that talented in the sing-and-dance departments either. My horoscope had the stars on my side. Simple as that."

While in *Hair*, Fairchild's astrology and stage expertise both took starring roles. His nights were spent singing and dancing, and "my days were spent setting up horoscopes and forecasting the future for my fellow actors."

"When our producers got wind of my track record as a prognosticator, they started coming around for hints of upcoming box-office profits."

When the Broadway production spent 11 months at Detroit's Vest Pocket Theater, "The *Hair* producers urged me to appear on local TV and get the couch potatoes into the theater by using astrology, palmistry, lucky numbers and stellar smiles — whatever," he said.

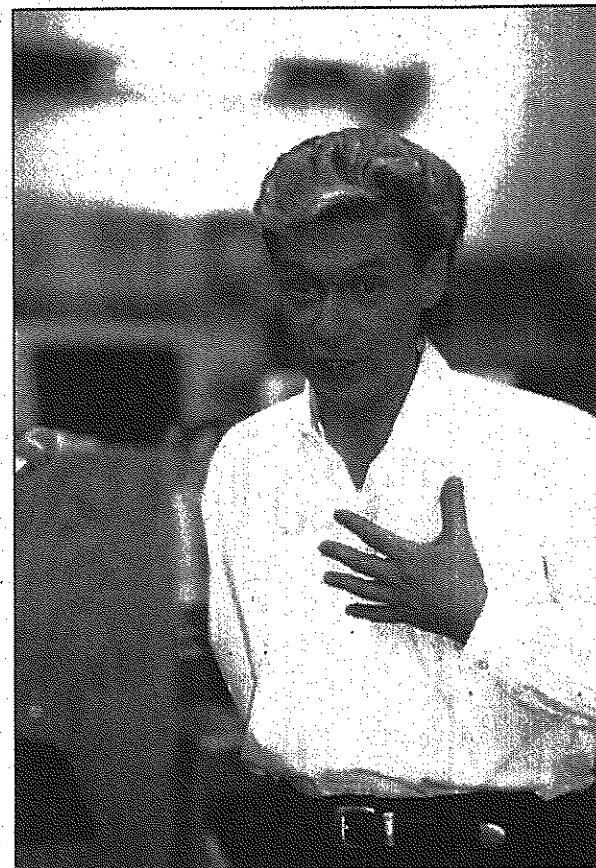
"ABC-TV and Bill Bonds dubbed me 'Detroit's most accurate psychic' for gosh sakes! And I wasn't even 30 years old. Plus, I didn't own a turban!"

His television appearances led to meeting Motown's "First Lady of ESP," the late Jacqui Kendall.

"After her self-predicted death, I was hired for only three weeks to 'bury' her, according to the station owners, and placate her loyal listeners." The stint lasted 10 years.

In 1990, he retired from radio and TV after meeting "my mentor, muse and writing guru, William Dufty."

"He'd think it quite keen that I'm writing for my hometown newspaper now," said Fairchild.



Dennis Fairchild is looking forward to writing his column.

Plymouth printer marks 20th anniversary in style

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

For Brian Marr, it's all about the niche.

Marr, the owner of National Wholesale Printing in Plymouth, saw a glut of big-time printers who could handle large-scale jobs. And he saw the number of small companies who dealt primarily with little jobs.

But Marr, who's been in the printing business for all of his adult life, saw for himself a nice little hole somewhere right smack dab in the middle.

For 20 years now, that's where he's put National Wholesale Printing.

"We've positioned ourselves

between the small companies and the big ones," said the 44-year-old Marr. "A lot of clients wanted someone to do brochures and things like that, but also to do their smaller products."

It was work Marr knew how to do, because he'd started doing it in high school. While attending Clarenceville Public Schools, Marr worked as a press operator at The Print Shoppe, a small, family-owned operation in Farmington Hills.

Marr spent two years in the graphic arts school at Southwest Oakland Vocational Education Center (now the Oakland Tech Center). He landed a job at Adistra Corp., in Plymouth in 1977, working as a

press operator. Two years later, he was managing the in-house printing department at Mercy College of Detroit.

In 1980, he was managing an American Speedy Printing shop and, three years after that, went into business for himself.

"I got started real young and stuck with it," said Marr. "I like the variety of jobs we do, and I love the people we work with."

National Wholesale started out as a small firm in 1983, operating out of an 800-square-foot building in Dearborn Heights. Five years later, as the company was growing, Marr moved it into a 2,500-square-foot space in Redford.

By 1995, with a burgeoning client list, Marr needed more room, and moved to the 7,500-square-foot building the company now occupies.

Good news travels fast, and Marr said most of his business is built up by referral or word-of-mouth.

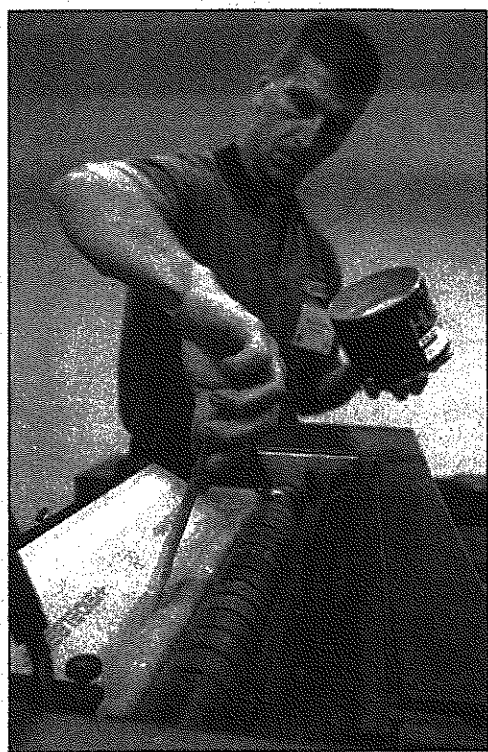
He said the reason for the success might be corny, but it's true.

"It sounds like a cliché, but service to the customer is very important," Marr said. "We get to know our clients real well, and they know they can come to us if there's a question or concern. They feel good about referring other people to us."

Marr said he's added technology in an effort to keep up with the times — and the workload. A new, five-color press is the biggest addition. Through the years, National Wholesale has also added digital technology and focused on design and



Brian Marr, president of National Wholesale Printing, talks with Pam Smith of Archway. Marr established National Wholesale in 1983.



Head pressman Dean Davis, who has been with National Wholesale for 12 years, adds yellow ink on the Heidelberg press, the firm's new five-color press.

detail work.

That diversity of production is one of the keys to National Wholesale's success, according to Dean Davis, the company's head pressman who's been with Marr for 12 years.

"I've been doing this since I was 13 years old," said Davis, one of National Wholesale's 10 employees. "It's always something different every day. It's not like working on an assembly line. Every day is something new."

The move to Plymouth has been good for the company. Marr chose it for practical business reasons, such as the access to expressways and its central location to employee homes.

But he also chose it for personal reasons. As a kid, Marr said he hung out around Plymouth, and still has family here. It's also part of the reason Marr makes sure his company

gives back to the community.

National Wholesale recently sponsored a mural, dotted by artwork created by youngsters from the Plymouth Community Arts Council. It does printing for the Plymouth Whalers, and the firm has worked with the American Cancer Society, the Alzheimer's Association and various AIDS partnerships.

"Giving back to the community is huge," said Marr. "A lot of our customers are nonprofit community service groups, and you want to help them."

He and his wife of 15 years, Lisa, recently crewed a three-day walk for charity.

"We really enjoy doing it," Marr said. "It's important to a business standpoint, but more so for the idea of giving something back."

National Wholesale recently sponsored a mural, dotted by artwork created by youngsters from the Plymouth Community Arts Council. It does printing for the Plymouth Whalers, and the firm has worked with the American Cancer Society.

at 41290 Joy Road. For more information, call them at (734) 416-8400.

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Donation makes new playground reality

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

There's a new look coming to a courtyard on the east side of Cambridge Center, much to the delight of youngsters in the Burger Annex Program for Students with Autism and the Cambridge Children's Corner day care.

Less than a year after starting fund-raising, organizers accepted a check from Mitsubishi Electric's P.E.A.C.E. committee for more than \$4,000, capping an almost year-long campaign to collect the \$40,000 necessary to build a new playground.

"We've been very fortunate," said Barbara Masten, director of the Burger Annex. "With the help from a lot of companies and people in the community we were able to raise the money in less than a year. There's such a need for this."

A playscape, picnic tables, benches, funnel ball, bouncy toys and classic teeter will transform the grassy area between two wings of the former junior high school, replacing the existing playground in another courtyard area.

"Our current playground is under water most of the year," said Masten. "When it rains, it floods."

The fund-raising effort was

multi-faceted. The initial effort began with letters to area businesses asking for donations. The idea, according to playground committee co-chair Cindy Valdivia was "to see if we could come up with some benefactors."

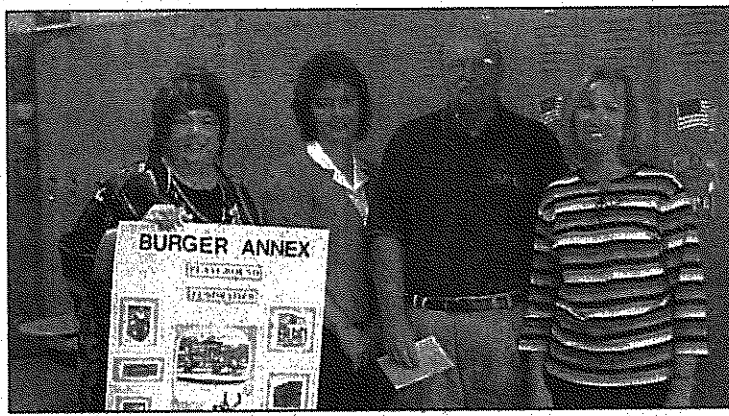
There also were sales of Little Caesars pizza kits and candles, led in part by the day care group.

The Burger School for Students with Autism is the largest public school program in the country that specializes in educating students with autism to successfully function in a community. Operated by the Garden City Public Schools, students come from 34 school districts throughout Wayne County.

The P.E.A.C.E. - short for Proving Excellence and Caring Exist - committee found out about the fund-raiser from an employee of Mitsubishi Electric Automotive in Northville, according to Paul Poe, a senior production controller and committee chair.

"Her grandson used to go here," Poe said. "She saw it in the paper, brought it in. We voted on it and decided it was something we wanted to do."

Mitsubishi Electric America gives so much money each year to P.E.A.C.E. Committees at its facility and lets the employees



Barb Masten (from left), director of Burger Annex, Patti Regiani, preschool teacher and co-chair of the playground committee, and Cindy Valdivia (right), preschool teacher and co-chair of the playground committee, pose with Paul Poe of Mitsubishi Electric who put the group over the top in fund-raising.

decide how to use it. Its Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation provides matching funds.

"We try to stick to local groups," said Poe. "We want to keep it in the area so we know it's doing good. We try to leave it open for employees. If they have some outside volunteer work they do, they can come to the committee and make a presentation and we decided if we want to do it."

The committee contributed \$2,531 to the playground fund-raiser, while the foundation provided another \$1,500.

"Mitsubishi Electric has amazed us with their hard

work and generosity and on behalf of the staff and students here, we thank you for your playground donation," said Masten.

The P.E.A.C.E. Committee doesn't want the relationship with Burger to end with the check presentation.

"We don't want it to be a one-time deal," said Poe.

The group had volunteered at Our Lady of Providence for 10 years before the facility closed and for the last three-four years has worked with Cooke School, a special education center in Northville, and the Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor.

Museum programs celebrate century

The Plymouth Historical Museum presents a yearlong festival of events designed to recognize the multitude of inventions and changes seen in the 20th century, with many of the inventions celebrating their centennial, including Ford Motor Company, the Wright Brothers, and Edison's new phonograph.

Upcoming programs include:

■ 100 Years of Aviation, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 - Will be about the Wright Brothers and what has happened since Kitty Hawk.

■ Museum Open House, 1-5 p.m. Dec. 7 - Hear the Music of the 1940s and honor Pearl Harbor Day while joining the museum for a holiday open house and listen to the P-CEP Jazz Ensemble.

■ A humorous look at judges and lawyers, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m. - Special event featuring former Attorney General Frank Kelly and Federal Judge Jim Ryan.

■ "You Oughta Have an Auto," Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. - Celebrates the 100th birthdays of Ford and Olds as historian Martin Brosnan shares the love affair with the automobile.

■ The Telephone, March 11, 7:30 p.m. - SBC Ameritech will share the history of the phone, including party lines, single-digit phone numbers and rotary dial telephones.

■ The Radio, April 8, 7:30 p.m. - The Museum Radio Club will host an evening of radio history and programs.

■ The Television, May 13, 7:30 p.m. - Black & White TV? No cable? How did it all begin?

All programs take place at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main. For more information, visit the Web site at www.plymouthhistory.org or call (734) 455-8940.

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OE8148664

Veltri-Wallace

Joe and Linda Veltri of Gregory announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Ann Veltri, to T.J. Wallace, son of Ken and Lucie Wallace of Dallas, Georgia.

Laura is a 1996 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 2000 graduate of Michigan State University. She is currently employed at Sara Lee Foods as a project engineer.

T.J. is a 1996 graduate of Sprayberry and Georgia State University. He is currently pursuing a career in the criminal justice field.

A May 29, 2004, wedding is planned in Dexter, Mich.



Nordstrom-Young

Tom and Carol Young are proud to announce the marriage of their daughter, Jennifer, to Oskar Nordstrom, son of Eija Nordstrom-Haglund, Kjell Haglund and Larry Nordstrom of Singapore and Sweden.

The marriage took place Aug. 8 at Tanglewood Golf Course in South Lyon.

Attending the bride were maid of honor Andrea Raheley; bridesmaid, Heather Young; junior bridesmaids, Holly Mykolaitis and Heidi Mykolaitis; and flower girl, Christina Nader.

Attending the groom were best man, Ola Nordstrom; groomsman, Chris Young; and ring bearer, Nicholas Mykolaitis.

After a honeymoon trip to Cape Cod, the couple will reside in Ann Arbor.



LIBRARY PICKS

—Every week the Plymouth District Library staff provides the Observer with their list of "Best Sellers" based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library, (734) 453-0750.

- Fiction**
1. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," Mitch Albom
 2. "Bleachers," John Grisham
 3. "The Da Vinci Code," Dan Brown
 4. "The Wedding," Nicholas Sparks
 5. "Remember When," Nora Roberts and J.D. Robb

- Nonfiction**
1. "Who's Looking Out For You," Bill O'Reilly
 2. "Lies (and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them)," Al Franken
 3. "The Great Unraveling," Paul Krugman
 4. "Benjamin Franklin," Walter Isaacson
 5. "Under the Banner of Heaven," Jon Krakauer

Parent's Choice New Children's Picture Books

1. "The Cat Who Liked Potato Soup," Terry Farish
2. "A Day in the Life of Murphy," Alice Provensen
3. "Grow Up," Sandy Turner
4. "Chance," Dian Regan
5. "The Story of Kites," Ying Chang Compestine



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GOOD BOY! (PG)

12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10

KILL BILL, VOLUME 1 (R)

12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

SCHOOL OF ROCK (PG-13)

11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

OUT OF TIME (PG-13)

1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:55

THE RUNDOWN (PG-13)

9:30

UNDERWORLD (R)

11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 7:10

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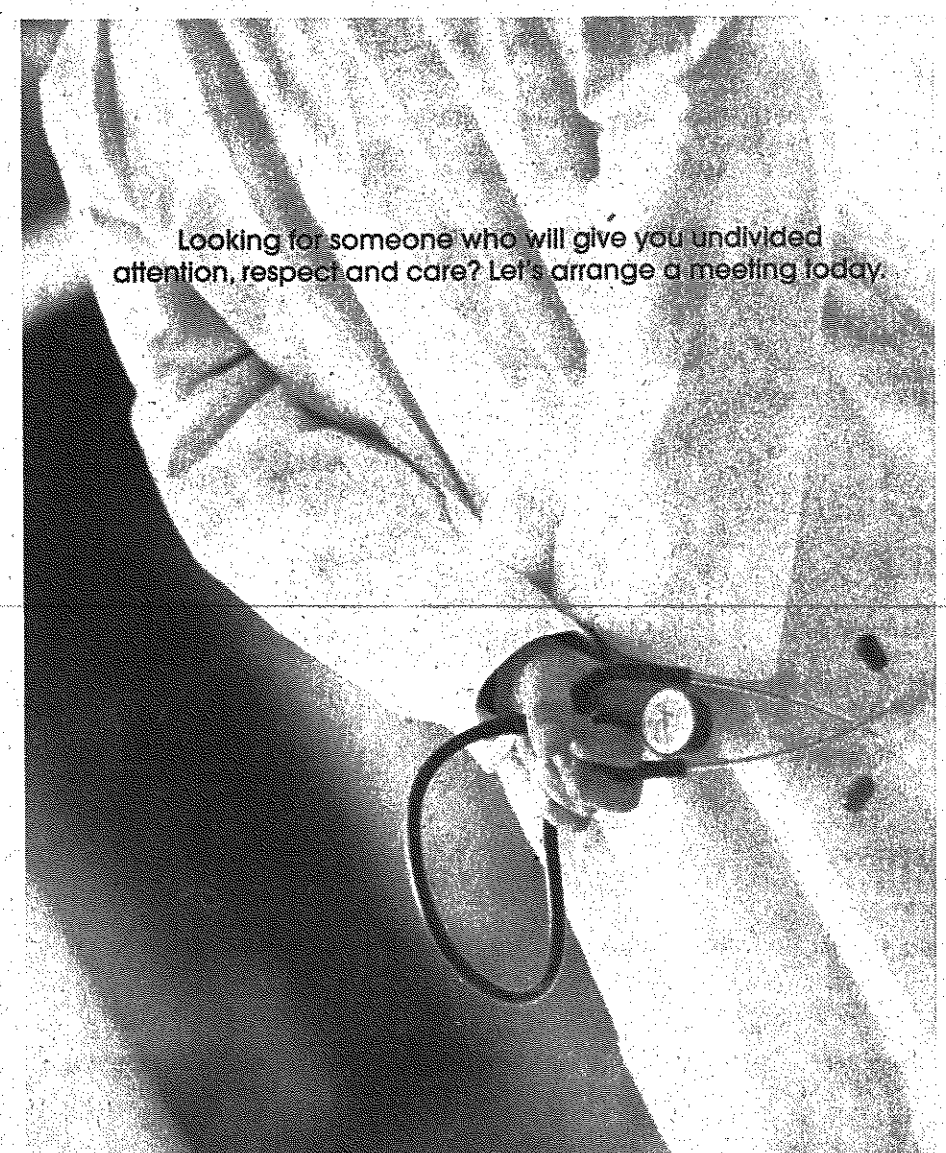
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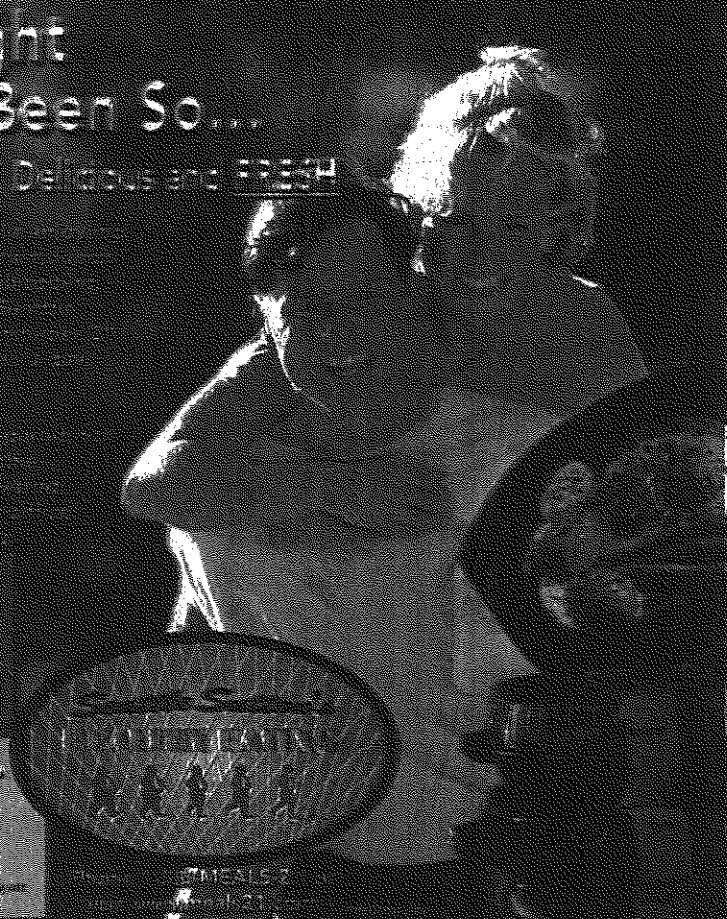
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AROUND TOWN

Extravaganza/Home Party

The proceeds from this event help support the traveling dance competition team at Dance Extreme Studio located on Joy Road in the Pine Tree Shopping Plaza from noon-4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2003.

Handcrafters Arts and Crafts Show

Juried artisans will display their talents with such works as florals, stained glass and seasonal items from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Oct. 10, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Oct. 11, and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Northville Recreation Center. No baby strollers, please.

Hayrides with Storytelling

The evening begins with a hayride to a moonlit stage set in the woods with a fire burning nearby where storyteller Debra Christian will be spinning family oriented stories. The evening concludes with a hayride back to the barn where fresh cider and doughnuts away. Plymouth Orchards every Friday and Saturday nights in October at 7:30 p.m. Call (734) 451-1128 for info.

Magic Craft Show

Applications are being accepted for the 17th-annual Holiday Magic Craft show at Leonard Elementary in Troy. Show is Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For info and applications, e-mail craft-show@prodigy.net.

Teens Using Drugs

A free, two-night series on identifying and helping teens harmfully involved with alcohol and other drugs. Part 1 "What to Know" is presented 7:30-9 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month from October through June at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center. Part 2 "What to Do" is presented the second Tuesday of each month October through June at same time and place. Call (734) 973-7893 for information.

Chili Cook-Off

The Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-Off is set for Sunday, Oct. 12 at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The day will include a ride-in motorcycle bike show. Cooks from all over the country will be vying for the top spot. Call Annette Horn at (734) 455-8838 for further information.

Food Drive

Cornerstone Chiropractic conducts a food drive to support its local food pantry. Donors who bring in 10-20 cans of food will receive an initial exam and X-rays for \$27. The drive is being conducted Oct. 27-30 at Cornerstone Chiropractic at Ford and

Canton Center. Call (734) 207-7770 for an appointment.

Foster Care

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan is a foster care agency in the community that places children in loving foster homes. The agency is in need of loving and stable homes committed to parenting children ages 10 to 17 years old. Call (734) 971-5776 to find out how you can help.

Crafters Wanted

Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Dearborn Heights is looking for crafters for the 15th annual Arts and Crafts Show. The show is being held Saturday, Nov. 22. For information, call (734) 522-9653 or (248) 474-2297.

Fashion Show Boutique

The Redford Suburban League is looking for crafters for its 30th annual fashion show boutique scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Crafters can reserve space by calling (734) 591-9167.

Craft and Home Show

Delta Kappa Gamma's 17th annual craft and home show will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at West Middle School. Call (734) 844-1707 for more information.

Learn to Skate

Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton is offering a fall Learn to Skate program for various levels of instruction. Call (734) 487-7777 for more information.

Senior Golf Special

Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center is offering a Senior Special of 18 holes of golf any weekday, Monday through Friday, before noon. The cost is \$25 with cart. Offer good through Nov. 30.

Entertainment books

Plymouth Community Chorus is selling the 2004 Entertainment Books to help fund their musical scholarships and charitable activities. They can be ordered by calling (734) 459-6829.

Preschool Programs

Head Start programs are available for 3- and 4-year-olds, offered by Starfish Family Services, a learning environment preparing children for kindergarten. Michigan School Readiness Program for 4-year-olds is also available. For either, call (313) 541-4340 or (734) 326-6271.

School Registration

Music matters at the School for the Performing Arts in Ann Arbor, and registration for classes and lessons has officially begun. For further information call (734) 995-4625 or log on to the school's Web site at www.spa-aa.org for a complete listing of classes and camps.

Preschool Registration

Willow Creek Co-op Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2003-04 classes for 3- and 4-year-olds. Morning and afternoon sessions available. Call Mary Anne Bourgeois at

(734) 844-7515 for more information.

Inline Roller Hockey Leagues

Skatin' Station II in Canton is accepting registration. One game a week. Call (734) 459-6401 for more information.

Preschool Registration

The Plymouth Salvation Army is opening registration for its preschool programs for fall 2003. The 3-year-old program is on Tuesday and Thursday and the 4-year-old program runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information, call Peggy at (734) 459-1358 or (734) 453-5464, Ext. 25.

Fish Fry

Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center is again hosting an "All You Can Eat" Friday night fish fry or pasta dinner at the Fox Classic Clubhouse from 5-9 p.m. The cost is \$8.75 per person.

Nursery Co-op Registration

Plymouth Children's Nursery Co-op registration has begun for the 2003-04 school year. Openings for 3-4-year-olds, various class times and days. Call Nola Wellman at (734) 453-0595 for information.

Storytime

Peggy Price Heiney presents a special story time for children ages 5-7. Stories, creative dramatics and book selection round out this monthly session at the Plymouth Library. Registration is required. Call (734) 453-0750 for further information.

Plymouth Symphony

Plymouth Symphony League is launching the 2004 Greater Detroit Area Entertainment Book Sale. The cost is \$30. Place your order at the Plymouth Symphony Office or call Mary Thomas at (734) 453-3016.

Free Blood Pressure Screening

Free blood pressure screenings will be taken at the Plymouth District Library 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. No appointment is necessary. Call (734) 453-0750 for further information.

Recreation Registration

The City of Plymouth is now taking registration for its classes for all ages. Classes include gymnastics, dance, core body exercise, tots jump-a-rama, tae kwon do, personal development, aerobics, clogging, senior trips and programs and much more. Call (734) 455-6620 for more information.

CLUBS

Exchange Club of Canton

Meetings are held at 6 p.m., the second and fourth Wednesdays at the Roman Forum, 41601 Ford Road in Canton.

NAMI

Education meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13 at St. Clares' Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard Road.

Topic is "Borderline Personality Disorder."

Plymouth Optimists

Entertainment 2004 Books on sale with all proceeds to help children throughout southeast Michigan. Price is \$30 and is home delivered. Call Bill at (734) 453-8253.

Kiwanis Evening Club

Meetings are held at Atlantis Restaurant 39500 E. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, contact Charline Miller at (734) 455-4782.

Mothers & More

The Wayne County chapter of Mothers & More meets twice a month in Plymouth. Call (866) 841-9140, Ext. 4329, or visit Web site mothersandmore63@onebox.com.

Exchange Club of Canton

Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday at Palermo's Restaurant in Canton.

P/C Vietnam Vets of America

Chapter No. 528 meets every second Monday of the month at the American Legion Post No. 6695 on Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road at 7:30 p.m. If you were a U.S. serviceman or woman and served between 1964 and 1975, you can join the Vietnam Vets. Visit Web site www.geocities.com/edenright/PlymouthCantonVVA528.html.

BNI Plymouth II

The Plymouth Chapter II BNI Group meets Wednesdays at 7 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant located at I-275 and Ann Arbor Road. The group is looking for new members. Call (734) 459-5696 for further information.

West Suburban Stamp Club

Meetings are 8 p.m. the first and third Fridays at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth.

BPW

The Plymouth Business and Professional Women's Club meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Atlantis Restaurant on Ann Arbor Road. Guests are welcome. For more information and dinner reservations, contact Mary Brooks at (734) 420-0320.

SEPAC

Open to all residents of the Plymouth Canton community as well as school staff and administrators, SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) meets 7-9 p.m. every second Monday of the month at Discovery Middle School in Canton. For additional information, contact Rich Ham-Kucharski, (734) 844-1714.

MOPS-Plymouth

The MOPS group is now enrolling for fall. Relaxing fun time for moms while the kids ages 0-5 enjoy program of

games, stories, singing and play. Meets first and third Fridays of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Lake Pointe Bible Chapel, 42150 Schoolcraft, Plymouth. Call (734) 420-0515.

Colonial Kiwanis of Plymouth

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth meets at noon Thursdays at Ernesto's, 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Guests are welcome. For information call Ernie Hughes, membership chairman, (734) 414-0400.

MOPS-Westland

The group is looking for moms who are interested in meeting with other mothers for encouragement, teaching, support and friendship. Meetings are the first and third Fridays of each month from September through May. Child care provided for ages birth to 5 years. Call (734) 728-2600 for more information.

La Leche League

Breastfeeding information and support group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. For more information and meeting locations, contact Michelle at (734) 397-0197.

Canton Rotary Club

The Rotary meets at noon on Mondays at the Roman Forum in Canton on Ford Road. All guests are invited to join in for lunch for more information on the community and international service projects. For more information, e-mail Mary Beardsley at ExecSec@rotary6400.org.

Astronomy Discussion

Plymouth Library offers a free monthly Family Astronomy Discussion Group from 7-8 p.m. for both individuals and families with children 6 years and older. Door prizes, slides, video and handouts. Call Mike Best at (734) 459-2378.

MOMS Club

A local chapter of the MOMS Club welcomes interested at-home mothers in the Canton/Westland area to meet the third Tuesday of each month. MOMS Club offers weekly activities, playgroups, community service opportunities and more. For more information, contact Wendi at (734) 394-2542.

Plymouth Canton Jaycees

Looking for people 21-39 interested in making friends, helping with good causes and having a good time. The Jaycees meet at 7:30 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Plymouth Township Clerk's office. Call (734) 453-8407 or show up at the group's monthly meeting.

Community Democrats

The Community Democratic Club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at UAW Local 845 Hall. Business meeting

begins at 7:30 p.m. The club serves Canton, Northville, Plymouth and the Livonia 13th District. For further information, call Becky Tavarozzi at (734) 398-5845.

Toastmasters

Develop your public speaking, communications and leadership skills. Guests welcome. No pressure to speak. Being held at St. John Episcopal Church in Plymouth. This group meets at 7 p.m. every first and third Monday of the month. Please call (734) 459-0715 for more information.

Kiwanis Breakfast Club

The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club meets 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. Guests are welcome. Call Charr Briggs at (888) 209-6424.

BNI

The Canton II Chapter of Business Network International (BNI) meets 7-8:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Denny's, 7725 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The Laurel Park Chapter meets 7-8:30 a.m. at Archie's Family Restaurant on Plymouth Road, east of Merriman, Livonia. The Plymouth I Chapter meets every Thursday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. The Livonia Chapter meets 7-8:30 a.m. at Senate Coney Island on Plymouth at Stark, Livonia. Call the BNI regional office at (810) 323-3800.

Mothers of Multiples

The Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples Club meets 7 p.m. the third Monday of each month Call Ann Davis at (248) 449-9337, or e-mail to pcmoms@hotmail.com.

Human Rights Group

The Human Rights Group meets at 7 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at the Plymouth Coffee Studio, 600 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. Call Paulette at (734) 416-9288 or Charlene at (734) 963-0649.

Plymouth Newcomers

Plymouth Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to helping people meet others in the community through its monthly meetings and variety of interest groups such as book discussions, children's playgroups, adult social outings, euchre, and a baby-sitting co-op. Call Colleen Abb at (734) 455-1647.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Training

First Step, the Western Wayne County Project on Domestic and Sexual Violence, is looking for volunteers. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 202, for more information.

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Rx briefs

Volunteers

St. Joseph Mercy Hospice is looking for caring volunteers to give three to four hours per week to stay with patients to give family members a much-needed break. They need direct-care and office volunteers during daytime hours. St. Joseph Mercy Hospice provides a complete training program for new volunteers beginning Monday, Oct. 20, at the hospice, 806 Airport Boulevard, Ann Arbor. Preregistration required. Call (734) 327-3413 for information packet, to register or for information.

For Our Daughters

Beaumont Hospital hosts a theatrical presentation about detecting and surviving breast cancer 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, in the Administration Building Auditorium, 3601 W. 13 Mile, west of Woodward, Royal Oak. There is no charge. For information, call (248) 551-8585.

One of the ways to fight breast cancer is through education and prevention. The play is sponsored by Sharing & Caring, a patient-driven, volunteer network affiliated with Beaumont Hospital that is funded, organized and staffed by breast cancer survivors.

FlexPoints plan makes it easier to lose weight

BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYSBY
CORRESPONDENT

It's been a year since I began my "Forever Fitness" quest and now, thanks to Weight Watchers' new FlexPoints plan, I am finally losing weight successfully and consistently.

The plan, launched in August, offers the flexibility that fits into my lifestyle. I often have social functions on week-ends, all centered around food. The FlexPoints plan gives me an extra 35 points to use for these events without blowing my diet.

The Weight Watchers program allots a certain number of points to specific portion sizes of foods. To lose weight, a person is assigned a target number of points each day. As an example, a person who weighs 150 to 174 pounds gets 22 points; 175 to 199, 24; 200 to 224, 26. Members are told never to go below 20 points. The 35 additional points a week may be used any way a member chooses - either a few extra points each day or all at one time.

"The additional 35 points are huge for providing flexibility, while taking away the guilt," said Debbie Hutzman, who has been a Weight Watchers leader for four years in West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills. "My members are so excited about this new program because it gives them the extra points with no strings attached.

They don't have to give up one food to have another. FlexPoints will be especially helpful during the upcoming holiday season."

In addition to the bonus 35 points, members are provided with specific food options to follow based on their specific needs. They are a higher protein or higher carbohydrate or a balanced plan.

I am losing weight by eating a diet of higher protein content and limiting carbohydrates. (This way of eating currently is being touted in a number of popular books.) I have found that a protein-rich diet has allowed me to stay satisfied longer and has lessened my food cravings. Weight Watchers' high protein plan allows me to spend up to one point on vegetables (since most vegetables are assigned zero points, I can still have a number of healthy vegetables each day), two-four points on added sugars and fats (including on alcohol), four-six points on milk and milk products, five-six points on grain-based foods and nine-11 points on protein-rich foods. My selections, however, cannot exceed my target of 24 points a day, unless I use some of my 35 FlexPoints.

I'm not the only follower enthusiastic about the new Weight Watchers program. Donna Gallo, who leads Weight Watchers meetings in Canton, Westland and Farmington, has been fol-

JOIN THE CLUB

We want you to join us in reaching your own success in getting healthy and fit. Let us know how you are doing or, if you need help, e-mail Sandra Dalka-Prysbay, an American Council on Exercise-certified Lifestyle and Weight Management Consultant, with your questions and concerns at sdprysby@hotmail.com.

Also, we want to report on your weight-loss and exercise success. Send your story and picture to Hugh Gallagher, Health and Fitness, *Observer & Eccentric*, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Contact him at (734) 953-2149; fax (734) 591-7279; e-mail hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net.

lowing FlexPoints for more than two months to maintain her 32-pound weight loss.

"I gained weight in 1985 when I underwent surgery for a brain tumor.



JIM JAGDFELD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Donna and Mark Gallo in their kitchen with Weight Watchers materials.

I lost it by becoming a Weight Watchers member and then a leader." Her husband, Mark, also lost weight - 45 pounds - on the program. "He began to count food points after undergoing quadruple bypass heart surgery a couple of years ago. Now, not only the weight loss, but a healthy diet (he is using the FlexPoints plan) and regular exercise - he runs five miles a day - are keeping him fit." Their son, Dominic, age 16, who lost 20 pounds on Weight Watchers, is also enjoying the freedom of choosing the foods he likes on the new program.

"We have all found that FlexPoints is an improvement over the former POINTS program because it better accommodates the way we live.

We have more flexibility in making food choices when we travel or when there are unexpected changes in our routines."

She added that many of her members are pleased that the new program better accommodates business lunches and dinners. "They say FlexPoints is definitely something they can live with and still lose weight."

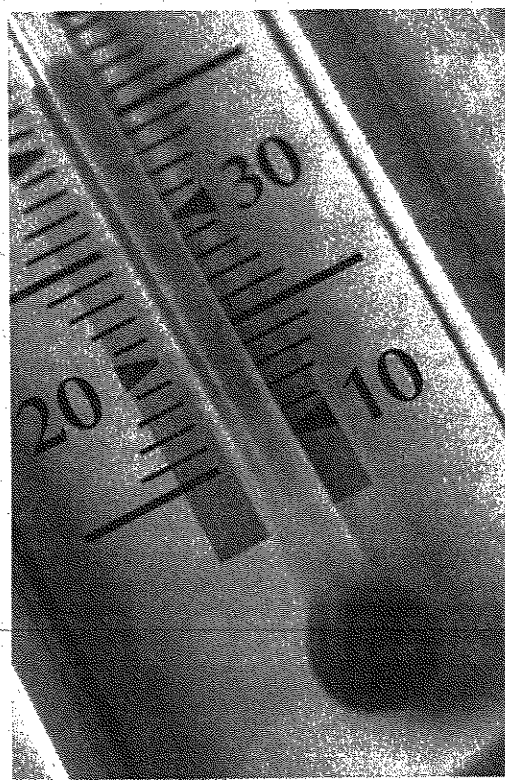
While the 35 additional points are getting the most attention, the FlexPoints plan also offers a QuickTrak System to record daily food points. It works like a checkbook. Members deducts the points for the foods they consume from their daily allotted total. When the points are gone, they can either stop eating or borrow from their weekly 35

FlexPoints. It's like having "overdraft" protection.

Specific member needs are also considered in the new program. Additional help, through handouts, is provided for such concerns as added weight during menopause, dealing with plateaus and losing the last few pounds.

I have been on FlexPoints for a month and have lost more than 10 pounds. I've made it through a weekend vacation, Labor Day barbecues and numerous restaurant meals not only without gaining weight, but losing weight. This plan is working for me, and because of this, I expect to reach my weight-loss goal of 55 pounds in the near future.

It's getting c-c-c-c-cold outside!



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Philip Schoenfeld, M.D.

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Mark M. Zalupski, M.D.

What are the latest scientific developments? *News from the research lab*
Eric R. Fearon, M.D., Ph.D.

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Be careful of back pain when doing autumn chores

Dr. Jennifer Turnbull, a chiropractor and director of the Birmingham Wellness Center, says fall cleaning might lead to back pain.

"Household chores often give more of a work out than playing sports or going to the gym," Turnbull said. "When you're doing household, garden, fall or spring clean up work, you're bending, turning, twisting and reaching with your body. Just like any athlete, if you don't take some time to prepare you can end up injuring yourself. Ten to 15 minutes of warm up makes a lot more sense than two-

three weeks of healing."

She offers these tips for fall:

- Take a short walk to stimulate circulation.
- Take 10 to 15 minutes to stretch. These exercises can include knee-to-chest pulls, trunk rotations, and side bends with hands above your head and fingers locked. Repeat the stretching exercises when you finish the yard work.
- As you rake or mow, stand as straight as possible and keep your head up.
- When raking, use a "scissors"

Bend at the knees, not the waist, as you pick up piles of leaves or grass from the grass catcher. Make the piles small to decrease the possibility of back strain.

stance; right foot forward and left foot back for a few minutes, then reverse, putting your left foot forward and right foot back.

■ Bend at the knees, not the waist, as you pick up piles of leaves or grass from the grass catcher. Make the piles small to decrease the possibility of

back strain.

■ When moving, push the mower with your whole body weight, rather than just your arms and back.

■ If your mower has a pull cord, don't twist at the waist or yank the cord. Instead, bend at the knees and pull in one smooth motion.

■ Drink lots of water.

■ Try ergonomic tools. They're engineered to protect you when used properly.

■ If you do feel soreness or stiffness in your back, use ice to soothe the discomfort.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

OCTOBER

Volunteers needed

St. Joseph Mercy Hospice is looking for caring volunteers to give three to four hours per week to stay with patients to give family members a much-needed break. They need direct-care and office volunteers during daytime hours. St. Joseph Mercy Hospice provides a complete training program for new volunteers beginning Monday, Oct. 20, at the hospice, 806 Airport Boulevard, Ann Arbor. Pre-registration required. Call (734) 327-3413 for information packet, to register or for more information.

Baker for a Day

Staffers and volunteers from Sharing & Caring become bakers to raise funds for the breast cancer support and education group 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, at Great Harvest Bread Co., 1137 S. Adams at Lincoln, Birmingham. Great Harvest is usually closed on Sunday but will open for the fundraiser, and donate the ingredients and labor. All of its bread, rolls, muffins and cookies are made from Montana whole wheat that's milled on site. The products contain no fats, oils, dairy products, eggs or preservatives. For more information, call (248) 551-8585.

Women's fitness class

Women: Be Fit and Fabulous offers a variety of exercises - aerobics for cardiovascular health, strength training for muscle tone, easy yoga for flexibility and relaxation. Six week series began Oct. 7. Attend once a week for \$40 or twice weekly for \$75. Four week series begins Nov. 25. All sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook, Novi. For information, call (248) 477-6100.

Red Cross safety courses

Continue with CPR/Standard first aid with AED (automated external defibrillation) and Infant/child CPR at the Livonia Service Center, 36650 Five Mile. Among the offerings are CPR review, CPR for the professional rescuer (and review), First aid/CPR/AED instructor, and nurse assistant training. Costs vary. For more information, call (734) 542-0442 or visit www.sem-

redcross.org.

Infertility support

Develop effective strategies to cope with the feelings and frustrations of infertility during an 8-week group that begins 7-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, at Madonna University. For a registration appointment, call Deborah Lancaster at (734) 432-5774.

Educational program

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts an educational overview by Broe Rehabilitation Services on traumatic brain injury, client services offered, and psychological and substance abuse programs 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, in the hospital's auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Call (734) 655-2944.

Thyroid support group

6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, meeting, with speaker Dr. Nanda Bagchi (at 7 p.m.), at the Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main. The endocrinologist talk about how he treats thyroid patients and what he feels is important for all thyroid patients to know. For more information, call (734) 453-7945.

Surgical weight loss

Free seminar 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, at Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane, 19401 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn. Dr. Jeffrey Genaw, director of the Bariatric Surgery Center at Henry Ford Hospital, will facilitate the seminar, discussing three surgical options. Registration deadline is Oct. 8. Call (800) HenryFord.

Western Weight Control

The support group meets 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, at New Horizons Medical Center, 19335 Merriman, Livonia. The group is intended primarily for people who have had or are scheduled for or interested in Lap Band or other Bariatric surgery, but everyone with an interest in weight control is welcome to attend. For more information, call (248) 474-4900.

Eating disorders group

Madonna University offers an eating disorders group for individuals suffering from an eating disorder, beginning Thursday, Oct. 16. The cost is \$165, plus \$20 for initial consultation. For more information, call (734) 432-5774 or (734) 432-5773.

Discount mammograms

The \$69 exam is offered by appointment at North Oakland Medical Center main campus (248) 857-7263.

Waterford Ambulatory Care Center (248) 666-5528, and Clarkston Diagnostic Radiology (248) 922-0439 for women who don't have insurance or whose insurance doesn't cover the exam.

Women's Health Boutique

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the store is hosting a number of events including a Sarcoidosis Awareness event, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, to inform women about the disease which attacks every major organ in the body, and Oct. 25 skin care and makeup workshop. The store will donate lightweight breast prostheses to uninsured women who make an appointment for the Oct. 16-17 event, at 31209 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Post mastectomy patients with private insurance who are interested in being scanned and fitted for a custom made, lightweight breast prosthesis are invited to come into the boutique Oct. 16-17. A certified scanner and fitter will be available to answer questions and obtain a 3D laser scan of interested women. To schedule an appointment for the donation program or scanning, call (734) 762-9324.

Natural Facelift

Learn how to use your fingertips to perform accupressure techniques that ease frown lines and crow's feet 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 18, at Center for Lifelong Learning, Henry Ford Community College, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail at Warren, Dearborn Heights. Cost is \$24. To register, call (313) 317-1500 by Oct. 16 or go to www.hfcc.edu/CL2.

Parenting with Love & Logic Classes

A common sense approach to skills that cultivate confidence and good decision making in children by offering choices while adults avoid anger, threats, warnings or lectures. Introduction to Parenting with Love and Logic 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. Parenting elementary-aged children 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, and parenting children with Special Needs 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. For more information, call Mary Jane Peck at (734) 655-1100. Other times

and dates available by calling Peck.

Surgical weight loss seminar

Henry Ford Medical Center-West Bloomfield will offer a free seminar on surgical weight loss 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, at 6777 W. Maple, west of Drake Road. Jeffrey Genaw, M.D., director of the Bariatric Surgery Center at Henry Ford Hospital, will facilitate the seminar on the three surgical options including Gastric Bypass and LAP-BAND. To register, call (800) HenryFord.

Colorectal cancer lecture

When it comes to this topic, the worst thing you can do is avoid it. Get the facts from a panel of University of Michigan cancer experts 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at the Livonia West Holiday Inn on Six Mile, east of I-275. The free community program is presented by the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Reservations are encouraged. Call (800) 742-2300, enter category 7870.

Carpal Tunnel seminar

Dr. Nicole Andersen focuses on how proper structure, nutrition and exercise can help manage Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Tuesday, Oct. 21, at the Plymouth Cultural Center. To register for the free workshop, call (248) 426-0201.

Therapeutic group

Feeling sad, lonely, empty? You are not alone. Here is an opportunity to share in a therapeutic setting with other women who feel the same way. The Madonna University Psychological Services Clinic is offering this unique experience beginning 7-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, to Jan. 11. Cost is \$15 per session. Call (734) 432-5771.

Fibromyalgia workshop

Dr. Kramer will give a free workshop 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at the Carl Sandburg Library, Livonia. Learn about the shocking truth behind the causes of Fibromyalgia, which is often misdiagnosed and misunderstood. To register, call (248) 426-0201. Seating is limited.

Cancer survivor art exhibit

Gay Walker, an art therapist and cancer survivor, exhibits "The Art of Healing: Journey Through Breast Cancer" through Oct. 31, in the gallery at the Assarian Cancer Center, 47601

Grand River, Novi.

All of the artwork in the show was created since the time Walker was diagnosed with breast cancer. Although the art was the primary means for her to process her emotions, it was never intended to be shown. Walker hopes the exhibit will inspire others to do art as a way of coping with whatever comes into their lives. For more information, call (248) 465-5444.

Red Cross blood drive

Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, in the West Lounge on the campus of Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan, Livonia. Walk-in donors welcome. For an appointment, call (734) 432-5428.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Leukemia

Free supper and lecture 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Weisberg Cancer Center, 31995 Northwestern, Farmington Hills. To RSVP, call (248) 538-6507.

Diabetes Prevention

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will host a diabetes presentation, "Your Game Plan for Preventing Type 2 Diabetes," 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, in the auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. The presentation will enable you to make appropriate lifestyle

changes to help reduce your risk for developing diabetes. To register, call (734) 655-8950. For more information or directions, call (734) 655-8961 or visit the Web site at www.stmarymercy.org

Sharing & Caring

All are welcome at a series of lectures presented by Sharing & Caring in the first floor conference room at Beaumont Cancer Center, 3577 W. 13 Mile at Woodward, Royal Oak. Sharing & Caring offers educational programs for breast cancer survivors, their family and friends. To have a schedule mailed to your home, call (248) 551-8585. Prior to meeting, call (248) 551-8588 for schedule change information.

UPCOMING

Wellness Seminar

Weight reduction program 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3, at Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center, 18101 Oakwood Blvd., main entrance, Kalman Auditorium, Dearborn. The 2-hour session combines the power of hypnosis and behavior modification. No reservations required. Call (800) 848-2822.

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Arthritis Drugs and Your Immune System

If you read the information that comes with arthritis medication, you may have seen a paragraph in some information sheets that states that the drug you are taking could alter your immune system. In the case of the drug, methotrexate, this warning is prominent.

If you are taking methotrexate for arthritis, do not worry that now you are at risk for illness from the coughing and sneezing that goes on around you. The reason you are not at risk is because of the amount of methotrexate you take. Originally, the drug was given to treat cancer. The doses used were far higher than in treating arthritis, and you took the drug intravenously. The large dose got into the body in a big push. Given that way, the medicine did weaken the immune system, and required your isolation from anyone with diarrhea or a cold.

The manufacturers never changed their information sheet to fit the arthritis use of the drug. Thus, if you are taking methotrexate and you need an influenza vaccine, you can take it. The dosage of methotrexate for arthritis will not interfere with your ability to make antibodies against the influenza virus.

Other new drugs for arthritis such as Enbrel, Remicade, and Humira can hurt your immune response. However, the interference is selective to infections like tuberculosis. For that reason, your doctor will obtain a T.B. skin test before starting any of these drugs. Why this selectivity in breaching immunity exists is not clear. In time, the medical community will learn why such is the case, and how to better identify individuals at risk.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

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Local families help with Charity Preview kickoff

BY DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

A family from Canton and another one from Southfield, representing two area children's charities, said thanks Tuesday morning at Cobo Hall to one of their biggest benefactors - the annual Auto Show Charity Preview.

It was part of a kickoff event for the Jan. 9, 2004, Charity Preview which brings 17,500 people to the North American International Auto Show at Cobo the night before it opens to the public. The black-tie and champagne event costs \$400 a person, is always a sellout, and last year raised \$6.125 million for 11 area children's charities. This

VOLUNTEERS

year the organizers expect to make \$7 million; the event has made \$44 million since 1989.

Representing the March of Dimes were David and Jaye Haugh and their 2-year-old son, Scott from Canton. Representing Easter Seals was Arthur Taylor and his step son Justin Spigner from Southfield.

Jaye Haugh told the gathered media, volunteers and beneficiaries of the fund-raiser that one ticket to the show could support 16 medical trips in the March of Dimes vans for new or expectant moms. Taylor told the group

that one Charity Preview ticket supported "40 sessions of horseback riding for children with disabilities."

Bill Cook, owner of Bill Cook Imports in Farmington Hills, and a resident of Birmingham, is NAIAS 2004 Co-Chairman.

"There is nothing like our charity preview. I have been to auto shows in Frankfurt, Geneva, Paris ... all the major shows, and there is nothing like this. I am gratified that we can raise \$6 million in one evening," Cook said.

"The economic downturn has been particularly difficult for local charities that depend on contributions from businesses and individuals to continue doing great things for

our community. We want to provide an even bigger boost to these worthwhile organizations and help them make life better for local children and area families."

All 11 local charities assembled Tuesday paid tribute to the Auto Show (NAIAS) and Detroit Auto Dealers Association for their continued support through the annual fund-raiser.

One of the 11 charities is an endowed fund run by the auto dealers association. According to Cook the DADA fund gave out \$382,000 last year to worthy causes, including \$40,000 to Western Wayne County YMCA.

Jaye Haugh, a native of England, said her son arrived

10 weeks early back in 2001.

"We know that all the research and all the education from the March of Dimes really helped Scott. We didn't know about it at first but once we learned about MOD we wanted to help. Anything we can do means the world to us," she said. Now, young Scott is "Mr. Average" in the middle percentile on all measures of growth and childhood health. The Haughs have lived in Canton for two years; David works in Plymouth for Dürr Industries as a project engineer.

Taylor said his stepson Justin has been aided by Easter Seals and a speech therapy program they support.

"His confidence has improved. He is getting good grades. He has many challenges to deal with but he knows he has to work harder than most. Easter Seals has helped him deal with these challenges.

"They are very good at what they do. I feel very comfortable with what they are doing for him."

Justin is a fourth-grader at St. Bede's Catholic school in Southfield. Easter Seals also funds toddler recreational therapy, occupational therapy, therapeutic horseback riding and adult mental health services.

CHARITY PREVIEW

■ The event gives funds to: Barat Child and Family Services; Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan; Boys Hope-Girls Hope of Detroit; The Children's Center; Children's Homes of Judson Center; Children's Services of Northeast Guidance Center Assistance League; The Detroit Institute for Children; Detroit Police Athletic League; Easter Seal Society of Southeastern Michigan, Inc.; March of Dimes; and the DADA Charitable Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan.

■ The area home offices for both Easter Seals and the March of Dimes are in Southfield.

■ For more information or to be added to the waiting list for tickets, call (888) 838-7500. Your charity of choice is designated by you at the time the tickets are purchased. Those who bought tickets last year have the right of first refusal on 2004 tickets.



A Canton family, Jaye and David Haugh and their son, Scott, represented the March of Dimes at the Charity Preview kickoff.

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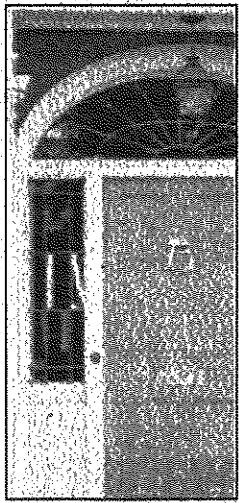
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Village Series sales soar in Commerce Township

With virtually all of the condominiums in its first release sold since opening its on-site sales center late last month, MJC Companies' new Maple Crossing community is generating demand comparable to the company's nearby Trillium Park neighborhood, where sales of its condominiums have remained strong since its September 2002 grand opening.

Averaging sales in excess of one per day over the past month, MJC has sold 55 of the 96 residences offered in Maple Crossing's first two phases, three of which are being held in reserve for future use as sales models. When completed, Maple Crossing will feature 360 two-bedroom, two-bath, attached ranch condominiums ranging from 1,330 to 1,587 square feet.

Delivery is slated to begin next spring. Residences are priced from the mid \$140s. Maple Crossing is on the north side of Maple Road, east of Beck, just west of Benstein Road.

"We're pleased, but not entirely surprised with the level of demand at Maple Crossing," said Michael Chirco, president and founder of Macomb Township-based MJC. "Our early success here and at Trillium Park reflects not only the affordability of these single-level condominiums, but also the market's sustained demand for the maintenance-free lifestyle available at all of our Village Series condominium communities."

FEATURES

Condominiums in MJC's Village Series communities are clad in brick and vinyl siding. First floor patio, and second floor terrace and carriage level ranch plans offer such standard features as attached garages, balconies or terraces, central air-conditioning, volume and cathedral ceilings, fireplaces, appliance packages, washers and dryers, windows treatments, floor coverings and more. Maple Crossing and Trillium each will feature a private pool, spa and swim club with locker facilities.

Rather than the carriage level plan found in other Village Series Communities, Trillium Park also offers a three-bedroom upper-level residence. In addition, each of its condominiums - ranging from 1,218 to 1,679 square feet - provides a finished, lower-level bonus room with a large adjoining storage area as well as an attached two-car garage.

Rather than the carriage level plan found in other Village Series Communities, Trillium Park also offers a three-bedroom upper-level residence. In addition, each of its condominiums - ranging from 1,218 to 1,679 square feet - provides a finished, lower-level bonus room with a large adjoining storage area as well as an attached two-car garage.

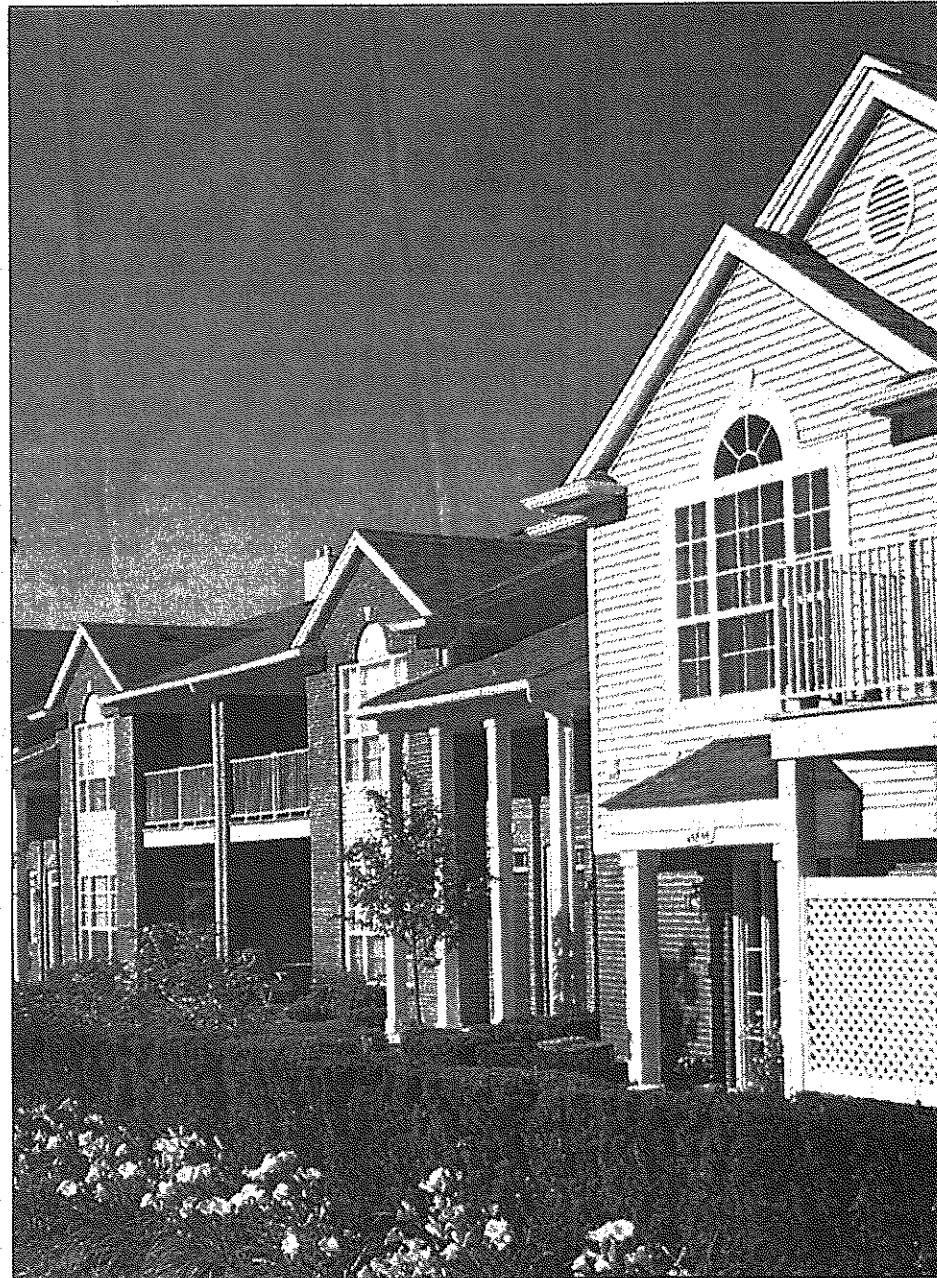
Offered from \$197,900 more than 120 of Trillium Park's planned 320 condominiums have sold since the community's launch last fall. Trillium Park is southeast of the Maple and Decker roads intersection.

"We're seeing a demand from across the market, including first-time home purchasers to single professionals and empty-nesters," Chirco said. "Our senior buyers are especially attracted by our innovative, stair-free ranch plans, which are a great alternative to the competing condominiums in the market that are designed in a vertical configuration with many flights of stairs to maximize density."

Competitive pricing and today's low interest rates make condominium ownership at Maple Crossing and Trillium Park an affordable option for current apartment renters, who are interested in building home equity and enjoying a hassle-free condominium lifestyle, Chirco added.

NEIGHBORHOODS

MJC's eight other Village Series neighborhoods are located throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The company projects sales in these neighborhoods to exceed 750 residences by year-end. Including its Village Series, MJC has more than 30 neighborhoods, consisting of 3,687 home sites, in devel-



The MJC Village Series includes single-level two bedroom, two bath condominiums with everything included from designer window treatments to appliances and attached garage.

opment or under construction. In 2002, it ranked as southeast Michigan's largest independently owned, local builder based on data compiled by Housing Consultants Inc.

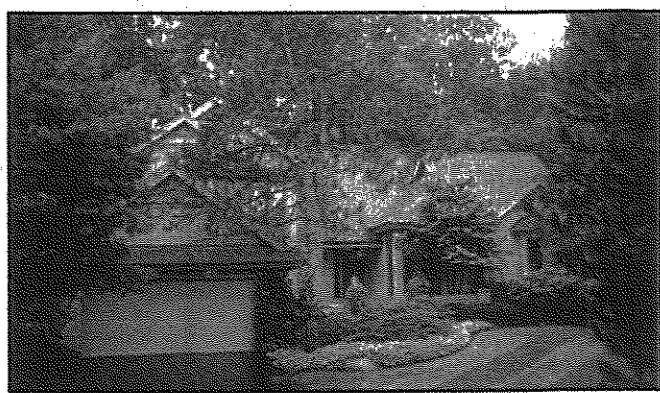
MJC also ranked among the nation's 160 largest builders, according to *Professional Builder* magazine.

"While our construction and sales volumes have grown, we continue to view ourselves as a collection of small compa-

nies, each focused on creating the very best for our buyers," said Chirco. "We are confident the quality and lifestyle opportunities available at our Commerce Township communities will continue to exceed expectations."

To learn more about Maple Crossing, call (248) 668-9430. For Trillium Park, call (248) 366-8887 or visit www.village-series.com.

OPEN HOUSES OF THE WEEK



Condominium Extraordinaire...
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If a detached condominium is in your future, a visit to this open house is a must. A setting so marvelously nestled in trees you maybe couldn't even dream it. Sitting on the covered deck is definitely "bird's eye" level. What a relaxing treat.

By the way, to reach Arboretum, you want to turn south on McClumpha off of Ann Arbor Road - that would be between Sheldon and Beck. Then you'll see the development on your right. It's not real big - only 27 units.

This particular home is detached, offers first floor master suite and hosts a second bedroom plus loft on the upper level. Although built in 1989, you'll be surprised how "just-built-last-year" it looks. Other nifty features include a gleaming white master bath, a granite center island kitchen, a corner windowed den, an opportunity laden walkout lower level - Oh, and it does have 3 1/2 baths.

Square footage seems about right at 2,400 - an additional 600 feet is finished on the walkout level and used as a family room. There's plenty of room to add a bedroom on this level as well.

No doubt Arboretum is a special place - take extra note of the manner in which everything is maintained - even the tennis court - I'm thinking there isn't a blade of grass out of place. If your standards are high - you'll like it here.

Stop by and say, "Hi." Many thanks.

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Chase designed for first-time buyers and empty-nesters

The Chase is narrow and long, ideal for a corner lot where the driveway to the garage is on the side street. The exterior is plain but has great eye appeal from the street. It has a covered porch across the right side and large windows that accent the facade.

Entry is into a large spacious living room. It has the option of being vaulted to make the room seem even more open. A large window overlooks the front yard. Adjacent to the living room is the dining room and the kitchen. The dining room has French doors that open onto a side deck or patio. It also can be vaulted, adding height and depth.

The kitchen is "C" shaped with an island in the center. Dual sinks overlook the front in the center of the long counter space. A walk-in pantry is on the corner by the refrigerator.

Bedrooms are in the rear of the house. On the left side is the master suite with its own French doors opening onto the

side deck. A large master bath with a spa tub, shower, linen closet, and a single sink is on the left of the suite while an elongated walk-in closet is on the right.

The other two bedrooms are almost as large as the master suite.

Each has a wall closet and large windows. Across from the two rooms is a full bath with a tub. Adjacent to the bathroom, and in front of the master suite door, is the attic access that drops down so items can be stored in the attic.

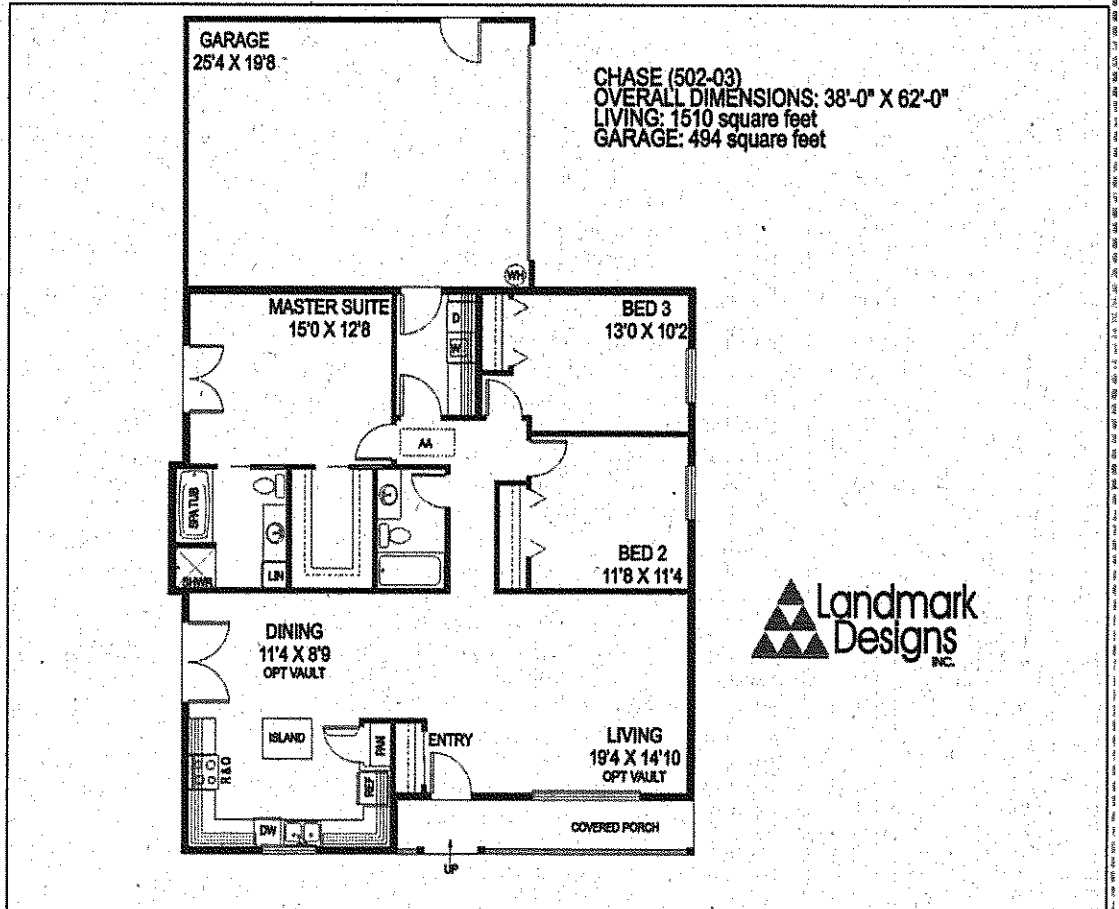
Completing the layout is the utility room with a door from the hall and one that goes into the two-car rear garage. The garage has been designed to enter from the right side.

This home is ideal for first-time buyers or empty nesters.



It has 1,510 square feet of open living space with a large kitchen and a large garage.

For a study plan, including scaled floor plan(s), elevations, section(s), and an artist rendering, send \$24.95 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Please specify plan name (CHASE) and the number (502-03). A catalog featuring hundreds of home plans is available for \$12.95, or save by ordering both for \$29.95. For faster processing, call (800) 562-1151 or visit www.landmarkdesigns.com.



How to Sell High: Avoid these Three Mistakes When Selling Your Home

LIVONIA AREA - When you decide to sell your home, setting your asking price is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Depending on how a buyer is made aware of your home, price is often the first thing he or she sees, and may homes are discarded by prospective buyers as not being in the appropriate price range before they're even given a chance of a showing.

Your asking price is often your home's "first impression", and if you want to realize the most money you can for your home, it's imperative that you make a good first impression.

This is not as easy as it sounds, and pricing strategy should not be taken lightly. Pricing too high can be as costly to a home seller as pricing too low. Taking a look at what homes in your neighborhood have sold for is only a small part of the process, and on its own is not nearly enough to help you make the best decision.

A recent study, which compiles 10 years of industry research, has resulted in a new special report entitled "Homesellers: How to Get the Price You Want (and Need)". This report will help you understand pricing strategy from three different angles. When taken together, this information will help you price your home to not only sell, but sell for the price you want.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your copy of this FREE report, call 1-866-449-7814 and enter ID#4016. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call NOW to learn how to price your home to your maximum financial advantage.

This report is courtesy of (AGENT, COMPANY NAME). Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale. Copyright © 1998.

High-end real estate demand on upswing

PRNewswire - Rising mortgage rates and a growing economy have spurred informed homebuyers to invest in high-end estate homes.

A prime example is Cambridge Homes, Inc., which in the past 30 days has sold four homes between \$1.2 million and \$3.5 million each in the Bellagio community of estate homes in Novi.

"When mortgage rates began inching up, followed by improvements in the stock market, our buyers began to feel more comfortable about buying our high-price homes," said Mark Guidobono, CEO of Cambridge Homes, Inc. "The buyers I've talked with feel our economy has hit bottom and is on the upswing. They have faith in the economy and are willing to start spending money again. It's not that they couldn't afford our high-end estate homes in the past but they now want to spend and invest."

The U.S. Census Bureau last month reported that total housing starts have hit a 17-year high with single-family starts reaching their highest level since 1978. In September mortgage rates continue to climb, consumers gained confidence, and the Federal Reserve reported the outlook is brighter in most regions of the country.

President Bush, speaking in Indianapolis on Sept. 5, also reported progress is being made in growing the economy.

Get returns on home kitchen renovations

PRNewswire - Since some people spend over 90 percent of their "awake" time at home in their kitchens, doesn't it make sense to upgrade yours? Yes, says one real estate expert, but don't over-spend.

According to Dr. Dolf de Roos, Phoenix-based real estate strategist on Robert Kiyosaki's Rich Dad Advisors team, renovation of an existing kitchen is often the single most cost-effective upgrade to your property.

The best guideline for how much to spend on renovations, says de Roos, is to plan on spending up to 25 percent of the total cost you paid for the property. These are his top recommendations for not getting kitchen burns on a renovation:

- Flourishes, including granite or Corian countertops, hardwood or porcelain tile floors, maple, cherry or oak custom cabinets, and stainless steel appliances, if it's within the 25 percent of what you paid for the property.

- Islands, when simple, sleek and polished, remain popular for warming drawers, wine refrigerators, and double sets of dishwashers.
- Use stock cabinets, or paint the existing ones if they are in good shape, when your budget doesn't allow custom ones.

- Keep the current structural design, as well as existing plumbing and appliances, if stainless steel is out of the question.
- Plan ahead, because

changes mid-way through renovation could drastically raise costs.

- Don't skimp on design and labor, because these elements form the basis of the kitchen and it's a bad idea not to get it right the first time.

According to de Roos, once the kitchen is in top form, property owners are often so pleased with the results that they continue on the home improvement streak.

For more home renovation ideas, check out his book, *101 Ways to Massively Increase the Value of Your Property Without Spending Much Money*. It can be ordered for \$15 at www.dolfderoos.com/html/books.htm or call (877) 365-3337.

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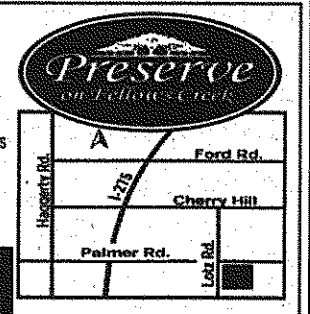
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Repair cracked mortar

BY MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brick is both an attractive and durable finish. However, over time the mortar that bonds bricks together can become cracked or loose.

The removal and replacement of cracked or missing mortar between the bricks is called "pointing." Start the process by chipping away cracked or loose mortar, using a cold chisel and a hammer. Be careful not to damage the bricks. Next, use a brush to remove the remaining debris. Brush the joints with water before repointing them. This will ensure that water is not sucked from the mortar by the dry bricks.

Mix up a batch of masonry mortar and force it into place using a mason's trowel. Do the vertical joints first, then the horizontal. Complete the job by removing the excess mortar and shaping the joint with a brick jointer.

Read Taste

Inspection prevents dream home from becoming a nightmare

PRNewswire - You want to buy a house. Despite a slight rise recently, interest rates are still near historic lows - what better time to buy? While a home is the largest investment most of us will ever make, buying a home doesn't have to be a nerve-racking process.

So, how do you know your investment won't fall apart a few years down the road or need major repairs the moment you move in? The legal Web site FindLaw (www.findlaw.com) says getting a home inspection can help protect both the buyer and seller.

"The home inspection can provide valuable information about a property before the buyer chooses to make it his or her home," said Brian W. Blaesser, a partner at Robinson & Cole LLP, co-chair of the firm's Land Use Group and author of *Discretionary Land Use Controls: Avoiding Invitations to Abuse of Discretion*, 6th ed., published by

West. "Also, the home inspection limits the liability of both the seller and the real estate agent because, once completed, full disclosure has been made."

A professional home inspection should be done after the written offer to purchase has been accepted by the seller, says Blaesser. Many buyers make their offers contingent on an inspection. In a 2001 survey by the National Association of Realtors, 99 percent of real estate agents recommended that buyers get a home inspection.

SUGGESTIONS

FindLaw offers the following suggestions for housing inspections:

- Conduct your own inspection first - ideally, buyers should inspect a home before making a formal written offer. Make sure there are no visible problems, even to your untrained eye,

before you spend money on a professional inspector. There are several useful do-it-yourself inspection books available to help with this.

- Hire a general contractor - have a licensed housing inspector review all major housing systems, including the roof, plumbing, electrical and heating systems, and drainage. These inspections can take two to three hours and cost between \$200 and \$500.

- Accompany the inspector - by involving yourself in the inspection process, you will learn more about the maintenance and preservation of the house and get answers to questions you may have.

- Specialized inspections - depending on the history of the property and its location, you may want to arrange specialized inspections for pest damages; hazards from floods, earthquakes or other natural disasters; and environmental health haz-

ards such as asbestos and lead.

- Get a written report - for sellers, a written report can prevent liability charges in the future, while buyers can use the report to negotiate repair payment clauses during the contract process.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

FindLaw also recommends asking several questions before hiring a home inspector:

- Does the inspector hold all the necessary licenses to perform home inspections?
- Is the inspector insured?
- How long has he or she been in business?
- Does the inspector belong to a professional association?
- Can the inspector provide references?
- Exactly what will and will not be inspected in the house?

- How long will the inspection last?

- How much will it cost?
- What type of report will be issued upon completion of the inspection?

"Because a home inspection occurs before the transaction is completed, a buyer who finds defects can use the home inspection as the basis for renegotiating the terms of the deal," said Blaesser. "In the event the home inspection reveals a problem, the buyer can go to the seller to demand that the problem be corrected, or that the selling price be reduced to offset the cost of correcting the problem."

To check local real estate laws, find additional information on housing inspections, get tips on how to select an inspector or find a local real estate attorney, check out free legal information sites such as FindLaw (www.findlaw.com).

House owned by W.Va. governor for sale

BY JENNIFER BUNDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

House for sale: four bedrooms, three full baths, good school district, inhabited only briefly in the last three years.

Unique feature: Owned by the governor of West Virginia.

Gov. Bob Wise's wife, daughter and furniture moved to Washington, D.C., about a month ago, vacating the home the family bought in June 2000 while he was running for governor.

The home, in Charleston's upscale South Hills neighborhood, is for sale for \$282,000, up from the \$249,000 Wise paid for it.

Two women who toured the now empty one-story brick home during an open house on Sunday said it was a great deal for that neighborhood.

Another couple said it was at least \$20,000 overpriced.

A third family said the governor's connection would add value, but not the monetary kind.

"It would be kind of neat to say I bought the governor's house. It wouldn't be worth

more to me," said the husband, who did not want to be identified.

His wife said that when she found out Wise owned it, "I thought it was really cool. It's nice. It's just like going in (Charleston native) Jennifer Garner's house."

Julio and Eliza Teodoro were more interested in the fact the house's one-story floor plan than in the owners.

"It's just another house to me," Julio Teodoro said.

Wise's real estate agent, Margo Teeter, would not allow The Associated Press to tour the home and would not comment on its sale.

Another real estate agent, Bill Melton, said Wise is a local who has lived in the Charleston area most of his life, so his ownership is no big deal.

If it were Sen. Jay Rockefeller's house, that likely would be an issue.

"He is a member of the Rockefeller family," Melton said. "If there were one that would command more, that would be it. Somebody might go in there and find a Picasso

they accidentally left."

Next-door neighbor John Leasebury said he is sorry to see the Wises go.

Although the couple lived in the home only seven months before moving into the Governor's Mansion, Leasebury saw Wise's wife, Sandy, every day when she picked up the mail. And Wise occasionally came by to drive the 1965 Corvair convertible he kept in the garage.

The Wises bought the home when they moved from Washington where Wise served as West Virginia's 2nd District congressman for 18 years.

Sandy Wise and the couple's daughter, Alexandra, 14, have returned to Washington while Wise and their son, Robert Jr., 16, remain in Charleston. Wise announced he will not run for re-election after he admitted having an affair.

Leasebury said people should be willing to pay more for a governor's house.

"That certainly would add some weight to it, I believe," he said.

"That's what I was afraid of,

Sandy Wise and the couple's daughter, Alexandra, 14, have returned to Washington while Wise and their son, Robert Jr., 16, remain in Charleston. Wise announced he would not run for re-election after he admitted having an affair.

it would raise our taxes, when they moved in."

The Wises' presence didn't have any effect on his property value, he said.

"Had he spent more time here it would have had a positive effect on the neighborhood. But he no longer moved in and got settled and he moved to the mansion."

New home magazine has luxurious profile

PRNewswire - The Ashley Group, a division of Reed Business Information, today named Steven C. McDonald as national sales director for *Luxury Homes* magazine, which will launch later this year.

McDonald will be responsible for developing national sales and advertising programs, and marketing partnerships for the new magazine.

"*Luxury Homes* will be a rich, glossy magazine that gives consumers extensive examples of high-end homes," said Greg Samios, executive vice president and general manager of The Ashley Group. The magazine will issue regional editions in the Northeast, West, Midwest and Southeast and will be available on newsstands for the first time this year.

"We are delighted that Steve will be helping us

make this brand new magazine a reality," Samios said. "*Luxury Homes* will display the best examples of premier architecture, design, furnishings and landscaping - all the things that make a house a dream home. Steve's background in consumer and luxury advertising provides a perfect match with our affluent market."

McDonald has more than 20 years of experience in advertising and publishing sales. Prior to joining *Luxury Homes*, he served as account manager for *SmartMoney* magazine where he oversaw sales, advertising and marketing programs for luxury, automobile, pharmaceutical and corporate accounts. The Ashley Group is part of Reed Business Information (www.reedbusiness.com), the largest business-to-business publisher in the U.S.

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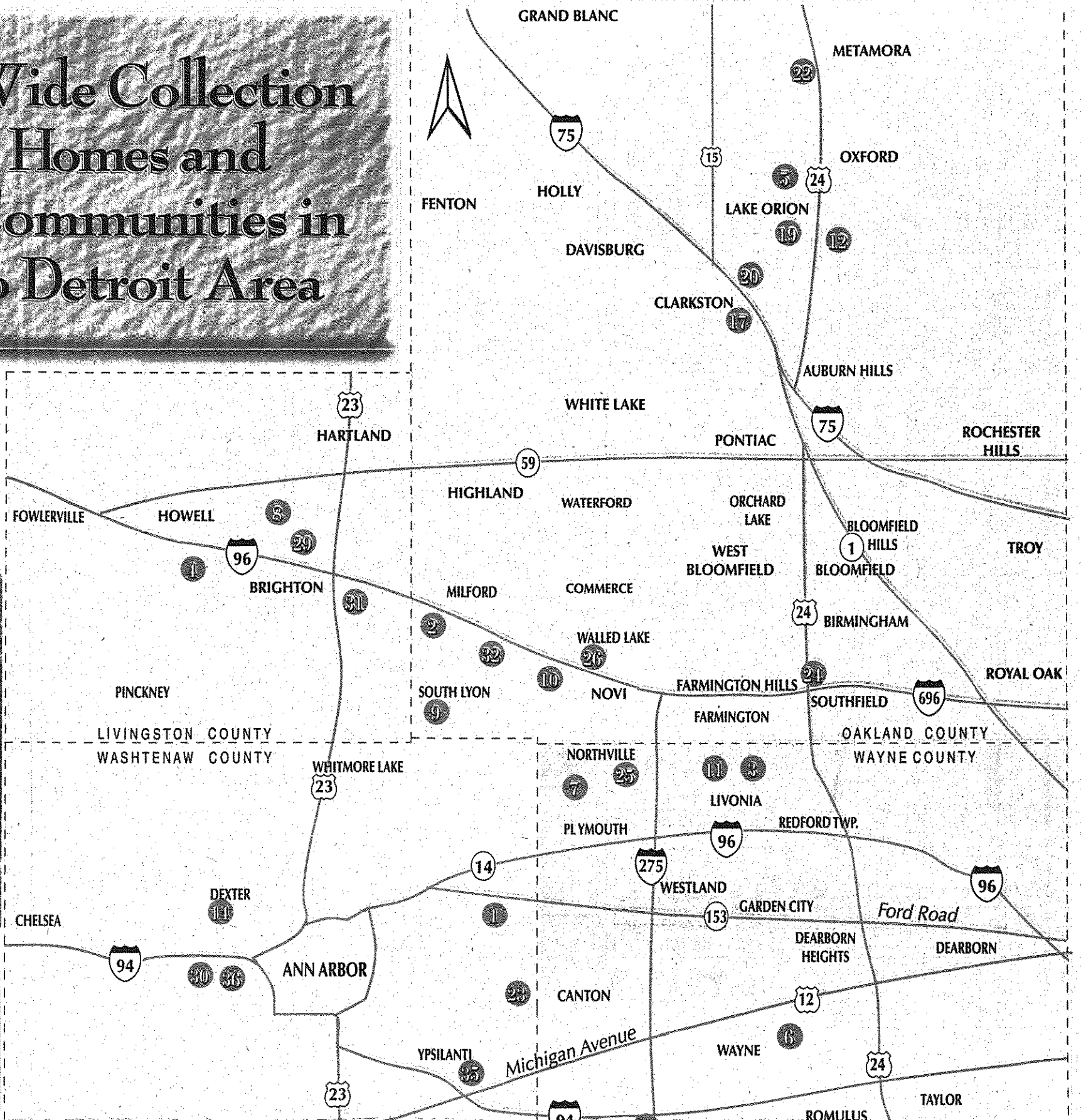
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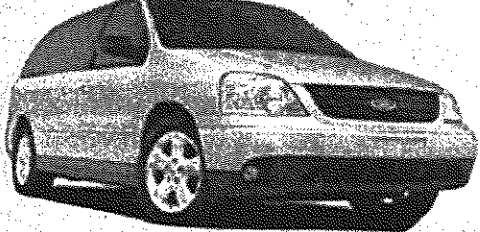


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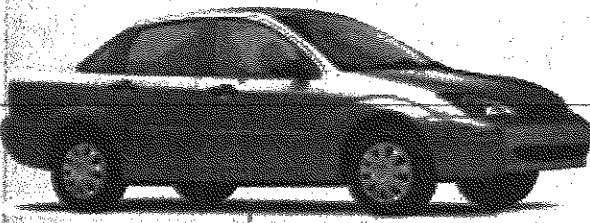
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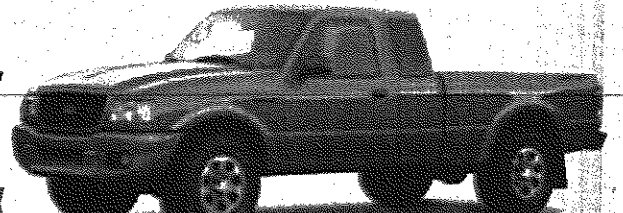
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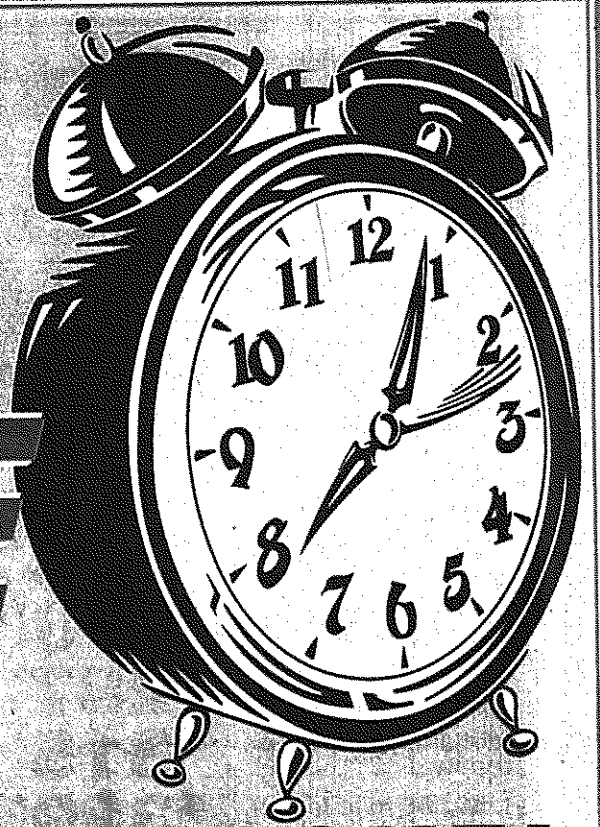
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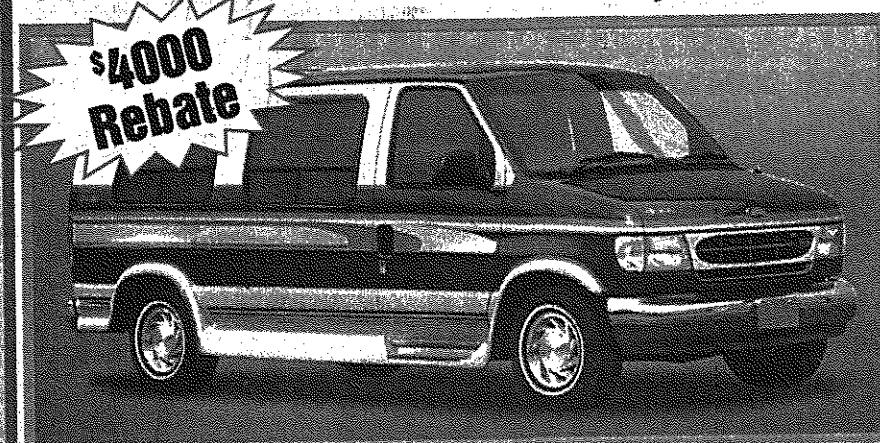
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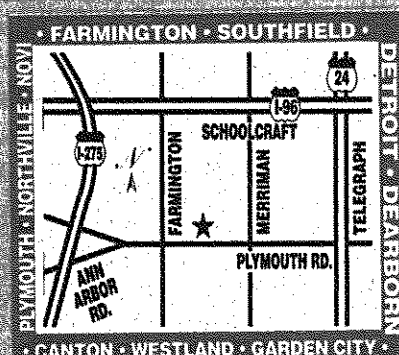
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